

Daily Mains Practice Answer 15-10-2026

Q. Discuss the role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in addressing India's developmental challenges. How can CSR strengthen public-private partnerships without replacing the responsibility of the state? (10 marks, 150 words)

Direction: Intro-----role of CSR + How it strengthens PPP-----Conclusion.

Introduction:

Define Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and mention some data.

Unpacking a decade of India's private sector-led development" (October 13, 2026), highlights that India mobilised approximately Rs. 2.6 lakh crore through CSR over a decade.

Main Body

Role of CSR in addressing India's developmental challenge

- Education & skill development - School infrastructure, digital learning, vocational training and employability programmes.
- Healthcare - Funds mobile medical units, diagnostic facilities, preventive healthcare and nutrition interventions.
- Rural development - Drinking water access, sanitation, local infrastructure and livelihood opportunities.
- Environmental sustainability - Afforestation, watershed development, biodiversity conservation, renewable energy and waste management.
- Women empowerment - Entrepreneurship, financial literacy, self-help groups, etc.
- Social inclusion - Addresses the needs of persons with disabilities, disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups.

How can CSR strengthen public-private partnerships without replacing the responsibility of the state?

- Maintain public expenditure - Governments must continue funding essential services and fulfilling their welfare obligations.
- Ensure additionality - CSR *should supplement* public programmes and *improve outcomes rather than substitute* for routine government spending.
- Preserve public accountability - The state must remain responsible for universal access, service quality, regulation and grievance redressal.
- Promote equitable allocation - Transparent, needs-based planning should guide CSR distribution rather than corporate visibility alone.

- Strengthen community participation – Local communities must help identify priorities and evaluate results.
- Institutionalise collaboration – District-level coordination mechanisms should connect companies, government departments and civil society organisations.

Conclusion:

Give a balanced positive conclusion.

India's CSR framework has demonstrated considerable capacity to mobilise private development finance. The guiding principle is: move from spending to impact, from fragmented projects to collective outcomes, and from private contribution to accountable public-private partnership.

