



Preamble to the Constitution

Quick Revision Notes for RRB Group D 2025

Basic Details: Adoption and Amendments

Feature	Details
Adopted	26 November 1949
Enforced	26 January 1950
Source	Objectives Resolution, 1946 (by Jawaharlal Nehru)
Drafting Committee Chairman	Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
Nature	Introduction + Philosophy of Constitution
Legal Status	Not enforceable, but guides interpretation
Amendment	Only once (42nd Amendment Act, 1976)
Changes in 1976	Added: Socialist, Secular, Integrity
Before Amendment	“Sovereign Democratic Republic” & “Unity of Nation”
After Amendment	“Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic” & “Unity and Integrity of Nation”

Key Terms and Their Meanings

Term	Meaning	Related Concept
Sovereign	Full independence, no external control	Political independence
Socialist	Social & economic equality	Inspired by USSR
Secular	Equal respect for all religions	Religious neutrality
Democratic	Rule by elected representatives	Universal adult franchise
Republic	Elected Head of State (not hereditary)	President of India



Justice	Social, Economic, Political fairness	Directive Principles
Liberty	Freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship	Fundamental Rights
Equality	Equal status & opportunity	Article 14-18
Fraternity	Brotherhood, dignity, unity	French Revolution
Integrity	Unity & oneness of nation	Added in 1976

Objectives, Inspirations, and Borrowed Features

Category	Details
Objectives	Justice, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity
Source of Preamble	Objectives Resolution (1946)
Foreign Inspirations	USA (We the People, Republic), French Revolution (Liberty, Equality, Fraternity), USSR (Justice)
Other Borrowed Ideas	UK (Parliamentary system), Ireland (Directive Principles)
Key Personalities	Jawaharlal Nehru (Objectives Resolution), Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Drafting), B. N. Rau (Advisor), N. A. Palkhivala (Called Preamble “Identity card of Constitution”)

Supreme Court Views on Preamble

Case	Year	Supreme Court Decision
Berubari Union Case	1960	Preamble not part of Constitution
Kesavananda Bharati Case	1973	Preamble is part of Constitution; can be amended but not destroy basic structure
LIC of India Case	1995	Preamble is integral part of Constitution



Quick Facts and Exam Oriented Q&A

Question	Answer
Who moved Objectives Resolution?	Jawaharlal Nehru
Which words added in 1976?	Socialist, Secular, Integrity
Number of times Preamble amended	Once
Who is father of Indian Constitution?	B. R. Ambedkar
When Constitution came into force?	26 January 1950
When Constitution adopted?	26 November 1949
Phrase “We the People” borrowed from?	USA
Philosophy words (Liberty, Equality, Fraternity)	French Revolution
Preamble called as?	Key/ Identity card of Constitution
Legal status	Non-justiciable

Expected Questions for Exams

Question	Answer
Who described the Preamble as the “Identity card of the Constitution”?	N. A. Palkhivala
Which case held that Preamble is part of the Constitution?	Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973)
Which case held that Preamble is not part of the Constitution?	Berubari Union Case (1960)
Which case reaffirmed Preamble as integral?	LIC of India Case (1995)
Which Amendment changed the Preamble?	42nd Amendment Act (1976)
Which words were inserted in 1976?	Socialist, Secular, Integrity
From where is “We the People” borrowed?	USA Constitution



From where is “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity” borrowed?	French Revolution
When was Constitution adopted?	26 November 1949
When did Constitution come into force?	26 January 1950

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