Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Discuss the role of pharmaceutical price regulation in improving the affordability and accessibility of cancer treatment in India. Examine the challenges involved in balancing patient welfare with the sustainability of the pharmaceutical industry.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Drug price control, NPPA, DPCO 2013, cancer treatment costs, out-of-pocket expenditure, essential medicines, trade margins, pharmaceutical innovation, generic medicines, healthcare equity.

Model Answer

Introduction

Cancer treatment often involves prolonged therapies and expensive medicines, imposing a substantial financial burden on patients. Pharmaceutical price regulation can improve affordability and access to essential treatment.

Role of Price Regulation

- **Financial protection:** Price controls reduce out-of-pocket expenditure and the risk of medical impoverishment.
- **Healthcare accessibility:** Affordable medicines enable economically weaker patients to continue treatment.
- **Market transparency:** Regulation limits excessive trade margins and improves price accountability.
- **Public health equity:** Lower medicine prices can reduce disparities in access to cancer care.

Key Challenges

- Excessive price restrictions may affect incentives for pharmaceutical research and innovation.
- Dependence on imported active pharmaceutical ingredients can create supply vulnerabilities.
- Monitoring prices across multiple brands and formulations requires effective enforcement.
- Affordability must be balanced with medicine quality and uninterrupted availability.

Way Forward

Strengthen generic medicine production, promote domestic pharmaceutical research and improve price monitoring.

Conclusion

A balanced pricing framework, supported by quality assurance and stronger public healthcare infrastructure, is essential for equitable cancer treatment.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP