

Preamble

5. Democratic: The Constitution establishes representative government at the Centre, in the States, and also at the local levels. It guarantees universal adult franchise and free and fair periodic elections. Power is vested in the people and it is exercised by their representatives who are accountable to them for their acts of commission and omission. It has provisions for the independence of the press and the judiciary. It all enables India to become the largest democracy in the world.

6. Republic : A republican system is invariably democratic in view of the fact that power resides in the people and it is exercised by their chosen representatives. It also requires that the head of the State should be elected directly or indirectly for a specific period and that he must be accountable for his acts of commission and omission. Hence, the office of the head of the state should not be hereditary or non-elective. As President Narayana observed in his message to the nation given on the eve of the Republic day in 2000: "The word Republic is no ordinary word. It is commitment to the effect that in our State supreme power is exercised not by some remote monarch but by the people."

7. Justice : The essence of justice is the attainment of the common good as distinguished from the good of the individuals or even of the majority of them. It has three dimension. Social justice desires equality among the people and, as such, it seeks eradication of those barriers and discriminations which make some people high or low. The worth and dignity of each individual should be recognized

irrespective of his religion, race, caste, descent and the like. Economic justice desires equitable distribution of national wealth so as to remove the evils of poverty, unemployment disease, starvation, squalor and the like. Political justice desires free and fair participation of the people in their public affairs. It stands for a liberal – democratic order in which people enjoy their liberties within the framework of reasonable restrictions.

8. Liberty : Liberty lies in the existence of healthy conditions for the development of human personality. A man without liberty is no man at all, he is like a dead weight. Our Constitution ensures liberty of thought, expression, faith, belief and worship. Part III of the Constitution has a catalogue of fundamental rights relating to equality and liberty and it is so important that Jawaharlal Nehru called it conscience of the Constitution.

9. Equality: Liberty and equality live together, they supplement each other. Hence, our Constitution guarantees equality in respects of status and opportunity. It implies that all citizens, being equal in the eye of law are equally eligible to all public dignities, places and employment, according to their capacities and without discrimination of their religion, race, caste, descent, sex, place of birth etc.

10. Fraternity: Finally, the Preamble desires unity and integrity of the nation. It aims at the fulfillment of the idea of unity in diversity. Irrespective of their social and cultural differences, all people should regard themselves, in the words of Nehru, as Indians first and Indian last.