

Petition in Supreme Court Seeks Ban on Pellet Guns Citing Fundamental Rights

A petition was filed in the Supreme Court seeking the decommissioning of pellet guns by police, invoking Article 19(1)(b) and reasonable restrictions under Article 19(3).

It is a constitutional dispute regarding police crowd-control measures versus the fundamental right to peaceful assembly under Article 19.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- A petition was filed in the **Supreme Court** by former police officers and victims seeking decommissioning of **pellet guns**.
- The petitioners argued that the Right to **Freedom of Assembly** without arms is a fundamental right under **Article 19(1)(b)**.
- The petition emphasized that restrictions on peaceful assembly must strictly align with **reasonable restrictions** under **Article 19(3)**.
- The use of disproportionate lethal force like pellet guns was claimed to violate **Article 21** protecting **life and personal liberty**.
- The petition requested standardized Supreme Court guidelines on police **crowd control** to eliminate permanent disfigurement to protesters.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

Article 19(1)(b) guarantees to all citizens the fundamental right to assemble peaceably and without arms.

Article 19(3) permits the State to impose reasonable restrictions on assembly in the interests of sovereignty, integrity of India, or **public order**.

The right to peaceful protest was affirmed as a fundamental right by the Supreme Court in the **Ramlila Maidan Incident Case (2012)**.

Fundamental Rights listed under **Part III** of the Constitution are enforceable in the Supreme Court via **Article 32**.

High Courts possess constitutional power under **Article 226** to issue writs for the enforcement of fundamental rights and statutory rights.

Article 21 mandates that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Article 19(1)(b) protects peaceful assembly, while Article 19(3) allows reasonable restrictions on public order grounds.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for Group 1, 2, 2A & 4 under Constitutional Articles and Fundamental Rights (Unit 5).

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