Society & Social Justice · GS - II

“Besides being a moral imperative of Welfare State, primary health structure is a necessary pre-condition for sustainable development.” Analyze.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2021	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Welfare state, primary healthcare, preventive medicine, universal health coverage, human capital, Sustainable Development Goals, maternal and child health, rural healthcare, health inequalities, public health expenditure, sustainable development.

Model Answer

Introduction

Primary healthcare is the first point of contact between people and the health system. It is both a social responsibility of the welfare state and a foundation for inclusive, sustainable development.

Why Primary Healthcare Is Essential

- **Social justice:** Affordable and accessible healthcare protects vulnerable groups from avoidable illness and catastrophic expenditure.
- **Preventive care:** Immunisation, screening, nutrition services and health education reduce disease burdens.
- **Human capital:** Healthy populations learn better, participate more productively in the workforce and contribute to economic growth.
- **Maternal and child health:** Antenatal care, institutional delivery and child immunisation reduce preventable mortality.
- **Universal health coverage:** Strong primary care improves access in rural, remote and underserved areas.

- **Sustainable development:** It supports SDG 3 on good health and well-being while reducing inequalities and improving resilience to health emergencies.

Challenges and Measures

Shortages of health personnel, uneven infrastructure, inadequate funding and weak referral systems constrain effectiveness. India needs stronger Health and Wellness Centres, reliable essential medicines, digital health support, community health workers and greater public investment.

Conclusion

A robust primary health system reduces inequalities and prevents avoidable disease while strengthening economic and social resilience. It is indispensable to a welfare state and sustainable development.