



Preamble of the Constitution

(संविधान की प्रस्तावना)


[Join SelectionWay GS Channel](#)
[Join SelectionWay GS Channel](#)

Shubham Gupta Sir

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.**

Introduction



The Preamble is the opening statement that describes the soul, philosophy, and objectives of the Constitution.
It is the identity card of the Constitution.



**1946 Meerut Session of the Congress –
Ideological foundation of the Preamble**

✓ Objectives Resolution – Presented by Jawaharlal Nehru on 13 December 1946

✓ Objectives Resolution accepted on 22 January 1947

✓ Concept of the Preamble – United States of America

✓ Language style of the Preamble – Australia

✓ French Revolution (1789) – Liberty, Equality and Fraternity

✓ Russian Revolution (1917) – Social, Economic and Political Justice.



**1. SOURCE OF
AUTHORITY**

The People of India –
Popular Sovereignty



**2. NATURE OF
THE STATE**

Sovereign, Socialist,
Secular, Democratic
Republic



**3. OBJECTIVES OF
THE CONSTITUTION**

Justice, Liberty,
Equality and
Fraternity



**4. DATE OF
ADOPTION**

26 November 1949



42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 – the only amendment to the Preamble – added Socialist, Secular and Integrity.

Key words of the Preamble

SOURCE OF POWER

WE, THE PEOPLE
OF INDIA

POPULAR
SOVEREIGNTY

NATURE OF THE STATE

- Sovereign
- Socialist
- Secular
- Democratic
- Republic

OBJECTIVES

- **JUSTICE (3)**
 - Social
 - Economic
 - Political
- **EQUALITY (2)**
 - Opportunity
 - Status
- **LIBERTY (5)**
 - Thought
 - Expression
 - Belief
 - Faith
 - Worship
- Dignity of the Individual
- Unity and Integrity of the Nation
- Fraternity

We the people of India..

- ❖ **Supreme source of power of the Constitution** – The people of India
- ❖ **Dr. Ambedkar** – "The foundation of the Constitution is the people"
- ❖ **Criticism** – Absence of adult franchise (universal suffrage)
- ❖ **Answer** – Election of broadly representative people in first general elections



Complete sovereignty

- ❖ India is completely free to make its own internal and external decisions.
- ❖ **Popular sovereignty** – The ultimate and supreme power of governance rests with the people.
 - We the people of India
 - Adult franchise (universal suffrage)
 - Fixed tenure of government
- ❖ **Legal sovereignty** – Constitution

Socialism

- ❖ **42nd Constitutional Amendment 1976**
- ❖ **Socialism** → No single individual should have a monopoly over the means of production and property; it should benefit the whole society
- ❖ **Indian Socialism** →
 - Communist or State socialism ✗
 - Democratic Socialism ✓ → **A unique blend of Gandhism and Marxism.**
 - Democratic Socialism believes in a Mixed Economy
 - The New Economic Policy of 1991 – LPG – made India's socialist model somewhat flexible.
- ❖ **D.S. Nakara v. Union of India (1983)**
 - The main aim of Indian socialism is to eliminate inequality in income, status, and standard of living
 - Four pillars of Socialism → Social welfare, Equality, Welfare of the exploited, Welfare of the deprived
 - "From cradle to grave" – Social Security.

Gandhism

- Democratic path instead of arms
- Not violence, but change of heart
- Trusteeship Theory
- Cottage and village industries

Marxism

- Goal of a classless society
- Distribution of resources.

Secular

- ❖ Added by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976.
 - India has no official state religion.
 - The State treats all religions equally and maintains an equal attitude towards all religions.
 - Articles 25 to 28 → Right to religious freedom.
- ❖ Then Law Minister H.R. Gokhale — Every person has the freedom of faith and worship; the State has no religion of its own; the State treats all religions equally — neither supporting nor opposing any.

Democratic

- ❖ 'Democracy' is derived from two Greek words — 'Demos' (people) and 'kratos' (rule) — literally meaning "rule of the people."
- ❖ India is the world's largest representative democracy.
- ❖ The Indian Constitution adopted Parliamentary Democracy — the Executive is directly accountable to the Legislature.
- ❖ The word 'Democratic' in the Preamble is used in a broad sense — including political, social, and economic democracy.
- ❖ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (25 Nov 1949): Political democracy cannot be permanent unless social democracy lies at its foundation.
- ❖ 'Trinity' → Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity

Republic

- ❖ **Monarchy** → The head of state comes to power through inheritance — the position is entirely hereditary, e.g., Britain.
- ❖ **Republic** → Where the head of the nation is elected, i.e., the position is not hereditary. In India, the President is elected and serves for a fixed term of 5 years.
- ❖ In a Republic —
 - Political sovereignty rests with the people
 - absence of any privileged class — every public office is open to all citizens without discrimination.

