

What are Fundamental Rights?

Fundamental rights are the basic human rights enshrined in the Constitution of India which are guaranteed to all citizens. They are applied without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, etc. Significantly, fundamental rights are enforceable by the courts, subject to certain conditions. Articles 12-35 (Part III) of the Indian Constitution guarantee fundamental rights to all citizens, ensuring equality, freedom, dignity, and protection against exploitation. These six justiciable rights—Equality, Freedom, Against Exploitation, Freedom of Religion, Cultural/Educational, and Constitutional Remedies, are enforceable by courts, specifically the Supreme Court under Article 32, if violated.

	E F E	For	C&EdR	CoRem
	Right to Equality		(Article 14-18)	+4
	Right to Freedom		(Article 19-22)	+3
	Right against Exploitation		Article 23-24	+1
	Right to Freedom of Religion		Article 25-28	+3
	Cultural and Educational Rights		Article 29-30	+1
	Right to Constitutional Remedies		Article 32	0

Key Fundamental Rights for Citizens (Part III: Articles 12-35)

- **Definition & Application (Articles 12-13):** Defines "State" and establishes that laws inconsistent with these rights are void.
- **Right to Equality (Articles 14-18):** Ensures equality before law, prohibits discrimination (religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth), guarantees equality of opportunity in public employment, and abolishes untouchability and titles.
- **Right to Freedom (Articles 19-22):** Protects freedoms of speech, assembly, association, movement, residence, and profession. It also includes protection regarding conviction for offenses (Art. 20), protection of life and personal liberty (Art. 21), and protection against arrest/detention (Art. 22).
- **Right against Exploitation (Articles 23-24):** Prohibits human trafficking, forced labor (begar), and employment of children in hazardous factories.
- **Right to Freedom of Religion (Articles 25-28):** Guarantees freedom of conscience, profession, practice, and propagation of religion, and the right to manage religious affairs.
- **Cultural and Educational Rights (Articles 29-30):** Protects the rights of minorities to conserve their language, script, or culture, and to establish and administer educational institutions.
- **Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32):** Empowers citizens to move the Supreme Court for the enforcement of these rights, often described as the "heart and soul" of the Constitution.