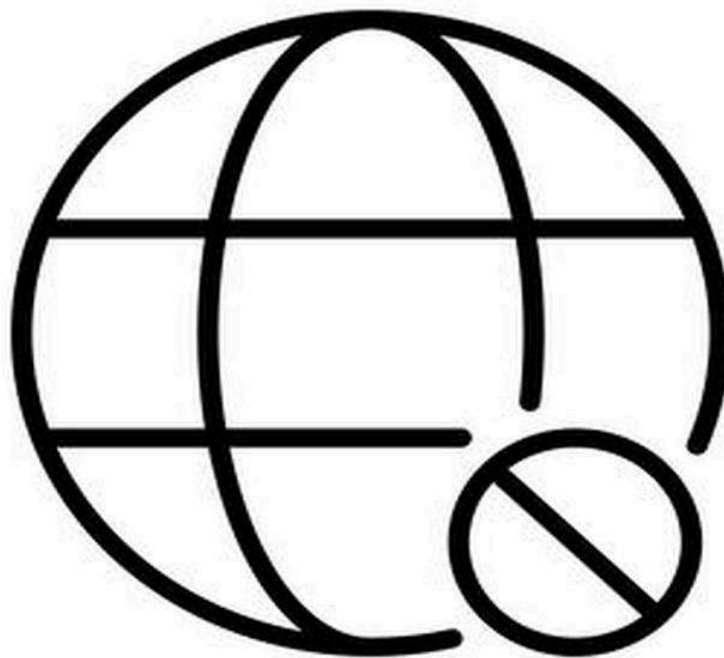


Behind the great Indian Internet shutdown

The tag of the world's Internet shutdown capital stems from a lack of compliance with Supreme Court guidelines

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Globe icon. no internet connection icon. web icon flat vector illustration. EPS 10.

On January 10, 2020, the Supreme Court of India held that **access to information via the Internet is a fundamental right** under the Indian Constitution. This was in the case of *Anuradha Bhasin vs Union of India*, where the top court also ruled that any restriction on Internet access by the Government must be temporary, limited in scope, lawful, necessary

and proportionate. The Court reiterated that the Government's orders restricting Internet access are subject to review by Courts.

The expectation was that this decision would limit the instances of Internet suspension to only those exceptional situations where there is a public emergency or a threat to public safety — the legislatively mandated prerequisites for restricting Internet access.