



1st Regional Dialogue on Social Justice

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

The first ever **Regional Dialogue on Social Justice** under the **Global Coalition for Social Justice** was held in New Delhi.

- It also marked the 74th Foundation Day of [Employees' State Insurance Corporation \(ESIC\)](#) (founded on **24th February 1952**).

What is the Global Coalition for Social Justice?

- **About:** Launched in **2023** by the [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#), it aims to tackle **social justice deficits** and fast-track progress toward the SDGs.
- **Objective:** It promotes **strong, sustainable, and inclusive development** through global solidarity, policy coherence, and coordinated action among various stakeholders.
- **Membership:** It is open to **governments, organizations, businesses, and academia**, with members committed to social justice and labor rights under **UN and ILO principles**.
 - Membership is **voluntary** and **India** is a member.

What are India's Constitutional Provisions on Social Justice?

- **Preamble:** It ensures **social, economic, and political justice**, and guarantees equality of status and opportunity.
- **Fundamental Rights:** **Article 23** prohibits **human trafficking** and forced labour and **Article 24** bans child labour in **hazardous occupations**.
- **Directive Principles of State Policy:**
 - **Article 38:** It directs the State to reduce **social and economic inequalities**.
 - **Article 39:** It ensures **equal livelihood, fair wages**, and protection from exploitation.
 - **Article 39A:** It guarantees **free legal aid** for disadvantaged people.
 - **Article 46:** It mandates special **educational and economic promotion** for SCs, STs, and weaker sections to prevent discrimination.

ESIC

- **About:** It is a **statutory body** formed under the **Employees State Insurance Act, 1948** and functions under the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**.
- **Purpose:** It provides **social security and health insurance** to employees in establishments with **10 or more employees** (in less than 10 employees if it's a **hazardous industry** e.g., firecrackers, toxic chemicals etc).
- **Eligibility:** Employees earning up to **Rs 21,000 per month**.
- **Benefits Provided:** Medical care, sickness benefit, Maternity benefit, disability benefit, dependent's Benefit, and unemployment allowance.

Note: The ILO's **World Social Protection Report 2024-26** shows India's social protection coverage

(excluding health) rose from **24.4% in 2021 to 48.8% in 2024.**

- The **employability** of Indian graduates has risen from **33.95% in 2013 to 54.81% in 2024.**

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. 'Economic Justice' as one of the objectives of the Indian Constitution has been provided in (2013)

- (a) the Preamble and the Fundamental Rights
- (b) the Preamble and the Directive Principles of State Policy
- (c) the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (b)

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