

In short, the Indian Constitution promises not only *political* but also *social* democracy, as explained by Dr Ambedkar in his concluding speech in the Constituent Assembly:

Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy. What does social democracy mean? It means a way of life which recognises liberty, equality and fraternity which are not to be treated as separate items in a trinity. They form a union of trinity in the sense that to divorce one from the other is to defeat the very purpose of democracy. *Liberty cannot be divorced from equality, equality cannot be divorced from liberty. Nor can liberty and equality be divorced from fraternity.*

The State in a democratic society derives its strength from the cooperative and dispassionate will of all its free and equal citizens.¹³ Social and economic democracy is the foundation on which political democracy would be a way of life in the Indian polity.¹⁴

(c) The banishment of poverty, not by expropriation of those who *have*, but by the multiplication of the national wealth and resources and an equitable distribution thereof amongst all who contribute towards its production, is the aim of the State envisaged by the Directive Principles. Economic democracy will be installed in our sub-continent to the extent that this goal is reached. In short, economic justice aims at establishing economic democracy and a "Welfare State".

The ideal of economic justice is to make equality of status meaningful and life worth living at its best removing inequality of opportunity and of status — social, economic and political.¹⁵

Social justice is a fundamental right.¹⁶ Social justice is the comprehensive form to remove social imbalance by law harmonising the rival claims or the interests of different groups and/or sections in the social structure or individuals by means of which alone it would be possible to build up a welfare State.¹⁷ The promise for social, economic and political justice to citizens made by Constitution of India cannot condone policies that turn a blind eye to deliberate infliction of misery on large segments of our population.^{17A}

The three have to be secured and protected with social justice and economic Liberty, equality and fraternity. empowerment and political justice to all the citizens under the rule of law.¹⁸

Democracy, in any sense, cannot be established unless certain minimal rights, which are essential for a free and civilised existence, are assured to every member of the community. The Preamble mentions these essential individual rights as "freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship" and these are guaranteed against all the authorities of the State by Part III of the Constitution [*vide Articles 19, 25–28*], subject, of course, to the implementation of the Directive Principles, for the common good [*Article 31C*] and the "fundamental duties", introduced [*Article 51A*], by the 42nd Amendment, 1976.

"Liberty" should be coupled with social restraint and subordinated to the liberty of the greatest number for common happiness.¹⁹

Guaranteeing of certain rights to each individual would be meaningless unless all inequality is banished from the social structure and each individual is assured of equality of status and opportunity for the development of the best in him and the means for the enforcement of the rights guaranteed to him. This object is secured in the body of the Constitution, by making illegal all discriminations by the State between citizen and