



Citizenship

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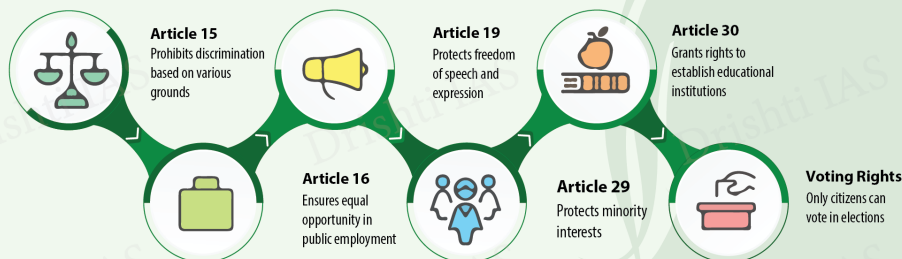
Citizenship is the legal recognition of an individual as a member of a state, granting rights and privileges, and requiring allegiance. In India, it defines who holds these rights and follows citizenship laws.

Constitutional Provisions Related to Citizenship

Articles 5 to 11 of the Indian Constitution deal with citizenship provisions, specifically outlining who became citizens at the commencement of the Constitution (January 26, 1950).



Rights Available Only to Citizens of India



Citizenship Act, 1955

- **Acquisition and Loss:** This Act outlines:
 - Ways to acquire Indian citizenship:
 - Birth
 - Descent
 - Registration
 - Naturalization
 - Incorporation of territory
 - Conditions under which citizenship can be lost:
 - Renunciation
 - Termination
 - Deprivation
- **Amended 6 Times (since 1986):** 1986, 1992, 2003, 2005, 2015, and 2019

Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019:

- ◆ **Eligibility:** Grants citizenship to six communities (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians) from **Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh** who entered India on or before **31st December 2014**.
- ◆ **Exemptions from Legal Punishments:** The Act exempts these communities from prosecution under the **Foreigners Act, 1946** and the **Passport Act, 1920** for illegal entry or overstaying in India, thereby providing them with a pathway to **citizenship without facing legal consequences**.



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