

# **WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & INDIA'S SOCIAL JUSTICE FRAMEWORK – EVENT**

**NEWS:** *World Day of Social Justice is observed annually on February 20th by the United Nations.*

## **WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?**

### **Establishment of World Day of Social Justice**

- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** established the **World Day of Social Justice** during its **62nd session on November 26, 2007**.
- The primary focus of this observance is to address critical global issues such as **poverty, social exclusion, unemployment**, and to promote **solidarity, equality, and opportunity** among all individuals, regardless of their backgrounds.

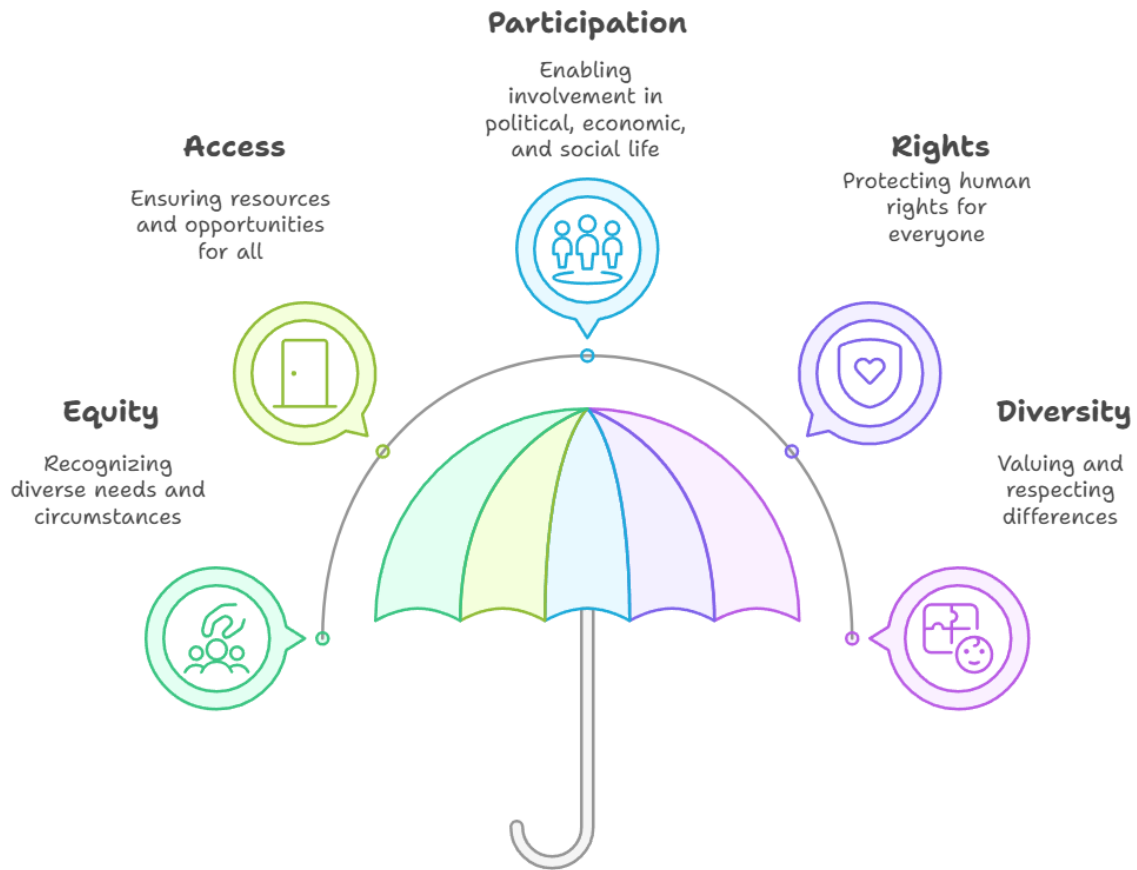
### **Role of the International Labour Organization (ILO)**

- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** plays a significant role in advancing social justice through its policies and programs.
- The **Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (2008)** serves as a guiding framework to ensure equitable distribution of opportunities and resources.
- The **Decent Work Agenda**, spearheaded by the ILO, aims to provide workers with fair wages, safe working conditions, and social protections.

### **Alignment with UN Initiatives**

- The objectives of the **World Day of Social Justice** align closely with the **United Nations' mission** to promote social equity and well-being.
- One key initiative is the **Social Protection Floor (launched in 2009)**, which ensures that all individuals, especially vulnerable populations, receive basic social guarantees such as **access to healthcare, education, employment, and income security**.

## Pillars of Social Justice



## Evolution of Social Justice in India

### 1. India's Commitment to Social Justice

- India has **officially observed the World Day of Social Justice since 2009**, signifying its **dedication to reducing inequalities and fostering inclusive growth**.
- The concept of **social justice in India** has deep roots in the country's **freedom struggle**, where leaders emphasized the **principles of equality, dignity, and justice** for all citizens.

### 2. Constitutional Framework for Social Justice

- The **Indian Constitution serves as the foundation** for ensuring **social, economic, and political justice**, particularly for **marginalized communities**.

## Key Constitutional Provisions Related to Social Justice

### 1. Preamble

- Declares **justice—social, economic, and political** as one of the fundamental objectives of the Indian state.

