

Constitutional Perspectives of *Viksit Bharat* @ 2047 Mission

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ABSTRACT

The "Viksit Bharat @2047" Mission envisions India as a developed nation by its centenary year of independence, emphasizing economic transformation and inclusive growth. This article examines the constitutional imperatives underpinning this vision, with a specific focus on the mandate of economic justice. While the mission targets a \$35–40 trillion economy and a high per capita GDP by 2047, the authors argue that mere economic metrics are insufficient without constitutional alignment. The paper highlights how the Indian Constitution, through its Preamble and Directive Principles, commits to both welfare-driven and opportunity-oriented dimensions of economic justice. The article critically analyzes the evolution from Nehruvian socialism to liberalization in 1991 and explores whether a market-driven economy conflicts with the constitutional term "socialist." Through jurisprudential developments, including a landmark 2024 nine-judge bench decision, the paper demonstrates that the term "socialist" in the Indian context signifies a welfare-oriented state rather than a rigid economic dogma. It argues that liberalization, privatization, and globalization (LPG)—core to the Viksit Bharat vision—are constitutionally valid as long as they serve the welfare and upliftment of all citizens. The article thus posits that the Viksit Bharat Mission is not only economically ambitious but constitutionally consistent. It offers a pathway to fulfill the constitutional promise of economic justice through a synergistic model that balances market efficiency with state-led welfare mechanisms, ensuring equitable development across socio-economic strata.

Keywords: *Viksit Bharat, Constitution, Economic Justice, Socialism, Equitable Development.*

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1. Introduction

Viksit Bharat @ 2047 Mission is a solemn national resolve to work in a mission mode to make India a developed country by 2047, the centenary year of India's independence. The ambitious mission was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in December 2023 and since then it has been endeavor of all stakeholders in the country to work in mission mode to realize the dream of *Viksit Bharat* i.e. Developed India in a time bound manner by 2047.

What does Developed India mean? In the most obvious and statistical terms, Developed India means transforming India into a 35 to 40 trillion USD economy by 2047.¹ Given the size of the economy, it is expected that the per capita GDP of India, would be higher than 12616 USD;² which is the present norm of institutions like the World Bank to classify a nation as a high-income country and thus a developed country. This GDP size and per capita GDP figures are only statistical reference points to indicate the bare minimum economic conditions required to be classified as a developed nation; otherwise, development is a far more complex, ambitious, multi-pronged, multi-dimensional, change-driven, result-oriented and sophisticated process, which the *Viksit Bharat* mission aspires to realize with a mission mode in a time bound manner. In its most obvious form and features, the *Viksit Bharat* mission seeks to provide for all its citizens a living standard which matches with that of the developed economies. It is a humungous task from the point where India stands today. Though India is the fourth largest economy in the world, with only three countries, being ahead of it – the United States of America (USA), China and Germany³; the per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is far behind the benchmark for the developed countries. The size of India's economy⁵ is 4.19 trillion USD⁴, as against China which is roughly around 19.2 trillion economy and USA which is around 30.5 trillion economy.⁶ In terms of per capita GDP which is a better reflection of developmental status of any country, India's GDP per capita is just around 2500 USD.⁷ In terms of the per capita GDP, India is still among the Lower Middle-Income Countries; with 140 countries ahead of it in terms of per

¹ NITI Aayog, "PM to Chair 9th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog to Propel 'Viksit Bharat@2047' Vision" *Press Information Bureau* (Jul. 26, 2024), available at: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2037478> (last visited on June 15, 2025).

² Eric Metreau, *et. al.*, "World Bank Country Classifications by Income Level for 2024-2025" *World Bank Blogs* (Jul. 01, 2024), available at: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/world-bank-country-classifications-by-income-level-for-2024-2025> (last visited on June 15, 2025).

³ Forbes India, "The Top 10 Largest Economies In The World In 2025" *Forbes* (Apr. 28, 2025), available at: <https://www.forbesindia.com/article/explainers/top-10-largest-economies-in-the-world/86159/1?utm> (last visited on June 15, 2025).

