

APSC Mains 2023 TS - 16 (GS Paper 2)
Duration – 3 Hrs

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Medium:

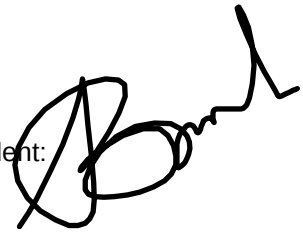
 English ☒

 Assamese ☐

INDEX NUMBER			INSTRUCTIONS
Q.NO.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained.	Please read each of the following instruction carefully before attempting the questions: - There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH. - All questions are compulsory. - The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. - The answers must not exceed 150 words for 10 marks and 250 words for 20 marks. - Content is more important than the number of words. - Answers must be written in the medium authorised in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorised one. - Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off
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TOTAL:	250		

Remarks:

Signature of the Student:





Brief report of Performance Evaluation of student in the paper

	Poor	Average	Good	Very good	Excellent
Understanding the context and demand of the questions					
Relevancy of the content					
Structure and flow of the answer					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Body					
(c) Conclusion					
Subject knowledge					
Language of the answer					
Presentation					
(a) Underline to the keywords					
(b) Use of flowcharts or diagrams					
(c) Paragraph limits and overall					
Understanding of directives					
Factual correctness					
Overall performance					

Detail Feedback

Do you agree with the assertion that the higher judiciary needs to be more transparent & accountable. Share your views.

The higher judiciary in India functions independently. The higher judiciaries in India have been under the radar for being not transparent and accountable for their judgements and under the protection of law.

Higher judiciary: Need for more transparency and accountability.

① Appointment of judges:

↳ The judiciary needs a more inclusive method in the appointment of judges. The selection by a appointed committee makes the process veiled from the public eye.

② Passing of judgement

↳ The higher judiciaries hardly review judgements passed by them.

③ Sitting of the courts.

↳ The public is often not aware of the court sittings

④ Complexity in judicial keywords

↳ The complex nature of the judicial process makes the public and others unaware of their basic rights in many cases.

However, the judiciary has recently tried to become more open and accountable.

↳ The judicial processes are now being put out in the internet for public

↳ The higher judiciary also takes up accountability for the non-competence of legislature and executive bodies.
Eg: banning of diesel and petrol public transport in Delhi.

The higher judiciary needs to function independently for the smooth functioning of democracy but a delicate balance between accountability and secrecy should be maintained.

2. Comment on the utility and effectiveness of soft power for furthering national interest. Can soft power replace hard power in international politics?

Ans 2) Soft power of a nation is the people-to-people connect with other nations.

Soft power as a diplomatic tool has been used by countries increasingly to further their national cause.

Utility and effectiveness of soft power:

↳ Soft power is used as a tool to engage people to broaden their knowledge of country and develop positive attitude.

Eg: Celebration of yoga day.

↳ Soft power is also used to effectively push a cause in the international forums.

Eg: India using soft-power

as voice of Global South in G20
↳ It is being increasingly used as a
tool to negotiate deals in favour of
a nation

[eg]: India using soft power to engage
with USA in product exports and
Russia in defense exports.

Soft power has gained a big hold in
international politics.

Soft power in place of hard power?

↳ India as a nation have always
lent towards the use of soft power instead
of hard power following SDS-15,
Article 31 of DPSP and the Gujral Doctrine.

↳ The other nations of the world
should also steer to soft power and
reduce the use of hard power.

Although soft power is an
effective tool in international politics,
the use of hard power in case of
adamant nations can not be
neglected. However, soft power use
should be the norm and hard
power the exception.

3. Governing emerging technologies and governing through technologies are both critical in present era. (Underline)

Ans 3

The use of technology is governing and governing emerging technologies. both have become necessary and critical in present times.

Governing emerging technologies

↳ The governance and overview of emerging technologies like AI is of utmost importance.

In case of uncontrolled rise, these technologies are capable of creating more damage than good due to their potential threat to human violation of human rights such as Right to Privacy.

↳ The governance of new technologies are also necessary to prevent autonomy and autocracy of a particular group or organisation.

