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# Supreme Court Affirms Children's Fundamental Right to Internet Access

The Supreme Court delivered a landmark ruling affirming that children possess a fundamental right to access and use the internet.

A judicial pronouncement establishing that internet access is a fundamental right for children, emphasizing balanced safety measures rather than blanket bans.

## KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Supreme Court** declared that children, like any other individual, hold a **fundamental right** to access and use the internet.
- The court emphasized that the **safety of children** and their freedom are not at odds with each other, asserting they are entitled to both.
- The bench took a **practical view** that children do not stop using the internet merely because the law prohibits them from doing so.
- The court urged for balanced safeguards, **parental oversight**, and targeted protections rather than imposing blanket bans on internet usage.
- The Supreme Court clarified that its observations were not against **age-based online restrictions** implemented for child welfare.

## DID YOU KNOW..!?

Right to life and personal liberty under **Article 21** of the Constitution includes the right to access the internet.

In the landmark **Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India** (2020) case, the Supreme Court ruled that freedom of speech and expression through the internet is protected under **Article 19(1)(a)**.

**Article 45** of the Constitution directs the State to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules were notified in the year **2020** to regulate digital platforms.

India ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (**UNCRC**) in the year **1992**.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (**NCPCR**) was established under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act in **2005**.

**REVISION FLASHCARD**

*Supreme Court affirmed that children possess a fundamental right to access and use the internet.*

Syllabus Relevance: Highly relevant for Group 1 and Group 2 questions on fundamental rights, judicial precedents, and digital rights.

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