Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Discuss the challenges involved in balancing patient safety with affordability in the regulation of single-use medical devices in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 09/11/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Single-use medical devices, infection prevention, sterilisation, reprocessing standards, angioplasty costs, patient safety, healthcare affordability, regulatory oversight, medical ethics.

Model Answer

Introduction

Single-use medical devices play an important role in modern healthcare by reducing the risk of cross-infection. However, their cost can increase the financial burden on patients, particularly during expensive procedures such as angioplasty.

Key Challenges

- **Patient safety:** Reuse without validated sterilisation may cause infections and complications.
- **Healthcare affordability:** Disposable devices increase procedural costs and out-of-pocket expenditure.
- **Technical limitations:** Complex devices may be difficult to clean and sterilise effectively.
- **Regulatory concerns:** Inadequate monitoring can encourage unsafe reuse and compromise accountability.

Way Forward

- Establish evidence-based standards for any permitted reprocessing.
- Require validation, traceability and quality audits.
- Strengthen hospital infection-control committees and regulatory inspections.
- Promote affordable medical-device manufacturing and transparent pricing.
- Ensure that patient safety remains central to clinical decision-making.

Conclusion

India needs a balanced regulatory framework that protects patients while improving access to affordable healthcare. Scientific evidence, strict oversight and ethical medical practices must guide decisions on device reuse.