Governance of technologies in the field of medicine, internet

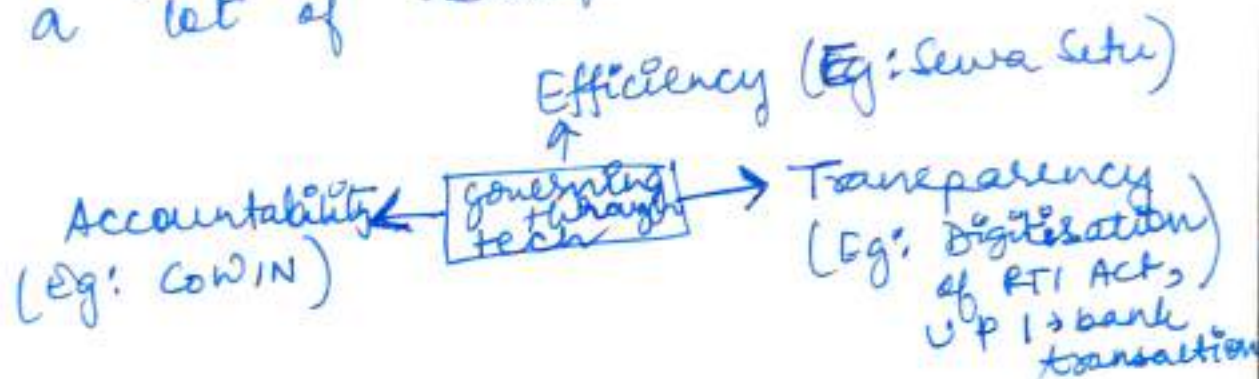
~~are~~ necessary.

Eg: IT Act, 2000 for regulation in IT technologies.

Genome Act is also necessary for genome modification technology.

Governing through Technology

Governing through Technology has a lot of benefits.



The governing through Technology i.e. e-governance has gained momentum in the last decade.

The interplay of power in governing emerging technologies and governing through technologies is necessary for a future with the best and use of technology without compromising on human values.

Q. Bureaucracy is not an obstacle to democracy but an inevitable complement to it. Do you agree? Substantiate your views.

Ans) Better Bureaucracy is not an obstacle to democracy and should instead function as a complement to it.

Sardar Patel had rightly said,
"Bureaucracy are the steel frame of India"

Bureaucracy is a complement to democracy

↳ Bureaucrats help in the better implementation of policies and government schemes.

↳ Direct connect with common people make the bureaucrats a prophet of democratic values and ideas.

↳ Bureaucracy helps in the flow of governments from one to the next.

↳ Democracy in the discretionary power of bureaucrats strengthen the democratic process and make the system efficient.

Bureaucracy; an obstacle to democracy

Although the instances of bureaucracy as a barrier to democracy are almost negligible, it cannot be neglected.

↳ Bureaucrats and politicians conflict may hampers the smooth functioning of democracy.

↳ Bureaucracy using their discretionary powers is many a times against democratic process.

Eg: Bureaucrats removing people from jobs.

The bureaucracy is an integral part of democracy in India. The implementation of the 2nd ARC recommendations and following the code of conduct will ease the process of functioning between bureaucrats and the other agents of democracy.

- Q7) While fundamental duties have strengthened our democracy, FD are essential to strengthen our society. Examine importance of FD for Indian society.
- Q7) Fundamental duties and fundamental rights both are essential to the smooth functioning of society and to hold the social fabric.
- The fundamental duties in our Constitution in Part IV lays down important duties for the citizens to follow and implement in daily life.
- ### Importance of fundamental duties
- ↳ The presence of rights without duties is of no value. Rights with duties makes the citizens accountable.
 - ↳ The fundamental duties seek to establish equality in gender, society.
 - ↳ Development of scientific temper in the society is essential for overall growth.
- eg: Development of scientific temper is mentioned in fundamental duties.

↳ Sense of common cause and nationalism is developed.

Eg: "promote brotherhood among them all"

↳ International ethics maintained and

The fundamental duties are essential for realising the potential of accountability in citizens. However, duties without rights would become dictatorship.

The fundamental duties although important are sometimes regarded as quite obvious like respecting the national flag and national song. These are things that should be inherent in the society and not thought of as duty.

The fundamental duties are a integral part of our Constitution and citizens should be made more aware of their duties.

6. What are quasi-judicial bodies? Discuss their significance in governance.

Q6. Quasi-judicial bodies are those organs of the government that function outside of the judicial bodies that aid in the functioning of the bodies.

Quasi-judicial bodies are not necessarily always a court-outside-the-court system.

[Eg]: Election Commission of India
National Green Tribunals.

