

Constitutional Compatibility and Economic Development in India: Vikshith Bharath or Vision 2020

Jani Rejikumar¹, Vishnu. M²

¹Asst. Professor, School of Law, Vel Tech Rangarajan Dr. Sagunthala R&D Institute of Science and Technology

²Advocate, High Court of Kerala

ABSTRACT

The goal of Vikshith Bharath is to make India a major economic force in the world while maintaining inclusivity and constitutional integrity. Maintaining the rule of law, defending property rights, and guaranteeing regulatory certainty are all ways that a flexible and stable constitutional framework promotes economic growth. Federalism, democratic institutions, and fundamental rights all support sustainable development by striking a balance between social justice and market efficiency. Reducing economic bottlenecks while upholding constitutional commitments requires judicial reforms and coherent policy. A prosperous, just, and globally competitive India by 2047 will depend on balancing economic aspirations with constitutional ideals.

KEYWORDS: Constitutional Principles, Economic Development, Judicial Activism, Sustainable Development, Federalism, Governance, Vision 2047

METHODOLOGY

This research employs a qualitative, descriptive, and analytical methodology. It mostly includes a constitutional analysis, looking at different clauses like the Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Rights to determine how they affect economic policies. A policy review is also included in the study, which examines important government programs like Vision 2047, Digital India, and the GST to determine how they contribute to economic growth. Additionally, it employs a theoretical and descriptive framework, concentrating on federalism, governance, and economic transformation without depending on quantitative or empirical data. All things considered, this methodology is consistent with a legal and policy research approach, employing government strategies, constitutional provisions, and existing literature to examine the relationship between economic development and constitutional compatibility.

INTRODUCTION

India, the largest democratic nation in the world and a rapidly expanding economy, is on the brink of a substantial change with its Vision 2047. This ambitious initiative seeks to establish India as a prominent global economic powerhouse by the centenary celebration of its independence. In order to realise this vision, it is crucial to comprehend the complex correlation between the Indian Constitution and economic progress. The Constitution of India, a flexible and versatile document, has established the basis for the

nation's socio-economic advancement. However, achieving Vision 2047 necessitates a meticulous harmonisation of constitutional principles with economic strategies to guarantee long-lasting and comprehensive development.

CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Indian Constitution incorporates the fundamental principles of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, which are vital for creating a favourable environment for economic progress. The Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs), while not legally enforceable, provide the state with guidance in developing policies that promote socio-economic well-being. Article 39 highlights the importance of distributing wealth and resources for the benefit of society as a whole, while Article 41 instructs the government to guarantee the right to employment, education, and public support in situations of joblessness, ageing, illness, and disability. These principles are essential for establishing a well-rounded and all-encompassing framework for economic development.

Constitutional provisions that promote economic development are crucial for the growth and prosperity of a nation. These provisions play a vital role in creating a favourable environment for businesses to thrive and for individuals to pursue economic opportunities. By establishing a framework that protects property rights, encourages investment, and ensures fair competition, these constitutional provisions lay the foundation for a strong and vibrant economy. They provide the necessary legal and institutional framework to support entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic growth. In addition, the Right to Equality, as enshrined in Articles 14-18, guarantees equal opportunity and prohibits discrimination on various grounds. This promotes an inclusive economic environment where everyone has a fair chance to succeed. Article 19-22 of the Constitution ensures the fundamental right to freedom, which encompasses various freedoms necessary for economic activities. These include the right to pursue any profession, occupation, trade, or business. The Directive Principles of State Policy, found in Part IV of the constitution, outline the guiding principles that the state should strive to achieve. These principles serve as a moral compass for the government, encouraging them to work towards creating a just and equitable society. They provide a framework for social and economic progress, promoting the welfare of the people and ensuring a balanced development of the nation. By incorporating these principles into their policies and actions, the government can contribute to the overall well-being and progress of the country. Article 21 of the Constitution guarantees the fundamental right to life and personal liberty. The Supreme Court has further interpreted this right to encompass the right to live with dignity. This interpretation has had a significant impact on various policies related to health, education, and employment.

