

**1. What are the socialist principles enshrined in the Indian Constitution? Discuss.****Approach**

A simple and straightforward question where in you need to discuss the socialist principles enshrined in the Indian constitution with some relevant examples from the constitution.

**Introduction**

India is a country with second largest population in the world but also it is a developing economy. The only reason of India being developing is unequal distribution of wealth as well as its dual economy character. Socialism becomes important in this background where social and economic equities are to be tackled in fulfilling India's growth story.

**Body**

- A socialist is someone who supports the political philosophy of socialism, which is governmental system that advocates community ownership and control of all lands and businesses rather than individual ownership.
- A Constitution is a set of fundamental principles according to which a state is governed. Indian constitution has different set of political philosophies in it. Many leaders of different political orientations took part in drafting this "Magna Carta of Socio-economic transformation".
- The word 'Socialist', added in the Preamble by 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 indicates the incorporation of the philosophy of "socialism" which aims to eliminate inequality in income, status and standard of living. By inserting 'socialist' to the preamble of the Constitution of India as a basic structure to the Indian Constitution.
- The Constitution had a socialist content in the form of certain Directive Principles of State Policy (esp. Arts. 39(b) and 39(c)), even before the term was added in 1976. However, the 'socialism' envisaged by the Indian Constitution is not the usual scheme of State socialism, which involves 'nationalisation' of all means of production, and the abolition of private property.
- Instead, Indian Socialism is 'democratic Socialism', influenced by Fabianism. It is a peaceful gradual transformation of the society in participation with the state and not against the state. Though the word 'Socialism' may seem to be vague, our Supreme Court has observed that its principal aim is to eliminate inequality of income and status and standards of life, and to provide a decent standard of life to the working people.

In this regard, the socialist principles enshrined in the Indian Constitution can be seen from the following points –