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THE ROLE OF INDIAN CONSTITUTION FOR VIKSIT BHARAT

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ABSTRACT

This essay examines the indispensable role of the Indian Constitution in achieving the national aspiration of Viksit Bharat (Developed India). The Constitution serves as the foundational blueprint and moral compass for transformative, inclusive, and sustainable development. The vision of Viksit Bharat isn't just about economic numbers; it's about social equity, dignity, opportunity, environmental protection, and effective governance and shared prosperity for all.

The document's core principles – specifically the Preamble's commitment to Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, the protection offered by Fundamental Rights (Part III), and the aspirational goals of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) (Part IV) – provide the legal and ethical framework for development. The DPSP, in particular, are like national to-do list for the government, guiding them to prioritize education, healthcare, safeguarding the environment (Article 48A), social welfare, ensuring equitable wealth distribution (Article 39).

The essay concludes that the successful journey to a Developed India is fundamentally rooted in the wavering implementation and reverence for the spirit of the Constitution. It is the key instrument for ensuring that national prosperity is inclusive, sustainable and benefits all citizens, realizing the ideals of Preamble in every aspect of national life.

KEYWORDS

The Constitution of India, Spirit of the Constitution, Sustainable growth, Viksit Bharat

VIKSIT BHARAT: ROOTED IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CONSTITUTION

“A VIKSIT BHARAT is born when the spirit of the Constitution lives in every citizen”. This isn’t just a quote – it’s a heartfelt reminder that the real strength of India lies in WE THE PEOPLE OF INDIA. It emphasizes that development is not only about massive flyovers or advanced technology, economy, or infrastructure, but also building a society rooted in constitutional values. The Indian Constitution serves as the foundational document that defines India’s democratic, secular and egalitarian framework.

The following points highlight the core constitutional elements and their contribution to the Viksit Bharat vision:

A. Bedrock of Governance and Development

The Constitution is the supreme law of India, mapping out the structure of government, distribution of powers, and responsibilities of various institutions.

It ensures political stability, rule of law and good governance all of which are prerequisites for development.

By guaranteeing fundamental rights and reminding us of our shared duties, it lays the groundwork for a participatory democracy that supports sustainable growth.

B. Ensuring Equality and Social Justice

The preamble promises justice- social, economic and political and equality of status and opportunity to pursue our dreams.

Articles like 14-17 (Right to Equality),² 19-22 (Right to Freedom)³ and 39-46 (Directive Principles)⁴ are like powerful engines that aim to dismantle inequality and ensure inclusive development.

A Viksit Bharat cannot be achieved without empowering the marginalized, and the Constitution provides this framework to achieve the goal.

¹ The Constitution of India, art. 14, 15, 16, 17.

² The Constitution of India, art. 19, 20, 21, 22

³ The Constitution of India, art. 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46

C. Federalism and cooperative Federalism

The Constitution establishes a federal structure that allows both the Union and the states to work together for development.

This balance of power promotes “cooperative federalism”, crucial for programs like Digital India, Make in India, Skill India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat to be successful.

It allows regional aspirations to be respected while maintaining national unity, a balance essential for holistic development.

D. The National Wishlist: Guiding Our Priorities (Directive Principles of State Policies)

The Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP’s) are essentially the nation’s “wishlist” of a better life. The DPSPs (part IV) guide the state to work toward social and economic welfare.

Provisions related to education (Art. 45), public health (Art. 47), Livelihood (Art. 39) and environmental protection (Art. 48A) serves as a policy blueprint for a Viksit Bharat.⁵

Many national missions and policies (like achieving sustainable development, universal education and healthcare) directly stem from these principles.

E. Our Shared Responsibility: The Citizen’s Role

The Fundamental Duties (Art. 51A) are a constant reminder to the citizens of their role in nation-building – respecting the constitution, protecting the environment, promoting harmony, and striving towards excellence.⁶

A truly Viksit Bharat requires not just strong government; it requires responsible, aware and active citizens.

F. Embracing the Future: Scientific temper and Innovation

Article 51A (h) encourages the development of scientific temper and humanism-essential for technological progress and innovation.⁷

This aligns with India’s aspirations to become global leader in science, technology, and innovation.

⁴ The Constitution of India, art. 45, 47, 39, 48A

⁵ The constitution of India, art. 51A

⁶ The Constitution of India, art. 51A cl. (h)

G. Building a future that Lasts: Sustainable Growth

The Constitution envisions development that is sustainable, ensuring protection of the environment (Art. 48A) and safeguarding resources for future generations.⁸

It ensures inclusive growth- economic advancement balanced with social welfare and environmental responsibility.

A LOOK AT OUR LEGAL HISTORY

Key cases that relate to the vision of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) include:

- **Keshavananda Bharati v. state of Kerala**⁹ which established the “basic structure doctrine” to protect the Constitution’s core principles like Supremacy of the Constitution and its democratic and secular character which are foundational for any development vision.
- **Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)**¹⁰: Interpreted Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty) to mean that any “procedure established by law” must be fair, just and reasonable not just be legal. This has been crucial in ensuring that all laws and government actions are not arbitrary, a critical component of a just and developed society.
- **Minerva Mills Ltd. v. Union of India (1980)**¹¹: Affirmed the basic structure doctrine, emphasizing that the India Constitution is a blend of limited powers and Limited Government, vital for preventing the concentration of power and ensuring development is not at the expense of our rights.
- **State of Madras v. Champakam Dorairajan (1951)**¹²: The Supreme Court ruled that the principle of non-discrimination under Article 15 would prevail over any government action or law that violates it. This is a cornerstone for ensuring social justice and equitable development.

⁷ The Constitution of India, art. 48A

⁸ Keshavananda Bharati Sripadgalvaru v. State of Kerala, AIR 1973 SC 1461

⁹ Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India, AIR 1978 SC 597

¹⁰ Minerva Mills Ltd. v. Union of India, AIR 1980 SC 1789

11. *State of Madras v. Champakam Dorairajan*, AIR 1951 SC 226

- **Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992)¹³**: Often called the “Mandal Commission case”, this case dealt extensively with reservations, upholding the principle but also setting limits like the “creamy layer” exclusion, impacting policies for inclusive development.
- **Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab (1980)¹⁴**: Held the death penalty can only be awarded in the “rarest of rare” cases, ensuring that justice is administered with a high degree of caution and a focus on human rights.
- **S.R. Bommai v. Union of India, (1994)¹⁵**: The Court declared that ‘Secularism’ is a constitutional goal and a part of Basic Structure of the Constitution.
- **Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan, (1997)¹⁶**: The pivotal case stepped in to protect the dignity in the workplace. The Supreme Court created the “Vishaka Guidelines”, which declared that Women have rights to gender equality, to work with dignity and safe working environment free from sexual harassment and abuse.

CONCLUSION

The Indian Constitution is the moral compass and structural foundation for building Viksit Bharat 2047. It ensures that India’s progress is:

- a. Democratic (people-driven),
- b. Inclusive (benefiting all), and
- c. Sustainable (for future generations)

Thus, the Constitution is not just a legal document – it is the living roadmap guiding India’s journey from independence to a developed, equitable and prosperous nation.

12. *Indra Sawhney v. Union of India*, AIR 1993 SC 477

13. *Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab*, (1982) 3 SCC 24

14. *S.R. Bommai v. Union of India*, AIR 1994 SC 1918

15. *Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan*, AIR 1997 SC 3011