

AIBE LANDMARK CASES

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

1. Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)

Topic: Basic Structure Doctrine

Key Principle: Parliament can amend the Constitution, but cannot destroy its basic structure.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Basic structure cannot be destroyed by constitutional amendment.

2. Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)

Topic: Article 21 / Fair Procedure

Key Principle: Procedure affecting personal liberty must be fair, just and reasonable.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Articles 14, 19 and 21 are interconnected.

3. Golaknath v. State of Punjab (1967)

Topic: Fundamental Rights & Amendment

Key Principle: The Court held, under the then-prevailing law, that Parliament could not amend Fundamental Rights.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Important case on the history of Parliament's amending power.

4. Minerva Mills v. Union of India (1980)

Topic: Limited Amending Power

Key Principle: The Court protected the balance between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Limited amending power is part of the basic structure.

5. S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994)

Topic: Article 356 / Federalism

Key Principle: The exercise of President's Rule is subject to judicial review.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Federalism is an important constitutional value.

6. Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992)

Topic: Reservation / Article 16

Key Principle: The Court upheld OBC reservation subject to constitutional limitations and the creamy-layer principle.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Reservation and creamy layer are key exam points.

7. I.R. Coelho v. State of Tamil Nadu (2007)

Topic: Ninth Schedule

Key Principle: Ninth Schedule laws are reviewable if they damage the basic structure.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Ninth Schedule immunity is not absolute.

CRIMINAL LAW (IPC / BNS)

8. K.M. Nanavati v. State of Maharashtra (1962)

Topic: Grave & Sudden Provocation

Key Principle: The case is a leading authority on the defence of grave and sudden provocation.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Provocation must be grave and sudden.

9. Virsa Singh v. State of Punjab (1958)

Topic: Murder / Third Clause of Section 300

Key Principle: The Court explained the ingredients for murder under the third clause of Section 300 IPC.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Intention to inflict the particular injury is crucial.

10. Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab (1980)

Topic: Death Penalty

Key Principle: The Court upheld the death penalty subject to the 'rarest of rare' doctrine.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Death penalty is reserved for the rarest of rare cases.

11. Machhi Singh v. State of Punjab (1983)

Topic: Rarest of Rare

Key Principle: The Court elaborated circumstances relevant to the rarest-of-rare test.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Use this case for death-penalty principles.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (CrPC / BNSS)

12. Lalita Kumari v. Government of Uttar Pradesh (2013)

Topic: FIR Registration

Key Principle: Registration of FIR is mandatory when information discloses a cognizable offence, subject to limited preliminary inquiry situations.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Cognizable offence information ordinarily requires FIR registration.

13. Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar (2014)

Topic: Arrest Safeguards

Key Principle: The Court issued safeguards against unnecessary arrests, particularly for offences punishable up to seven years.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Arrest is not automatic merely because an offence is cognizable.

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

Topic: Custodial Safeguards

Key Principle: The Court prescribed safeguards to prevent custodial violence and protect arrested persons.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Memorise the arrest and custody safeguards.

15. Joginder Kumar v. State of U.P. (1994)

Topic: Power to Arrest

Key Principle: The existence of power to arrest is different from justification for exercising it.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Arrest must be justified, not routine.

EVIDENCE / BSA

16. Sharad Birdhichand Sarda v. State of Maharashtra (1984)

Topic: Circumstantial Evidence

Key Principle: The Court laid down the well-known principles governing conviction based on circumstantial evidence.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Circumstances must form a complete chain consistent only with guilt.

17. Pakala Narayana Swami v. Emperor (1939)

Topic: Statements Relating to Death

Key Principle: The case is important for interpreting statements connected with the circumstances of a person's death.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Important for dying-declaration related questions.

