

~~~~~  
**General Clauses Act 1897**

**Serial number:** Act 10 of 1897

**Date of passing:** 11<sup>th</sup> March 1897

**Long title:** An Act to consolidate and extend the General Clauses Act, 1868 and 1887.

**Preamble and enacting formula:** WHEREAS it is expedient to consolidate and extend the General Clauses Acts, 1868 (1 of 1868) and 1887 (1 of 1887); it is hereby enacted as follows.

SYNOPSIS

Consolidating Act

**Consolidating Act**

The General Clauses Act, 1897 is a consolidating and amending Act.<sup>1</sup> It consolidated and extended the General Clauses Act 1868 and 1887 on the lines of the Interpretation Act 1889 of England. The purpose of the act is to avoid superfluity and a repetition of language;<sup>2</sup> and to be placed in a single Act, provisions as regarded definition of words and legal principles of interpretation which would otherwise have to be incorporated in many different Acts and Regulations.<sup>3</sup> The definition and the rules of interpretation contained in the General Clauses Act have to be read in every other statute governed by it, provided the statute does not contain anything repugnant to them in the subject or context<sup>4</sup> or does not exhibit a different intention.<sup>5</sup> The Act is also applicable for interpretation of Constitution.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Nibaran Chandra v Mahendranath, AIR 1963 SC 1890 cited in Singh 2021 p 797

<sup>2</sup> Rayarappan v Madhavi Amma, AIR 1950 FC 140 cited in Singh 2021 p 797

<sup>3</sup> The Chief Inspector of Mines v Karam Chandra Thapar, AIR 1961 SC 838 cited in Singh 2021 p 797

<sup>4</sup> Dulichand Laxminarayan v CIT, AIR 1956 SC 354 cited in Singh 2021 p 798

---

<sup>5</sup> State of Punjab v Mohar Singh, AIR 1955 SC 84 cited in Singh 2021 p 798

<sup>6</sup> Article 367 of the Constitution; Pradyat Kumar v Chief Justice of Calcutta Hight Court, AIR 1956 SC 285 cited in Singh 2021 p 798