Quasi-Judicial bodies: Significance

Quasi-judicial bodies are constituted with the aim of increasing the efficiency of the judiciary and legislature.

- ① Quasi-judicial bodies provide an expert opinion for matters
 - ② They are easily accessible to the public —
 - ↳ low cost
 - ↳ less time frame for resolving issues
 - ③ They share the workload of the judiciary
 - ④ Quasi-judicial bodies help in easy solving the problem of long pendency of cases
- Eg : Green Tribunals solve environment and pollution related issues with technical expertise and in less time period than judiciary

The ~~a~~ functioning of quasi-judicial bodies in an autonomous and democratic way is essential for good governance.

Q. What major changes in the framework for C-S fiscal relations in recent years? Analyse impact on dynamics of C-S relationship.

Ans. The centre-state relationship in fiscal issues have undergone some major changes in the recent years.

The major changes in the framework of centre-state fiscal relations are noted in -

- 1) Centre pushing the state for more accountability.
- 2) Centre steering towards more control in fiscal matters in important state list functions such as healthcare, agriculture.

Eg. In COVID-19 pandemic, there was a centre state ~~conflict~~ conflict. The federal structure was in debate. The centre took all decisions in distribution of funds during pandemic.

Eg. The implementation of GST however, also eased things between centre-state. The

state share and centre share
became more transparent. However,
the 55 CGST part of GST has two
dimensions.

- ① Vertical distribution (Centre to State)
- ② Horizontal distribution (~~at~~ among States)

The debate lies in the horizontal
distribution of funds. The State's share
is distributed in the following ratio -

Population - 15%
Income disparity - 45%
Tax efforts - 2.5%

The main debate between Centre-State
arises in the income disparity, and tax
efforts and population. The States with
higher population and higher tax efforts
receive more funds.

The impact of fiscal relations
in Centre-State dynamics is noted
in the regional disparity of votes.

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

9) *concerns regarding Parliamentary performance most often relate to the drastic redⁿ in the level of deliberation, representation & scrutiny. Highlight recent instances which have led to decline.*

Ans 9) The Parliament often comes under radar for its declining functioning.

The Parliamentary performances have degraded in the past years and the instances leading to such decline can be noted in :—

① The Parliament has been criticised for not giving importance to matters that need deliberation.

Recent reports have given data that the parliament has passed bills in few cases with less than 20 minutes of discussion.

② Poor representation of women

↳ The 17th Parliament has only

③ 14% women. This ~~bridge~~

bridge is also credited to the 'Beti - Beti - Bahu' group of politically affluent families.

③ Insufficient sittings

Is the Parliament sits for less than the specified time

④ Criminalisation of politics

Reports give that about 52% of MPs have criminal background

⑤ Ageing of Parliament

Is the percentage of young MPs is less than 12% in the current Parliament.

Way Forward

The Parliament is in requirement of massive changes to overcome the degrading ~~pt~~ performance.

① Parliamentary sittings should be pre-specified and pre-notified like in USA.

② Representation of women should be increased. Political parties should work for it

③ Importance of Parliamentary Committees should be recognised and utilised.

④ The check of criminal background of MPs is a necessary step.

The smooth functioning of democracy is dependent on the Parliament. Hence, it should undergo reforms for effective performance.

10. Despite excellent economic growth, India suffers from 'alarming hunger and acute malnutrition'. Examine.

Ans) India plans to reach becomes USD 5 Trillion economy by 2026. It is ~~the~~ one of the largest economies of the world at present. However, the country grapples with the problems of hunger and malnutrition in children. It is a paradox.

The country ranks below Pakistan and Bangladesh in the global Hunger Index. It ranks 107th out of 122 countries.

The country needs to take steps in this regard so as to achieve SDG-2 by 2030.

The Initiatives taken by the government in this regard are—

- (1) Bio. fortification of food for micronutrients. Eg. Shree Anna
- (2) Use of schemes like Mid-day meal for children. Recently, this scheme has been extended to

reach ~~the~~ toddlers.

- ↳ Providing free medical check-up in village level hospitals and dispensaries.
- ↳ The shortage of food grains is met by subsidised food at public distribution shops.

Despite the excellent economic growth, India continues to suffer from 'alarming' hunger and acute malnutrition in children. The government is tackling the issues in hand with participation from people.



11) What is Learning Poverty? How does it affect India's efforts to build human capital & achieve SDG? Suggest measures

12) Learning poverty is the ~~ava~~ lack of availability of skilled workers.

