

## **1. DISCUSS THE CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF THE PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA?**

The Constitution of India is preceded by a Preamble which outlines its aims and objectives. The preamble of India is based on the 'Objective Resolution', drafted and moved by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and adopted by the Constituent Assembly on July 22, 1947.

It contains the essence and intent of the type of governance adopted in India after independence. It is a preface to the Constitution of India, the largest written constitution in the world.

It expresses the nature of Indian governance system.

The Supreme Court of India has held that Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution.

It states the date of adoption, enactment of the Constitution of India.

It indicates the source from which the Constitution derives its authority. It also states the objects which the Constitution seeks to establish and promote.

It reads:

**"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 twenty-sixth day of November, 1949 do **HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION."**

The phrase "We the People of India" is a bold declaration of popular sovereignty. It shows that the Constitution of India is a product of popular will and ideals.

It defines India a Sovereign country which means India is a fully independent country and is free to decide and conduct its own affairs, both internal and external. The Preamble declares India a Socialist country which is a happy blending of Marxism and Gandhism favouring more towards the latter.

It declares India a Secular state which implies that there is no state religion and religion is left to the individual conscience of the citizens. The words 'Socialist' and 'Secular' were added to the Constitution by 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act, 1976. The word 'Democratic' signifies that Indian Political system is democratic which lays emphasis on equality. The word 'Republic' upholds that the head of our state must be an elected office.

The term 'Justice' found mentioned in the Preamble to the Constitution embraces three distinct forms such as 'social, economic and political'. The term 'Liberty' found mentioned in the Preamble is secured to all citizens of India. The citizens of India enjoys liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship thorough various fundamental rights. The Constitution in its Preamble secures all the citizens of India equality of status and opportunity. The Preamble enunciates Fraternity or common brotherhood among the citizens of India through the provision of single citizenship.