Polity & Governance · GS - II

The growing use of social media and online gaming platforms has created new avenues for child grooming, cyber blackmail and sexual exploitation. Examine the challenges in preventing cyber-enabled child abuse and suggest measures to strengthen India's child-protection framework.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 14/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Online grooming, child sexual exploitation, POCSO Act, IT Act 2000, digital anonymity, social media accountability, cyber forensics, cross-border jurisdiction, child-friendly reporting, digital literacy, victim rehabilitation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Digital platforms have expanded children's access to education and social interaction but have also created opportunities for online grooming, coercion and sexual exploitation.

Major Challenges

- **Digital anonymity:** Perpetrators use fake identities and encrypted communication to manipulate children.
- **Psychological coercion:** Threats, blackmail and emotional manipulation discourage victims from reporting abuse.
- **Cross-border jurisdiction:** Perpetrators, victims and electronic evidence may be located in different countries.

- **Technological limitations:** Rapidly evolving platforms and disappearing digital evidence complicate investigations.
- **Underreporting:** Social stigma and fear of punishment prevent timely disclosure.

Measures Required

India should strengthen enforcement of the POCSO Act and IT Act, improve cybercrime investigation capabilities and establish effective cooperation with foreign law-enforcement agencies. Digital platforms must develop child-safety mechanisms, age-appropriate safeguards and accessible reporting systems.

Schools and parents should promote digital literacy, while victims require confidential counselling, legal assistance and rehabilitation.

Conclusion

Combating online child exploitation requires coordinated law enforcement, responsible technology governance, preventive education and a victim-centred justice system.

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