- Ensures **equality of status and opportunity**, along with **fraternity** to maintain national unity and integrity.
2. **Fundamental Rights (Part III)**
    - **Article 23:** Prohibits **human trafficking and forced labor**.
    - **Article 24:** Bans **child labor in hazardous occupations**, ensuring children's protection from exploitation.
  3. **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) (Part IV)**
    - **Article 37:** Recognizes **DPSPs as fundamental guidelines** for governance to establish a **just and equitable society**.
    - **Article 38:** Directs the State to **reduce inequalities in income, status, and opportunities**.
    - **Article 39:** Ensures **equal livelihood opportunities, fair wages, and protection from exploitation**.
    - **Article 39A:** Guarantees **free legal aid** to ensure equal justice for all, particularly the underprivileged.
    - **Article 46:** Focuses on the **educational and economic upliftment of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and other weaker sections** of society.
  4. **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE)**
    - The **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE)** was created in **May 1998** after the **Ministry of Welfare (established in 1985-86)** was reorganized.
    - This ministry plays a **crucial role in promoting social justice** by formulating and implementing **policies, programs, and welfare schemes** aimed at **marginalized and disadvantaged communities**.

### **Key Focus Areas of MoSJE**

- **Education support** for disadvantaged groups.
- **Economic empowerment** through financial assistance.
- **Rehabilitation initiatives** for vulnerable communities.
- **Social inclusion and empowerment programs** for weaker sections of society.

### **Targeted Community Welfare Initiatives**

- Focuses on the **upliftment of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), senior citizens, victims of substance abuse, transgender persons, Denotified Tribes (DNTs), and economically weaker sections (EWS)**.
- Implements policies to **ensure equity, inclusion, and protection** of rights for all.

### **Union Budget 2025-26 Allocation for MoSJE**

- The **Government of India allocated ₹13,611 crores** to MoSJE in the **Union Budget 2025-26**, reflecting a **6% increase** to strengthen welfare schemes benefiting marginalized communities.

### **Key Government Initiatives for Social Justice**

### 1. Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)

- A **comprehensive scheme** that consolidates **three different programs** for:
  - **Skill development** of Scheduled Castes.
  - **Income generation opportunities.**
  - **Infrastructure development in SC-dominated villages.**
- **Three main components:**
  - **Adarsh Gram Development** for model villages.
  - **Grants-in-Aid** for socio-economic projects.
  - **Hostel construction** in higher education institutions for SC students.

### 2. Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools for SCs (SRESHTA)

- Provides **financial assistance** to **SC students in classes 9-12** to study in **high-quality residential schools.**
- Covers students in **CBSE/State Board-affiliated private schools and NGO-run institutions.**
- Aims to **bridge education gaps and promote socio-economic upliftment.**

### 3. Purple Fests (Festival of Inclusion)

- Organized by the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), MoSJE,** since 2023.
- **In 2024, over 10,000 Divyangjan (Persons with Disabilities) participated,** along with their caregivers.
- Aims to promote **inclusion, accessibility, and equal opportunities.**

### 4. Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA, 2020)

- A national campaign to create a **drug-free India,** focusing on **272 high-risk districts.**
- Operates under a **three-pronged approach:**
  - **Supply reduction** (led by the Narcotics Control Bureau - NCB).
  - **Demand reduction** (led by MoSJE).
  - **Treatment and rehabilitation** (led by the Health Department).
- Reached **13.57 crore people,** including **4.42 crore youth and 2.71 crore women,** with participation from **3.85 lakh educational institutions.**

### 5. PM-DAKSH Yojana (2021)

- Aims to **enhance skill levels** of marginalized communities, including **SCs, OBCs, Economically Backward Classes (EBCs), Denotified Tribes (DNTs), and Safai Karamcharis.**
- Provides **free short-term and long-term skill training,** with a **₹450.25 crore budget (2021-26).**
- Ensures **at least 70% placement in wage or self-employment** for individuals aged **18-45 years.**

### 6. SMILE Scheme (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood & Enterprise)

- Aims to **rehabilitate transgender persons and individuals engaged in begging.**
- Works towards a **"Begging-Free India"** through:
  - **Surveys, awareness campaigns, shelter homes, skills training, and alternative livelihoods.**
  - **Self-Help Group (SHG) formation** for sustainable employment.

- Currently active in **81 cities**, with planned expansion to **50 additional cities**.

#### **7. NAMASTE Scheme (2023-24)**

- A joint initiative by **MoSJE and the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** to provide **safety, dignity, and livelihood opportunities** for urban **sanitation workers**.
- Expands coverage to **waste pickers from FY 2024-25**.
- Integrates the **Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)**.

8. PM-DAKSH Yojana: Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) yojana **provides** free skill training to SCs, OBCs, EBCs, DNTs, and Safai Karamcharis **for economic empowerment**.

9. Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA): **It aims for a drug-free India by targeting 272 high-risk districts through** supply control (**Narcotics Control Bureau**), awareness and demand reduction (**MoSJE**), and treatment (**Ministry of Health**).

- **Since its launch (15<sup>th</sup> August 2020), NMBA has reached 13.57 crore people, including 4.42 crore youth, with 3.85 lakh educational institutions participating.**

**Source:** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2104798>