

## PATANJALI I.A.S. CLASSES

Marxism maintains that economic equality is the most fundamental and all the other equalities are based on this. It does not agree that the State can create equality in a class-divided society through welfare measures and economic policies.

### **Arguments in favour of social or material equality-**

- It strengthens social cohesion and community by creating a common identity and shared interests;
- It enlarges freedom in the sense that it safeguards people from poverty and satisfies basic needs, enabling them to achieve fulfillment;
- It is the only meaningful form of equality in that all other equalities rest upon it: genuine legal and political equality require that people have access to equal social resources.

### **Amongst the arguments against social equality are the following:**

- It is unjust because it treats unequals equally and therefore fails to reward people in line with their talents and capacities;
- It results in economic stagnation in that it removes incentives and caps aspirations, amounting to a process of 'leveling down';
- It can be achieved only through state intervention and a system of 'social engineering', meaning that it always infringes upon individual liberty;
- It results in drab uniformity; diversity is vanquished and with it the vigour and vitality of society.

### **Relationship between Liberty and Equality**

In the Western liberal political thought two contradictory positions can be easily seen with respect to the relation between equality and liberty.

- (1) *Liberty and Equality are antithetical or incompatible.*
- (2) *Liberty and Equality are complementary or compatible to each other.*

### **Liberty and Equality are antithetical or incompatible**

Liberty and Equality are regarded as opposed to each other by writers and thinkers like De Tocqueville, Lord Acton, Hayek, Friedman, Mosca, Pareto etc.

According to this position, human beings differ in their skills and abilities. Therefore, even if the same opportunities are provided some will be more successful than others. The trend towards inequality can be countered only by suppression of talents and aspirations or by a comprehensive and continuous state intervention to equalize artificially the gifted and the ordinary. Both the measures are inimical to liberty.