

THE FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES OF CITIZENS OF INDIA

The fundamental duties of citizens were added to the constitution by the 42nd Amendment in 1976 under Article 51A part 4A, upon the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee. Initially while drafting the Constitution of India fundamental duties were not part of Constitution of India. The fundamental duties were inspired by constitution of USSR (now Russia).

Originally ten in number, the fundamental duties were increased to eleven by the 86th Amendment in 2002, which added a duty on every parent or guardian to ensure that their child or ward was provided opportunities for education between the ages of six and fourteen years. The other fundamental duties obligate all citizens to respect the national symbols of India, including the constitution, to cherish its heritage, preserve its composite culture and assist in its defence. They also obligate all Indians to promote the spirit of common brotherhood, protect the environment and public property, develop scientific temper, abjure violence, and strive towards excellence in all spheres of life. The violation of fundamental duties is not punishable offense unless it is backed by Legislative enactments like Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, Forest Act, Environment Act, Pollution Act and others. Supreme court has ruled that these fundamental duties can also help the court to decide the constitutionality of a law passed by the legislature. There is reference to such duties in international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The fundamental duties noted in the constitution are as follows:

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, wildlife 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 to fourteen years. The duty was included in the list of fundamental duties by 86th Amendment to the constitution of India in the year 2002.**