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Supra* note 3.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ World Bank, "GDP Per Capita (Current US\$)" *World Bank Group* (May 31, 2025), available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?utm> (last visited on June 15, 2025).

capita GDP.⁸ Luxembourg with 1,54,900 USD has the highest per capita GDP in 2025.⁹ The low per capita GDP vis-à-vis the economically advanced countries, *inter alia*, underscores the enormity and complexity of the realizing the vision of *Viksit Bharat* by 2047, when the nation stands to celebrate the centenary year of its independence day. There are several strong examples showing that countries with economic backgrounds similar to India's in the 1950s have become developed nations today by implementing effective economic policies. For instance, India's per capita GDP in 1960 was \$84,¹⁰ and China was marginally ahead with a per capita GDP of \$89.5 then.¹¹ Today, India is struggling with a per capita GDP of around \$2500;¹² China's per capita GDP has jumped five times higher than India's to nearly \$13000.¹³ China being a communist state may not be an apt example for democratic republic as India. Countries with similar political structure as that of India, say, South Korea, the per capita GDP in 1960 was just 158 USD;¹⁴ which has surged to over 33000 USD today,¹⁵ far ahead of even China, with appropriate economic policies. Similarly, Germany's per capita GDP in 1960 was around 1100 USD;¹⁶ which has jumped to around 55000 USD.¹⁷ All these illustrations indicate that the task is doable with appropriate economic policies. It is this premise of do-ability that allows India to dream of *Viksit Bharat* by 2047.

Thereby, this paper primarily discusses the appropriate economic policy for *Viksit Bharat* Mission, tracing the evolution of government policies, since independence. Thereafter, the constitutional imperatives of economic justice are examined in the light of the *Viksit Bharat* Mission. Additionally, the preambular stipulations for socialist is discussed, delving upon the paradigm shift in the interpretation of 'socialism', by the apex court, in the context of private property.

2. Appropriate Economic Policy for *Viksit Bharat* Mission

What is this appropriate economic policy that can provide economic development at least in terms of statistical and economic terms, facts and figures? In the opinion of authors,

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Supra* note 7.

¹⁰ World Bank, "GDP Per Capita (Current US\$) - India" *World Bank Group* (May 29, 2025), available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=CN&utm> (last visited on June 15, 2025).

¹¹ World Bank, "GDP Per Capita (Current US\$) - China" *World Bank Group* (last visited on May 29, 2025), available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=CN&utm> (last visited on June 15, 2025).

¹² *Supra* note 10.

¹³ *Supra* note 11.

¹⁴ World Bank, "GDP Per Capita (Current US\$) – South Korea" *World Bank Group* (last visited on May 29, 2025), available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=CN&utm> (last visited on June 15, 2025).

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ World Bank, "GDP Per Capita (Current US\$) – Germany" *World Bank Group* (last visited on May 30, 2025), available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=CN&utm> (last visited on June 15, 2025).

¹⁷ *Ibid.*



the appropriate economic policy is one that would help to create in India, a sea of efficient and globally competitive enterprises engaged in the production of goods and services which can fetch best acceptability and prices in global markets. Such efficient and globally competitive enterprises would thrive in societies that are friendly to business successes and industrial establishments and not averse to them. The social processes and institutions should foster an amicable and encouraging ecosystem for businesses and corporate enterprises on the assumption that they are there to serve the society by their innovation, productivity, efficiency and honest business practices.

Since 1950, India experimented with what is often called the Nehruvian Socialism; broadly deriving its inspiration from the ideals of socialism. The political motivation for socialism was so strong that in 1974, socialism was inserted in the Preamble to the Constitution as one of the constitutional ideals by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act.¹⁸ During those years of Nehruvian Socialism, India's per capita GDP merely increased roughly 6 times from 49 USD in 1950 to 305 USD in 1991.¹⁹

In 1991, liberalization, privatization and globalization (LPG)²⁰ emerged as the core guiding principles for our economic programmes, policies and processes. These economic reforms led to substantive changes in legal, institutional and policy frameworks²¹ with the objectives of creating efficient and globally competitive enterprises in an open economy which would deliver development for our general population struggling in economically desperate conditions. In about three and half decades since when the economic reforms were launched in India; India has progressed to become the fourth-largest economy in the world; its per capita GDP has multiplied over 8 times from 305.6 USD in 1991 to around 2500 USD in 2025.²² Beyond this growth, India now has a path outlined for its economic growth in the form of *Viksit Bharat* Mission to become a developed country by 2047.

