

PREAMBLE to the CONSTITUTION

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.

A solemn resolution

- Preamble is a *solemn resolution* by the people of India
 - adopted on 26th November, 1949

Objectives:

(1)

- To constitute India into a
 - Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic

(2)

- To secure to Indian citizens
 - Justice
 - social, economic and political
 - Liberty
 - of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship
 - Equality
 - of status and of opportunity

(3)

- To promote fraternity among Indian citizens: while assuring
 - dignity of the individual

- unity and integrity of the nation

Dignity of the individual

- The expression "**Dignity**" implied an obligation on the Union to respect the personality of every citizen.

Unity and integrity of the nation

- *Regard and respect by every individual for the dignity of the other one brings the unity and integrity of the Nation.*

Importance of the Preamble

- While interpreting any provision of the Constitution
 - when any ambiguity is noticed in any provision or the language admits of meaning more than one
 - Preamble to the Constitution may be relied on to find out the true meaning of the relevant provision

Changes in the Preamble

- Two words, **Socialist and Secular**, were inserted in the Preamble by the Constitution 42nd Amendment Act in 1976

Question 1:

- **Is the Preamble a part of our Constitution?**

Answer

- Yes, the Preamble is a part of our Constitution

Question 2:

- **Whether the Preamble forms a basic feature of the Constitution?**

Answer:

- Yes, the Objectives specified in the Preamble form a **basic feature** of the Constitution and thus cannot be amended by Parliament under article 368

Source: Supreme Court in *Keshavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala* [1973]
