

Preamble

The Supreme Court dismissed petitions challenging the inclusion of “socialist” and “secular” in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution, added through the 42nd Amendment during the Emergency in 1976.

Case and Its Judgment:

Case Names:

1. Dr. Balram Singh v. Union of India
2. Dr. Subramanian Swamy v. Union of India
3. Ashwini Upadhyay v. Union of India

Judgment Highlights:

- The Supreme Court upheld the inclusion of “socialist” and “secular,” affirming their consistency with the Constitution’s **basic structure**, as established in **Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)** and **S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994)**.
- The Court clarified that the amendment power of Parliament extends to the Preamble under Article 368.
- It dismissed the petitions as flawed and lacking a legitimate cause after 44 years since the 42nd Amendment.

Preamble Amendment:

- The Preamble of the Indian Constitution was revised only once through the **42nd Amendment Act of 1976**, following the **Sardar Swaran Singh Committee’s** recommendations.
- **Passed in 1976** during the Emergency by the Indira Gandhi government.
- This amendment introduced the terms **Socialist and Secular** between *Sovereign* and *Democratic*, while **Unity of the Nation was updated to Unity and Integrity of the Nation**.
- While the **44th Amendment** (1978) reversed many Emergency-era changes, it retained these terms.

Meaning of “Socialist” and “Secular”:

- **Socialist:** Represents a **welfare state** ensuring economic and social justice, reducing inequalities, and promoting collective well-being without eliminating private enterprise.
- **Secular:** Implies **equal treatment of all religions** without favor or discrimination, ensuring religious freedom while maintaining the state’s neutrality in religious matters.

Reasons Behind Inclusion:

1. **Strengthening Constitutional Values:** To emphasize principles already embedded in the Constitution’s framework (e.g., Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles).
2. **Addressing Emergency-Era Criticism:** To project India’s commitment to inclusivity and equality during politically challenging times.

3. **Global Alignment:** Align India with modern states that prioritize democratic socialism and secularism.

Socialist and Secular Programs by the Government:

Socialist Initiatives:

- o **MGNREGA:** Guaranteeing rural employment.
- o **Public Distribution System (PDS):** Food security for all.
- o **Right to Education (RTE):** Ensuring free and compulsory education.
- o **Awas Yojana:** Housing for economically weaker sections.

Secular Initiatives:

- o **Minority Welfare Programs:** Scholarships and skill development for minorities.
- o **Places of Worship Act, 1991:** Protecting the religious character of sites.
- o **Special Courts for Communal Violence:** Ensuring justice and harmony.
- o **Constitutional Safeguards:** Equal religious rights under Articles 25-28.

Limitations and Challenges:

- **Misuse of Secularism:** Politicization of the term for electoral gains.
- **Economic Inequality:** Persistent income gaps challenge socialist goals.
- **Religious Intolerance:** Increasing communal tensions hinder secular ideals.
- **Implementation Issues:** Inefficient delivery mechanisms for welfare programs.

About Preamble:

Features of the Preamble:

•

- o **Introduction to the Constitution:** Provides a concise overview of the philosophy and objectives of the Indian Constitution.
- o **Core Values:** Highlights the commitment to sovereignty, socialism, secularism, democracy, and a republican form of government.
- o **Guaranteed Ideals:** Ensures justice (social, economic, and political), liberty (thought, expression, belief, faith, and worship), equality (status and opportunity), and fraternity (national unity and dignity).
- o **Guiding Principle:** Reflects the aspirations and ideals of the people, acting as the moral and philosophical essence of the Constitution.

Components of the Preamble:

•

- o **Source of Authority:** Declares that the Constitution derives its power from the people of India.

- **Nature of the State:** Defines India as a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, and Republic entity.
- **Objectives:** Establishes justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity as the goals.
- **Date of Adoption:** Specifies November 26, 1949, as the date of adoption.
- **Preamble as an Integral Part of the Constitution:**
- - **Berubari Union Case (1960):** Initially ruled that the Preamble is not part of the Constitution but could aid in interpretation.
 - **Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973):** Reversed the earlier view, declaring the Preamble an integral part of the Constitution and pivotal for interpreting its provisions.
 - **LIC of India Case (1995):** Reaffirmed the Preamble's status as part of the Constitution, though not enforceable in courts.

Conclusion:

The inclusion of “socialist” and “secular” in the Preamble underscores India’s commitment to justice, equality, and inclusivity. While challenges persist, these principles remain pivotal in guiding India’s democratic journey. Strengthening their practical implementation will uphold the vision of the Constitution.

Production Linked Incentive Scheme

India's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, launched in 2020, aims to transform the country's manufacturing sector into a global hub by encouraging investments, innovation, and self-reliance.

What is the PLI Scheme?

The PLI Scheme incentivizes companies (domestic and foreign) to manufacture in India by offering financial rewards based on incremental production and revenue over five years. Initially targeting three industries, it was later expanded to 14 critical sectors to drive import substitution, employment generation, and high-tech industrial development.

Features and Sectors Covered

1. Features:

- Performance-driven financial incentives.
- Promotes advanced technologies and economies of scale.
- Focus on self-reliance and boosting exports.
- Encourages job creation and import substitution.

2. Sectors Covered:

- Large-scale electronics manufacturing (LSEM).
- Pharmaceuticals and medical devices.
- Automobiles and auto components.
- Telecom and networking products.
- Renewable energy and [solar PV modules](#).
- Advanced chemistry cell (ACC) batteries.
- White goods, drones, textiles, food products, and specialty steel.

