Preamble

The 'Preamble' of the Constitution of India is a brief introductory statement that sets out the guiding purpose and principles of the document, and it indicates the source from which the document which derives its authority, meaning, the people. It was adopted on 26 November 1949 by the Constituent Assembly of India and came into effect on 26th January 1950.

In 1946, Objective Resolution was moved by Jawaharlal Nehru, describing the constitutional structure. In 1947 (22nd January) it was adopted. It shaped the <u>Constitution of India</u> and its modified version is reflected in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution. The basic tenets that the objective resolution highlighted were:

- Constituent Assembly's resolve to see India as independent, sovereign and republic
- To draw a Constitution for India
- To make all territories of the pre-independent India into united states of post-independent India
- To realize residual powers, autonomy on such states as the Constitution of India reflects
- To realize union with the power which will be different than those given to such states
- The people of India to play the source of power and authority of the sovereignty, and the independence
- To provide justice, social, economic and political equality of status of opportunity and, freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship, vocation, association and action, subject to law and public morality before the law
- To provide adequate safeguards to the minorities, tribal and backward areas and other depressed and backward classes
- To maintain the integrity of the Indian republic's territory and its territorial rights on land, sea, air according to the justice and law of the civilized nation
- To promote peace and welfare among the worldly nations.

Is preamble a part of Indian Constitution?	Yes, it is a part of the Indian constitution, also emphasized in Kesavananda Bharti Case.
Who wrote the preamble of India?	The preamble of India contains tenets highlighted in the Objective Resolution drafted by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1946
How many preambles does the Indian Constitution have?	Only 1 preamble along with 22 parts and 12 schedules and 448 articles, Indian Constitution today exists
What is the most important word in the Preamble of India?	Though no particular word has been given more importance than others, however, 'We, the people of India' are the words which are termed as the most powerful in the Preamble to the Indian Constitution
Why do we need a Preamble?	It gives us fundamental values and highlights of the Constitution
In which case, did the Supreme Court declare passed a judgement that Preamble is not a part of Indian Constitution?	In Berubari Case (1960), SC declared Preamble not to be a part of Indian Constitution

The hopes and aspirations of the people, as well as the ideals before our nation, are described in the preamble in clear cut words. It may be considered as the soul of the Constitution. The preamble can be referred to as the preface which highlights the entire Constitution.

Interesting Facts about Preamble of Indian Constitution

- It was enacted after the enactment of the entire Constitution of India
- The term 'secular' was added to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976.
- The Preamble secures to all citizens of India liberty of belief, faith and worship
- Ideal of justice (social, economic and political) in the Preamble are borrowed from the Soviet Union (Russia) Constitution
- Republic and the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity are borrowed from the French Constitution
- Preamble, in itself, has been first introduced through the American Constitution

Read more about sources of Indian Constitution from the linked article.

Four Main Ingredients of the Indian Preamble

The source of the Indian Constitution, nature of the Indian State, the objectives of the Constitution of India & the date of adoption of the Indian State, are four main ingredients of the Indian Preamble which you can read about in the table below:

Preamble to the Indian Constitution	
Source of the Indian Constitution	The People of India are revealed to be the source of the authority of the Indian Constitution. The words, 'We, the People of India' reflect the same.
Nature of the Indian State	The Preamble of India tags India as the sovereign, secular, republic, secular and democratic nation
Objective of the Indian Constitution	Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity are denoted as the objectives of the Preamble of India
Adoption Date of the Constitution of India	November 26, 1949 as the date when then the Indian Constitution

Keywords in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution

There are some important keywords in the Preamble of India like:

- 1. Sovereign
- 2. Socialist
- 3. Secular
- 4. Democratic
- 5. Republic
- 6. Justice
- 7. Liberty
- 8. Equality
- 9. Fraternity

Frequently Asked Questions related to Preamble of Indian Constitution

Q1

How many words are in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution?

The Preamble of Indian Constitution has 73 words. The 73-word Preamble to the Constitution of India outlines the ideals that must guide Indian democracy. Together with the Directive Principles of State Policy, it provides the context in which the country can achieve the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

What is Preamble Explain?

A preamble is an introductory statement in a document that explains the document's philosophy and objectives. In a Constitution, it presents the intention of its framers, the history behind its creation, and the core values and principles of the nation. The ideals behind the Preamble to India's Constitution were laid down by Jawaharlal Nehru's Objectives Resolution, adopted by the Constituent Assembly on January 22, 1947. Although not enforceable in court, the Preamble states the objects of the Constitution, and acts as an aid during the interpretation of Articles when language is found ambiguous.

Q3

What are the beginning words in the Preamble to the Constitution of India?

The preamble begins with the words "We the people of India..." thus clearly indicating the source of all authority of the constitution. It emphasizes the sovereignty of the people and the fact that all powers of government flow from the people. It is the people of India on whose authority the Constitution rests. The preamble surmises that it is the people of India who are the authors of the constitution. Thus the words "We, the people of India" declares in unambiguous terms that the Constitution has been adopted, enacted and given to themselves by the people of India.

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Is the Preamble basic structure of the Constitution?

Preamble is part of the Constitution. Preamble indicates the basic structure of the Constitution. Preamble is neither enforceable nor justifiable in a court of law. This implies that courts cannot pass orders against the government in India to implement the ideas in the Preamble. Preamble can be amended and it has been amended only once through the <u>42nd Constitutional Amendment Act</u> 1976.