

Indian Constitution & Law – Comprehensive Guide

Indian Constitution & Law — Complete Overview

This document explains the Indian Constitution in simple terms and provides a detailed overview of major legal provisions, including important IPC (Indian Penal Code) sections.

1. The Indian Constitution — Introduction

The Constitution of India is the supreme law of the country. It defines political principles, establishes government institutions, and sets out fundamental rights and duties of citizens.

- Adopted: 26 November 1949
- Enforced: 26 January 1950 (Republic Day)
- World's longest written constitution
- Contains 25 Parts, 12 Schedules, 448 Articles

Important Constitutional Features

- Federal structure with unitary features
- Parliamentary form of government
- Independent judiciary
- Fundamental Rights
- Directive Principles of State Policy
- Secular state
- Single citizenship

2. Fundamental Rights (Part III)

Fundamental Rights protect citizens from arbitrary state actions.

- Article 14 – Right to Equality
- Article 15 – Prohibition of discrimination

- Article 19 – Freedom of speech & expression
- Article 21 – Right to life & personal liberty
- Article 22 – Protection against arrest & detention
- Article 25 – Freedom of religion

3. Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV)

These are guidelines for the government to establish a welfare state.

Examples:

- Equal pay for equal work
- Prevention of child abuse
- Promotion of education
- Public health improvement

4. Fundamental Duties (Part IVA)

Citizens must respect national symbols, preserve culture, protect the environment, and uphold the Constitution.

5. Structure of Government

Union Government (Part V)

- President
- Vice President
- Prime Minister & Council of Ministers
- Parliament (Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha)

State Government (Part VI)

- Governor
- Chief Minister & Ministers
- State Legislature

Judiciary (Part V Chapter IV)

- Supreme Court
- High Courts
- District Courts

6. Indian Penal Code (IPC) — Major Sections

IPC defines crimes and punishments in India.

Crimes Against Body:

- Sec 299–304: Culpable homicide / Murder
- Sec 319–326: Hurt / Grievous hurt
- Sec 354: Assault on woman's modesty
- Sec 375–376: Rape

Crimes Against Property:

- Sec 378: Theft
- Sec 379: Punishment for theft
- Sec 390–395: Robbery / Dacoity
- Sec 406–420: Cheating & breach of trust

Other IPC Sections:

- Sec 498A: Cruelty by husband/relatives
- Sec 506: Criminal intimidation
- Sec 509: Word/gesture insulting modesty of woman
- Sec 499–500: Defamation

7. POCSO Act (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences), 2012

A special act to protect children (below 18 years) from sexual abuse.

Key Sections:

- Sec 3: Penetrative sexual assault

- Sec 4: Punishment for penetrative sexual assault
- Sec 5 & 6: Aggravated assault and punishment
- Sec 7 & 8: Sexual assault and punishment
- Sec 9 & 10: Aggravated sexual assault
- Sec 19: Mandatory reporting
- Sec 21: Punishment for failure to report

Relationship with IPC:

- POCSO overrides IPC for child-related sexual offences
- IPC 376, 354, 363, 506 often added with POCSO

8. Criminal Procedure (CrPC) — Key Steps

- FIR (Sec 154)
- Arrest procedure (Sec 41)
- Bail (Sec 436–439)
- Recording of statement (Sec 161, 164)
- Charge sheet filing (Sec 173)
- Trial & judgement

9. Important Constitutional Articles (Quick Summary)

- Article 32 – Right to constitutional remedies
- Article 370 – Special status of J&K; (removed in 2019)
- Article 368 – Amendment procedure
- Article 280 – Finance Commission
- Article 356 – President's rule

10. Purpose of This Document

This PDF is for educational and awareness purposes. It is not legal advice.