ECONOMIC REFORMS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

India's economic terrain has experienced substantial changes since the implementation of liberalization measures in 1991. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, which established Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), granted authority to local governance, thereby devolving economic planning and development. These amendments have enhanced participatory democracy at the local level and streamlined the execution of diverse socio-economic initiatives. Moreover, the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which was introduced through the 101st Amendment, is a significant reform that has simplified the system of indirect taxes, promoting a unified market across the country and enhancing economic productivity.

JUDICIAL ACTIVISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Indian judiciary has been instrumental in interpreting constitutional provisions to safeguard socio-economic rights. Landmark legal decisions, like the Kesavananda Bharati case, have established the principle of the basic structure. This principle ensures that economic policies do not violate fundamental constitutional principles. Furthermore, Public Interest Litigations (PILs) have played a crucial role in tackling matters concerning environmental conservation, workers' rights, and social equity, thereby exerting an impact on economic policies and practices.

VISION 2047 (VIKSHITH BHARATH)

The Honourable Prime Minister in his 2021 Independence Day address, articulated his vision for the future, specifically focusing on the period known as Amrit Kaal and the year 2047, which marks the centenary of the country's independence. In order to accomplish these objectives, he introduced the slogan, "*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas.*"

In his 2022 Independence Day speech, the Hon'ble Prime Minister highlighted the nationwide celebration of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* and emphasised the importance of embracing the *Panch Pran of Amrit Kaal* (the five pillars of developed India). These elements include eradicating any remnants of colonial thinking, fostering a sense of pride in our cultural heritage, promoting unity, and instilling a strong sense of duty among citizens. He encouraged the citizens to cultivate new opportunities, achieve new goals, and progress with assurance. In addition, he emphasised the necessity of collaborative endeavours and teamwork in order to advance the nation.

In her speech on the Union Budget FY 2022-2023, the Union Finance Minister outlined the government's objectives for the *Amrit Kaal* (India from 75 to 100) period. These objectives include:

1. Balancing the focus on macro-economic growth with an emphasis on inclusive welfare at the micro-economic level.
2. Encouraging the development of the digital economy, fintech, technology-enabled progress, energy transition, and climate action.
3. Establishing a virtuous cycle where private investment is stimulated by public capital investment, thereby attracting more private investment.

Vision 2047 seeks to revolutionize India's economy, aiming for a staggering \$10 trillion valuation. The focus will be on promoting sustainable development, fostering technological innovation, and ensuring inclusive growth. The primary goals are to upgrade infrastructure, enhance healthcare and education, attain energy security, and encourage digital transformation. Nevertheless, this vision encounters various obstacles, such as poverty, unemployment, income disparity, and environmental deterioration. To tackle these challenges, it is necessary to have strong constitutional and policy frameworks that are in line with the broader objectives of economic development.

CONSTITUTIONAL COMPATIBILITY WITH ECONOMIC POLICIES

Achieving constitutional compatibility with economic policies requires a careful equilibrium between economic growth and fairness. The Right to Education Act (RTE) and the National Food Security Act (NFSA) are in accordance with Articles 21A and 47 of the Constitution, respectively, which aim to enhance educational and nutritional security. Furthermore, it is essential for labour laws to strike a harmonious equilibrium between the advancement of industries and the protection of workers' rights, as explicitly stated in Articles 23 and 24, which unequivocally forbid the heinous practices of human

trafficking and child labour. Hence, it is imperative to formulate economic policies that not only uphold constitutional principles but also promote economic development. This is very important for the development of our nation.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Ensuring a sustainable future is a fundamental principle of Vision 2047, requiring a balanced and mutually beneficial connection between economic advancement and safeguarding the environment. Article 48A of the Constitution mandates the state to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the environment, while Article 51A(g) requires every citizen to protect natural resources.

The judiciary's proactive approach in enforcing environmental regulations, exemplified by the Vellore Citizens' Welfare Forum case, highlights the significance of constitutional mandates in attaining sustainable development. Hence, it is imperative to implement policies that support the advancement of renewable energy, efficient waste management, and the preservation of biodiversity in order to ensure that economic growth is in accordance with constitutional mandates.

