Disaster Management · GS - III

Examine the significance of disaster preparedness, resilient infrastructure and community participation in reducing disaster vulnerability in Himalayan states.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/11/2026	GS - III	Disaster Management

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

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Answer Hint

Disaster-prone Himalayan geography, climate change, early warning systems, resilient infrastructure, local communities, institutional coordination, mitigation and rehabilitation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Himalayan states face recurring hazards such as landslides, flash floods, cloudbursts, earthquakes and glacial lake outburst floods. Their fragile ecology and difficult terrain increase the consequences of disasters.

Key Dimensions of Disaster Risk Reduction

1. **Preparedness and Early Warning:** Strengthening weather forecasting, hazard mapping, last-mile communication and evacuation plans can reduce casualties.

2. **Resilient Infrastructure:** Roads, bridges, dams and buildings must incorporate seismic safety, slope stability and climate-resilient construction standards.

3. **Community Participation:** Local bodies, trained volunteers, self-help groups and village-level disaster committees can improve awareness, evacuation and first response.

4. **Ecological Conservation:** Protecting forests, wetlands and river systems, regulating construction in vulnerable zones and restoring degraded slopes can reduce exposure.

5. **Institutional Coordination:** NDMA, SDMAs, district authorities and scientific institutions must coordinate risk assessment, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Challenges

Unplanned urbanisation, tourism pressure, inadequate local capacity, fragmented development planning and limited access to remote settlements often weaken disaster resilience.

Conclusion

Himalayan disaster management must shift from a relief-centric approach to risk-informed development. Combining scientific planning, ecological safeguards and community-led preparedness is essential for long-term resilience.

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