It is the poverty or death of essential knowledge to strengthen an economy. Technical illiteracy also adds to learning poverty in current times.

Learning poverty threatens India's efforts to build human capital and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030.

~~How~~ How does it affect India?

↳ Because of ~~lack~~ learning poverty, India has not been able to harness its once in a lifetime opportunity of demographic dividend.

India has the highest population of young ~~workers~~ working age group but learning poverty has pushed the country sackward.

↳ lack of Technical know-how means the service sector as well as knowledge exchange with other countries lag behind.

↳ The Human capital potential of India has to sit back to traditional practices due to learning poverty.

↳ Agriculture suffers due to lack of modern techniques and machinisation

↳ Economy boost is paused due to ineffective use of resources by the human capital

↳ Learning poverty in social issue led to population expletion, exploitation of workers, & nutrition deficiency thus, pushing India back in achieving SDG goals of zero hunger, no poverty, clean water etc. by 2030

Measures to address learning poverty -

① Grassroot level development

↳ Through skill boosting at village level with the help of NQOs, SHGs, workshops by skilled professionals

② Digital literacy

↳ In 21st century, digital literacy is of utmost importance. There is a need to push people to ~~be~~ have digital literacy

③ National Apprenticeship Training

↳ The Govt has already implement this scheme but there is a need for this to reach wider population.

④ Educating old age people

⑤ Upskilling of officers, already in the job for 10-15 years.

⑥ The dangers of learning poverty are many. India needs to urgently address the issue to meet international standards in science, technology, politics and to establish as a global power.

14) The 2nd decade of 21st century ... UN failure.
Examine using suitable examples

Ans: The UN and its agencies have come under scrutiny in the 21st century due to several issues.

The main cause of pointing fingers at the UN and its agencies for its failures has been the Russia - Ukraine war.
Russia - Ukraine war brought forward the loopholes in the UN.

The UN : a failure ?

↳ The Russia - Ukraine war. Saw no deliberation from the UN's end.

It made a poor show and have not been able to take a stand on the matter.

↳ Increasing power of the 5 permanent member countries and their use of veto power to dismiss important issues.

Eg: The talks of removing Russia as a permanent member are void since Russia has veto power.

- ↳ Low representation of countries. The 193 member countries hardly have any say in important matters.
- ↳ Irish-Palestine conflicts were also not negotiated by UN.
- ↳ The iron hand power of China in global issues like trade has not been handled by the UN effectively.
- ↳ Issue of Rohingyas in Myanmar ~~has~~ ^{has} seen no concrete efforts from UN.

The UN and its agencies have thus been called out as collective failure and a tool of the 5 permanent member countries to push their agenda in the international forum.

However, ~~it~~ calling the UN and its agencies a complete failure would be injustice to the many humanitarian deeds provided by the agency.

UN: humanitarian needs

- ↳ The use of humanitarian corridors in conflicted areas to rescue innocent citizens
- ↳ The World Food Program was a global success and received Nobel for its cause
- ↳ The organisation of ~~for~~ over 71 rescue troops

Way forward:

The UN needs to reevaluate and reform its principles in order to still continue functioning as a global representative of the needy. Increased representation from other countries is necessary.

Decrease of the power of veto of the permanent members is necessary to not let other member countries feel alienated.

The UN needs to function to its fullest potential with reforms so as to help people globally.

13. Do you agree time has come to revisit Seventh Schedule? Discuss with suitable arguments.

Ans 13) The Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with the division of power between the centre and states. Article 243 of the Constitution deals with three lists -

- ↳ Union List (100 subjects)
- ↳ State List (61 subjects)
- ↳ Concurrent List (52 subjects)

The lists put out the subjects that the union and state have control over.

Recently, the Seventh Schedule has been ~~in~~ in debate with whether it needs to be revisited.

The significance of the Seventh ~~the~~ Schedule as well as its cons needs to be considered in such debates.

Time to revisit Seventh Schedule?

① Increased centralisation

↳ moving of the subjects from concurrent list to union list

↳ The amendment of 1976 hinted upon a centralisation of matters

② Old and redundant

↳ the provisions were taken from the act of 1935.

