



# Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)

## Introduction

- **Background:** The source of the concept of **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)** is the Spanish Constitution from which it came in the Irish Constitution.
  - The concept of DPSP emerged from **Article 45 of the Irish Constitution**.
- **Constitutional Provisions:** [Part IV](#) of the Constitution of India (**Article 36-51**) contains the **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)**.
  - **Article 37** of the Indian Constitution States about the **application of the Directive Principles**.
    - These principles aim at ensuring **socioeconomic justice** to the people and establishing India as a Welfare State.
- **Fundamental Rights Vs DPSP:**
  - Unlike the Fundamental Rights (FRs), the **scope of DPSP is limitless** and it protects the rights of a citizen and work at a **macro level**.
    - DPSP consists of all the **ideals which the State should follow** and keep in mind while formulating policies and enacting laws for the country.
  - Directive Principles **are affirmative directions** on the other hand, Fundamental Rights are negative or prohibitive in nature because they put limitations on the State.
  - The DPSP is **not enforceable by law**; it is non-justiciable.
  - It is important to note that DPSP and **FRs** go hand in hand.
    - DPSP is **not subordinate to FRs**.
- **Classification of Principles:** The Directive Principles are classified on the basis of their ideological source and objectives. These are Directives based on:
  - **Socialist Principles**
  - **Gandhian Principles**
  - **Liberal and Intellectual Principles**

## Directives based on Socialist Principles

- **Article 38:** The State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting a social order by **ensuring social, economic and political justice** and by **minimising inequalities** in income, status, facilities and opportunities
- **Articles 39:** The State shall in particular, direct its policies towards securing:
  - Right to an **adequate means of livelihood** to all the citizens.
  - The **ownership and control of material resources** shall be organised in a manner to serve the common good.
  - The State shall **avoid concentration of wealth in a few hands**.
  - **Equal pay for equal work** for both men and women.

- The protection of the strength and health of the workers.
- Childhood and youth shall not be exploited.
- **Article 41:** To secure the **right to work, to education and to public assistance** in cases of unemployment, **old age, sickness and disability**.
- **Article 42:** The State shall make provisions for **securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief**.
- **Article 43:** The State shall endeavour to **secure to all workers a living wage and a decent standard of life**.
  - **Article 43A:** The State shall take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries.
- **Article 47:** To **raise the level of nutrition** and the **standard of living** of people and to improve public health.

## Directives based on Gandhian Principles

- **Article 40:** The State shall take steps to **organise village panchayats** as units of Self Government
- **Article 43:** The State shall endeavour to **promote cottage industries** on an individual or cooperative basis in rural areas.
  - **Article 43B:** To promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of cooperative societies.
- **Article 46:** The State shall **promote educational and economic interests of the weaker sections** of the people particularly that of the **Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs)** and **other weaker sections**.
- **Article 47:** The State shall take steps to **improve public health** and prohibit consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs that are injurious to health.
- **Article 48:** To **prohibit the slaughter of cows, calves and other milch** and draught cattle and to improve their breeds.

## Directives based on Liberal-Intellectual Principles

- **Article 44:** The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizen a **Uniform Civil Code** through the territory of India.
- **Article 45:** To provide **early childhood care and education** for all children until they complete the **age of six years**.
- **Article 48:** To organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines.
  - **Article 48A:** To protect and **improve the environment** and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.
- **Article 49:** The State shall **protect every monument** or place of artistic or historic interest.
- **Article 50:** The State shall take steps to **separate judiciary from the executive** in the public services of the State.
- **Article 51:** It declares that to **establish international peace and security** the State shall endeavour to:
  - Maintain just and honourable relations with the nations.
  - Foster respect for international law and treaty obligations.
  - Encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration.

## Amendments in DPSP:

- **42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment, 1976:** It introduced certain changes in the part-IV of the Constitution by adding new directives:
  - **Article 39A:** To provide **free legal aid** to the poor.
  - **Article 43A:** Participation of workers in management of Industries.K1M
  - **Article 48A:** To protect and improve the environment.