3. Constitutional Imperative of Economic Justice and *Viksit Bharat* Mission

The *Viksit Bharat* Mission is particularly significant from the perspective of constitutional mandate of economic justice for the citizens of India. The Preamble to the Constitution promises, *inter alia*, economic justice for the citizens. Like justice, economic justice is a very compendious term encompassing multitude of things to millions of people; nonetheless, minimally it means liberating citizens from economic deprivations, destitutions, impoverishment, oppressions, or enslavement of every kind because of

¹⁸ The Constitution (Forty – Second Amendment) Act, 1976, The Constitution of India, pmbi.

¹⁹ *Supra* note 10.

²⁰ See generally, Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization (LPG).

²¹ See generally, Government of India, *Economic Reforms and Liberalization*, Policy Document (1991).

²² *Supra* note 10.

economic reasons. For the citizens liberated from the state of abject impoverishment, the other essential component of economic justice is to provide them equal opportunities to aspire and grow economically in terms of open, abundant and competitive avenues for trade, business and for ownership to private properties earned by legitimate means. The two components of economic justice would require two different kinds of approaches, programmes and policies for the State. The first component requires welfare spirit of the State; the second component would require ambitious and apt regulatory instinct of the State. These two components are not necessarily in conflict to each other; rather they are sequential for the citizens concerned; and co-existing in constantly dynamic proportion for the country as a whole. The Constitution of India encapsulates provisions for both of these components of economic justice. The constitutional provisions like Articles 38 (1 & 2), 39 (b & c), 39 A, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46 and 47 of the Constitution are guided towards realizing the first component of economic justice. Article 38 (1) obligates the State to undertake welfare measures to secure a social order in which justice, social, economic and political informs all institutions of national life. Similarly, Article 39 (b) mandates the State to adopt policies to secure the ownership and control of material resources of the community to serve the common good.²³ Other provisions of the Constitution like 39 A, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, and 47 broadly mandate the state to undertake economic welfare measures of one or another kind for the overall well-being of all citizens, particularly the needy ones.²⁴ Articles 19(1)(g) and 300A, on the other hand secure the second component of economic justice. Article 19(1)(g) guarantees to all citizens the right to business and trade²⁵ and Article 300 A protects the right to property of all citizens.²⁶ As the citizens competitively exercise their rights under Articles 19(1)(g) and 300A, correspondingly the State is mandated under Article 38 (2) to minimize inequalities to income and to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities. The in tandem working of these imperatives as provided under Articles 19(1)(g), 300A and 38 (2) *inter alia*, particularly serves the imperatives of Article 39 (c) that obligates States to undertake policies which ensure that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment.²⁷ Realization of *Viksit Bharat* Mission within the existing constitutional framework of economic justice thus ensures that fruits of developed India is shared, if not equally, but definitely beneficially and equitably, among all the citizens of the country.

²³ The Constitution of India, art. 39, cl. (b).

²⁴ The Constitution of India, arts. 39 A, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, and 47.

²⁵ The Constitution of India, art. 19, cl. 1 (g).

²⁶ The Constitution of India, art. 300 A.

²⁷ The Constitution of India, art. 39, cl. (c).



The recently published World Bank's Spring 2025 Poverty and Equity Brief²⁸ highlights some heartening trend in the realization of inclusive development for all the citizens of the country. It finds that India is the fourth most equal country globally, in terms of consumption distribution, trailing only Slovakia, Slovenia, and Belarus – all of which are much smaller economies with strong welfare states principles. The consumption-based Gini Index is a standard measure of inequality, where 0 represents perfect equality and 100 represents perfect inequality. A lower score, therefore, indicates a more equal distribution. India's consumption-based Gini Index has shown a considerable decline – from 28.8 in 2011-12 to 25.5 in 2022-23.²⁹ The substantial reduction in India's consumption Gini coefficient suggests that inequality in household consumption expenditure has declined over the past decade. It reflects a situation where consumption levels are becoming more balanced, particularly among the lower and middle-income households, even if income or wealth disparities still persist.