③ Need for local bodies

↳ In times of need of local self-government the schedule focuses mainly on central and state

④ Distribution of public goods

↳ Distribution of public goods or funds is more effective at the local level than the state or central level

⑤ While the arguments in favour of revisiting the Seventh Schedule holds importance there are also some significances of the Schedule-

Need for Seventh Schedule

- ① Clear Division of power
↳ Clear division of power makes for less confusion
- ② Autonomy of states
↳ States have more autonomy to decide on matters integral to them
- ③ More accountability
- ④ Unity and Integrity of India
↳ Strong centre is required for proper integration of states
- ⑤ Avoids confusion and less friction between centre and states when responsibilities are distributed.

The Seventh Schedule needs reforms and it is essential to maintain cohesion between centre and states.

14) When criminal elements enter legislature, securing any form of justice becomes a hollow promise. What makes criminal elements successful in politics? What reforms?

Ans 14) When criminal elements enter Legislature the functioning of the entire organs of the government becomes jammed.

Securing justice - social, economic, or political becomes a hollow promise in case of criminal elements perforating the legislature.

The current scenario in India is pathetic in legislature as about 242 out of 543 543 members of Parliament have criminal background. These criminal elements and their accompanied baggage damage the reputation of legislature.

Effects of criminal elements in legislature

↳ Effects the executive and judicial process as well since the functioning of the government is not one without the other.

- ↳ Effective implementation of welfare schemes is hampered.
- ↳ Effect in representation of 'clean' ~~etc~~ members. This gives the people an image that legislature cannot function without criminal elements.
- ↳ Tilt to negative elements or tilting away from reformative practices

Success of criminal elements in politics

- ↳ Use of muscle power to threaten and dampen the spirit of democracy.
- ↳ Incentivise poor people in lieu of votes
- ↳ Unchecked corruption
- ↳ Weak police investigation
- ↳ Non-implementation of recommendations of 2nd ARC.
- ↳ Part political parties tend to give weightage to criminal elements for benefitting selfish needs.
- ↳ Lack of will of people to engage with judiciary to gain justice even after exploitation by criminal elements.

Reforms to decriminalise politics

- ↳ Grassroot level reforms in gram panchayats, block levels so that criminal elements can not rise to top.
- ↳ Strong judicial forces
- ↳ Political awareness and ~~ethic~~ reforms in eligibility criteria for politicians
- ↳ Political parties should themselves not recruit people with criminal background
- ↳ Strong ~~not~~ citizenship powers among people to vote away criminal powers
- ↳ Role of civil society to aware people
- ↳ ~~legislator~~

The decriminalisation of politics is of urgent importance in current times. The tarnished image of legislature needs to be reconstructed as a supporter of ~~etc~~ fair processes and good examples.

- Q16. Although the NEP brings a commendable vision, its success depends on ability to effectively implement with govt's other policy initiatives. Discuss.
- The New Education Policy (NEP) of India brings with itself a commendable vision. However, its success depends on effectively implementing the other government's policy initiatives.
- The NEP has the vision of creating an India armed with the best of best tools in science, technology, literature. To achieve this there is a need to integrate it with government's policies in healthcare, economic, social sectors.
- India has ~~not~~ a paradoxical growth. If on one hand, it is the fastest growing economy, it also has the largest number of people in poverty (about 260 million). To address these issues the integration of policies of all sectors are necessary.

NEP with Healthcare

- ↳ India has acute hunger and malnutrition issues in children. In this case, implementation of NEP without addressing the issues related with healthcare would be fruitless.
- ↳ India has 6 lakh requirement of doctors. NEP can address this issue.

NEP in economic growth

- ↳ The country is leading in economic growth but the regional disparities in development are widening.

The income gap is widening along with less facilities for the poor. NEP in integration with fiscal policies can address the issue.

NEP in Social sector

- ↳ The integration of NEP with to welfare policies is integral for achieving social equality.

Challenges associated

- ↳ Lack of awareness of people.
↳ Departmental cohesion is lacking for effective functioning in policy implementation.

Way forward

- ↳ The government needs to take measures to implement NEP successfully across all tiers of governance.
↳ Departments should work in tandem to and co-operate to successfully integrate and implement policies.

The NEP if implemented effectively has the power to revolutionise the educational scene in India and uplift along with it other sectors of the country.

The Indian Ocean region has long been a theatre of India. Why? Agree? Measures to safeguard interest?

Ans 1) The Indian Ocean region is a key geostrategic theatre for India. It is of utmost importance to India to maintain strict purview of this region for its economic needs as well as to maintain itself as ~~as~~ its strategic autonomy.

