

Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)

- ❖ Constitutional Part: Part IV
- ❖ Articles: Article 36 to 51
- ❖ Source: Inspired by the Constitution of Ireland.
- ❖ Objective: To establish Social and Economic Democracy.

Objectives of DPSP

The primary aim of DPSP is to create a "Welfare State." Its key objectives include:

- ❖ Social Justice: Eliminating inequalities in society and ensuring equal status and opportunities for all.
- ❖ Economic Justice: Preventing the concentration of wealth in a few hands and ensuring economic benefits reach all people.
- ❖ Strengthening Democracy: Moving beyond mere political democracy (right to vote) to establish social and economic democracy.
- ❖ International Relations: Maintaining peace and security among nations worldwide.

Classification of DPSP

Although the Constitution does not officially classify them, based on their nature, they are categorized into three types:

A) Socialist Principles

These aim to establish equality in society.

- ❖ Ensuring adequate means of livelihood for all citizens (Article 39).
- ❖ Preventing the concentration of wealth.
- ❖ Ensuring Equal pay for equal work for both men and women.
- ❖ Providing Free Legal Aid to the poor (Article 39A).

B) Gandhian Principles

These are based on the ideals and ideology of Mahatma Gandhi.

- ❖ Organization of Village Panchayats (Article 40).
- ❖ Promotion of cottage industries (Article 43).
- ❖ Protecting the economic interests of SC, ST, and other weaker sections (Article 46).
- ❖ Prohibiting the consumption of intoxicating drinks (alcohol) and drugs injurious to health (Article 47).

C) Liberal-Intellectual Principles

These are based on progressive and modern ideologies.

- ❖ Implementation of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) throughout the country (Article 44).
- ❖ Early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of 6 years (Article 45).
- ❖ Protection and improvement of the environment and safeguarding of forests and wildlife (Article 48A).
- ❖ Separation of the Judiciary from the Executive (Article 50).

Directive Principles of State Policy (Articles 36 - 51)

Article	Description
Article 36	Definition: Explanation of what 'State' means in the context of this part.

Article	Description
Article 37	Application: These principles are non-justiciable (cannot be enforced by the court), but they are fundamental in the governance of the country.
Article 38	Public Welfare: The State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing a social order characterized by social, economic, and political justice.
Article 39	Principles to be followed by the State: Ensuring adequate means of livelihood, equitable distribution of resources, and equal pay for equal work.
Article 39A	Equal Justice and Free Legal Aid: Ensuring that the legal system promotes justice and provides free legal aid to the poor (Added by 42nd Amendment).
Article 40	Village Panchayats: Steps to organize village panchayats and endow them with necessary powers.
Article 41	Right to Work and Education: Ensuring public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, and sickness.
Article 42	Humane Working Conditions: Ensuring just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief.
Article 43	Living Wage for Workers: Ensuring a living wage and a decent standard of life for all workers.
Article 43A	Participation of Workers in Management: Steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries.
Article 43B	Co-operative Societies: Promotion of voluntary formation and autonomous functioning of co-operative societies.
Article 44	Uniform Civil Code (UCC): Endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code for all citizens throughout the territory of India.
Article 45	Early Childhood Care and Education: Providing early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.
Article 46	Welfare of Weaker Sections: Promotion of educational and economic interests of SCs, STs, and other weaker sections.
Article 47	Nutrition and Health: Raising the level of nutrition and the standard of living, and prohibiting intoxicating drinks and drugs.
Article 48	Agriculture and Animal Husbandry: Modernizing agriculture and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves.
Article 48A	Protection of Environment: Protecting and improving the environment and safeguarding forests and wildlife.

Article	Description
Article 49	Protection of Monuments: Protecting monuments and places of national and historical importance.
Article 50	Separation of Judiciary from Executive: Separation of the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State.
Article 51	International Peace: Promotion of international peace and security and maintaining just and honorable relations between nations.

Important Constitutional Amendments related to DPSP

- ❖ 42nd Amendment Act (1976): Added three new Directive Principles to the list:
- ❖ Article 39A: Free Legal Aid to the poor.
- ❖ Article 43A: Participation of workers in the management of industries.
- ❖ Article 48A: Protection and improvement of the environment and safeguarding of forests and wildlife.
- ❖ 44th Amendment Act (1978): Introduced changes to Article 38, requiring the State to minimize inequalities in income, status, facilities, and opportunities.
- ❖ 86th Amendment Act (2002): Changed the subject matter of Article 45 (making elementary education a Fundamental Right under Article 21A, while Article 45 now focuses on early childhood care for children below age 6).
- ❖ 97th Amendment Act (2011): Added Article 43B relating to the promotion of Co-operative Societies.

Fundamental Rights (FR) vs. Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)

Aspect	Fundamental Rights (FR)	Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)
Part	Part III	Part IV
Articles	Articles 12 to 35	Articles 36 to 51
Source (Country)	Derived from the USA Constitution.	Derived from the Irish (Ireland) Constitution.
Nature	These are negative in character (they prohibit the State from doing certain things).	These are positive in character (they encourage the State to do certain things).
Justiciability	These are Justiciable. One can move to court if they are violated.	These are Non-justiciable. They cannot be legally enforced by the courts.
Objective	To establish Political Democracy in the country.	To establish Social and Economic Democracy in the country.
Focus	Promotes the welfare of the individual.	Promotes the welfare of the entire community/society.
Implementation	They are self-executing (automatically enforced).	They require specific legislation/laws by the government to be implemented.

Implementation of Directive Principles (DPSP)

The Government of India has enacted several laws and schemes to fulfill the objectives laid down in the Directive Principles.

1. Schemes for Economic Justice

- ❖ The government has brought in various legislations to ensure financial equality and livelihood.

- ❖ Land Reforms: Abolition of the *Zamindari* system and distribution of land to the landless (fulfilling the spirit of equitable distribution of resources).
- ❖ Minimum Wages Act: Ensures that workers receive a fair and living wage for their labor.
- ❖ MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act): Protects the livelihood of the rural poor by guaranteeing 100 days of manual work.

2. Schemes for Social Justice

- ❖ Free Education: Provision of compulsory education for children up to 14 years of age (Article 45 and Article 21A).
- ❖ Healthcare Schemes: Providing free or affordable treatment to the poor through government hospitals and schemes like *Ayushman Bharat*.
- ❖ Reservation Policy: Creating social equality by providing priority in education and employment to the weaker sections (SC, ST, and OBC).

3. Gender Equality

- ❖ Maternity Benefit Act: Providing paid maternity leave and financial assistance to working women (as directed by Article 42).
- ❖ Impact: This enables women to progress economically and ensures they are treated with equal dignity in society

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar He described the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) as the "Novel Features of the Indian Constitution."

Granville Austin He referred to the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy together as the "Conscience of the Constitution."