LIBERTY, EQUALITY & FRATERNITY

These three principles are closely connected and cannot be separated.

1



LIBERTY WITHOUT EQUALITY
leads to the dominance of a few powerful people over the weak.

2



EQUALITY WITHOUT LIBERTY
destroys individual initiative and creativity.

3



WITHOUT FRATERNITY, BOTH
remain mere rules that require police force to enforce them.

Justice

- ❖ Justice → Equal and fair treatment of all in society.
- ❖ The idea of Justice → inspired by the 1917 Revolution of the Soviet Union — Russian Revolution
- ❖ Justice is included in the Preamble in three forms.

Justice	Meaning	Related articles
➤ Social justice	❖ Equal treatment of all without discrimination based on caste, colour, religion, or gender. ❖ Improvement in the condition of deprived classes and women.	Articles 15, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24
➤ Economic justice	❖ No discrimination on economic grounds. ❖ Elimination of inequality in income and property; equitable distribution of resources. ❖ 'Distributive justice' → 'Social justice' + 'Economic justice'	Articles 39(b), 39(c)
➤ Political justice	❖ Equal political rights for all. ❖ Equality in the right to contest elections and the right to vote.	Articles 325, 326

Liberty

- ❖ 'Trinity Principle' of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity → French Revolution (1789).
- ❖ Liberty → Freedom from any kind of external pressure, control, or unreasonable restrictions.
- ❖ Negative Liberty → "Absence of interference or restrictions"
 - ♦ the role of the State is only to provide security
- ❖ Positive Liberty → Providing conditions and opportunities so that an individual can develop their personality in a true and creative manner

Liberty granted by the Preamble or Fundamental Rights is not Absolute but Qualified — the Constitution imposes 'Reasonable Restrictions' on them.

Equality

- ❖ Providing identical resources, opportunities, and rights to all members of society without any discrimination
 - Equality → Providing identical resources, opportunities, and rights to all members of society without any discrimination
 - Equity → Providing resources and opportunities according to an individual's needs and circumstances, so they can reach the same level as others.
- ❖ Two dimensions of Equality in the Preamble :
 - Equality of Status
 - Equality of Opportunity

Fraternity

- ❖ The literal meaning of Fraternity — "A feeling of brotherhood, belonging, and being one family among all citizens."
 - The Constitution promotes fraternity through the provision of Single Citizenship.
 - Fundamental Duty → It is the duty of every citizen to rise above religious, linguistic, regional, and sectional diversities and promote harmony and mutual brotherhood.
 - Abolition of Untouchability.
 - Protection of Minorities.
- ❖ According to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, "Without Fraternity, Liberty and Equality will remain merely a show."

Cases related to the Preamble

A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras (1950)	The Preamble is not a part of the Constitution; it is non-enforceable in court , and it is not a source of power.
Berubari Union Case (1960)	The Preamble is the "key to the minds" of the Constitution makers. Since it is not a part of the Constitution, it cannot be amended.
Kesavananda Bharati v. Kerala (1973)	The Preamble is an important part of the Constitution . Under the "Basic Structure" doctrine, it can be amended by Parliament.
S.R. Bommai Case (1994)	Justice Ramaswami reaffirmed that the Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution.
Shri Raghunathrao Ganpatrao (1993)	The Preamble is neither a source of legislative power , nor can any restriction be imposed on the powers of the legislature through it.
LIC of India Case (1995)	The Supreme Court once again clearly held that the Preamble is an intrinsic and integral part of the Constitution.

Scholar / Thinker	Statement in relation to the Preamble / Constitution
1. N. A. Palkhivala	The Preamble is the Identity Card of the Constitution.
2. K. M. Munshi	The Preamble is the Political Horoscope of the Constitution.
3. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava	The Preamble is the soul, key and ornament of the Constitution.
4. Sir Ernest Barker	The Preamble is the Key-note of the Constitution.
5. Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar	The Preamble presents the ideas of the long-term dreams and ideals of the makers of the Constitution.
6. Subhash Kashyap	If the Constitution is the body , then the Preamble is its soul .
7. D. D. Basu	The Preamble clarifies the objectives and basic philosophy of the Constitution.
8. M. Hidayatullah	The Preamble is the soul of the Constitution, which expresses its ideals .
9. M. V. Pylee	The Preamble is the best summary of the Constitution.
10. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar	The Constitution is a sacred document , but it is also capable of change according to time and necessity.
11. J. B. Kripalani	The Preamble is the mystic creed of a welfare state .