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Technological innovation refers to the development and implementation of new or improved technologies that bring about significant advancements in various fields. Digital transformation, on the other hand, involves the integration of digital technologies into different aspects of an organisation or society to enhance efficiency, productivity, and overall performance. Technological innovation and digital transformation are essential elements of Vision 2047. The Preamble of the Constitution ensures that everyone has an equal chance to succeed, and this can be achieved through the inclusion of digital technology. Efforts like Digital India strive to narrow the gap between those who have access to digital resources and those who do not, ensuring fair and equal availability of information and services.

Moreover, the Puttaswamy judgement affirms the protection of the right to privacy, ensuring that technological advancements do not violate personal freedoms. Therefore, it is crucial to implement policies that support the development of digital literacy, ensure data protection, and enhance cyber security in order to cultivate a technologically advanced economy that is in accordance with the basic principles that are enshrined in the Constitution of India.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

India's economic development is dependent on the incorporation of social justice and inclusive growth. The Constitution's dedication to social justice is evident in provisions such as Article 17, which eliminates untouchability, and Article 46, which advances the educational and economic welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other marginalised groups. Vision 2047 seeks to improve the conditions of marginalised communities by implementing affirmative action, skill development programmes, and social welfare schemes. It is crucial to ensure that economic policies do not contribute to the continuation of social inequalities in order to achieve the inclusive growth envisioned by the Constitution.

FEDERALISM AND ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

The federal structure of India is essential for economic governance. The Constitution outlines the allocation of powers between the Central government and the states, promoting collaborative federalism.

Nevertheless, the presence of fiscal imbalances and disparities between states requires the implementation of reforms to improve fiscal federalism. The Finance Commission, an autonomous entity, proposes the allocation of monetary assets, guaranteeing fair and balanced progress among different states. Enhancing fiscal federalism and fostering regional economic cooperation are crucial for achieving the objectives of Vision 2047.

BALANCING ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE

In order to accomplish the goals of Vision 2047, it is essential to adopt a well-balanced strategy that combines economic development with the principles of social fairness. The Constitution's Preamble, with its dedication to ensuring justice in social, economic, and political aspects, acts as a guiding principle in this matter. Ensuring a fair allocation of resources, as required by the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs), should be a fundamental principle guiding economic policies. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and similar programmes address poverty alleviation by offering employment opportunities and ensuring social security.

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equality is an essential element of long-lasting economic development. Articles 14, 15, and 16 of the Constitution ensure legal equality, prohibit discrimination, and guarantee equal opportunities in public employment. The Vision 2047 aims to achieve a substantial rise in female workforce participation, facilitated by policies that encourage education, healthcare, and financial integration. Programmes like *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* and initiatives promoting women's entrepreneurship are in line with constitutional principles and contribute to comprehensive economic development of the nation and will increase the opportunities for women.

ROLE OF EDUCATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Education and skill development are essential for attaining the Vision 2047 goals. Article 21A of the Constitution ensures the entitlement to education, while the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) advocate for the advancement of education and the cultivation of skills. The primary objective of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is to revolutionise the educational domain by placing significant emphasis on the development of critical thinking, creativity, and vocational training. Ensuring that educational reforms are in line with constitutional mandates guarantees the development of a well-informed and proficient workforce, which in turn stimulates economic growth and fosters innovation.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING AS A CATALYST FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

An essential condition for economic development is a population that is in good health. Article 47 of the Constitution mandates the government to enhance the quality of nutrition and living standards, as well as to enhance public health. The Vision 2047 entails extensive healthcare reforms with the goal of attaining universal health coverage and enhancing healthcare infrastructure. Initiatives like *Ayushman Bharat* (National Health Protection Scheme) demonstrate the dedication to offering easily accessible and reasonably priced healthcare, thereby bolstering productivity and fostering economic development.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND URBANISATION

Infrastructure development and urbanisation are crucial catalysts for economic expansion. Article 300A

of the Constitution deals with property rights, while Article 21 addresses the right to livelihood. These provisions establish a structure for harmonising development with individual rights. Vision 2047 aims to enhance and update infrastructure, encompassing transport, housing, and urban amenities, in order to facilitate economic activities. Smart cities and sustainable urban planning are essential components of this vision, guaranteeing that urbanisation is both inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS AND INNOVATION

Technological advancements and innovation refer to the development and implementation of new and improved technologies and ideas. These advancements involve the creation and utilisation of cutting-edge tools, techniques, and processes to enhance productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness in various fields.

