

Net Neutrality and Constitutional Doctrines

What is the issue?

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- TRAI's support for Net neutrality comes as an adaptation to backing the constitutional principles in the emerging era of Internet.

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- Click [here](#) to know more on TRAI's recommendations.

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How does net neutrality uphold constitutional values?

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- **Equality** - The government, as a trustee of public interest, is bound to device mechanisms for an equal distribution of resources.

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- Net neutrality, by facilitating a free and open Internet, contributes to equality in the use of a common resource that has almost become an essential good.

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- It has ensured that there are no technical imbalances in a way of distorting equality and reasonableness.

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- **Liberty** - The Internet is now affordable to millions of Indians without the traditional costs of distribution.

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- The non-discriminatory principle for Internet content through net neutrality has upheld the liberty of making choice by the user.

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- **Speech and Expression** - Allowing citizens the benefit of plurality of views and opinions on public issues is an essential component of the right to free speech.

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- Net neutrality thus defends the freedom of speech and expression by ensuring both the right to express and the right to receive information.

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What is the emerging significance?

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 - A content in Internet today is potential of sparking a spontaneous campaign, mobilising huge crowd, roping in civil society and even necessitating governmental intervention.
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 - In this context, the ideas of equality, reasonableness and liberty are more than mere limitations on state power in favour of individuals.
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 - They can transform into more meaningful doctrines when put into motion by the positive actions of the regulators and governments.
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 - The whole concept of Net neutrality is one way of positive actions that has tuned constitutional doctrines to the needs of the modern world.
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 - It comes as an indication of deepening participatory democracy in an emerging digital era by retuning the nature of constitutional values.

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Source: The Hindu

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