

Indian Polity – Part 34, 35

34] Consumer Rights Notes

Right to Information Act, 2005

- Right to Information (RTI) is an Act of the Parliament of India to provide for setting out the practical regime of the right to information for citizens and replaces the erstwhile Freedom of information Act, 2002.
- Under the provisions of the Act, any citizen of India may request information from a "public authority" which is required to reply expeditiously or within thirty days.
- The Act also requires every public authority to computerize their records for wide dissemination and to proactively certain categories of information so that the citizens need minimum recourse to request for information formally.
 - ✓ Citation Act No. 22 of 2005
 - ✓ Territorial extent Whole of India except Jammu and Kashmir
 - ✓ Enacted by Parliament of India
 - ✓ Date enacted 15-June-2005
 - ✓ Date assented to 22-June-2005
 - ✓ Date commenced 12-October-2005

Consumer Protection Act, 1986

- Consumer Protection Act, 1986 is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted in 1986 to protect the interests of consumers in India.
- An Act to provide for better protection of the interests of consumers and for that purpose to make provision for the establishment of consumer councils and other authorities for the settlement of consumers' disputes and for matters connected there with.

- ✓ Citation Act No. 68 of 1986
- ✓ Enacted by Parliament of India
- ✓ Date commenced 24 December 1986

National Consumers Right Day – 24 December

- National Consumers Right Day was observed across India on 24 December 2013.
- The day is being observed on 24 December, since the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was enacted on this day in 1986.
- The Consumer Protection Act was enacted in 1986 with the objective of providing better protection of consumer's interest.
- Effective safeguards are provided to the consumer, against various types of exploitations and unfair dealings, relying mainly on compensatory rather than a disciplinary or preventive approach under the Act.
- It applies to all goods and services unless specifically exempted, which covers the private, public and cooperative sectors.
- It also provides speedy and inexpensive adjudication.

Consumer Protection Act, 1986

- The rights under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 flow from the rights enshrined in Articles 14 to 19 of the Constitution of India.
- The Right to Information Act (RTI), which has opened up governance processes of our country to the common public, also has far-reaching implications for consumer protection.
- The Act envisages the promotion and protection of following rights for the consumers:
 - ✓ Right to Safety

- ✓ Right to be informed
 - ✓ Right to Choose
 - ✓ Right to be heard
- The World Consumer Rights Day is observed on 15 March.

The Father Of Consumer Advocacy - Ralph Nader

- Ralph Nader (born February 27, 1934) is an American political activist, author, lecturer, and attorney, noted for his involvement in consumer protection, environmentalism and government reform causes.
- International Organization for Standardization
- The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is an international standard-setting body composed of representatives from various national standards organizations.
- Founded on 23 February 1947, the organization promotes worldwide proprietary, industrial and commercial standards. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and works in 162 countries.
- It was one of the first organizations granted general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- The food and agriculture sector started in the year of 1963.

World Health Organization

- The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health.
- It was established on 7 April 1948, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

- The WHO is a member of the United Nations Development Group. Its predecessor, the Health Organization, was an agency of the League of Nations.
- The constitution of the World Health Organization had been signed by 61 countries on 7 April 1948, with the first meeting of the World Health Assembly finishing on 24 July 1948.
- Since its creation, it has played a leading role in the eradication of smallpox. Its current priorities include communicable diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, Ebola, malaria and tuberculosis; the mitigation of the effects of non-communicable diseases such as sexual and reproductive health, development, and aging; nutrition, food security and healthy eating; occupational health; substance abuse; and driving the development of reporting, publications, and networking.
- The WHO is responsible for the World Health Report, the worldwide World Health Survey, and World Health Day.
- The current Director-General of WHO is Tedros Adhanom, who started his five-year term on 1 July 2017.
 - ✓ Formation 7 April 1948;
 - ✓ Type Specialized agency of the United Nations
 - ✓ Headquarters Geneva, Switzerland
 - ✓ Head Tedros Adhanom, Director-General

35] Road Safety Notes

Motor Vehicles Act, 1988

- The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 is an Act of the Parliament of India which regulates all aspects of road transport vehicles.

