

Daily Mains Practice Answer 09-10-2026

Q. "The success of global pandemic preparedness depends on reconciling national sovereignty with international solidarity." Discuss in the context of the WHO Pandemic Agreement. (15 marks, 250 words)

Directions: Intro----- Reconciling national sovereignty with international solidarity + WHO agreement + Challenges-----Conclusion.

Introduction:

Briefly describe the WHO Pandemic Agreement.

Aim - To strengthen global cooperation while explicitly safeguarding state sovereignty.

Main Body

Reconciling sovereignty with international solidarity

- Respecting national sovereignty - Preserves the authority of states to formulate domestic health policies and allocate resources according to national priorities.
- Recognises that countries have different healthcare capacities, epidemiological risks and development needs.
- Promoting international solidarity - Equitable access to seek fairer distribution of vaccines, diagnostics, etc.
- Information sharing, technology transfer, collective preparedness, financial cooperation, etc.

WHO Pandemic Agreement: A framework for balancing the two

- Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS)
- Global Supply Chain and Logistics Network
- Technology transfer and local production
- Sustainable financing
- Sovereignty safeguards - Article 22 clarifies that the WHO cannot direct national laws, impose lockdowns or mandate vaccination under the Agreement.

Challenges in achieving this balance

- Vaccine nationalism
- Unequal bargaining power - North-South divide
- Intellectual property concerns

- Trust deficit
- Weak enforcement
- Unresolved negotiations

Conclusion:

Give a balanced conclusion and suggest some measures.

