

Socialist and Secular in Preamble

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Recently, the **Supreme Court** upheld the addition of **socialist and secular** to the **Preamble** inserted through the **42nd Amendment Act, 1976**.

- Under <u>Article 368</u>, Parliament can amend the Constitution, including the <u>Preamble</u>, and the <u>1976 additions</u> were valid despite the <u>26th November 1949 cut-off date</u>.
- The <u>Right to Freedom of Religion</u> (Articles 25 28) provides the right and liberty to **preach**, **practice and propagate** the religion of his choice.
- Secularism was upheld as India's unique interpretation, where the state respects all religions equally, referencing the <u>SR Bommai Case</u>, <u>1994</u>.
 - Articles 14, 15, and 16 of the Constitution prohibit discrimination against citizens
 on religious grounds while guaranteeing equal protection of laws and equal opportunity
 in public employment.
 - Article 44 permits the govt to strive for a <u>Uniform Civil Code (UCC)</u> and it is not restricted by the term Secular in the Preamble.
- Socialism practised in India aims to achieve the goal of economic and social upliftment of citizens.
 - It does not restrict **private entrepreneurship** and the right to do business, which is guaranteed as a fundamental right under **Article 19(1)(g)**.

Read More: Socialist and Secular as Integral Part of Constitution

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