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Q5(b)

Objective Resolution of the Constituent Assembly.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · PSIR GS 1 · 10 marks · Indian Nationalism

Indian Nationalism: Political Strategies of India's Freedom Struggle; Perspectives on Indian National Movement; Gandhi, Tagore, Nehru, Ambedkar, and the socialists.

Core demand of the question

- State what the Objective Resolution was (10 marks)
- Name **Nehru**, the date, and its main aims
- Show how it shaped the **Preamble** and later constitutional identity
- Keep the note historical and precise

Revision summary

The Objective Resolution, moved by **Nehru** on **13 December 1946**, stated the aims of the Constitution before detailed drafting.

It promised a sovereign republic, popular sovereignty, justice, equality, freedom, and **safeguards** for minorities, tribes, and depressed classes.

The **Preamble** is its condensed public form.

Parts III and IV give the aims legal and programmatic shape.

Kesavananda used the **Preamble** as a guide to what Parliament may not destroy.

Introduction

The Objective Resolution was the Constituent Assembly's statement of purpose for the Constitution. **Jawaharlal Nehru** moved it on **13 December 1946**. It named sovereignty, republic, justice, equality, and **safeguards** for minorities before the detailed drafting began.

Body

Content

The Resolution declared India an independent sovereign republic. Power would be derived from the people. The Constitution would guarantee justice - social, economic, and political - equality of status and opportunity, and freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship, vocation, association, and action, subject to law and public morality. Minorities, backward and tribal areas, and depressed classes would have adequate **safeguards**. The integrity of the territory and the just rights of the people on land were affirmed. Relations with the world would rest on peace and the honour of India.

Constitutional afterlife

The **Preamble**'s language of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity is the Resolution's child. **Ambedkar** and the **Drafting Committee** translated aims into Parts III and IV. Later, **Kesavananda Bharati** treated the **Preamble** as a guide to basic structure. The Resolution

was not itself law. It was the political theory of the founding: popular sovereignty, a social as well as political republic, and minority protection as part of nationhood rather than as an afterthought.

Flow diagram

Objective Resolution 1946 -> Nehru
Objective Resolution 1946 -> Preamble
Objective Resolution 1946 -> Parts III and IV
Preamble -> Basic structure guidance

Conclusion

- **Nehru's Objective Resolution set the aims of the Indian Constitution:** a sovereign republic, justice in three dimensions, liberty, equality, and **safeguards** for the vulnerable. The **Preamble** and the later basic-structure cases still speak in that register.

Facts & figures

13 December 1946

Nehru moved the Objective Resolution in the Constituent Assembly; it was adopted in January 1947.

Preamble

Justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity in the Preamble follow the Resolution's aims, later adding socialist, secular, and integrity by amendment.

Safeguards

The Resolution expressly included minorities, tribal areas, and depressed classes, which shaped reservation and cultural-rights debates.