Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Examine the significance of strengthening regulatory enforcement against substandard drugs in India. Discuss how effective pharmaceutical quality control can protect public health and improve confidence in the healthcare system.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 05/11/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Drug safety, Not of Standard Quality drugs, Drugs Rules 1945, regulatory enforcement, licensing authority, quality assurance, patient safety, corrective action, pharmaceutical accountability

Model Answer

Introduction

The availability of safe and effective medicines is essential for public health. Substandard drugs can compromise treatment outcomes, increase health risks and undermine public confidence in healthcare.

Significance of Stronger Enforcement

Strict licensing provisions and timely regulatory action can prevent manufacturers from continuing production of medicines that fail critical quality standards. Immediate suspension mechanisms, where legally adopted, can reduce public exposure to defective products. Mandatory root-cause analysis and corrective action can address systemic manufacturing failures.

Challenges in Implementation

Regulatory authorities face challenges such as inadequate testing infrastructure, shortage of trained inspectors, uneven enforcement and delays in laboratory analysis. Excessive procedural delays may also allow quality failures to persist.

Way Forward

India should strengthen drug-testing laboratories, risk-based inspections, digital batch tracking and coordination between central and state regulators. Transparent reporting, independent audits and effective grievance mechanisms can improve accountability.

Conclusion

A credible pharmaceutical regulatory system must combine strict enforcement with scientific testing, procedural fairness and continuous quality monitoring to safeguard public health.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP