

Indian Polity

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Indian Polity



Chapter - 1 Introduction

The Constitution of India is the supreme law of India. It lays down the framework defining fundamental political principles, establishes the structure, procedures, powers and duties of government institutions and sets out fundamental rights, directive principles and the duties of citizens. Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar is widely regarded as the architect of the Indian Constitution. The Constitution follows parliamentary system of government and the executive is directly accountable to the legislature. The Constitution of India is federal in nature. Each state and each Union territory of India has its own government. Analogues to President and Prime Minister, each state has a Governor (in case of states) or Lieutenant Governor (in the case of Union territories) and a Chief Minister. The 73rd and 74th Amendment Act also introduced the system of Panchayati Raj in rural areas and Municipality in urban areas. Also, Article 370 of the Constitution gives special status to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Note: The idea to have Indian Constitution was given by *M N Roy*.

Definition: Constitution is the system of beliefs and laws by which a country, state, or organization is governed.

Structure

The Constitution in its current form consists of a Preamble, 25 parts containing 448 articles, 12 schedules, 5 appendices and 99 amendments till date. At the time of commencement, the constitution had 395 articles in 22 parts and 8 schedules. It consists of almost 80,000 words and it took 2 years 11 months and 18 days to build. The Indian Constitution is worlds longest constitution.

1. Parts - The individual Articles of the Constitution are grouped together into the following Parts:

- Preamble
- Part I - Union and its Territory
- Part II - Citizenship.
- Part III - Fundamental Rights.
- Part IV - Directive Principles of State Policy.
- Part IVA - Fundamental Duties.
- Part V- The Union.
- Part VI - The States.
- Part VII - States in the B part of the First schedule (*Repealed*).
- Part VIII - The Union Territories
- Part IX - The Panchayats.
- Part IXA - The Municipalities.
- Part IXB - The Co-operative Societies.
- Part X - The scheduled and Tribal Areas
- Part XII - Finance, Property, Contracts and Suits
- Part XIII - Trade and Commerce within the territory of India
- Part XIV - Services Under the Union, the States.
- Part XIVA - Tribunals.
- Part XV - Elections
- Part XVI - Special Provisions Relating to certain Classes.
- Part XVII - Languages
- Part XVIII - Emergency Provisions
- Part XIX - Miscellaneous
- Part XX - Amendment of the Constitution
- Part XXI - Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions
- Part XXII - Short title, date of commencement, Authoritative text in Hindi and Repeals

- Part XI - Relations between the Union and the States.

2. Articles -There are 448 articles in our constitution which will be discussed in subsequent chapters.

3. Schedules- Schedules are lists in the Constitution that categorize and tabulate bureaucratic activity and policy of the Government.They are very much part of Constitution though they are kept separate from original text of Constitution.

Sl.No	Schedule No.	Details
1	First Schedule	This lists the names of states and union territories of India, lists any changes to their borders and the laws used to make that change.
2	Second Schedule	This lists the provisions relating to salaries, allowances, privileges of officials holding public office i.e President, Governor, Speaker, Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha and State Legislative assembly, Chairman and Deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha and State legislative Council, Judges of Supreme court and High court, Acting President , Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
3	Third Schedule	Forms of Oaths or Affirmation for union ministers, state ministers, Member of Parliament, MLAs, MLCs, Judges of Supreme Court, High court and Comptroller and Auditor General.

4	Fourth Schedule	This details the allocation of seats in the <i>Rajya Sabha</i> (Council of States upper house of Parliament) per State or per Union Territory.
5	Fifth Schedule	This provides for the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes as per Article 244(1). These areas and tribes need special protection due to disadvantageous conditions.
6	Sixth Schedule	Provisions for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram.
7	Seventh Schedule	Division of power between the Union and the States. As per Article 246 the 3 lists are: List 1 or The union list =100 subjects(Originally 97) Example: Defence Armed forces, war, foreign affairs, Tax on news paper, Railways, Airways, ports, Insurance List 2 or The state list =61 subjects(Originally 66) Example: Public order, prisons, police, High court, Local Government, pilgrimage, law and order, burial grounds, agriculture, toll, tax on profession, water, mines ,etc. List 3 or Concurrent list =52 subjects(Originally 47) Example: Civil law, IPC, Cr PC, marriage, Divorce, adoption, wild life, Drugs, planning, factories, books, printing press, newspaper, electricity, medical and other profession.
8	Eighth Schedule	At the commencement of constitution there were 14 recognised languages currently there are 22 languages recognised by constitution. Recently Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were included by 92nd Amendment Act, 2003.
9		

	Ninth Schedule	Validation of certain Acts and Regulations dealing with land reforms and abolition of Zamindari system. This schedule was added by 1 st Constitutional amendment in 1951.
10	Tenth Schedule	"Anti-defection" provisions for Members of Parliament and Members of the State Legislatures and legislative council, i.e Disqualification of members on the ground of defection. This schedule was added by the 52 nd Amendment Act of 1985 also known as Anti-defection law.
11	Eleventh Schedule	<i>Provisions related to 29 subjects of Panchayat Raj (i.e. rural local self government).</i> This schedule was added by 73 rd Amendment of Act, 1993.
12	Twelfth Schedule	Provisions related to 18 subjects of <i>Municipalities</i> (urban local government).This schedule was added by 74 th Amendment Act, 1993.

4. Amendments - The process of rewriting any part of the constitution is called amendment. Amendments to the Constitution are made by the Parliament, the procedure for which is laid out in Article 368. Indian Constitution has got amended 99 times since 65 years from independence.

Chapter - 3

Making of the Constitution

The major portion of the Indian subcontinent was under British rule from 1857 to 1947. The impact of economic, political and social development during this period helped the gradual rise of the Indian independence movement to gain independence from foreign rule. After the Indian Rebellion of 1857, the direct rule of the British crown was established. When the Constitution of India came into force on 26 January 1950, it repealed the Indian Independence Act. India ceased to be a dominion of the British Crown and became a sovereign democratic republic on 26 November 1949 is also known as National Law Day. The Indian constitution is the world's longest constitution. At the time of commencement, the constitution had 395 articles in 22 parts and 8 schedules. It consists of almost 80,000 words and took 11 sessions over 2 years, 11 months and 18 days to build.

Cabinet Mission plan

The idea of a Constituent Assembly for India was put forward for the first time in 1934 by [M. N. Roy](#), a pioneer of the communist movement in India. It became an official demand of the Indian National Congress in 1935 that was accepted by the British in August 1940. On August 8, 1940, a statement was made by the Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, on the expansion of the Governor-General's Executive Council and the establishment of a War Advisory Council. This offer, also known as the ["August Offer of 1940"](#), included giving full weight to minority opinions and allowing the Indians to form their own constitution.



The Cabinet Mission of 1946 to India aimed to discuss and plan for the transfer of power from the British Government to Indian leadership, providing India with independence and this process was initiated by Clement Attlee, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the mission consisted of **Lord Patrick-Lawrence**, the Secretary of State for India, **Sir Stafford Cripps**, President of the Board of Trade, and **A. V. Alexander**, the First Lord of the Admiralty. The Cabinet Mission on May 16, 1946 provided that the Union Constitution was to be framed by constituent Assembly, the members of the constituent assembly were to be partly elected and partly nominated body. The members of the Constituent Assembly were indirectly elected by the Provincial assemblies by means of a single transferable vote system of proportional representation.

Composition of the Constituent Assembly

The total membership or composition of the Constituent Assembly was 389, out of these 296 seats were to be allotted to British India and 93 seats to princely states. Out of 296 seats allotted to British India, 292 members were to be drawn from the eleven governor province and four from the chief commissioner's province of Delhi, Ajmer-Mewar, Coorg and British Baluchistan. Each province and princely states were to be allotted seats in proportion to their respective population. The members of the Constituent Assembly were indirectly elected by the members of Provincial assemblies by means of a single transferable vote system of proportional representation.

Election to Constituent Assembly

Under the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946, elections were held for the first time for the Constituent Assembly (for 296 seats

allotted to British Indian province) were held in July-August 1946. Congress won 208 seats, Muslim League won 73 seats and independents got the remaining 15 seats. The 93 seats allotted to princely states were not filled as they decided to stay away from Constituent Assembly. After this election, the Muslim League refused to cooperate with the Congress and the political situation deteriorated and Hindu-Muslim riots started.

Working of Constituent Assembly

The members of the Constituent Assembly met for the first time on December 9th, 1946. The first temporary 2-day president of the Constituent Assembly was Dr Sachidananda Sinha. Later, on December 11th, 1946 Dr. Rajendra Prasad and H C Mukherjee were elected as president and vice president of the Constituent Assembly respectively. Sir B N Rau was appointed as the constitutional advisor to Assembly. On December 13th, 1946 Jawaharlal Nehru moved the historic 'Objective Resolution' in the Assembly.



The Constituent Assembly laid down the fundamentals and philosophy of the constitution structure. The Muslim league boycotted the meeting and insisted separate state of Pakistan. The meeting was thus attended by only 211 members.

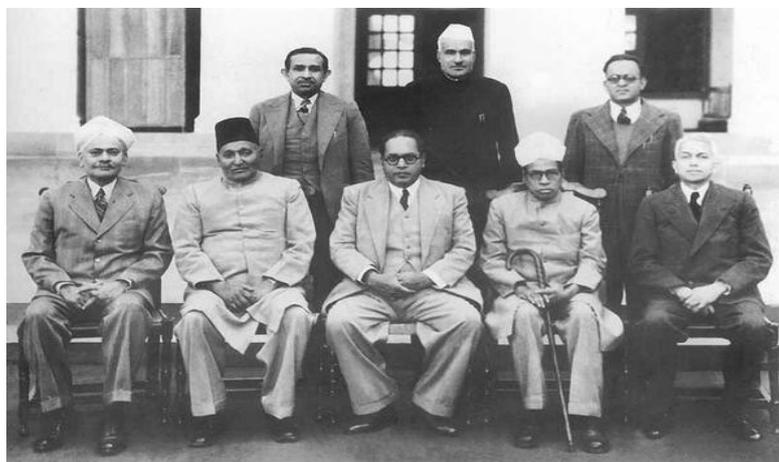
In addition to making of Constitution the constituent assembly performed the following functions:

1. It ratified the India's membership of the Common wealth in May 1949.
2. It adopted national flag on July 22, 1947.
3. It adopted national anthem on January 24, 1950.
4. It adopted the national song on January 24, 1950.
5. The National Emblem of India was decided and it has been taken from the Lion Capital at Sarnath of Ashoka. The Indian Government adopted it on 26th January 1950 when the country became a republic.

6. It elected Dr. Rajendra Prasad as the first President of India on January 24, 1950

On 29 August 1947, the Drafting Committee was appointed, with Dr B. R. Ambedkar as the Chairman along with six other members assisted by a constitutional advisor. It was this committee which shared the responsibility of giving a constitutional document to the country. Its composition was:

Dr B R Ambedkar	Chairman
N Gopalaswami Ayengar	Member
Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer	Member
K M Munshi	Member
Md. Saadullah	Member
Madhav Rao	Member
T T Krishnamachari	Member



The constitutional advisor was Sir Benegal Narsing Rau (who became First Indian Judge in International Court of Justice from 1950-54). A Draft Constitution was prepared by the committee and submitted to the Assembly on 4 November 1947. Draft constitution was debated and over 2000 amendments were moved over a period of two years. Finally on 26 November 1949 the process was completed and

Constituent assembly adopted the constitution. The last meeting of the Constituent Assembly held on 24th January 1950 where 284 members signed the document and the process of constitution making was complete. Approximately 6.4 crore expenditure was incurred for preparing constitution. Dr. B R Ambedkar is regarded as Father of the Constitution of India He is also known as Chief architect of the Constitution of India and as 'Modern Manu'.

Indian Constitution: Sources

Sl. No.	Sources	Features Borrowed
1	Govt. of India Act 1935	Administrative details, Federal System, Power of federal judiciary, Public Service Commissions, Governor post, Emergency provisions.
2	United Kingdom	Parliamentary form of government, Single Citizenship, Law making procedure, Bicameral Legislature, Rule of Law, Writs, C & AG office.
3	USA	Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Impeachment of president, Impeachment of Supreme court and High court judges, Independent Judiciary, post of Vice-President, Judicial Review.
4	Ireland	Directive Principles of State Policy, Nomination of Rajya Sabha members, Method of Presidential election.
5	Canada	Federation with strong centre, Residuary powers with centre,

		Appointment of Governors (by centre), Review by Supreme Court
6	Australia	Concurrent list, Freedom of trade.
7	Weimar constitution of Germany	Suspension of Fundamental Rights, Emergency provisions
8	South Africa	Procedure for amendment
9	France	Republic and ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity in Preamble
10	Russia (U.S.S.R.)	Fundamental Duties and ideal of Justice (social, political and economic) in the Preamble



Enactment of Constitution

On 26th November, 1949 Constitution was adopted and it received the assent of the President of the Assembly on that day. Initially the Constitution Contains a Preamble, 395 Articles, 18

Parts and 8 Schedules. The Constitution has undergone 99 amendments in 65 years since its enactment. The Constitution in its current form consists of a Preamble, 25 Parts, 448 Articles and 12 Schedules. Some provisions pertaining to citizenship, elections, provisional parliament came into force on November 26, 1949.

Enforcement of constitution

The constitution came into force on 26th January, 1950. January 26th was specifically chosen as the date of commencement of the constitution because of its historical importance. It was on this day in 1930 that Purna Swaraj day was celebrated (Resolution was passed in Lahore session in December 1929 of INC).

Conclusion

The Constitution of India is called as bag of borrowed constitution because various aspects of many countries are borrowed.

Chapter - 13

Union Judiciary

Part V

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA



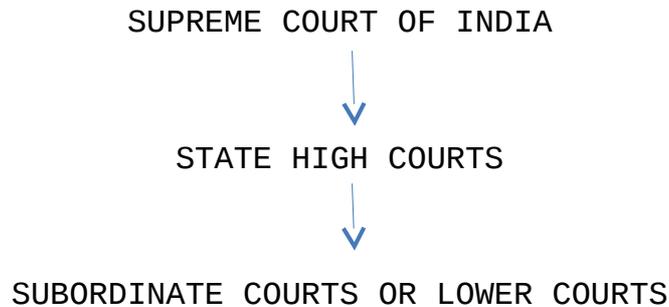
The Supreme Court is the highest judicial authority /court of India which was inaugurated on **January 28th 1950**. Article 124 to 147 in Part V of Constitution deal with Supreme Court. It is at the apex of the Indian judicial system. In the previous two lessons, you have learnt that the Union legislature, which is known as Parliament, **makes laws** for the whole country in respect of the Union and the Concurrent Lists and the executive comprising the President, Council of Ministers and bureaucracy **enforces law**. Judiciary, the third organ of the government, has an equally important role to play. It settles the disputes, **interprets laws**, protects fundamental rights and acts as guardian of the Constitution.

We will learn that India has a **single unified independent integrated judicial system** and that the Supreme Court is the highest court in India. H J Kania was first Chief Justice of India and H L Dattu is present Chief Justice of India and Yeshwanth Vishnu Chandrachud was longest serving Chief Justice of India.

Single Unified and Integrated Judicial System

As per the Salient Features of the Indian Constitution that the distinct feature of our judiciary is that it is a single unified

integrated judicial system for the whole country. A single judiciary represents a hierarchy of courts. The Supreme Court stands at the top of this single integrated judicial system with High Courts at the State level. Below the High Courts, there are several subordinate courts such as the District Courts which deal with civil cases and the Session Courts which decide criminal cases.



Appointment of Judges

The judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High court in the states as the President may deem necessary for the purpose. Normally, the senior most judge of the Supreme Court is appointed as the Chief Justice of India. While appointing other judges, the President is bound to consult the Chief Justice and other senior judges, if he deems proper. A person appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court has to take oath before the President or some person appointed by him for this purpose. At present *Collegium system of judge's appointment is followed.*

Composition

Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice and 30 other judges from 2009. The Parliament has increased the number of judges from time to time.

Qualifications

A person is qualified for appointment as a judge of Supreme court only he/she is a citizen of India and if he/she fulfils one of the following conditions:

- a) he/she has been for at least five years a Judge of as High Court or two / more than two such courts; or
- b) he/she has been for at least ten years an advocate of a High Court or of two or more than two such courts; or

c) he/she is in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.

Tenure

The Chief Justice of India and other judges of the Supreme Court hold office till they attain the age of 65 years. A judge may voluntarily resign before expiry of his term by addressing resignation to the President.

