Society & Social Justice · GS - II

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has to address the challenges faced by children in the digital era. Examine the existing policies and suggest measures the Commission can initiate to tackle the issue.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

NCPCR, CPCR Act 2005, POCSO, IT Rules 2021, DPDP Act 2023, cyberbullying, online grooming, harmful content, privacy, digital literacy, child safety by design

Model Answer

Introduction

Digital technology provides children access to education, communication and creativity, but also exposes them to cyberbullying, grooming, sexual exploitation, harmful content, addiction, privacy violations and online fraud. NCPCR, a statutory body under the CPCR Act, 2005, has a mandate to protect and monitor implementation of child-rights laws.

1. Existing policy framework

The framework includes:

1. POCSO Act, 2012 for protection against sexual offences.
2. Information Technology Rules, 2021 prescribing intermediary obligations.

3. Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, which provides special safeguards concerning children's personal data.
4. NCPCR's cyber-safety guidelines, including guidance on cyberbullying and online safety. NCPCR also provides a cyber-crime toolkit and “Being Safe Online” guidance.

2. Emerging challenges

Children can be exposed to algorithmic recommendation of harmful content, deepfakes, identity theft, online grooming, gaming-related exploitation and commercial profiling. The speed of technological change often exceeds regulatory capacity.

3. Measures NCPCR can initiate

The Commission should:

1. Develop child-specific digital safety standards and audit platforms for compliance.
2. Establish stronger protocols for reporting and rapid removal of exploitative content.
3. Promote age-appropriate digital literacy among children, parents and teachers.
4. Conduct periodic studies on children's digital behaviour and emerging harms.
5. Coordinate with platforms, police, schools and cybersecurity agencies.
6. Strengthen privacy-by-design and child-friendly grievance mechanisms.
7. Encourage platform accountability for algorithmic risks.

Conclusion

NCPCR should move from reactive protection to preventive, technology-aware regulation while preserving children's rights to education, privacy, participation and digital access.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP