

# **Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)**

Court: Supreme Court of India

Citation: AIR 1978 SC 597; (1978) 1 SCC 248

Dataset Tag: How much power does Article 21 give to Indian citizens?

## **Facts:**

The government impounded Maneka Gandhi's passport without reason. She challenged the order as violative of her right to life and personal liberty under Article 21.

## **Issues:**

Whether 'procedure established by law' in Article 21 must be just, fair and reasonable.

## **Holding:**

The Court held that any law depriving life or personal liberty must satisfy the test of reasonableness under Articles 14, 19, and 21, vastly expanding Article 21's scope.

## **Significance:**

Landmark decision ushering in the 'golden triangle' of Articles 14, 19 & 21 and progressive interpretation of fundamental rights.