Disaster Management · GS - III

What are the major challenges in crowd management during mass gatherings in India? Discuss the measures required to prevent stampedes and improve disaster preparedness.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 18/10/2026	GS - III	Disaster Management

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

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Answer Hint

Crowd density, inadequate exits, poor planning, weak coordination, emergency response, risk assessment, crowd-flow management, CCTV surveillance, public announcements, standard operating procedures, accountability.

Model Answer

Introduction

Mass gatherings during religious festivals, fairs and public events can create serious safety challenges. The recent stampede at a Durga Puja pandal in Kolkata, which reportedly killed 19 people, highlights the importance of effective crowd management and disaster preparedness.

Main Body

Major Challenges

1. Overcrowding: Excessive gathering of people in limited spaces increases the risk of stampedes.
2. Inadequate infrastructure: Narrow entry and exit routes, poor ventilation and insufficient emergency access can worsen casualties.

3. Weak coordination: Lack of coordination among police, organisers, medical teams and local authorities delays emergency response.
4. Insufficient planning: Inadequate crowd estimates, risk assessments and emergency drills increase vulnerability.

Measures to Prevent Stampedes

1. Conduct risk assessments and regulate entry according to venue capacity.
2. Establish separate entry and exit routes, emergency corridors and clear evacuation plans.
3. Deploy trained personnel, CCTV surveillance and real-time crowd monitoring.
4. Ensure coordination among police, health services, fire departments and event organisers.
5. Enforce safety standards, conduct regular inspections and fix accountability for negligence.

Conclusion

Stampedes are largely preventable through scientific crowd management, effective enforcement and public awareness. A proactive, technology-enabled and accountable approach is essential to protect lives during mass gatherings.

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