Disaster Management · GS - III

Discuss the major challenges involved in search and rescue operations in remote mountainous regions. Suggest measures to improve the safety of high-altitude trekkers.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 01/11/2026	GS - III	Disaster Management

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Mountain hazards; extreme weather; difficult terrain; communication gaps; search and rescue coordination; trekking safety protocols

Model Answer

Introduction:

Mountain trekking supports tourism and local livelihoods but exposes visitors to rapidly changing weather, difficult terrain and limited emergency infrastructure. Incidents involving missing trekkers highlight the need for preventive planning and effective rescue systems.

Major challenges

- **Harsh weather:** Snow, rain, fog and sudden temperature drops can cause disorientation and hypothermia.
- **Difficult terrain:** Steep slopes, narrow trails and remote locations restrict access for rescue teams.
- **Communication gaps:** Weak mobile connectivity can delay distress alerts and location tracking.
- **Limited infrastructure:** Inadequate medical facilities, transport and specialised equipment can complicate rescue operations.

- **Coordination needs:** Local authorities, guides and rescue teams must share information and coordinate their efforts.

Measures to improve safety

Authorities should enforce suitable trekking registration, route planning and weather advisories. Trekkers should use trained guides, carry emergency communication devices, follow designated trails and inform authorities about their itinerary. Rescue teams need specialised training, equipment and reliable coordination mechanisms.

Conclusion

Mountain emergencies require both preparedness and rapid response. Stronger safety protocols, improved communication and coordinated rescue capabilities can reduce risks and protect trekkers in remote regions.

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