

SPIRITUAL INDIA

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The “Preamble” is the most fundamental part, and the key to the Constitution of India. It can be classified as declaratory, resolutive and promissory in nature.

In its resolutive part, it resolves to constitute India into a Republic which is qualified by the use of adjectives Sovereign and Democratic, i.e., a **Sovereign Democratic Republic**.

The Preamble was amended by the 42nd Amendment of 1976 w.e.f. 03.01.1977 and the phrase “Sovereign Democratic Republic” was modified by inserting two further qualifying words Socialist and Secular to read as **Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic**, probably with the intention to declare the secular nature of the country.

India, i.e. Bharat, is no doubt a religious land, where many religions of the world have originated, including *Deen-E-Ilahi* founded by Emperor Akbar. India has a diverse culture, rich traditions and immense and varied heritage. It is a Holy land of Gods and Goddesses. Though deeply religious, she does not belong to any religion in particular, and is essentially a land of spirituality and philosophy. Spirituality is a gift bestowed upon people who live here. The *Himalayas* have always served as the abode of spiritual awakening and learning. The Holy waters of the Ganga carry down the eternal message of spirituality, from the Himalayas in the North to the oceans in the South.

People from all over the world travel to India to understand the essence of spirituality and to find their inner self, i.e., the Supreme Self, which is the gateway to a spiritual life.

Spirituality brooks no comparison either with any religion of the world, or values of human life. It connects one's self with the Originator or Creator of the

world, with whatever name we call or propose to address Him. It is the understanding and the finding of one's self, and then to connect it with that is known to the unknown. It is a constant seeking for the meaning and purpose of life.

The insertion of the word “secular” in the Preamble, despite good intentions, narrows down the possibly wider interpretation of the term ‘Republic of India’ than would have been possible otherwise. It should be noted that India was never a country of any particular or specific religion, rather, a land of spiritual values. History is silent and unable to demonstrate if India was ever declared to be a Hindu Nation or that Hinduism was ever her official religion, notwithstanding that she was ruled by the powerful *Mauryas*, *Guptas*, *Pallavas*, *Sathvahanas*, *Chalukyas*, *Marathas*, *Rajputs* and then by the *Mughals* and the *Britishers*. Persons of all religions, castes and communities have lived here in peace and harmony from time immemorial.

Inhabitants of this spiritual land are in a constant state of journeying to higher and higher levels of consciousness and existence, higher than those permitted by religious concepts and laws of humanity, to attain knowledge of the Supreme Self. The message is thus clear. India, by implication, is without doubt a secular country for which no declaration or resolution is warranted. “We the People,” in the original resolution of the Preamble, obviously wanted India to be constituted as a Republic that was Sovereign and Democratic, but of a much higher level. In other words, a **Sovereign, Democratic, Spiritual Republic of India** and not a Republic confined by narrow concepts like ‘socialist’ or ‘secular.’

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(Special thanks to Sri Ankur Mithal for revising and making amendments in the above write up.

The views expressed hereinabove are personal and have nothing to do with the post held by the writer.)