Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Examine the role of institutions such as AIIMS in strengthening tertiary healthcare delivery in India. Discuss the challenges in ensuring equitable access to specialised healthcare across regions.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Tertiary healthcare, Institutions of National Importance, AIIMS Act 1956, regional healthcare disparities, specialist doctors, medical infrastructure, public health investment, affordability, human resources, decentralisation, telemedicine.

Model Answer

Introduction

Tertiary healthcare provides specialised medical services, advanced diagnostics and treatment for complex diseases. Institutions such as AIIMS play an important role in strengthening this level of healthcare in India.

Role of AIIMS

Established under the AIIMS Act, 1956, these institutions provide advanced treatment, medical education and research. They also support training of specialised healthcare professionals and improve access to affordable treatment through public institutions. New AIIMS campuses can reduce dependence on distant metropolitan hospitals.

Major Challenges

Regional disparities in medical infrastructure, shortages of specialists, delays in construction, inadequate supporting facilities and unequal affordability restrict access. Rural and remote populations often face additional difficulties in reaching specialised hospitals.

Way Forward

The government should ensure timely completion of projects, adequate staffing, modern equipment, stronger referral networks and integration with primary healthcare. Telemedicine and regional medical colleges can further improve access.

Conclusion

Expanding AIIMS institutions is important, but equitable healthcare requires strong infrastructure, human resources and effective coordination across all levels of the health system.

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