



## Preamble to the Indian Constitution





# PREAMBLE TO THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

## Background

- **Adopted:** 26 November, 1949
- **Inspiration behind Ideals:** Jawaharlal Nehru's **Objectives Resolution**

## Preamble Gives the Idea of

- **Source** of the Constitution, **Nature** of Indian State, Statement of its **objectives** and **Date** of its adoption

## Related Cases

- **Berubari Union Case, 1960:**
  - ◆ Preamble is key to open the mind of the makers but **not to be considered as part of the Constitution**
- **Kesavananda Bharati Case, 1973:**
  - ◆ Preamble **is part of the Constitution** and hence, could be amended under **Article 368** (but its basic structure not to be altered)
  - ◆ Preamble is not the supreme power or source of any restriction but important in interpretation of statutes
- **Union Government vs LIC of India, 1995:**
  - ◆ Reiterated that Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution but **not legally enforceable** before the court

## What does Preamble Declare?

- The **source of authority** of the Constitution **lies with the people** of India
- India as a **sovereign, socialist, secular** and **democratic republic** country
- **Objectives:**
  - ◆ Secure justice, liberty and equality to all citizens
  - ◆ Promote fraternity to maintain unity and integrity of the nation

**42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment (1976) added "Socialist," "Secular," and "Integrity" to the Preamble.**

## THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

### PREAMBLE

**WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA**, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a **[SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC]** and to secure to all its citizens :

**JUSTICE**, social, economic and political;

**LIBERTY** of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

**EQUALITY** of status and of opportunity and to promote among them all;

**FRATERNITY** assuring the dignity of the individual and the '[unity and integrity of the Nation];

**IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY** this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949 do **HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.**

1. Subs. by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, Sec. 2, for "Sovereign Democratic Republic" (w.e.f. 3.1.1977)
2. Subs. by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, Sec. 2, for "Unity of the Nation" (w.e.f. 3.1.1977)



**Drishti IAS**

[Read More...](#)

PDF Referenece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/preamble-to-the-indian-constitution-1>

