Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Why is an effective international pandemic treaty important for global health security? Discuss the challenges in ensuring equitable access to vaccines, treatments and other emergency resources.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 02/11/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Global health security; international cooperation; pandemic treaty; equitable access to vaccines; technology transfer; disease surveillance; financing; national sovereignty

Model Answer

Introduction

Pandemics and infectious disease outbreaks can spread across national borders, disrupting health systems, economies and livelihoods. Effective preparedness therefore requires international cooperation alongside strong domestic public health systems.

Importance of an International Pandemic Treaty

1. Coordinated Preparedness: A common framework can improve information-sharing, surveillance, early warning and coordination during health emergencies.

2. Equitable Access: Clear arrangements for vaccines, diagnostics, treatments and essential medical supplies can reduce disparities between high-income and low-income countries.

3. Research and Response: International cooperation can support research, technology transfer, manufacturing capacity and sustainable financing for emergency response.

Major Challenges

1. National Sovereignty: Countries may disagree over obligations concerning data-sharing, pathogen access and benefit-sharing.

2. Unequal Capacity: Differences in healthcare infrastructure, funding and pharmaceutical manufacturing can restrict access to essential resources.

3. Implementation: Commitments require transparent monitoring, predictable financing and domestic institutional capacity.

Way Forward

Countries should establish practical, accountable arrangements for surveillance, technology transfer, emergency financing and fair distribution of medical supplies. The treaty should complement the International Health Regulations and respect legitimate national responsibilities.

Conclusion

An effective pandemic treaty can strengthen collective preparedness only when international commitments translate into timely action, equitable resource distribution and sustained cooperation.

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