Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the importance of safety protocols and accountability mechanisms in the maintenance of naval assets. How can institutional reforms help prevent similar incidents?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 04/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Naval asset maintenance; safety protocols; alleged negligence; court-martial proceedings; institutional accountability; preventive audits; personnel training

Model Answer

Introduction

Naval vessels are complex strategic assets requiring rigorous maintenance and safety procedures. The reported capsizing of INS Brahmaputra during repairs at Mumbai Naval Dockyard in 2024 highlights the importance of technical oversight and accountability.

Importance of Safety and Accountability

Maintenance activities involve technical risks that require clear operating procedures, trained personnel and effective supervision. Any lapse can endanger personnel, damage expensive equipment and affect operational readiness. Investigations can help identify whether failures arose from human error, procedural deficiencies or shortcomings in supervision.

The reported initiation of court-martial proceedings against two officers illustrates the role of military accountability mechanisms. However, the initiation of proceedings should not be treated as a final determination of guilt.

Way Forward

The Navy should strengthen independent safety audits, risk assessments and compliance checks during repairs. Standard operating procedures must clearly allocate responsibilities, while personnel should receive regular training in emergency response and hazard management. Lessons from investigations should be incorporated into maintenance protocols, and reporting systems should encourage early identification of safety risks.

Conclusion

A strong safety culture combines preventive measures with fair and evidence-based accountability. These steps can protect naval personnel, preserve strategic assets and improve operational readiness.

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