

# Law Affecting Freedom of Speech

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*“Our rights are interconnected and inseparable. When freedom of expression is threatened, the rights to freedom of association and assembly, of thought, conscience and religion, are also compromised”.*

**Nazanin Boniadi<sup>1</sup>**

**Abstract:** *In India, the right to freedom of speech and expression is guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. However, this right is not absolute and is subject to reasonable restrictions as outlined in Article 19(2). This paper explores the complex interplay between laws that limit freedom of speech in India and the broader implications for individual rights and democracy. It analyzes key legal provisions such as sedition, defamation, hate speech, and national security laws, which have been invoked to curb free expression. The study delves into landmark judgments by the Indian judiciary that have shaped the scope and boundaries of this right. Additionally, the paper addresses concerns related to media censorship, online speech, and the increasing use of laws to stifle dissent. By critically examining the tension between national security concerns and the protection of free speech, the paper aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how laws in India both safeguard and restrict the right to free expression.*

**Keywords:** Freedom of Speech, India, Constitutional Law, Sedition, Defamation, Hate Speech, Media Censorship, National Security, Judicial Precedents, Human Rights

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