

# Preamble of Indian Constitution

## [UPSC Notes]

### What is Preamble of Indian Constitution?

The Preamble of the Indian Constitution was adopted on 26th November 1949. The United States of America was the first constitution in the world to have a Preamble and the Preamble of the Indian Constitution was inspired by the constitution of the USA and the 'Objective Resolution' drafted and moved by Pandit Nehru.

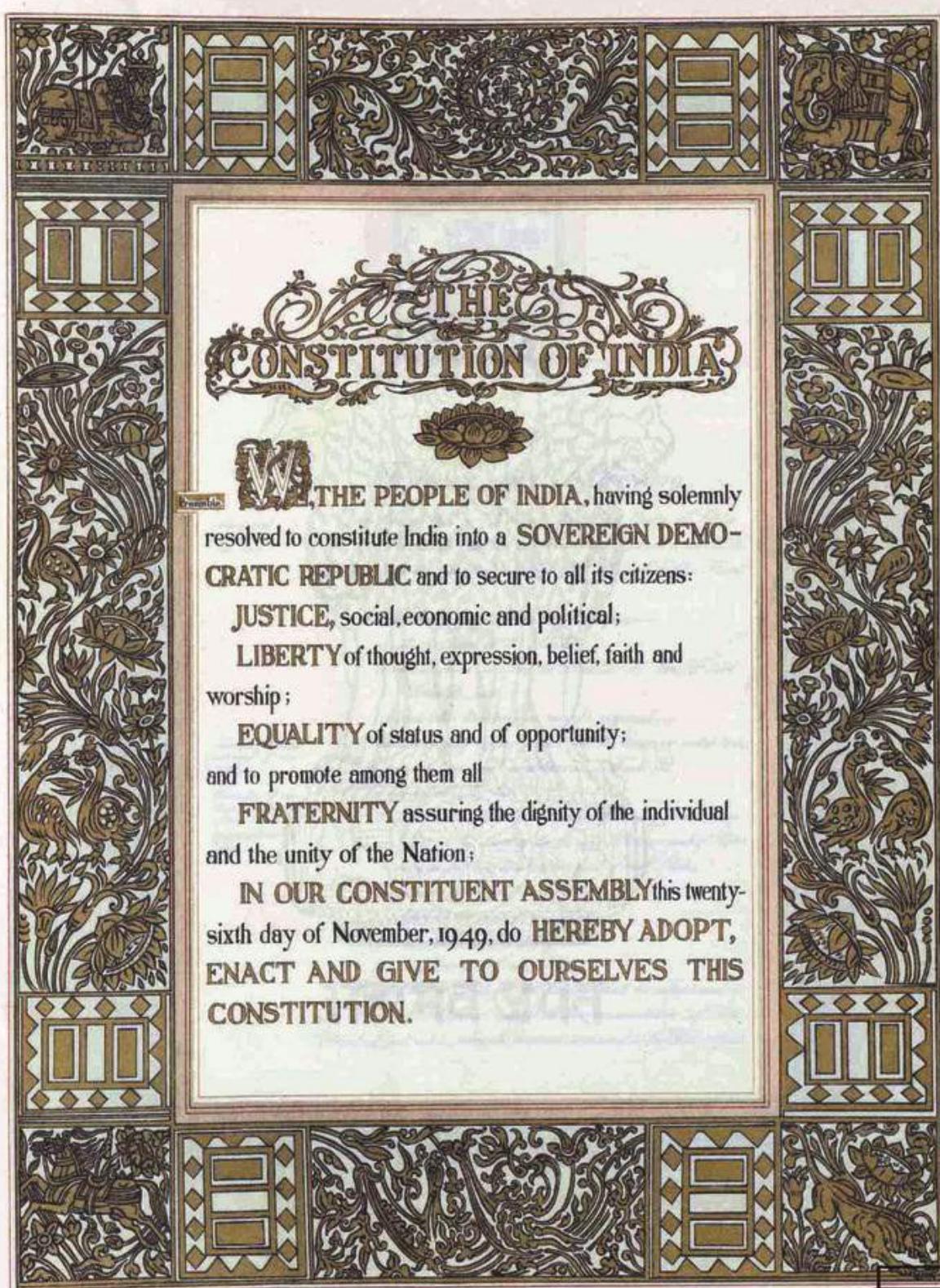
- An eminent jurist and constitutional expert N. A. Palkhivala called the Indian Constitution Preamble the 'identity card of the Constitution wherein it briefly carries the message and philosophy of the constitution.'
- To add the three new words Socialist, Secular, and Integrity it has been amended by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976.

### Preamble of Indian Constitution PDF

The Preamble of Constitution of India indicates that we seeks to establish an egalitarian society. Wherein social, economic, and political justice would be achieved through various provisions such as Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy, Universal Adult Suffrage, etc.

### Text of Preamble of Indian Constitution

The official Preamble of Indian Constitution is given below. It is important to read each line properly as it holds significance.



Signature of the artist Beohar Rammanohar Sinha as 'Ram'  
अलकरणकर्ता व्योहार राममनोहर सिंह के संक्षिप्त हस्ताक्षर 'राम'



## Preamble of India Meaning

Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic, Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity are specific keywords of the Preamble of the Indian Constitution that are explained as follows-

All important keywords in the Preamble of India are stated below which describe the meaning of the Preamble.

### 1. Sovereign

- Sovereignty denotes power or capacity. It is the capacity of the state to make decisions that are best in the interest of the country. The word sovereign implies that India is neither a dependency nor a dominion of any other nation but an independent state.
- Today India is in a better position to safeguard its self-interest. India can either acquire a foreign territory or cede a part of its territory in favor of a foreign state as being a sovereign state.

### 2. Socialist

- The Supreme Court in Samatha Vs State of Andhra Pradesh explains the meaning of Indian socialism. It aims at reducing inequalities in social and economic terms. We can understand Indian socialism by Articles 39(b) and 39(c) of DPSP.
- The word Socialist was added in the Preamble of the Constitution by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976.
- Inequality is not good for any country, as suggested by Aristotle, the father of Political Science. Inequality has been the most common cause behind every revolution. Hence, it is expected that the government working with civil society will take effective steps to remove the stigma of India as a soft state and would take steps to address the growing inequalities.

### 3. Secular

- Secularism helps in understanding the relationship between man, state, and religion.
- 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 made India's commitment to secularism more explicit by adding it to the Preamble.
- The standard Hindi translation of secularism is 'Parthnirpeksha' rather than 'Dharmanirpeksha'. It means there is no complete separation between religion and state in India. Article-14,15,16,25,28,29,30,44,325. are the constitutional features.

### 4. Democratic

- The constitution of India provides for the representative parliamentary democracy under which for all policies and actions of the legislature, the executive is responsible.

- The manifestation of the democratic character of the Indian polity is- Universal adult franchise, rule of law, independence of the Judiciary, periodic election, absence of discrimination on grounds of race, caste, sex, gender, etc.
  - In the Preamble, the word Democratic has the wider sense of embracing not only political democracy but also social and economic democracy.
  - On November 25, 1949, Dr. Ambedkar concluded his speech in the constituent assembly by emphasizing that political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of its social democracy, which means a way of life that recognizes Liberty, Equality, and fraternity.
- 5. Republic**
- The term Republic used in the Preamble implies that India has an elected head known as the President, who is elected indirectly for a fixed time period. There is also two more meaning of the term 'Republic' i.e.
- a. Vesting of political sovereignty in the people.
  - b. Absence of any privileged class.
- 6. Justice**
- The ideal of social, economic, and political justice has been taken from the USSR.
  - There are three distinct forms of term justice used in the Preamble that is social, economic, and political which are secured through the various provisions of Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy.
- 7. Liberty**
- The concept of Liberty, equality and fraternity are inspired by the French revolution.
  - Liberty means the absence of restraint from the activities of the individuals and providing an opportunity for the development of individual personalities through their fundamental rights which, in the case of violation, can also be enforceable in a court of law.
- 8. Equality**
- The absence of special privilege for any section of society is the actual meaning of equality.
  - The Preamble secured the equality of status and of the opportunity to promote among them all the citizens of India.
- 9. Fraternity**
- The term Fraternity is used in the Preamble to promote the sense of brotherhood through the system of single citizenship. And, Article 51 A is a fundamental duty also says that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India.

## Significance of the Preamble

The Preamble consists of the basic philosophy and fundamental values on which the constitution is based.

The Preamble reflects the dream and aspiration of the founding father of the Constitution as Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Iyer said 'The Preamble to our constitution

expresses what we had thought or dreamt for so long.m The preamble is a proper yardstick with which one can measure the worth of the constitution.

## Preamble as a Part of Constitution

The Constitution's adoption date is November 26, 1949. But most of the constitutional articles entered into force on January 26, 1950. There have been several cases to discuss the significance and status of the preamble of India in the constitution.

### Berubari Union Case (1960)

- The supreme court in the Berubari Union case provided its opinion that the Preamble is key to understanding the mind of the Constitution makers.
- The Preamble is separate from the constitution and it isn't a part of it.

### Kesavananda Bharati case (1973)

- The Preamble is part of the Constitution. It can be amended and it is subject to Judicial review.
- The objective resolution of 13 December 1946 carried many provisions that we can find in the Preamble.

**Union Government v. LIC of India case (1995) :** In the Union Government Vs LIC of India case, the Supreme Court ruled that the Preamble is an inalienable part of the Constitution.

## Facts about Indian Constitution Preamble

Few things should be noted here regarding the Preamble of the Indian Constitution

- a. Jawaharlal Nehru's Objectives Resolution, which the Constituent Assembly approved on January 22, 1947, set forth the principles that are reflected in the Preamble to India's Constitution.
- b. The preamble is non-justiciable means its provisions are not enforceable in a court of law.
- c. The Preamble neither grants the legislature, any authority nor forbids it from exercising any type of authority.

## Amendments in the Preamble

The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 added the three new terms that are Socialist, Secular, and Integrity the first and the only time when the Preamble was amended.