

Article 19 of the Constitution of India guarantees six fundamental freedoms to its citizens, including students, which are essential for personal development and the functioning of a democracy. These rights are not absolute and are subject to "reasonable restrictions" under clauses (2) to (6) of Article 19, which the state may impose to protect national interests and social order.

### Key Freedoms for Students Under Article 19(1)

**Speech and Expression [19(1)(a)]:** Students have the right to express their views, opinions, and beliefs through speech, writing, printing, or, as affirmed by the Supreme Court, through artistic, cinematic, and social media platforms. This also includes the right to remain silent, as established in the *Bijoe Emmanuel v. State of Kerala* (1986) case, where students were not forced to sing the national anthem.  
**Peaceful Assembly [19(1)(b)]:** Students can gather for protests, demonstrations, or discussions, provided the assembly is peaceful and unarmed.  
**Forming Associations or Unions [19(1)(c)]:** Students have the right to form, join, or continue to be part of associations, unions, or societies, such as student unions.  
**Freedom of Movement [19(1)(d)]:** Students can move freely throughout the territory of India.  
**Freedom of Residence [19(1)(e)]:** Students have the right to reside and settle in any part of India.  
**Practice Profession/Occupation [19(1)(g)]:** Students have the right to pursue any occupation, trade, or business, which includes the right to education.

### Reasonable Restrictions [Article 19(2) - 19(6)]

The state can impose reasonable restrictions on these freedoms on specific grounds, including:

Sovereignty and integrity of India. Security of the State. Public order, decency, or morality. Contempt of court, defamation, or incitement to an offence.

### Important Judicial Interpretations

**Right to Information:** Recognized as a part of the freedom of speech and expression, enabling students to know about government actions.  
**Internet Access:** The Supreme Court in *Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India* (2020) acknowledged that the internet is an important tool for exercising fundamental rights.  
**Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015):** The Supreme Court struck down Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, reinforcing the freedom of speech and expression on social media and the internet.  
**Protests:** While the right to peaceful protest is protected, it must be balanced with the rights of the public, and indefinite occupation of public spaces is not allowed, as noted in the *Shaheen Bagh* judgment.  
**Strikes:** The Supreme Court has held that employees (including, by extension, in some contexts, educational staff) do not have a fundamental right to strike.