Disaster Management · GS - III

Urban building collapses highlight weaknesses in construction safety and disaster preparedness. Examine the major causes of such incidents and suggest measures to strengthen urban disaster management in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 05/11/2026	GS - III	Disaster Management

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Unauthorised construction, structural defects, regulatory enforcement, building codes, urban congestion, emergency response, fire services, NDRF, municipal accountability, disaster preparedness.

Model Answer

Introduction

Rapid urbanisation and increasing construction activity have intensified concerns regarding building safety, structural stability and disaster preparedness in Indian cities.

Major Causes and Challenges

Building collapses may result from poor construction quality, substandard materials, unauthorised modifications, inadequate structural design and weak regulatory enforcement. Congested urban settlements and narrow streets can delay the movement of emergency vehicles and rescue equipment.

The collapse of a three-storey under-construction building in Delhi's Chandni Chowk area highlights the challenges of rescue operations in densely populated urban locations.

Measures for Improvement

Strict enforcement of building bylaws and structural safety standards is essential. Municipal authorities should conduct regular inspections and ensure accountability of builders and contractors.

Cities must strengthen fire services, emergency access routes, search-and-rescue capacity and coordination among police, hospitals and disaster response agencies. Public awareness and construction-site safety audits should also be promoted.

Conclusion

Urban disaster risk reduction requires preventive regulation, resilient infrastructure and efficient emergency response systems to protect lives and ensure safer cities.

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