18. Kali Ram v. State of Himachal Pradesh (1973)

Topic: Benefit of Doubt

Key Principle: If two reasonable views are possible, the view favourable to the accused should ordinarily be adopted.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Prosecution must prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

19. Anvar P.V. v. P.K. Basheer (2014)

Topic: Electronic Evidence

Key Principle: The Court clarified requirements for admissibility of electronic records under Section 65B of the Evidence Act.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Electronic evidence requires statutory compliance.

CPC

20. Satyadhyan Ghosal v. Deorajin Debi (1960)

Topic: Res Judicata

Key Principle: A matter finally decided between parties cannot ordinarily be reopened in subsequent proceedings.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Res judicata prevents repeated litigation.

21. K.K. Velusamy v. N. Palanisamy (2011)

Topic: Section 151 / Inherent Powers

Key Principle: The Court explained the scope and limits of inherent powers of civil courts.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Inherent powers cannot defeat express statutory provisions.

22. Salem Advocate Bar Association v. Union of India (2005)

Topic: CPC Reforms

Key Principle: The Court considered implementation of procedural reforms and case-management mechanisms.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Important for amended CPC procedures.

FAMILY LAW

23. Shah Bano Begum v. Mohd. Ahmed Khan (1985)

Topic: Maintenance

Key Principle: The Supreme Court recognised the remedy of maintenance under Section 125 CrPC in the circumstances of the case.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Section 125 is a secular maintenance remedy.

24. Sarla Mudgal v. Union of India (1995)

Topic: Conversion & Bigamy

Key Principle: Conversion by a Hindu husband does not by itself dissolve the first marriage for contracting another marriage.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Conversion does not automatically dissolve the first marriage.

25. Danial Latifi v. Union of India (2001)

Topic: Muslim Women's Maintenance

Key Principle: The Court interpreted the Muslim Women Act in a rights-protective manner.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Fair provision and maintenance extend beyond the iddat period under the statutory framework.

CONTRACT / PROPERTY / NI ACT

26. Mohori Bibee v. Dharmodas Ghose (1903)

Topic: Minor's Agreement

Key Principle: An agreement with a minor is void because a minor is not competent to contract.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Minor's agreement is void.

27. Hadley v. Baxendale (1854)

Topic: Remoteness of Damages

Key Principle: The case established principles for determining recoverable contractual damages.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Damages must arise naturally or be within contemplated consequences.

28. Fateh Chand v. Balkishan Das (1963)

Topic: Liquidated Damages / Penalty

Key Principle: The Court explained the approach to compensation where a contract stipulates a sum payable on breach.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Compensation under Section 74 must be reasonable.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

29. A.K. Kraipak v. Union of India (1969)

Topic: Natural Justice

Key Principle: The Court expanded the application of natural justice and emphasised the thin line between administrative and quasi-judicial functions.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Natural justice can apply to administrative decisions.

30. Mohinder Singh Gill v. Chief Election Commissioner (1978)

Topic: Administrative Reasons

Key Principle: An administrative order must ordinarily stand on the reasons contained in the order itself.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Reasons cannot ordinarily be supplemented later.

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION

31. S.P. Gupta v. Union of India (1981)

Topic: PIL / Locus Standi

Key Principle: The Court broadened standing in public interest litigation.

AIBE One-Line Revision: PIL relaxes traditional locus standi in appropriate public causes.

32. Bandhua Mukti Morcha v. Union of India (1984)

Topic: Bonded Labour / PIL

Key Principle: The Court used PIL jurisdiction to protect bonded labourers and enforce fundamental rights.

AIBE One-Line Revision: PIL can address systemic violations affecting disadvantaged groups.

ADR / ARBITRATION

33. Booz Allen & Hamilton Inc. v. SBI Home Finance Ltd. (2011)

Topic: Arbitrability

Key Principle: The Court discussed which disputes are capable of arbitration.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Not every dispute is arbitrable.

34. Perkins Eastman Architects DPC v. HSCC (India) Ltd. (2019)

Topic: Arbitrator Appointment

Key Principle: An interested party cannot have unilateral power to appoint a sole arbitrator.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Unilateral appointment by an interested party is impermissible.