Budget Outlay:

- Total allocation: ₹1.97 lakh crore (~\$24 billion).
- Strategic funding across 14 sectors to enhance domestic manufacturing, exports, and technological development.

Achievements and Impact:

1. Overall Impact:

- ₹1.46 lakh crore investments realized by August 2024.
- ₹12.50 lakh crore production generated.
- ₹4 lakh crore exports and 9.5 lakh jobs created.

2. Sector-Specific Achievements:

- **Electronics:** Transition from a net importer to a net exporter of mobile phones. Production grew to 33 crore units (2023-24), with exports reaching 5 crore units.
- **Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices:** India became the 3rd largest producer by volume, exporting 50% of production and reducing import dependency on bulk drugs.
- **Automotive:** Attracted \$8 billion in investments and boosted production of high-tech automotive components.
- **Renewable Energy:** Solar PV module production expanded with 65 GW manufacturing capacity under the second tranche.
- **Telecom:** Achieved 60% import substitution and became a major exporter of 4G and 5G equipment.
- **Drones:** Sector witnessed seven-fold growth, driven by MSMEs and start-ups.

Challenges:

1. **Limited Value Addition:** Over-reliance on assembly rather than end-to-end manufacturing.
2. **WTO Constraints:** Rules limit tying incentives to domestic value addition.
3. **Ambiguity in Disbursal:** Lack of standardized parameters for fund allocation.
4. **Data Gaps:** Absence of centralized databases for tracking outcomes.
5. **Complex Supply Chains:** Difficulty in developing high-tech industries like semiconductor manufacturing.

Way Ahead:

1. **Policy Evaluation:** Assess cost per job, production outcomes, and export growth.
2. **Transparent Incentives:** Standardize criteria for fund disbursal and maintain accountability.
3. **Strengthening Value Addition:** Focus on entire supply chains to deepen domestic manufacturing.
4. **Database Development:** Create centralized systems for tracking investments, jobs, and exports.
5. **Expand Sectors:** Target emerging industries like green hydrogen, semiconductors, and AI.

Conclusion:

The PLI Scheme has significantly bolstered India's manufacturing capabilities, attracting investments, increasing production, and fostering innovation. Addressing challenges and building a robust ecosystem will ensure sustained growth and secure India's position as a global manufacturing powerhouse.

National Mission on Natural Farming

The Union Cabinet, approved the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF), promoting sustainable, chemical-free farming to improve soil health, cut input costs, and ensure nutritious food.

About National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF):

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
- **Central Sponsored Scheme:** Total outlay of ₹2481 crore (GoI share ₹1584 crore; State share ₹897 crore) till FY 2025-26.
- **Aim:** To promote natural, [chemical-free farming](#) practices for sustainability, climate resilience, soil health rejuvenation, and nutritious food production.
- **Key Features:**
 - Implementation in **15,000 clusters** across Gram Panchayats, covering **5 lakh Ha** and reaching **1 crore farmers**.
 - Establishment of **10,000 Bio-input Resource Centres (BRCs)** and **2000 NF Model Demonstration Farms** at KVKs, Agricultural Universities, and farmers' fields.
 - Training of **75 lakh farmers** and deployment of **30,000 Krishi Sakhis/CRPs** for mobilisation and handholding support.
 - Certification system and common branding for marketing NF produce.
 - Real-time geo-tagged monitoring via an online portal.

One Nation One Subscription

The Union Cabinet has approved the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) scheme to provide universal access to international scholarly research articles and journals.

- This initiative aligns with the vision of [Atmanirbhar Bharat](#) and **Viksit Bharat@2047**, fostering a robust research and development culture in India.

About One Nation One Subscription (ONOS):

- **Ministry:** Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.
- **Central Sector Scheme:** ₹6,000 crore allocated for 2025–2027.
- **Aim:** To provide access to top-quality international research journals to government higher education institutions (HEIs) and central government R&D institutions.
- **Key Features:**
 - Coverage of **30 major international publishers** and nearly **13,000 e-journals**.
 - Access for **6,300 government HEIs and R&D institutions** benefiting **8 crore students, faculty, and researchers**.
 - Entirely **digital process** coordinated by **INFLIBNET** under UGC.
 - Promotes interdisciplinary and core research, especially in **tier-2 and tier-3 cities**.
 - Aligned with **NEP 2020** and supported by [Anusandhan National Research Foundation \(ANRF\)](#).

Gelephu Mindfulness City

Bhutan's PM Tshering Tobgay highlighted the Gelephu Mindfulness City as a major "Zero Carbon" project, thanking India for supporting its development as a sustainable, cooperative initiative.

About Gelephu Mindfulness City:

- **Vision:** To create a sustainable, zero-carbon city promoting harmony, sustainability, and Bhutan's Gross National Happiness philosophy.
- **Origin:** Envisioned by **King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck** to improve Bhutanese lives and build a global model for sustainable living.
- **India's Role:** Strategic collaboration with India for investment and infrastructure, strengthening India-Bhutan ties; viewed as a cooperative project benefiting both nations.
- **Key Features:**
 - Spread over **2,500 sq. km**, comprising 2.5% of Bhutan's landmass.
 - Includes protected national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and renewable energy facilities generating 4,000-5,000 MW.
 - Self-governed **Special Administrative Region (SAR)** with independent judiciary and lawmaking powers.
 - **Mandala-style neighbourhoods** connected by inhabitable bridges over 35 rivers and streams.
 - Infrastructure for hydroelectric power, hydroponic farming, spiritual centers, markets, and healthcare (both traditional and modern).
 - Designed as a **low-rise, eco-friendly city** prioritizing personal well-being and environmental sustainability.