Removal of Judges

In exceptional cases a Supreme Court judge may be removed before the age of retirement, according to the procedure laid down in the Constitution. Thus a judge of the Supreme Court can be removed from office by an order of the President passed after an address by each House of the Parliament supported by a majority of total membership of the House and not less than two-third majority of the members of the House present and voting, passed in the same session and later has to be presented to the President for such removal on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity. So far, proceedings for removal were initiated only in one case against a judge of the Supreme Court. But he/she could not be removed because the resolution could not be passed by the Parliament. It is clear that Supreme Court judges enjoy security of tenure, and the executive cannot arbitrarily remove them.

Salaries and other Allowances

The Salaries, allowances, privileges, leave and pension of the judge of the Supreme Court are determined from time to time by the Parliament. The Chief Justice of India (CJI) is paid Rs.1 lakh per month, apart from allowances and perks, a judge of the Supreme Court and the chief justice of a high court can expect salary of Rs.90,000 per month.

No person who has held office of a judge of the Supreme Court is allowed to plead as an advocate in any court or before any authority within the territory of India. The judges of the Supreme Court are paid such salaries as are determined by the Parliament from time to time.

Acting Chief Justice

When the office of Chief Justice of India is vacant or when the Chief justice is by reason of absence or otherwise unable to perform the duties of his office the duties of the office shall be performed

by such one of the other judges of the Court as the President may appoint.

Ad hoc Judge

When there is lack of Quorum of the permanent judges to hold or continue any session of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of India can appoint a judge of a High Court as an adhoc judge of the Supreme Court for a temporary period. He can do so only after consultation with the chief justice of the High Court concerned and with the prior consent of the President.

Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court

The scope of powers of Supreme Court to hear and decide cases is called its jurisdiction. **The** Supreme Court has following types of jurisdictions namely

1. Original Jurisdiction.
2. Writ Jurisdiction.
3. Appellate Jurisdiction.
4. Advisory Jurisdiction.
5. A court of record
6. Power of judicial review
7. Other powers

Guardian of the Constitution

The Constitution of India is the supreme law of the land and the Supreme Court is its interpreter and guardian. It does not allow the executive or the Parliament to violate any provision of the Constitution. It can also review any action of the Government, which allegedly violates any provision of the Fundamental Rights. This power of the Supreme Court is called Judicial Review. If it finds violation of any provision of the Constitution, it may declare the concerned law as *ultra-vires*, or *null and void*. It is on the basis of this power of Judicial Review of the Supreme Court that it is called guardian of the Constitution. It is also called '**a champion of liberties**' and '**a watchdog of democracy**'.

Public Interest Litigation (PIL)

Earlier, the judiciary, including Supreme Court, entertained litigation only from those parties that were affected directly or indirectly by it. It heard and decided cases only under its original

and appellate jurisdiction. But subsequently, the Court permitted cases on the ground Structure of Government of public interest litigation. It means that even people, who are not directly involved in the case, may bring to the notice of the Court matters of public interest. It is the privilege of the Court to entertain the application for public interest litigation (PIL). The concept of PIL was introduced by Justice P.N. Bhagwati.

PIL is important because justice is now easily available to the poor and the weaker sections of society. The Supreme Court on the basis of letters received from journalists, lawyers and social workers and even on the basis of newspaper reports has taken up a number of matters of public interest.

In case of environmental pollution, the Supreme Court has ordered closure of a few factories near Kanpur, Delhi and other places. With more and more decisions coming from the Supreme Court, the scope of PIL has widened. Now a person can approach the Court through a letter and if the Supreme Court believes that the matter is of public interest, it can consider the letter to be a petition and direct the hearing of the matter so that public interest may be protected. The process of PIL has led to increased judicial activism.

Chapter - 24

Constitutional provision to Environmental protection



The Constitution of India came into force on 26th January, 1950. Originally, the constitution contains no specific provisions for environmental protection. However, certain specific provision have been incorporated by the Constitution (Forty Second Amendment) Act, 1976 and subsequent amendments. Indian Constitution is one of the very few constitutions in the world, which provides for specific provision for the protection and improvement of the Environment.