The Importance of Indian Ocean to India is for -

① 40% of offshore petroleum drilling of the world is done in Indian Ocean. India imports 80% of its ~~world~~ oil and energy requirements. The Indian Ocean region is important to India for maintaining its hold over oil trade and energy trade.

② The Strait of Hormuz is located in the Indian Ocean which accounts for 25% of the world's trade.

③ Security issues of India also are key that associated with the Indian Ocean region.

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

↳ Foreign Policy of India with neighbouring countries need to be maintained and the Indian Ocean region is of key importance in this regard.

Measures taken by India to safeguard interest in Indian Ocean Region

① Participation in international forums

② Maintaining its importance as a voice of Global South.

③ SAGAR Policy -

↳ India as net provider of security in Indian Ocean region

④ Disasters Management

↳ Indian Ocean Tsunami ~~and~~ warning and Mitigation System by UN.

State reasons behind poor performance of co-operatives.
Discuss reforms by govt. to overcome shortcomings

Ans 18) The Co-operatives in India are receiving special attention from the government in the last few years. The aim of the co-operatives is to achieve the goal of 'Sahkar Se Samriddhi'

The co-operatives, however, have been giving steady poor performances which has been a cause of concern.

The reasons for poor performance may be cited as below -

(1) Lack of democratic spirit -

↳ the government intervention in the functioning of co-operatives hampers more than benefitting

Eg: restrictions on borrowing

(2) Politicisation of co-operatives

↳ many cases of co-operatives

being linked to politically
affiliated members can be seen

(3) to Skewed geographical penetration

↳ Co-operatives in North East India,
West Bengal, Bihar are not
as developed as in Gujarat,
Maharashtra etc.

(4) Lack of awareness

↳ members associated are not
aware of the proper mechanism
or framework of co-operatives

↳ many members are uneducated.

(5) Lack of proper funds

(6) Leakage or corruption in the
system of co-operatives leading
to not reaching the benefits
to intended beneficiaries

The government has taken several initiatives to overcome the shortcomings.

Initiatives to overcome shortcomings:

① Establishment of key institutions

- ↳ National Co-operatives Society
- ↳ National Agricultural Co-operative Society

② Constitutional Amendments

- ↳ Article 43B mentions the promotion and establishment of co-operatives
- ↳ The Constitutional Amendment Act → 93rd

③ Banking Regulation Act.

- ↳ co-operative banks allowed to raise money through public issue and private placement.

The democratic functioning of co-operatives is necessary & and to ensure this accountability of management and stakeholders is required.

20) PPP model, if harnessed properly has potential to bridge gaps in India's healthcare. Discuss.

Ans 20) ^{Private} Public-Partnership ^(PPP) Model has the potential to bridge gaps in India's healthcare system. The government of India has been working on the PPP model for in the last three decades to improve and strengthen the healthcare system in the country.

Issues with India's healthcare

- ↳ Lack of infrastructure in village or rural areas
- ↳ Lack of professionals
According to reports, India has only about ~~22 doctors~~ per a shortage of about 6 lakh doctors.
- ↳ Lack of modern technologies for advanced care
- ↳ Shortage of funds or insufficient fund distribution

Public-Private Partnership models can effectively address the issues of healthcare in India.

The issue of high out-of-pocket expenditure in healthcare however need governments measures alone.

Role of PPP-models

- ↳ The government and private business can team up to effectively provide better infrastructure in grass root levels.
- ↳ Medicines deficiency and pharmaceutical needs can be addressed through PPP models. The government can team up with private ~~enter~~ firms to open up drug manufacturing units.
- ↳ Schemes like Operation Smile in association with private models have a much higher chance of success.
- ↳ PPP models in facilitating skilled professionals is an avenue that the government can work on.

In this regard, the Tata Trust
Hospitals, ~~Ambani~~ Reliance Industries
have taken a lead. The PPP models
if run efficiently can help solve
many of the discrepancies.

However, the government must have
hawk's eye report of the PPP models.

Challenges associated

- ↳ Exploitation of common citizens
- ↳ Corruption in PPP model implementation
- ↳ Priority to 'old-players' without giving
opportunity to fair, new entrants in
PPP structure.

A just balance between PPP
model and government monitoring will
benefit both and will bridge the gaps
in India's healthcare system. The
striking of right balance between government
intervention and use of public funds
is essential in this regard.