

# FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

Part IV-A | Article 51A of the Constitution of India

## Historical Background

Originally, the Constitution of India did not contain the Fundamental Duties. They were added by the **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976**, upon the recommendations of the **Swaran Singh Committee**. In 2002, the **86th Constitutional Amendment Act** added one more duty, making a total of 11.



### Duty 1: Respect the Constitution

To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.



### Duty 2: Cherish Noble Ideals

To cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom.



### Duty 3: Uphold Sovereignty

To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.



### Duty 4: Defend the Country

To defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so.



### Duty 5: Promote Harmony

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.



### **Duty 6: Value Heritage**

To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture.



### **Duty 7: Protect Environment**

To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures.



### **Duty 8: Scientific Temper**

To develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform.



### **Duty 9: Safeguard Public Property**

To safeguard public property and to abjure violence.



### **Duty 10: Strive for Excellence**

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.



### **Duty 11: Duty for Education**

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 and fourteen years (Added by 86th Amendment).

## **Significance of Fundamental Duties**

- They serve as a reminder to citizens that while enjoying rights, they must also be conscious of their duties.
- They serve as a warning against anti-national and anti-social activities.
- They serve as a source of inspiration for citizens and promote a sense of discipline and commitment.
- They help courts in examining and determining the constitutional validity of a law.
- They are non-justiciable but can be enforced by law through Parliament.