Many attribute such declining consumption inequality to large-scale welfare interventions and schemes, aimed at uplifting the poor and reducing disparities in access to basic goods and services. Over the past decade, flagship programs such as the Public Distribution System (PDS), Right to Education, MGNREGA, Jan Dhan Yojna, Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT), PM Awas Yojna, Ujjwala Yojna (for subsidized gas), Jan Aushadhi Yojna (for Generic medicines) and Atal Pension Yojna, have significantly improved the material conditions of low-income households. For instance, DBT has ensured more efficient cash transfers directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts, reducing leakage and corruption. These schemes, have collectively reduced out-of-pocket expenses on basic needs and have left poorer households with greater disposable income, leading to more equitable consumption patterns across the country.

In a world where inequality is rising in many developed nations – driven by automation and capital concentration, India's relative ranking appears optimistic. Countries, like the United States and China, often seen as economic powerhouses, rank much lower on this measure due to far greater consumption disparities among their populations. This report positions India not only as a fast-growing economy but also as one where developmental benefits may be more evenly spread than previously acknowledged. Although, this decline in consumption inequality may not fully capture structural inequalities in employment, education, asset ownership, and healthcare access. Further, the data is drawn from sample-

²⁸ World Bank, "India Poverty and Equity Brief : April 2025 (English)" *World Bank Group*, available at: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/099722104222534584> (last visited on June 15, 2025).

²⁹ *Ibid.*

based surveys that may exclude certain high-net-worth individuals or underreport informal sector dynamics, leading to an incomplete picture. Policymakers, researchers, and commentators must view such rankings as part of a larger narrative that also includes enduring disparities in income, wealth, social mobility.

In fact, this obsession with GDPs, Income and Consumption misses a crucial factor – 'Opportunity'.³⁰ People in general, constantly express their preference for opportunity, and disdain for equality, by moving out of places that are havens of equality to places that have high levels of inequality and provide greater opportunity.³¹ For instance, Bihar and Assam, are the most equal states as per the Gini coefficient, yet every year a number of people from these States move to states with higher opportunity and inequality like Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra which have significantly high Gini coefficient reflecting high high inequality.³² The USA is one of the most unequal societies in terms of income distribution (amongst developed nations),³³ yet it attracts 20% of all international migrants annually – because it offers enormous opportunities.³⁴ Interestingly, people avoid migrating to communist countries that pride themselves on income and consumption equality, choking opportunity. Similarly, South Africa, is the most unequal nation in Africa, yet receives the most migrants, from other African nations.³⁵

Globally, rural societies are more equal and offer fewer opportunities for growth while urbanization is a sign of growth and progress. Income is ultimately a product of opportunity, whether of education, employment, health care and skills. Given that, people are born unequal, it is the duty of the modern states, to provide equality of opportunity, so that all its citizens may reach their optimum potential. The road to *Viksit Bharat* must to be paved with equality of opportunity for all; which can be realised only when the nation creates avenues of extensive opportunities for its citizens. The equality of opportunities is important, but creation of abundance of opportunities is equally important; as unless there are opportunities, nothing can be shared equally. This creation of boundless opportunities

³⁰ Neeraj Kaushal, "Why People Leave Equal Bihar For Unequal Mumbai" *The Times of India* (August 08, 2025).

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² Soumya Kanti Ghosh, "Inequality Declined Between 2011-12 & 2022-23: Government Data" *Times of India* (June 9, 2024),

³³ OECD, Income Inequality (Indicator) (2024), *available at*: <https://www.oecd.org/en/data/indicators/income-inequality.html> (last visited on June 15, 2025).

³⁴ United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs, "International Migration 2024 Highlights" *United Nations* (Mar. 15, 2024), *available at*: <https://www.un.org/en/desa/international-migration-2020-highlights/?utm> (last visited on June 10, 2025).

³⁵ *Ibid.*



for aspiring citizens is central to the idea of *Viksit Bharat Mission @2047*.

