Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Discuss the need to regulate social media use among children. Examine the challenges in balancing child protection with digital rights.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 24/10/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Child rights, mental health, cyberbullying, privacy, age verification, freedom of expression, digital literacy.

Model Answer

Introduction:

Social media offers children opportunities for learning and communication, but excessive or unsafe use can expose them to cyberbullying, harmful content, exploitation and mental-health risks.

Need for Regulation

1. Child protection: Limits exposure to harmful content and online exploitation.
2. Mental health: May help address excessive screen time and sleep disruption.
3. Platform accountability: Encourages companies to adopt effective safeguards and age-appropriate design.

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Key Challenges

1. Privacy: Age verification may involve collecting sensitive personal data.
2. Enforcement: Children may bypass restrictions through false age declarations or alternative accounts.

3. Digital rights: Excessive restrictions may limit access to information, expression and beneficial online communities.
4. Parental and educational role: Legal restrictions alone cannot replace digital awareness and responsible supervision.
5. Way Forward: Governments should promote privacy-preserving age verification, transparent platform accountability, digital literacy, parental guidance and accessible reporting mechanisms.

Conclusion:

Effective regulation should combine proportionate legal safeguards with education and platform responsibility to create a safer, rights-respecting digital environment for children.