Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Discuss the potential of Public-Private Partnerships in improving the accessibility, affordability and quality of public healthcare services in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 31/10/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Public-Private Partnership; healthcare infrastructure; diagnostic services; technological investment; maintenance efficiency; affordability; universal health coverage; accountability

Model Answer

Introduction

India's public healthcare system faces challenges such as inadequate diagnostic infrastructure, staff shortages and maintenance disruptions. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) can help address these gaps through shared resources and expertise.

Potential Benefits

- **Infrastructure Development:** Private investment can expand access to advanced diagnostic facilities such as MRI and CT scanners.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Professional maintenance and technical support can reduce equipment downtime.
- **Cost Optimisation:** Appropriate contractual arrangements can reduce the financial burden on public hospitals.
- **Improved Accessibility:** Service-level obligations can ensure uninterrupted diagnostic services, including in underserved regions.
- **Affordability:** Government-funded free or subsidised services can protect economically weaker patients.

Challenges and Safeguards

High user charges, unequal geographical distribution, contractual disputes and weak monitoring may undermine public interest. Transparent bidding, quality standards, independent audits, grievance redressal and strict patient-data protection are essential.

Conclusion

PPPs can strengthen public healthcare delivery when private-sector efficiency is combined with government accountability and equitable access.