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1. There is no evidence that Internet shutdowns work

- **What the govt's new rule-book for internet shutdown says? Who can authorise internet shutdown?**
- **Who reviews the Internet Shutdown orders in India?**
- **What are the legal issues associated with internet shutdowns?**
- **Do these shutdowns question the basic idea of digital sovereignty?**

GS paper 2 (Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability)

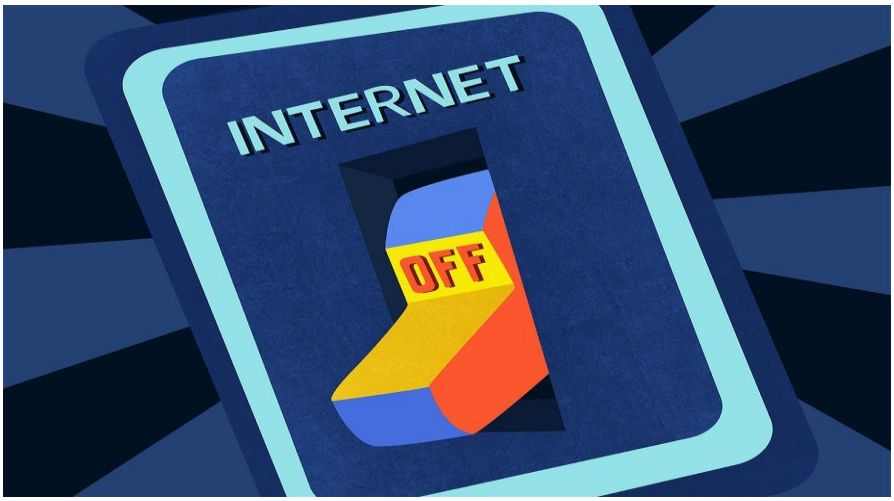
In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

The above article has been retrieved from:

Apar Gupta and Raman Jit Singh Chima . (2018, November , 13). There is no evidence that Internet shutdowns work. Hindustan Times. Retrieved from https://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/there-is-no-evidence-that-internet-shutdowns-work/story-4aERxaY1OMNTG8siM0iMMM.html

What is the context about?

- Access to the Internet is not only a recognised human right but practised tangibly in Digital India by the second highest number of Internet users in the world.
- But worryingly the Internet continues to be shut down, in more states and with higher frequency.



- Take the case of a recent state services exam in Rajasthan for which mobile Internet services were shut down in the cities of Ajmer, Bharatpur and Jodhpur in early August. This was the third such instance in recent months.

What the govt's new rule-book for internet shutdown says? Who can authorise internet shutdown?

- According to the notification. the order can be made by the Secretary to the government in the Ministry of Home Affairs in the case of Government of India or by the Secretary to the state government in- charge of the Home Department in the case of a state government.
- The order will be subject to the confirmation from the union home authority (most likely Home Ministry) within 24 hours.

Who reviews the Internet Shutdown orders in India?

A review committee constituted by the state government or the central government will meet within five working days of issue of directions for suspension of services due to public emergency or public safety and record its findings on whether the directions issued are in accordance with the Act or not.

What are the legal issues associated with internet shutdowns?

- Imposing internet ban arbitrarily goes against the rule of law and will create doubt about the intentions of the government.
- It contravenes on the fundamental rights of freedom of speech and expression of people given to them by Constitution.
- It is hampers the people's right to profession as many professional services suffers huge economic losses and many a times prolonged bans result in job cuts too.
- It violates UNHRC resolution to protect offline and online rights of individuals.
- Since most of bank accounts have been linked with Aadhar and mobile. it also affects subsidies , scholarships thereby impacting Right to Food , Life.

Do these shutdowns question the basic idea of digital sovereignty?

- The internet restrictions can cancel peoples' civil rights. imperil livelihoods, and cost businesses their ability to function.
- In Digital India, every policy decision about the internet affects the rights of citizens.
- In a cashless India - where Aadhaar numbers identify and control all buying and spending - every Indian's privacy and freedom to participate in the market depends on internet policies.
- Living in Digital India, we should carry our democratic values into this new age, then only we can say Digital India is boon to us.
- Shutdowns, which are a negative expression of the idea of digital sovereignty, are not just for undemocratic societies any more.