Polity & Governance · GS - II

Urban infrastructure failures, particularly unsafe sewerage systems and inadequate sanitation safeguards, expose serious gaps in municipal governance and child protection. Analyse the institutional and administrative shortcomings and suggest measures to ensure accountability and public safety.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 12/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Urban governance, Twelfth Schedule, municipal accountability, sewerage infrastructure, child safety, JJ Act 2015, occupational and public safety, infrastructure audits, grievance redressal, inter-agency coordination.

Model Answer

Introduction

Unsafe urban infrastructure, including uncovered drains and poorly maintained sewer networks, can turn routine civic hazards into serious public safety emergencies. Such incidents reflect gaps in planning, maintenance and accountability.

Institutional and Administrative Shortcomings

- **Governance gaps:** Fragmented responsibilities among municipal bodies, development authorities and utility agencies weaken accountability.

- **Infrastructure deficiencies:** Inadequate sewer mapping, delayed maintenance and poor safety barriers increase risks.
- **Regulatory failures:** Weak inspections and ineffective grievance mechanisms allow hazards to persist.
- **Child vulnerability:** Inadequate protection measures expose children to preventable dangers in public spaces.

Measures for Improvement

- **Infrastructure audits:** Conduct regular inspections and geotag hazardous drains, manholes and sewer networks.
- **Preventive safeguards:** Install durable covers, barricades, warning signs and child-safe access restrictions.
- **Clear accountability:** Establish agency-wise responsibility, time-bound maintenance standards and penalties for negligence.
- **Emergency response:** Strengthen rapid rescue mechanisms, coordination and forensic identification protocols.
- **Child protection:** Integrate local risk mapping with child-protection institutions and community awareness.

Conclusion

Safe sanitation infrastructure is a basic component of the right to life and dignified urban living. Preventive governance, transparent accountability and child-sensitive planning must become municipal priorities.

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