Geography

The Himalayan region is highly vulnerable to earthquakes. Discuss the major causes of this vulnerability and suggest measures to strengthen disaster preparedness.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 23/10/2026	—	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Plate tectonics, seismic vulnerability, building codes, NDMA, early warning, resilient infrastructure, community preparedness.

Model Answer

Introduction:

The Himalayas are among the world's most seismically active regions because of the continuing convergence of the Indian and Eurasian plates.

Main Body:

Causes of Vulnerability

1. Tectonic activity: Plate convergence causes stress accumulation and fault movements.
2. Fragile terrain: Steep slopes increase the risk of earthquake-triggered landslides.
3. Infrastructure weaknesses: Non-engineered buildings may collapse during strong shaking.
4. Difficult access: Remote mountain settlements complicate rescue and relief operations.
5. Harsh weather: Freezing temperatures can worsen the situation for displaced people.

Measures to Strengthen Preparedness

1. Enforce earthquake-resistant building codes and retrofit vulnerable structures.
2. Improve seismic monitoring, public alerts and emergency communication.
3. Train local communities in evacuation, first aid and search-and-rescue procedures.
4. Prepare emergency shelters, medical supplies and coordinated response plans.
5. Integrate earthquake risks into land-use planning and infrastructure development.

Conclusion:

Earthquakes cannot be prevented, but their impact can be reduced through resilient construction, effective preparedness and rapid emergency response.

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