

Kanchan Choudhary



UPSC

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.
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Q- How does the spirit of the Preamble confront the realities of caste, poverty, patriarchy, and majoritarianism in contemporary India?

Ans. The Preamble of the Indian Constitution enshrines values like justice, liberty, equality, fraternity, socialist, secularism etc. These principles challenge the persistent social evils - caste, poverty, patriarchy and majoritarianism. It also aligns with Rawls's idea of justice as fairness and Gandhi's Sarvodaya both of which emphasize uplifting the weakest section of society.

These ideals confront the realities as follows —

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① Caste Discrimination —

✓ The Preamble's ideals of justice and equality of status challenges the rigid stratification of society.

✓ Dr B.R. Ambedkar described caste as marked by segmental division, social exclusion, hierarchy, endogamy etc. These features made caste a powerful instrument of inequality.

✓ The constitution confronts this by promoting equality through affirmative action.

✓ e.g., reservation under Art 15(4) and 16(4), SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989


② Poverty —

✓ The Preamble's ideals of social and economic justice confronts poverty and promotes a welfare state.

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↳ Gandhiji also said, "Poverty is the worst form of violence" and these ideals also reflect his vision of Sarvodaya.


 MUNDAKA → legal guarantee to equal employment

NFSA, 2013 → subsidized food grains to poor people.

③ Patriarchy —

↳ The ideals of justice, liberty, equality challenges patriarchal norms and promotes women empowerment.

↳ The provision of equality of opportunity empowers women to participate in all spheres of life.

 Reservation for women in Panchayats
Nari Vardhan Adhiniyam, 2023
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

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④ Majoritarianism —

↳ The ideals of fraternity, equality, secularism confront dominance of majority and advocates for peace, harmony, social cohesion and protection of minority rights.

↳ The Preamble envisions a multicultural nation where diverse communities coexist promoting unity in diversity.

egs. • Protection of minority rights
(Art 29 & 30)

• Secularism as basic feature and right to freedom of religion under Art (25-28)

Limitations —

Issue

Limitations

Impact

① Caste

Social prejudice and caste based exclusion

Undermines social justice and equality.

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<u>Issue</u>	<u>Limitations</u>	<u>Impact</u>
② Poverty ✓	Social mobility Exclusion in welfare delivery programmes, informalization of labour ✓	Social mobility is affected, perpetuates inequality
③ Patriarchy	Deep rooted cultural norms, <u>token</u> <u>representation</u> of women ✓	Limits their agency and economic and social growth
④ Majoritarianism	Communal polarisation, Vote-bank politics ✓	Weakens fraternity, secularism and social cohesion

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Way forward -

① Promote constitutional literacy and
through school curriculum and
campaigns as done by Kollam, Kerala

② Fast track courts for social
justice related cases

③ Promote interfaith and inter-caste
dialogue to ensure fraternity

→ Active citizenship & civil society

The Preamble gives us the vision of
equal and just India. As Amartya
Sen says, development is about
giving people choice and freedom.
To achieve this we should ensure
that the ideals of Preamble are
practised in everyday governance.

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