

Our Rights and Duties

Every country has a set of rules according to which the government governs the country. This set of rules is called constitution. Our country also has a constitution. The Constitution of India is the longest-written constitution in the world. It came into effect on 26 January 1950 and India became a republic. Since then, this day is celebrated as our Republic Day.



Dr B R Ambedkar was the architect of the Constitution of India.

Fundamental Rights

Our Constitution gives every citizen some basic rights. These are called Fundamental Rights. These rights are for the well-being of the citizens. We can move court to protect these rights, if they are denied. There are six Fundamental Rights. They are:

Right to equality

The right to equality means that all citizens are equal before the law. All citizens irrespective of their religion, caste, race, sex and place of birth, are treated as equals.



Right to freedom

The right to freedom allows all citizens to

- Speak freely,
- Choose any occupation, and
- Reside and travel anywhere within the country. It also provides for free and compulsory education for all children between six and 14 years of age.

Right against exploitation

Exploitation means to treat someone unfairly in order to get some benefit. The right against exploitation ensures that poor people are not made to work without pay. This right also does not allow children below 14 years of age to be employed.

Right to freedom of religion

The right to freedom of religion means that all people are free to follow any religion.

Cultural and educational rights

Groups of people who are less in number are called minorities. This right protects the minorities. It allows them to develop and preserve their culture.

Right to constitutional remedies

The right to constitutional remedies allows every citizen to move court if any of their rights are denied.

Fundamental Duties

The Constitution of India expects the citizens to perform certain duties towards the country. Such duties are called Fundamental Duties. Some of them are:

- We must abide by the Constitution.
- We must show respect to the national flag and the national anthem.
- We must take care of the environment.
- We must take care of public property.
- We must preserve our cultural heritage.
- Parents or guardians must send their children to school.

Directive Principles

Our Constitution lists some guidelines for the government to ensure the welfare of the people. These are called Directive Principles. The Constitution asks the government to ensure that

- People have proper living conditions.
- Every child goes to school.
- Every person gets proper treatment when she/he is sick.

Tips:

The Directive Principles listed in our Constitution were adopted from the Constitution of Ireland.



Keeping our surroundings clean is our Fundamental Duty.