For creation of such boundless opportunities for every citizens of the country, the concept of 'Ease of Doing Business' (EoDB) acquires particular significance in the realization of the goal of *Viksit Bharat* by 2047. As the name suggests, EoDB measures the regulatory environment and conditions that affect business operations across countries, providing insights into how conducive a country is for starting and running a business.³⁶ If a country has clear rules, minimal bureaucratic hurdles, efficient government services, reliable infrastructure, fair and timely dispute resolution, then businesses can focus on growth and create more opportunities rather than navigating unnecessary compliances and red-tape. As businesses grow and investment flows increase and tax collection rise. This in turn gives the government more capital to invest in health, education, renewable resources, and welfare—the social pillars of a truly developed nation. By fostering competitiveness, innovation, and inclusivity, they create the economic backbone needed for India to emerge as a high-income, and equitable, nation by 2047.

Another milestone for *Viksit Bharat*, should be the nurturing of home grown brands and industries. Interestingly, better EoDB, not only aide corporate giants, but also helps start-ups, Medium & Small Enterprises (MSMEs), rural entrepreneurs, and women-led enterprises by lowering entry barriers, improving access to credit, and providing market linkages. When it becomes easier to start and grow businesses, more enterprises are set up, manufacturing expands, and service industries flourish. This generates large-scale employment opportunities and fosters skill development, especially for India's young workforce – aligning with the inclusive development agenda of *Viksit Bharat*. It is high-time that entrepreneurship, basics of business & finance are made mandatory in the course curriculum, across all the undergraduate programs. Additionally, all A-grade accredited universities must have an operational Social Entrepreneurship Centre, where students & faculty from multiple disciplines, may collaborate and cater to challenges at local level. Additionally, there is a need to tap into the immense potential of women in workforce. As of now only 37% women are part of the labour force in India.³⁷ Despite strict gender roles and high cost of living, women's participation in workforce stands at 55% in Japan, 60% in China and 63% in Vietnam.³⁸ It is high time that the government should incentivise organisations

³⁶ World Bank, "Ease of Doing Business Rankings (2025)" *World Bank Group*, available at: <https://archive.doingbusiness.org/en/rankings> (last visited on June 15, 2025).

³⁷ Ministry of Women and Child Development, "Nari Shakti Surges Ahead" *Press Information Bureau* (Oct. 13, 2023), available at: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1967291&utm>. (last visited on June 15, 2025).

for hiring women workers and also put in herculean effort in ensuring their safety in public and at workplace.

Viksit Bharat Mission steadfastly moving on the wheels of economic reforms and people's welfare thus seeks to create such developmental prospects and opportunities to fulfill the constitutional promise of economic justice for every citizen of the country. Apart from the economic prosperity in terms of statistical facts and figures, an integral component of the *Viksit Bharat* Mission is the 'Ease of Living', for 'We the People'.³⁹ 'The 'Ease of Living', focuses on five critical areas aimed at improving public service delivery and quality of life. These include ensuring access, quantity and quality of drinking water; enhancing the quality, efficacy and reliability of electricity; improving healthcare accessibility, affordability and quality; strengthening school education in terms of access and learning outcomes; and streamlining land and property systems through better accessibility, digitization, registration and mutation processes.

4. Preambular Stipulation of Socialist and *Viksit Bharat* Mission

As India straddles forward on its mission to *Viksit Bharat*, issues have often been raised how does the word 'Socialist' impacts the contemporary *Viksit Bharat* Mission framework. Often it seems that the economic reforms processes initiated in 1991 through which India aspires to attain the *Viksit Bharat @2047* Mission conflicts with the idea of socialist as enshrined in the preamble to the Constitution. In over three and half decades, India has seen the benefits of the economic reform processes reaching over to people. In the year 1960 the size of India's GDP was around 36536 Million USD and had the tenth position; which by 1991 moved down to 18th position with the GDP size of 287316 Million USD. Since 1991 when the economic reforms were initiated by abandoning the Nehru era socialism, the India economy has grown to become a 4.19 Trillion USD economy in 2025 and stands elevated to fourth largest economy of the world. Thus in terms of economic development, the market economy model has given better results than the socialist model of economy. As late as April 30, 2025, the World Bank has reported that India has lifted 171 million people out of extreme poverty between the period 2011-12 to 2022-23.⁴⁰ According to this recently released World Bank report, the proportion of people living on less than 2.15 US dollars a

³⁸ Editorial, "For Tomorrow's Sake" *Times of India*, May 31, 2025, at 20.

