

**Bill No. XIX of 2020**

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020

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BILL

*further to amend the Constitution of India.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-first Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

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|----|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1  | <p><b>1.</b> (1) This Act may be called The Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2020.</p> <p>(2) It shall come into force with immediate effect.</p>  | <p>Short title and commencement.</p> |
| 5  | <p><b>2.</b> In the Preamble to the Constitution, after the words "EQUALITY of status and of opportunity," the words "PEACE through the practice of <i>Ahimsa</i>;" shall be inserted.</p>  | <p>Amendment of the Preamble.</p>    |
| 10 | <p><b>3.</b> In article 51A of the Constitution, after clause (k), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—</p> <p>"(l) to promote, imbibe and defend the principles of <i>ahimsa</i> in daily life and to foster an outlook of compassion, forgiveness and gratitude towards all living beings."</p> | <p>Amendment of article 51A.</p>     |

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In the attempt to forge India into a modern nation, many significant transformations are being implemented by the State in all areas of life. However, in pursuit of noble developmental goals, a nation cannot ignore its legacy and political heritage.

2. The Gandhian principle of *ahimsa* immensely influenced the direction of India's freedom struggle. Although the generic translation of the term implies 'a refusal to do harm', Mahatma Gandhi utilised the term to denote the largest love and the greatest charity. As Mahatma Gandhi regarded poverty and social injustice to be the greatest forms of violence, the inclusion of *ahimsa* would also motivate this nation and its constituents to tackle the removal of these evils on a priority basis.

3. In light of recent advocacy for the inclusion of Gandhian principles into the Indian constitutional framework, this Bill seeks to place *ahimsa* in the 'Preamble' as well as within the 'Fundamental Duties' provision of the Constitution.

4. The Preamble has been recognised as a component of the basic structure of the Indian Constitution and is also seen as a representation of its spirit. Hence, this Bill seeks to imbed *ahimsa* deep into the functioning of the State. Further, by incorporating it as a part of the fundamental duties of every citizen of India, this Bill seeks to make *ahimsa* a guiding principle in the lives of future generations of Indians.

5. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objects.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK

ANNEXURE

EXTRACTS FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, 1950

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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.

\* \* \* \*

**51A.** It shall be the duty of every citizen of India—

(a) to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;

(b) to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;

(c) to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;

(d) to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;

(e) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;

(f) to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;

(g) to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures;

(h) to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;

(i) to safeguard public property and to abjure violence;

(j) to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement;

(k) who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years.

\* \* \* \*

Preamble.

Fundamental duties.

RAJYA SABHA

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*(Dr. Amar Patnaik, M.P.)*