Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Examine the role of social assistance programmes in promoting inclusive development and social justice for persons with disabilities in India. Discuss the challenges in ensuring adequate and accessible disability pension benefits.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 15/10/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), Article 41, Article 21, Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, social security, pension adequacy, age-based eligibility, poverty alleviation, financial inclusion, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Centre-State coordination, inclusive development.

Model Answer

1. Introduction

Social assistance programmes provide financial support to vulnerable sections and advance the constitutional objective of social justice. Disability pensions help eligible persons meet essential needs and reduce their dependence on family members.

2. Importance of Disability Pension

- **Income security:** Supports basic needs such as food, clothing and daily expenses.

- **Dignity and autonomy:** Promotes independent living and social inclusion.
- **Poverty reduction:** Helps address additional expenses associated with disability.
- **Welfare commitment:** Article 41 directs the State to provide public assistance in cases of disablement, subject to its economic capacity and development.

3. Major Challenges

1. Inadequate pension amounts amid rising living costs.
2. Complex documentation and disability certification procedures.
3. Exclusion due to eligibility conditions and lack of awareness.
4. Delayed payments and differences in benefits across States.

4. Measures Required

1. Regularly revise pension amounts according to inflation and essential living costs.
2. Simplify applications and ensure accessible grievance redressal.
3. Improve coordination between Central and State governments.
4. Ensure timely payments through Direct Benefit Transfer, with offline support for digitally excluded beneficiaries.

5. Conclusion

Disability pension must be adequate, accessible and reliable. Strengthening social assistance can help translate the principles of equality, dignity and inclusive development into practical benefits.

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