³⁹ Niti Aayog, "Focus on Shaping Future Development with Emphasis on Ease of Living" *Press Information Bureau* (Jul. 26, 2024, 3:41 PM), available at: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2037478> (last visited on June 15, 2025).

⁴⁰ World Bank, "India Poverty and Equity Brief: April 2025 (English)" *World Bank Group*, available at: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/099722104222534584> (last visited on June 15, 2025).



day, which is the international benchmark for extreme poverty, fell sharply from 16.2 per cent in 2011-12 to just 2.3 per cent in 2022-23.⁴¹ This commendable success in reducing extreme poverty has been possible because of the economic welfare measures for the needy citizens running parallel to the economic reforms measures for creating a globally competitive and open market economy in India. Whereas the welfare measures serves the needy, economic reform measures bring competitiveness in the national economy which enhances our economic capabilities and prowess as a nation.

So even if market-driven economic reform processes are better in terms of rendering economic development; they may seem oblique to the idea of 'socialist' as incorporated in the preamble vide the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act. However, beneficial the economic reforms processes may be, can they be defended on the touchstone of socialist idea as incorporated in the Preamble to the Constitution? If one relies on the opinion of Justice Krishna Iyer in *Ranganata Reddy* case of 1977, the economic reform processes to the extent they are contrary to the socialist idea and ideals, they may not be constitutional. In this case Justice Krishna Iyer observed the following:

“Though the word “socialist” was introduced into the Preamble by a late amendment of the Constitution, that socialism has always been the goal is evident from the Directive Principles of State Policy. The amendment was only to emphasise the urgency. Ownership, control and distribution of national productive wealth for the benefit and use of the community and the rejection of a system of misuse of its resources for selfish ends is what socialism is about and the words and thought of Article 39(b) but echo the familiar language and philosophy of socialism as expounded generally by all socialist writers.”⁴²

Justice Krishna Iyer's view clearly indicated a constitutionally mandated economic governance that was necessarily aligned to the ideals and philosophy of socialism. This view of Justice Krishna Iyer was incorrectly construed as reflecting the concurrence of majority judgment and the same was adopted by five judge bench of the Supreme Court in *Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing Co vs. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd* case.⁴³ In a recent judgment of 2024, a nine judge bench of the Supreme Court in the case of *Property Owners Association and Ors. v. State of Maharashtra and Ors.*⁴⁴ found that the majority judgment in *Ranganatha Reddy* case expressly distanced itself from the observations made by Justice Krishna Iyer (speaking on behalf of the minority of judges) on the interpretation of Article 39(b). It further

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² *State of Karnataka v. Ranganatha Reddy* (1977) 4 SCC 471.

⁴³ *Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing Co vs. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.* (1983) 1 SCC 147.

⁴⁴ *Property Owners Association and Ors. v. State of Maharashtra and Ors.* (2024 INSC 835).

held that a coequal bench of this Court in *Sanjeev Coke* case erred by relying on the minority opinion of Justice Krishna Iyer. Reflecting on the context of the word socialist as incorporated in the preamble vis-à-vis the choice of economic policies of the government, seven judges out of the nine judge bench in *Property Owners Association and Ors. v. State of Maharashtra and Ors.* case unanimously observed as follows:

“the vision of the framers while drafting the Constitution was not to lay down a particular form of social structure or economic policy for future governments. The debates in the Constituent Assembly reflect the foresight of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. He was categorical in his constitutional vision. The Constitution and the Directive Principles, as he expounded their fundamental principles, rejected the prevalence of one dogma. The Constitution was framed in broad terms to allow succeeding governments to experiment with and adopt a structure for economic governance which would subserve the policies for which it owes accountability to the electorate. According to Dr. Ambedkar, if the Constitution laid down a particular form of economic and social organisation, it would amount to taking away the liberty of people to decide the social organisation in which they wish to live. He opined on several occasions that economic democracy is not tied to one economic structure, such as socialism or capitalism, but to the aspiration for a 'welfare state'.⁴⁵

