Disaster Management · GS - III

Railway accidents expose the importance of integrating technological safeguards, institutional accountability and emergency preparedness in public infrastructure management. Examine the major challenges in railway safety in India and suggest measures to strengthen accident prevention and response.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 11/11/2026	GS - III	Disaster Management

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Infrastructure maintenance, signalling systems, Kavach, human factors, safety audits, CRS, disaster response, passenger evacuation, accountability, technological modernisation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Railways are a critical component of India's transport infrastructure. Accidents involving derailments highlight the need for continuous safety improvements, effective monitoring and coordinated emergency response.

Major Challenges

- **Infrastructure constraints:** Ageing tracks, bridges and equipment require regular maintenance and modernisation.
- **Signalling vulnerabilities:** Technical failures and operational errors can increase collision and derailment risks.

- **Human factors:** Fatigue, inadequate training and procedural violations may compromise operational safety.
- **Institutional accountability:** Independent inspections and transparent accident investigations are essential.

Measures for Improvement

Indian Railways should accelerate Kavach deployment, strengthen predictive maintenance and undertake regular safety audits. Modern signalling, real-time monitoring and staff training can reduce operational risks.

Emergency preparedness must include trained rescue teams, medical assistance, passenger communication systems and coordination with district disaster management authorities. Accident investigations should lead to time-bound corrective action.

Conclusion

Railway safety requires a preventive rather than reactive approach. Combining technological modernisation, institutional accountability and effective disaster response can strengthen passenger confidence and infrastructure resilience.

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