

# Freedom of Speech and Expression in Indian Constitution

Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution guarantees to all citizens the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression. This right allows individuals to freely express their opinions, convictions, and views through word of mouth, writing, printing, pictures, or any other mode, including the freedom of the press. [1, 2, 3, 4]

Key Aspects of Article 19(1)(a):

Definition: It ensures the freedom to express opinions and views, crucial for a democratic society.

Scope: The Supreme Court has broadly interpreted this to include the right to propagate one's own views, freedom of silence, freedom of the press, and the right to information.

Right to Know: Includes the right to access information about government activities.

Commercial Speech: While it includes commercial advertisements, they can be regulated if misleading.

Limitations: This right is not absolute and is subject to

"reasonable restrictions" under Article 19(2). [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

Restrictions under Article 19(2): The State can impose reasonable restrictions on the exercise of this right in the interest of:

Sovereignty and integrity of India

Security of the State

Friendly relations with foreign States

Public order, decency, or morality

Contempt of court

Defamation

Incitement to an offense [4, 6]

These restrictions are designed to balance individual liberty with public interest. [7]

AI responses may include mistakes.

[1] <http://student.manupatra.com/Academic/Abk/Constitutional-Law-of-India/CHAPTER-8.htm>

[2] <https://www.constitutionofindia.net/articles/article-19-protection-of-certain-rights-regarding-freedom-of-speech-etc/>

[3] <https://byjus.com/free-ias-prep/freedom-of-speech/>

[4] <https://www.nextias.com/blog/right-to-freedom/>

[5] <https://ijcrt.org/papers/IJCRT1705091.pdf>

[6] <https://testbook.com/ias-preparation/freedom-of-speech-article-19-1-a>

[7] <https://www.mcrhrdi.gov.in/91fc/coursematerial/pcci/Part3.pdf>