These judges rejected the view expressed by Justice Krishna Iyer in the judgment of *Ranganatha Reddy* case of 1977. The recent nine judge bench judgment of the Supreme Court clearly settles that in the context of Indian constitution, the word 'socialist' only refers to aspiration for a 'welfare state' and it does not tie the economic policies of the government to the dogmatic ideal and philosophy of socialism. In the subsequent case of *Dr. Balram Singh and Ors. v. Union of India and Anr.*⁴⁶, the Supreme Court in its order dated November 25, 2024 explicitly reiterated that “the word 'socialism', in the Indian context should not be interpreted as restricting the economic policies of an elected government of the people's choice at a given time.” It observed:

“Neither the Constitution nor the Preamble mandates a specific economic policy or structure, whether left or right. Rather, 'socialist' denotes the State's commitment to be a welfare State and its commitment to ensuring equality of opportunity. India has consistently embraced a mixed economy model, where the private sector has flourished, expanded, and grown over the years, contributing significantly to the upliftment of marginalized and underprivileged sections in different ways. In the Indian framework, socialism embodies

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶ *Dr. Balram Singh and Ors. v. Union of India and Anr.* (2024 INSC 893).



the principle of economic and social justice, wherein the State ensures that no citizen is disadvantaged due to economic or social circumstances. The word 'socialism' reflects the goal of economic and social upliftment and does not restrict private entrepreneurship and the right to business and trade, a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(g).⁴⁷

Thus the recent decisions of the Supreme Court reflects an emphatic departure from the *Sanjeev Coke case*. India competes globally for capital inflows – legal certainty and property rights protection are important signals for foreign and domestic investors. These recent judgments/orders of the Supreme Court as in the case of *Property Owners Association* and *Dr. Balram Singh* mirror India's economic transformation – from a heavy reliance on state control socialist model to a mixed-economy model, emphasizing both public interest and private investment. It places clear limitations on ideologically guided interpretation of socialism in realizing constitutional goal of social and economic justice; aligning legal theory with contemporary socio-economic realities. Further, the court openly acknowledged that doctrines forged in the era of shortages and State-led redistribution cannot be mechanically applied in an economy integrated with global supply chains, technology and private capital flows. In essence, these cases are instances of recalibration of how India's Constitution is read and given effect to in light of – liberalization, globalization, urban property dynamics, private investment requirements and modern socio-economic welfare tools and people's aspiration for development. Thus, there is no constitutional hitch in India's march towards the time bound realisation of the goal of *Viksit Bharat* based on the economic principles of liberalisation, privatization and globalisation; so long the fruits of economic reforms and economic development reach to all citizens, either through direct economic welfare measures; or through expansion of the economy to include even the most depressed ones in economic activities or through the trickle-down effect of economic development.

5. Conclusion

The *Viksit Bharat* Mission is a national resolve to make India a developed nation by 2047. It is stipulated that India's economy should be such structured, synergized, managed and efficiently guided that it grows to around 35 Trillion to 40 Trillion economy by 2047. Whereas the management and progression of the national economy is largely an executive exercise it has serious constitutional implications. From the constitutional perspective, the *Viksit Bharat* mission is a tool for realization of constitutional commitment of economic justice for all its citizens. The present paper argues that the scheme of economic justice as enshrined in the Constitution has two components; both these components of economic

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

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justice stands sub-served by the *Viksit Bharat* Mission wheeled upon the principles of market economy, so long the Indian state remains committed to welfare of the citizens. The reliance of *Viksit Bharat* Mission on market economy is largely due to its efficacy in giving better results for economic development, which is central for achieving the goal of economic justice for all the citizens. Thereby through this paper it is examined, if the market economy principles as adopted in 1991 conflicts with the preambular stipulation of socialist as incorporated in the Preamble to the Constitution of India by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act? On a survey of recent decisions of the Supreme Court of India, it finds that there is no conflict between the principles of market economy adopted for realization of *Viksit Bharat* Mission and the socialist idea stated in the Preamble to the Constitution.