The constitution, being the fundamental law of the land has a binding force on citizens, non - citizens as well as the State. The Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of the State Policy underline our national commitment to protect and improve the environment. The courts in India have also given a new interpretation to the constitutional provision relating to protection and improvement of the environment (the intended meaning of the environment in the constitution) may be explained with reference to the following head:

1. The Constitution Forty Second Amendment.
2. Federal System of Govt. (Distribution of Legislative Powder).
3. Fundamental Rights.
4. Directive Principles of State Policy; and
5. Fundamental

1. **Forty Second Amendment:** - In 1976, under the leadership of the then Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, the Constitution (Forty Second Amendment) Act was passed and the provisions relating to the protection of environment for the first time were incorporated by adding a new provision Article 48-A in the Chapter, Directive Principles of State Policy.

According to Article 48-A "the State shall Endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country".

Further, a new provision Article 51-A in the form of "Fundamental Duties" was also incorporated by the 42nd Amendment. According to the sub-clause (g) of Art. 51-A, "it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures". The above two provision impose two-fold responsibilities. On the one hand, it gives directive to the State for protection and improvement of environment, and on the other hand it casts/imposes a duty on every citizen to help in the preservation of natural environment.

2. **Federal System of Government** (Distribution of Legislative Power):-

From environmental point of view, allocation of legislative authority is very important. The constitution of India deals exhaustively with legislative powers pertaining to environmental law. The legislative powers under the scheme of the constitution is divided into three lists viz., the Union List or List - I, the State List or List -II, the Concurrent List or List - III. Part - XI (Arts. 245-263) of the constitution provides for the distribution of legislative powers between the union and the states. Article 246 distributes the subjects of legislative power in these three lists between the Centre and the States. The union list contains 100 subjects and the Parliament alone has the power to legislate. The State List contains 61 subjects and the States have power to legislate. However, in respect of Concurrent List, which contains 57 subjects, both the Parliament and the State Legislatures have the power to legislate. There are about 200 Central and State Legislation on environmental protection. The most important

environmental legislation, passed by the parliament under Art. 249 of the Constitution are The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981; and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

3. Fundamental Rights:- Part -III of the Constitution, containing Arts. 12 to 35, deals with fundamental rights. Articles 15(2)(b); Art. 21 and Art. 24 provide for specific provision for environmental protection.

Article 15(2)(b):- According to Art. 15(2)(b), "No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them be subjected to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to: the use of wells, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort, maintained wholly or partly out for state funds or dedicated to the use of general public:. In simple words, Art. 15(2) prohibits discrimination on the ground of sex, race, religion, caste, place of birth etc. to make use of the public places the general public. The public places, which are part and parcel of the **human environment** should be made available to the public. The preamble to our constitution ensures socialistic pattern of the society and decent standard of life, which can be pollution free environment.

Article 21:- According to Article 21 of the constitution, "no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law".

Article 21 is the heart of the fundamental rights and has received expanded meaning from time to time after the decision of the Supreme Court in Maneka Gandhi vs. Union of India, (AIR 1978 SC 597). Art. 21 guarantees a fundamental right to life -a life of dignity to be lived in a proper environment, free of danger of disease and infection.

The Supreme Court treated the letter as writ petition under Art. 32 of the Constitution and directed to stop the excavation (illegal mining) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The respondents contended / argued that the write petition was registered in 1983 and the Environment (Protection) Act was passed in 1986 and hence the criminal proceedings cannot be initiated with retrospective effect. The court rejected the contention of the respondents and held that the provisions of procedural law shall apply to ordinary criminal cases and not to the environmental cases. The court directed the Central and State Governments to take

necessary steps to prevent illegal mining and to re-afforestation in the area of mining.

Article 24: Article 24 of the Constitution speaks about exploitation of child labour. It says that "No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment" this provisions is certainly in the interest of public health and part of the environment. Further, Art. 39 (e) and 39 (f) under Directive Principles of State Policy provide for the protection of the health and strength of children below the age of 14 years.

4. Directive Principles of State Policy:- Part IV of the Constitution, Containing Articles 36 to 51, deals with Directive Principles of State Policy. The directive principles form the fundamental feature and are designed to achieve socio economic goals through Article 48A.

5. Fundamental Duties (51-A):- Art. 51-A was added under the Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act. 1976, which deals with 'Fundamental Duties' under Part IV-A. Art. 51 -A enlists ten fundamental duties designed for restructuring and building a welfare society 'State

Art.51A(g)- Specifically deals with the fundamental duty with respect to environment. It provides "it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life and to have compassion for living creatures. (To put it simply Art. 51-A(g) refers to the fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve 'natural environment).
