

Fundamental Rights

Fundamental Rights (Fundamental Rights) are privileges that are essential privileges extended to all individuals in a State. The origin of the concept of Fundamental Rights is assisted by the drafting of the Magna Carta in England in 1215. It was laid down that there were certain rights of the subjects which could not be violated even by a legal sovereign. Further, it was through the French Revolution (1789) and the United States' struggle for freedom (1776) that nations of the world seriously thought of giving some basic rights to their people. In India, Congress adopted a resolution in its Karachi session in March 1931 on Fundamental Rights.

The Fundamental Rights in the Indian Constitution are inspired by the American Bill of Rights which were included in the US Constitution by the first ten amendments. They are provided in Part III of the Constitution under Articles 12-35.

Fundamental rights are a very important topic for the UPSC Exam under the polity segment.

Fundamental Rights Articles

1. Right to Equality (Article 14-18)
2. Right to Freedom (Article 19-22)
3. Right against Exploitation (Article 23-24)
4. Right to Freedom of Religion (Article 25-28)
5. Cultural and Educational Rights (Article 29-30)

6. Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32)

The main objective of the inclusion of Fundamental Rights in the Constitution is to establish 'a government of law and not of man'. The importance of Fundamental Rights was emphasized by

Justice Bhagwati in the *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India* case in the following words:

"Fundamental Rights represent the basic values cherished by the people of this country since the Vedic times and they are calculated to protect the dignity of the individual and create conditions in which every human being can develop his personality to the fullest extent."

Features of Fundamental Rights • Fundamental Rights are protected and guaranteed by the Indian Constitution.

- The Fundamental Rights are regarded as limitations on the powers of the State. The Parliament can curtail Fundamental Rights or put reasonable restrictions on them for a fixed period of time.

However, the court has the power to review the reasonability of the restrictions.