POLITY & CONSTITUTION 22 September 2026

SC Strikes Down Maharashtra Industrial Methanol Licensing Rules

The Supreme Court struck down Rules 18A and 18B of Maharashtra Poisons Rules, 1972, in M/S Balaji Formalin Pvt. Ltd. v. Union of India.

A landmark Supreme Court judgment applying the Doctrine of Proportionality to subordinate legislation under Articles 14 and 19(1)(g).

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The Supreme Court struck down **Rules 18A and 18B** of the **Maharashtra Poisons Rules, 1972**, inserted via a 2011 amendment.
- The struck-down rules required **licensing purchasers** of **methanol** and mandatory addition of colourant and bitterant for non-drug usage.
- The judgment was delivered in the case of **M/S Balaji Formalin Pvt. Ltd. v. Union of India** (**2026**).
- The Court held that the rules violated Fundamental Rights guaranteed under **Articles 14 and 19(1)(g)** due to **manifest arbitrariness**.
- The ruling applied the **Doctrine of Proportionality** to review the validity of delegated/**subordinate legislation**.
- The **Supreme Court** emphasized that regulation should target actual **illegal diversion** rather than imposing disproportionate burdens on legitimate industries.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Article 14 guarantees **equality before the law** and equal protection of the laws to all persons within India.

Article 19(1)(g) provides citizens the right to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade, or business.

The **Doctrine of Proportionality** requires that legislative action must not be more drastic than necessary to achieve its statutory purpose.

Article 13 declares that all laws or executive orders inconsistent with Fundamental Rights shall be void.

Delegated legislation refers to regulations made by executive authorities under powers given by an Act of Parliament/Legislature.

'Manifest Arbitrariness' as a ground to strike down laws under Article 14 was prominently reaffirmed in the landmark **Shayara Bano case** (**2017**).

Methanol (CH_3OH), also known as **wood alcohol**, is a volatile and highly toxic chemical used extensively in formaldehyde production.

REVISION FLASHCARD

SC struck down Maharashtra Methanol Rules for violating Articles 14 and 19(1)(g) using Doctrine of Proportionality.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for Group 1/2 exams regarding Articles 14, 19(1)(g), Delegated Legislation, and Doctrine of Proportionality.

Free School Books
Read and study school textbooks for free on the Essaar Academy platform.
School Books: essaaracademy.in/school-books