

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

UPSC 2020 · 10 marks

Indian constitution maker's concern on social inequality.

• FLOW SNAPSHOT — how the answer moves

Intro routes

R1 social inequality not a side issue → deepest threat to the new democracy **R2** society split by caste / religion / gender / economy → cannot sustain political freedom

Body flow

Ambedkar: political democracy needs social democracy → equal in vote, unequal in life = contradiction → no nation without fraternity → **Austin**: Constitution as social document → Art 14 equality before law → Art 15 non-discrimination → Art 16 equal opportunity → Art 17 untouchability abolished → SC/ST reservations vs historical exclusion → DPSP → welfare order → universal adult franchise → equal voice

Counter-view

political equality secured on paper vs persisting social-economic inequality → the contradiction **Ambedkar** forced the makers to confront

Conclusion routes

R1 Santhanam: a social revolution → exit from medievalism of birth **R2** the concern shaped the Constitution's moral core → equal status, justice, dignity for all

For India's Constitution makers, social inequality was not a secondary problem but the deepest threat to the new democracy.

A society split by caste, religion, gender and economic condition. They believed it could not sustain political freedom.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar gave this concern its sharpest form. He held that political democracy cannot survive without social democracy. A people equal in voting but unequal in social and economic life would live in contradiction. No nation, he argued, could exist without fraternity.

The constitution therefore became, in Granville Austin's view, essentially a social document. Article 14 guaranteed equality before law, Article 15 barred discrimination. Article 16 secured equal opportunity and Article 17 abolished untouchability.

Reservations for SCs and STs answered historical exclusion, the DPSPs committed the state to a welfare order. The universal adult franchise gave every citizen an equal voice.

K. Santhanam views this as a social revolution - India's exit from the medievalism of birth. The makers' concern with inequality thus shaped the Constitution's moral core: equal status, justice and dignity for all.