

Landmark Indian Supreme Court Judgments

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Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)

Citation: AIR 1973 SC 1461; (1973) 4 SCC 225

Bench: 13-Judge Bench (largest in Indian history)

Held: Parliament can amend any part of the Constitution, including Fundamental Rights, but cannot alter its "basic structure" ??? the doctrine that limits the amending power under Article 368.

Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)

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

Bench: 7-Judge Bench

Held: Expanded Article 21 ??? "procedure established by law" must be fair, just and reasonable, linking Articles 14, 19 and 21 (the "Golden Triangle").

Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan (1997)

Citation: (1997) 6 SCC 241; AIR 1997 SC 3011

Bench: 3-Judge Bench

Held: Laid down the "Vishaka Guidelines" on workplace sexual harassment, later codified in the POSH Act, 2013.

D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal (1997)

Citation: (1997) 1 SCC 416

Bench: Division Bench

Held: Laid down binding guidelines on arrest and custody ??? arrest memo, right to inform a relative/friend, medical examination, and production before a magistrate within 24 hours ??? now substantially reflected in BNSS provisions on arrest.

Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015)

Citation: (2015) 5 SCC 1

Bench: Division Bench

Held: Struck down Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 as unconstitutionally vague and a violation of free speech under Article 19(1)(a).

Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India (2017)

Citation: (2017) 10 SCC 1; AIR 2017 SC 4161

Bench: 9-Judge Bench

Held: Unanimously held that the right to privacy is a Fundamental Right, intrinsic to life and personal liberty under Article 21.

Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018)

Citation: (2018) 10 SCC 1; AIR 2018 SC 4321

Bench: 5-Judge Constitution Bench

Held: Decriminalised consensual same-sex conduct between adults by reading down Section 377 of the (then) Indian Penal Code.

Satender Kumar Antil v. Central Bureau of Investigation (2022)

Citation: 2022 (verify exact SCC/SCC OnLine number on indiankanoon.org before citing)

Bench: Division Bench

Held: Reiterated that "bail is the rule, jail is the exception," laid down categories of offences for bail purposes, and directed release of undertrials who have served a substantial part of their likely sentence.