Geography · GS - I

Himalayan floods highlight the vulnerability of mountain communities and infrastructure to extreme hydrometeorological events. Examine the major causes and consequences of such disasters and suggest measures for strengthening disaster resilience in the Himalayan region. (150 words, 10 marks)

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
Daily Practice 11/10/2026	GS - I	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Discuss intense rainfall, steep slopes, landslides, vulnerable infrastructure and climate risks; suggest early warnings, resilient bridges, watershed management, land-use regulation and cross-border cooperation.

Model Answer

The Budhi Gandaki River floods in Nepal, which reportedly washed away six bridges and left ten people missing, highlight the vulnerability of Himalayan communities to extreme hydrological events.

Causes: Intense rainfall, steep terrain, rapid runoff, landslides and sediment accumulation can cause sudden increases in river discharge. Climate change may intensify certain extreme rainfall events, although individual disasters require event-specific attribution.

Consequences: Floods cause fatalities, displace communities, damage bridges and roads, disrupt connectivity and livelihoods, and increase the risk of erosion and sediment-related damage. Destruction of transport infrastructure can also delay rescue operations and restrict access to essential services.

Measures: Authorities should strengthen weather forecasting, river monitoring and community-based early-warning systems. Bridges and roads must incorporate hazard assessments and resilient engineering standards. Watershed restoration, slope stabilisation, appropriate land-use planning and emergency preparedness can reduce vulnerability. Nepal and India should improve hydrological data-sharing and transboundary disaster coordination where relevant.

Conclusion: Himalayan disaster management must combine scientific forecasting, resilient infrastructure, ecosystem conservation and regional cooperation to protect lives and livelihoods.

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