- [44<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment, 1978](#): It inserted Section-2 to Article 38 which declares that; “The State in particular shall strive to minimise economic inequalities in income and eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities not amongst individuals but also amongst groups”.
  - It also **eliminated the [Right to Property](#)** from the list of Fundamental Rights.
- [86<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act of 2002](#): It changed the subject-matter of Article 45 and made elementary education a fundamental right under Article 21 A.

## Conflicts Between Fundamental Rights and DPSP: Associated Cases

- **Champakam Dorairajan v the State of Madras (1951)**: [In this case](#), the Supreme Court ruled that in case of **any conflict between the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles, the former would prevail**.
  - It declared that the Directive Principles have to conform to and run as subsidiary to the Fundamental Rights.
  - It also held that the Fundamental Rights could be amended by the Parliament by enacting constitutional amendment acts.
- **Golaknath v the State of Punjab (1967)**: [In this case](#), the Supreme Court declared that **Fundamental Rights could not be amended by the Parliament** even for implementation of Directive Principles.
  - It was contradictory to its own judgement in the **‘Shankari Parsad case’**.
- **Kesavananda Bharati v the State of Kerala (1973)**: [In this case](#), the Supreme Court overruled its Golak Nath (1967) verdict and declared that Parliament **can amend any part of the Constitution** but it **cannot alter its “Basic Structure”**.
  - Thus, the Right to Property (Article 31) was eliminated from the list of Fundamental Rights.
- **Minerva Mills v the Union of India (1980)**: [In this case](#), the Supreme Court reiterated that Parliament can amend any part of the Constitution but it cannot change the “Basic Structure” of the Constitution.

## Implementation of DPSP: Associated Acts and Amendments

- **Land Reforms**: Almost all the states have passed [land reform](#) laws to bring changes in the agrarian society and to improve the conditions of the rural masses. These measures include:
  - **Abolition of intermediaries** like zamindars, jagirdars, inamdars, etc
  - **Tenancy reforms** like security of tenure, fair rents, etc
  - Imposition of ceilings on land holdings
  - **Distribution of surplus land** among the landless labourers
  - [Cooperative farming](#)
- **Labour Reforms**: The following acts were enacted to protect the interests of the Labour section of the society.
  - The Minimum Wages Act (1948), [Code on Wages, 2020](#)
  - The [Contract Labour Regulation and Abolition Act \(1970\)](#)
  - The [Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act \(1986\)](#)
    - Renamed as the [Child and Adolescent Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986](#) in 2016.
  - The [Bonded Labour System Abolition Act \(1976\)](#)
  - The [Mines and Minerals \(Development and Regulation\) Act, 1957](#)
  - The [Maternity Benefit Act \(1961\)](#) and the Equal Remuneration Act (1976) have been made to protect the interests of women workers.
- **Panchayati Raj System**: Through [73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992](#), government fulfilled constitutional obligation stated in Article 40.

- Three tier '**Panchayati Raj System**' was introduced at the Village, Block and District level in almost all parts of the country.
- **Cottage Industries:** To promote cottage industries as per **Article 43**, the government has established several Boards such as Village Industries Board, **Khadi and Village Industries Commission**, **All India Handicraft Board**, **Silk Board**, Coir Board, etc., which provide essential help to cottage industries in finance and marketing.
- **Education:** Government has implemented provisions related to free and compulsory education as provided in **Article 45**.
  - Introduced by the **86<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment** and subsequently passed the **Rights to Education Act 2009**, Elementary Education has been accepted as Fundamental Right of each child between the 6 to 14 years of age.
- **Rural Area Development:** Programmes such as the Community Development Programme (1952), **Integrated Rural Development Programme** (1978-79) and **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA-2006)** were launched to raise the standard of living particularly in rural areas, as stated in the **Article 47** of the Constitution.
- **Health:** Central Government sponsored schemes like **Pradhan Mantri Gram Swasthya Yojana (PMGSY)** and **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)** are being implemented to fulfill the social sector responsibility of the Indian State.
- **Environment:** The **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, the **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980** and the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** have been enacted to safeguard the wildlife and the forests respectively.
  - The **Water** and **Air Pollution Control Acts** have provided for the establishment of the **Central Pollution Control Board**.
- **Heritage Preservation:** The **Ancient and Historical Monument and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (1958)** has been enacted to protect the monuments, places and objects of national importance.