Disaster Management · GS - III

Examine the challenges of ensuring aviation safety and effective disaster response in India's mountainous regions. Suggest measures to reduce helicopter accident risks.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 30/10/2026	GS - III	Disaster Management

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

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Answer Hint

Mountainous terrain; unpredictable weather; helicopter operations; aviation safety regulations; DGCA; search and rescue; emergency preparedness; accident investigation; risk mitigation

Model Answer

Introduction

Helicopters play an important role in mountainous states such as Uttarakhand by supporting tourism, medical evacuation, disaster relief and connectivity. However, difficult terrain and rapidly changing weather increase operational risks.

Major Challenges

1. Geographical Constraints: Narrow valleys, high altitudes and steep slopes create difficult flying conditions.

2. Weather Variability: Sudden fog, turbulence, strong winds and poor visibility can affect flight safety.

3. Operational Limitations: High-altitude conditions can affect helicopter performance and payload capacity.

4. Emergency Response: Remote crash sites, limited road access and communication gaps delay rescue operations.

Measures to Improve Safety

- Strengthen DGCA oversight, pilot training and aircraft maintenance.
- Improve weather forecasting and real-time terrain monitoring.
- Establish stricter operational protocols for high-altitude flights.
- Enhance emergency communication, rescue equipment and coordination.
- Conduct independent accident investigations to identify systemic failures.

Conclusion

Mountain aviation requires specialised training, reliable infrastructure and strict safety compliance. A preventive approach can reduce risks while preserving the benefits of helicopter connectivity in remote regions.

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