

Write anything except
the question number
in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान
में प्रश्न संख्या को
अतिरिक्त कुछ
न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उत्तरों में प्रश्न संख्या को अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।
Candidates must not write on this margin

Q. The Government of India must ensure stringent quality controls on drug exports and contain the reputational damage. Discuss.

Introduction.

↳ India's apex medical regulatory body Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and state authorities have opened investigation into Cough syrups manufactured by Maiden Pharmaceuticals.

Recently, 66 children died in the Gambia consuming the syrup.

- ↳ Promethazine Oral Solution
- ↳ Kobexmalin Baby Cough Syrup.
- ↳ Mukeoff Baby Cough Syrup.

↳ These syrup have Unacceptable amounts of Diethylene Glycol and Ethylene Glycol

↳ High level DGI
↳ Toxic to Humans

(Abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea etc)

Past incidents

↳ In 2020 → 17 children died in JK after consuming high level of Diethylene Glycol.

↳ After this, India phased out cough syrups in favour of suspensions that do not carry the risk of containing two toxins.

Quality Control on Drugs.

Concerns → CDSO survey in 2014-16
54% of Indian drugs manufactured by
large pharma companies failed the Quality
Test

↳ Country's pharma industry has largely
been in denial over quality-related concerns.

Law

Under Section 26A of the Act of CDSO has the
Power to ban a drug that is considered
harmful or sub therapeutic.

Problems in Regulation

↳ Drugs and Cosmetic Act of 1940 ⇒ monitoring
the manufacture and sale of drug is that of State
Authorities

↳ little information sharing between
Centre and state.

↳ Drugs fail quality test in one state
continue to be sold in others

Need to Preserve the reputation in the Pharma
Sector

↳ India → The Pharmacy of the world' due
to its dominance in the generic pharmaceutical
sectors.

↳ Distribution of COVID-19 vaccines over the
past year and half brought immense goodwill
to India.

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↳ This reputation must be preserved.

- through
- ↳ exemplary corrective measures.
 - ↳ stringent crackdown on irresponsible operators and corrupt officials
 - ↳ Drug Regulatory Authorities at central & state ⇒ act together & work in close coordination
 - ↳ Unsafe products must be weeded out before it is too late.