- The Act came into force from 1 July 1989. It replaced Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 which earlier replaced the first such enactment Motor Vehicles Act, 1914.
- The Act provides in detail the legislative provisions regarding licensing of drivers/conductors, registration of motor vehicles, control of motor vehicles through permits, special provisions relating to state transport undertakings, traffic regulation, insurance, liability, offences and penalties, etc.
- For exercising the legislative provisions of the Act, the Government of India made the Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989.
- The Road safety commission was started in 1986.

Vehicle registration certificate

- A vehicle registration certificate is an official document providing proof of registration of a motor vehicle.
- It is used primarily by governments as a means of ensuring that all road vehicles are on the national vehicle register, but is also used as a form of law enforcement and to facilitate change of ownership when buying and selling a vehicle.

Vehicle Excise Duty

Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) (also known as "vehicle tax", "car tax" or "road tax", and formerly as a "tax disc") is a tax that is levied as an excise duty and which must be paid for most types of vehicles which are to be used (or parked) on public roads.

Motor Vehicles Tax in India

- Motor Vehicles Tax in India is imposed by state governments.

- It is calculated on the basis of various factors including engine capacity, seating capacity, unladen weight and cost price.
- Motor vehicle insurance law in India
- Motor vehicle insurance law in India is governed by the Motor Vehicles Act, Insurance Act and aspects of insurance contracts governed by the Indian Contract Act, Transfer of Property Act and a few others.
- Motor vehicle insurance is the insurance coverage of the risk of third party arising out the use of motor vehicle and also for covering the risk of damage caused to the vehicle.
- Taking insurance policy for coverage of certain risks are made compulsory and coverage for other risks are optional at the instance of the owner.
- Accordingly, motor vehicle insurance policies can be divided into two, namely, compulsory insurance policy (Act policy) and comprehensive policy.

Road Traffic Signs - Signals

Basic Rules of the Road

- The rules enlisted under this category are to be meant for all the people sharing the roads.
- The idea behind formulating such rules is that the roads are meant not only for the drivers (including motorists/cyclists/motorcyclists), but are shared by the pedestrians and animals by the road side.
- The rules belonging to these categories are mandatory to be followed while using the roads.

Traffic Signals

- A traffic light, traffic signal or a stop light is a signaling device positioned at a road intersection to indicate when it is safe to wade through.
- The traffic signal passes on its information using a universal color code.
- Red means stop. Wait behind the stop line. Do not go through the intersection.
- Yellow (amber) means stop. You can enter the intersection if you are so close that sudden braking might cause a crash.
- Green means proceed through the intersection carefully.

Road Signals

Signs form a vital and integral part of the trafficking system for the safety of the road users. As per IRC (Indian Roads Congress) Road Signs are for indications on the road the road signs are categorized into 3 types:

- ✓ Mandatory Signs or Regulatory Signs
- ✓ Cautionary Signs or Warning or Precautionary
- ✓ Informatory Signs

Hand Signals

- Hand Signals or Manual Regulation Signs are the gestures used to regulate traffic on the road using the hand movements.
- Traffic policemen use these actions to Regulate traffic particularly at intersections while the drivers use these signals to Notify the other users on the road about his intentions.
- Based on the person these Can be categorized as:
 - ✓ Hand Signals by Policeman
 - ✓ Hand Signals by Drivers

Road Markings and Pavement Markings

- Road markings or pavement markings were introduced in 1920s. Initially, they were used to indicate the road's centerline.
- But, as they traffic increased, so did the roads and the lanes and later with the multi lane roads they were used to define lanes.
- With the times, they too have evolved a lot adorned with the information to aid motorists in passing safely.

Pedestrian crossing

- Pedestrian crossings are safer places for pedestrians to cross the road and where they are given priority.
- There are various different types of pedestrian crossings, these are: Zebra, Pelican, Puffin, Toucan, Pegasus (also known as Equestrian crossings). The yellow lines laid on roads were for pedestrian crossing.
- Road safety week was followed in first week of January.
- Policy for National Road safety was created by road safety commission.
- In India around 60% of roads were tar roads.