

New Delhi Railway Station Stampede

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New Delhi Railway Station Stampede : A Grim Reminder of Systemic Failures

Context:

The **stampede at New Delhi railway station on February 15, 2024**, highlights **serious lapses in crowd management and passenger safety**. Despite **modernisation efforts**, fundamental safety measures remain ignored, exposing **institutional inertia and lack of accountability**.

Causes of the Stampede

- **Poor Crowd Management:** Lack of unidirectional movement, bottlenecks, and inadequate security led to chaos.
- **Negligence:** Authorities failed to implement basic controls like stopping escalators and deploying sufficient personnel.
- **Predictable but Ignored:** Railways knew of the high festival footfall but failed to act proactively.

Institutional Failures

- **Shifting Blame:** Authorities blamed passengers instead of acknowledging planning failures.
- **Delayed Response:** Crowd control measures were implemented only after the tragedy.
- **Lack of Accountability:** Internal inquiry raises concerns over transparency.

The Way Forward

- **Independent Investigations** instead of internal probes.
- **AI-based crowd monitoring** and real-time data analytics.
- **Proactive planning for high-footfall events** and regular safety audits.

Conclusion

The **New Delhi stampede** is a **symptom of systemic failures** in Indian Railways. Without **institutional reforms, independent oversight, and proactive safety planning**, such tragedies

will continue. **Passenger safety must be a priority, not an afterthought.**

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