

MP Moves Supreme Court Against Facial Recognition Technology in Protests

Rajya Sabha MP A.A. Rahim petitioned the Supreme Court against police using facial recognition technology on NEET protesters without legal framework.

Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) is an automated biometric technology that extracts and matches facial features from imagery against databases.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Rajya Sabha MP **A.A. Rahim** filed a petition in the **Supreme Court** challenging the use of automated **Facial Recognition Technology** on peaceful protesters.
- The petition highlighted the extraction of **biometric identifiers** of thousands of **NEET** protesters without a statutory law.
- It expressed concern over interlinking facial biometric data of peaceful citizens with permanent **national criminal databases**.
- The plea stated that neither **Delhi Police** standing orders nor procedure codes mandate automated facial surveillance of assemblies.
- The petition argues that mass biometric surveillance in a legal vacuum violates **fundamental rights** guaranteed under the **Constitution**.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees Protection of Life and Personal Liberty to all individuals.

In Justice **K.S. Puttaswamy** v. Union of India (**2017**), the Supreme Court declared Right to Privacy as a fundamental right under **Article 21**.

Article 19(1)(b) guarantees citizens the right to assemble peaceably and without arms, subject to reasonable restrictions under **Article 19(3)**.

The **Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022** allows law enforcement agencies to collect biometric data of convicted and arrested persons.

The **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** provides the legislative framework for processing digital personal data in India.

The **Proportionality Test** established in privacy jurisprudence mandates legality, legitimate aim, suitability, and necessity for state intervention.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Puttaswamy case (2017) declared Right to Privacy a Fundamental Right under Article 21.

Syllabus Relevance: Unit 5: Fundamental Rights (Articles 19, 21), Right to Privacy & Landmark Judiciary Decisions

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