

## Preamble

These glorious words inspired the shaping of the Basic Law of our land through all

subsequent stages and got into the contents of the Preamble that reads:

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, have solemnly resolved to constitute India in to a

SOVERIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all

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.

The judiciously chosen words contained in the text of the Preamble and written in capital

letters have a significance of their own. Their implications must be understood in a correct

perspective. These are :

1. We, the People of India: It indicates that the architects of this great document are the people of the

country themselves it is not the gift of British parliament as the Canadian Constitution of 1867 and

the Australian Constitution of 1900, nor is it something imposed upon us by the alien conquerors the

example of which may be seen in the Japanese Constitution of 1946. It embodies three cardinal

points- that the ultimate sovereignty is with the people of the country; that the founding fathers are

the real representatives of the people, and that it is based on the acquiescence of the people of India.

2. Sovereign: We are a free people under this Constitution. India does not pay final allegiance to any external power like the British Crown and no other country can impose its will upon us. India's membership of any international body like the United Nations, Commonwealth of Nations, World Trade Organizations, etc. does not affect her sovereign character for the simple reason that it is all a voluntary affair.

3. Socialist: It means that the State has taken upon itself the responsibility for wiping off poverty, for initiating steps to increase employment, for modernizing national economy, for enforcing social purpose in all economic activities, for reducing disparities and setting right the historic inequalities between different sections and parts of the country and, in particular, for checking the growth of monopoly or concentration of national wealth into the hands of few persons. It resembles the Fabian Socialism of England and thus may be labeled as democratic socialism.

4. Secularism: It means that the State has no religion of its own. It ensures equal respect for all religions. Discrimination among the people on the basis of religion is prohibited. It is not to be identified with atheism or irreligiosity. As Dr. Radhakrishnan says: When India is said to be a secular state, it does not mean that we reject the reality of an unseen spirit or the relevance of religion in life, or that we exalt irreligion. It does not mean that secularism itself becomes a positive religion or that the State assumes divine prerogatives.... We hold that no one religion should be given preferential status.... The view of religious impartiality or comprehension and furtherance has a prophetic role to play within national and international life.