



1. Preamble to the Constitution of India

Text of the 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 26th day of November, 1949, do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution.”

2. Terms in the Preamble - Meaning and Significance

Sovereign

- India is **independent** in internal and external matters.
- No external power can dictate its policies.



Socialist (*added by 42nd Amendment*)

- Emphasizes **economic and social equality**.
- Aims at a welfare state and equitable distribution of wealth.

Secular (*added by 42nd Amendment*)

- State maintains **neutrality** in matters of religion.
- No state religion; equal treatment to all religions.

Democratic

- Power is **vested in the people**.
- The government is **elected by the people**, for the people.

Republic

- Head of the state is **elected** (not hereditary).
- Ensures **equality** and the end of monarchy/aristocracy.

Objectives of the Constitution

JUSTICE

- **Social:** No discrimination based on caste, religion, gender.
- **Economic:** Reducing wealth gap; fair wages.
- **Political:** Equal participation in the political process.



LIBERTY

- Of **thought, expression, belief, faith, and worship**.
- Ensures **individual freedoms**.

EQUALITY

- **Equality before law** and **equal opportunity** in all spheres.

FRATERNITY

- Promotes **brotherhood, national integration, and individual dignity**.
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3. 42nd Amendment Act, 1976

Background

- Enacted during the **Emergency (1975-77)** under **Indira Gandhi's government**.
- Known as the “**Mini Constitution**” due to its sweeping changes.

Preamble-specific changes

- Added three new words:
 - **Socialist**
 - **Secular**
 - **Integrity**



BEFORE:

“Sovereign Democratic Republic”

AFTER:

“Sovereign **Socialist Secular** Democratic Republic”

- Added “**unity and integrity of the Nation**” to promote national cohesion.

4. Swaran Singh Committee (1976)

Formation

- Appointed by the Congress government during Emergency.
- Headed by **Dr. Swaran Singh**, former External Affairs Minister.

Purpose

- To **review the Constitution** and suggest amendments, especially to **Fundamental Duties** and **national integration**.

Recommendations

- Incorporate **Fundamental Duties** of citizens.
- Emphasize **unity, secularism, and discipline**.



- Proposed changes to the **Preamble** to reflect socialist and secular character.
 - Many of its recommendations were implemented via the **42nd Amendment**.
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Conclusion

The **Preamble is the soul of the Constitution**, reflecting its **philosophy and objectives**. Through the **42nd Amendment**, it was updated to reflect the **contemporary socio-political ethos** during the Emergency. The **Swaran Singh Committee** played a pivotal role in influencing these changes, especially the inclusion of **Socialist, Secular, and Integrity** as guiding principles of the Indian state.