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

35. Ex-Capt. Harish Uppal v. Union of India (2003)

Topic: Lawyers' Strike

Key Principle: The Supreme Court held that lawyers have no right to strike or boycott courts.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Lawyers cannot strike as a matter of right.

36. R.D. Saxena v. Balram Prasad Sharma (2000)

Topic: Client Files / Lien

Key Principle: An advocate cannot retain a client's case files merely to secure unpaid fees.

AIBE One-Line Revision: No lien over client files for unpaid professional fees.

COMPANY LAW

37. Salomon v. A. Salomon & Co. Ltd. (1897)

Topic: Separate Legal Personality

Key Principle: A company has a legal personality separate from its shareholders.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Company is separate from its members.

38. LIC v. Escorts Ltd. (1986)

Topic: Lifting Corporate Veil

Key Principle: The Court discussed circumstances in which the corporate veil may be lifted.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Corporate personality may be disregarded in exceptional cases.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

39. M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (Oleum Gas Leak) (1987)

Topic: Absolute Liability

Key Principle: The Supreme Court evolved absolute liability for hazardous or inherently dangerous activities.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Hazardous enterprises owe an absolute, non-delegable duty.

40. Vellore Citizens' Welfare Forum v. Union of India (1996)

Topic: Precautionary / Polluter Pays

Key Principle: The Court recognised sustainable-development principles including precautionary and polluter-pays principles.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Precautionary principle and polluter pays are key doctrines.

CYBER LAW

41. Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015)

Topic: Section 66A IT Act

Key Principle: Section 66A was struck down for violating freedom of speech.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Section 66A is unconstitutional.

42. K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)

Topic: Digital Privacy

Key Principle: Recognition of privacy as a fundamental right has major implications for informational and digital privacy.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Privacy is a fundamental constitutional right.

LABOUR & INDUSTRIAL LAW

43. Bangalore Water Supply v. A. Rajappa (1978)

Topic: Industry

Key Principle: The Court adopted a broad functional test for determining what constitutes an industry.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Remember the triple-test framework.

44. Workmen of Nilgiri Coop. Marketing Society Ltd. v. State of Tamil Nadu (2004)

Topic: Employer–Employee Relationship

Key Principle: The Court discussed tests relevant to determining an employer-employee relationship.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Control and the factual relationship are important considerations.

TORT / CONSUMER LAW

45. Rylands v. Fletcher (1868)

Topic: Strict Liability

Key Principle: A person who brings and keeps a dangerous thing on land may be liable for resulting damage, subject to exceptions.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Foundation of strict liability.

46. Donoghue v. Stevenson (1932)

Topic: Negligence / Duty of Care

Key Principle: The case established the neighbour principle and is foundational to modern negligence law.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Duty of care is central to negligence.

TAXATION

47. CIT v. B.C. Srinivasa Shetty (1981)

Topic: Capital Gains

Key Principle: The Court considered the relationship between charging and computation provisions where cost of acquisition could not be ascertained.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Charging and computation provisions must operate coherently.

LAND ACQUISITION

48. Indore Development Authority v. Manoharlal (2020)

Topic: Land Acquisition / Section 24

Key Principle: The Constitution Bench interpreted key provisions of the 2013 land acquisition law and issues around lapse.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Important authority on lapse of acquisition proceedings.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

49. Novartis AG v. Union of India (2013)

Topic: Patent / Section 3(d)

Key Principle: The Court interpreted Section 3(d) of the Patents Act and rejected the patent claim in the case.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Section 3(d) addresses evergreening and enhanced therapeutic efficacy.

50. Cadila Health Care Ltd. v. Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (2001)

Topic: Trademark / Passing Off

Key Principle: The Court laid down important factors for deceptive similarity and likelihood of confusion.

AIBE One-Line Revision: Consumer confusion is central to deceptive-similarity analysis.



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