UPSC with Saurabh Kaushik

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GS-II: SOCIAL JUSTICE

Previous Year Questions

UPSC Mains 2013 – 2024

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Social Justice

1. Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections of the Population by the Centre and States; Mechanisms, Laws, Institutions and Bodies Constituted for Protection and Betterment of These Vulnerable Sections

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-II Governance & Social Justice)	Year	Marks
Welfare Schemes for Children, Women & Vulnerable Sections	Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation.	2016	12.5
	"Though women in post-Independent India have excelled in various fields, the social attitude towards women and feminist movement has been patriarchial." Apart from women education and women empowerment schemes, what interventions can help change this milieu?	2021	15
	"Development and welfare schemes for the vulnerable, by its nature, are discriminatory in approach." Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.	2023	15
	Do government's schemes for up-lifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them, lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economics?	2014	12.5
	Performance of welfare schemes that are implemented for vulnerable sections is not so effective due to absence of their awareness and active involvement at all stages of policy process – Discuss.	2019	15
	The Central Government frequently complains on the poor performance of the State Governments in eradicating suffering of the vulnerable sections of the society. Restructuring of Centrally sponsored schemes across the sectors for ameliorating the cause of vulnerable sections of population aims at providing flexibility to the States in better implementation. Critically evaluate.	2013	10
Persons with Disabilities & Legal Framework	Does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 ensure effective mechanism for empowerment and inclusion of the intended beneficiaries in the society? Discuss	2017	10
	The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 remains only a legal document without intense sensitisation of government functionaries and citizens regarding disability. Comment.	2022	10

Social Justice

2. Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services Relating to Health, Education, Human Resources

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-II Governance & Social Justice)	Year	Marks
Education Reforms, Higher Education & NEP	"Earn while you learn' scheme needs to be strengthened to make vocational education and skill training meaningful." Comment. (150 words)	2021	10
	National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient education system in India. Critically examine the statement.	2020	15
	Should the premier institutes like IITs/IIMs be allowed to retain premier status, allowed more academic independence in designing courses and also decide mode/criteria of selection of students. Discuss in light of the growing challenges.	2014	12.5
	The quality of higher education in India requires major improvements to make it internationally competitive. Do you think that the entry of foreign educational institutions would help improve the quality of higher and technical education in the country? Discuss.	2015	12.5
	The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 remains inadequate in promoting incentive-based system for children's education without generating awareness about the importance of schooling. Analyse.	2022	15
	Professor Amartya Sen has advocated important reforms in the realms of primary education and primary health care. What are your suggestions to improve their status and performance?	2016	12.5
Public Health, Universal Coverage & Welfare	'To ensure effective implementation of policies addressing water, sanitation and hygiene needs, the identification of beneficiary segments is to be synchronized with the anticipated outcomes' Examine the statement in the context of the WASH scheme.	2017	10
	"Besides being a moral imperative of a Welfare State, primary health structure is a necessary precondition for sustainable development." Analyse.(150 words)	2021	10
	Appropriate local community-level healthcare intervention is a prerequisite to achieve 'Health for All ' in India. Explain.	2018	10
	Identify the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that are related to health. Discuss the success of the actions taken by the Government for achieving the same.	2013	10
	In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate health care policies are needed particularly in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss.	2020	10
	Public health system has limitations in providing universal health coverage. Do you think that the private sector could help in bridging the gap? What other viable alternatives would you suggest?	2015	12.5

	In a crucial domain like the public healthcare system, the Indian State should play a vital role to contain the adverse impact of marketisation of the system. Suggest some measures through which the State can enhance the reach of public healthcare at the grassroots level.	2024	**15**
Demographic Dividend, Skill Development & HRD	An athlete participates in Olympics for personal triumph and nation's glory; victors are showered with cash incentives by various agencies, on their return. Discuss the merit of state sponsored talent hunt and its cultivation as against the rationale of a reward mechanism as encouragement.	2014	**12.5**
	Demographic Dividend in India will remain only theoretical unless our manpower becomes more educated, aware, skilled and creative. What measures have been taken by the government to enhance the capacity of our population to be more productive and employable?	2016	**12.5**
	Despite Consistent experience of High growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive.	2019	**10**
	Skill development programs have succeed in increasing human resources supply to various sectors. In the context of the statement analyze the linkages between education, skill and employment.	2023	**15**
	The crucial aspect of development process has been the inadequate attention paid to Human Resource Development in India. Suggest measures that can address this adequacy.	2023	**10**

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3. Issues Relating to Poverty and Hunger

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-II Governance & Social Justice)	Year	Marks
Food Security, Hunger & Nutrition Policy	How far do you agree with the view that the focus on lack of availability of food as the main cause of hunger takes the attention away from ineffective human development policies in India?	2018	**15**
	The concept of Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme is almost a century old in India with early beginnings in Madras Presidency in pre-independent India. The scheme has again been given impetus in most states in the last two decades. Critically examine its twin objectives, latest mandates and success.	2013	**10**
	There is a growing divergence in the relationship between poverty and hunger in India. The shrinking of social expenditure by the government is forcing the poor to spend more on Non- Food essential items squeezing their food – budget.- Elucidate.	2019	**10**
Poverty Alleviation, MPI & Welfare Policy	Hunger and Poverty are the biggest challenges for good governance in India still today. Evaluate how far successive governments have progressed in dealing with these humongous problems. Suggest measures for improvement.	2017	**10**
	'Poverty Alleviation Programmes in India remain mere show pieces until and unless they are backed by political will'. Discuss with reference to the performance of the major poverty alleviation programmes in India.	2017	**15**
	"The incidence and intensity of poverty are more important in determining poverty based on income alone". In this context analyse the latest United Nations Multidimensional Poverty Index Report.	2020	**15**
	Besides the welfare schemes, India needs deft management of inflation and unemployment to serve the poor and the underprivileged sections of the society. Discuss.	2022	**15**
	Though there have been several different estimates of poverty in India, all indicate reduction in poverty levels over time. Do you agree? Critically examine with reference to urban and rural poverty indicators.	2015	**12.5**
	Poverty and malnutrition create a vicious cycle, adversely affecting human capital formation. What steps can be taken to break the cycle?	2024	**10**