Technological progress and innovation are essential for attaining the objectives outlined in Vision 2047. The Constitution's emphasis on scientific temper, as stated in Article 51A(h), highlights the significance of promoting innovation. Enacting policies that support research and development, digital infrastructure, and startups is crucial for upholding constitutional principles and ensuring a competitive edge in the global economy. The initiatives like Start-Up India and Make in India have the objective of establishing a dynamic environment that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship, thereby stimulating economic growth.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION

Vision 2047 places significant importance on environmental sustainability. Article 48A and Article 51A(g) of the Constitution highlight the significance of safeguarding and enhancing the environment. India's adherence to the Paris Agreement and its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) demonstrate the harmonisation of constitutional principles with worldwide environmental objectives. For the realisation of a green and resilient economy, it is imperative to implement policies that support the use of renewable energy, the planting of trees, and the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Effective governance and transparency are essential for promoting economic progress. The Constitution establishes a structure for open and responsible governance through measures such as the Right to Information Act (RTI) and the involvement of institutions like the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). The objective of Vision 2047 is to strengthen governance mechanisms, ensuring the efficient implementation and monitoring of economic policies. Enhancing the capacity of institutions, mitigating corruption, and fostering public engagement are crucial for attaining the goals of the vision.

CONCLUSION

The convergence of constitutional compatibility and economic development in India is crucial for achieving the vision of *Vikshith Bharath*, also known as Vision 2047. In order for India to become a dominant global force by its 100th anniversary of independence, it is crucial to synchronise its constitutional structure with economic necessities. The Indian Constitution, characterised by its resilient structure, has effectively established a solid basis for democratic governance and social justice. Nevertheless, in order to promote economic growth and achieve the ambitious objectives of Vision 2047, it is imperative for it to be flexible and receptive to the evolving economic environment.

First and foremost, economic policies must be constitutionally compatible in order to ensure that growth is inclusive, sustainable, and equitable. The pursuit of economic reforms should align with the constitutional mandate to diminish disparities and advance social justice. The principles outlined in the Directive Principles of State Policy serve as a guiding principle for achieving a harmonious equilibrium, emphasising the importance of a welfare state while promoting economic growth and innovation.

Furthermore, the utilisation of India's federal structure should be employed to facilitate and enhance economic growth. Granting states decentralisation of powers and financial autonomy has the potential to stimulate regional growth and development. States should have the authority to customise policies that address their distinct socio-economic circumstances while upholding a unified national economic strategy. The synchronisation of central and state policies is essential for achieving a coordinated and equitable economic growth throughout the nation.

Additionally, it is imperative to optimise legal and regulatory frameworks in order to cultivate a favourable atmosphere for business and investment. The primary objective of constitutional reforms should be to streamline administrative procedures, improve the business environment, and safeguard property rights. These measures are crucial for attracting both domestic and foreign investments, which will stimulate industrial growth and foster technological advancement.

Also, the significance of the judiciary's contribution to economic development cannot be underestimated. An resilient and autonomous judiciary guarantees the supremacy of legal principles, safeguarding the rights of both individuals and businesses. Implementing judicial reforms with the goal of expediting the resolution of commercial disputes and enforcing contracts will bolster investor confidence and promote economic stability.

In addition, the Constitution should incorporate principles that uphold sustainable development. Environmental degradation should not be sacrificed for the sake of economic growth. It is crucial to have policies that combine environmental protection and economic planning in order to guarantee sustainable development and advantages for future generations.

Constitutional compatibility and economic development are closely connected in India's path towards Vision 2047. India can develop a strong and successful economy by making sure that its constitutional provisions can adapt to changes in the economic landscape, promoting collaboration between different levels of government, simplifying regulatory frameworks, and giving priority to sustainable development. The alignment of constitutional mandates and economic policies will play a crucial role in the transformation of India into a developed nation, known as Vikshith Bharath, and achieving its potential as a global leader by 2047.

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