

UPSC Civil Services Examination Political Science & International Relations

Topic-Fundamental Duties in India-Article 51-A

The fundamental duties which were added by the 42nd Amendment of the Constitution in 1976, in addition to creating and promoting culture, also strengthen the hands of the legislature in enforcing these duties vis-a-vis the fundamental rights.

The list of Fundamental Duties under article 51-A to be obeyed by every Indian citizen is given in the table below:

S.NO	11 Fundamental Duties
1	Abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem
2	Cherish and follow the noble ideals that inspired the national struggle for freedom
3	Uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India
4	Defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so
5	Promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women
6	Value and preserve the rich heritage of the country's composite culture
7	Protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures
8	Develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform
9	Safeguard public property and to abjure violence
10	Strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement
11	Provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years. This duty was added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002

The Fundamental Duties form an important topic for IAS Prelims as can be seen from the past year question papers. Aspirants preparing for UPSC 2020 are advised to cover the topic with all facts and figures. The topic once understood can fetch you a great score in prelims and mains both.

Importance of Fundamental Duties- Part IV-A

Fundamental Duties are an inalienable part of right. The importance of these are given in the table below:

S.No	Importance of Fundamental Duties
1	They remind Indian Citizens of their duty towards their society, fellow citizens and the nation
2	They warn citizens against anti-national and anti-social activities
3	They inspire citizens & promote a sense of discipline and commitment among them
4	They help the courts in examining and determining the constitutional validity of a law
5	They are enforceable by law

CRITICISM OF FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

The Fundamental Duties mentioned in Part IVA of the Constitution have been criticized on the following grounds:

- They have been described by the critics as a code of moral precepts due to their non-justiciable character. Their inclusion in the Constitution was described by the critics as superfluous. This is because the duties included in the Constitution as fundamental would be performed by the people even though they were not incorporated into the Constitution.
- Some of the duties are vague, ambiguous and difficult to be understood by the common man.
- The list of duties is not exhaustive as it does not cover other important duties like casting vote, paying taxes, family planning and so on. In fact, duty to pay taxes was recommended by the Swaran Singh Committee.
- The critics said that the inclusion of fundamental duties as an appendage to Part IV of the Constitution has reduced their value and significance. They should have been added after Part III so as to keep them on par with Fundamental Rights.

Facts about Fundamental Duties for UPSC:

- Fundamental Duties are categorized into two- Moral Duty & Civic Duty
 - Moral Duty: cherishing noble ideals of freedom struggle
 - Civic Duty: respecting the Constitution, National Flag and National Anthem
- They essentially contain just a codification of tasks integral to the Indian way of life
- The Fundamental Duties are confined to Indian citizens only and do not extend to foreigners unlike few Fundamental Rights
- They are also non-justiciable similar to Directive Principle of State Policies
- There is no legal sanction against their violation

