

Right To Privacy In India: An Overview

Prakshi Bansal

(BBA.LL.B 5th year Law College Dehradun, Uttaranchal University, UK INDIA)

Co-author: Mr. Shashi Bhushan Ojha

(Assistant Professor Law College Dehradun, Uttaranchal University, UK INDIA)

Abstract

“Privacy” is one of the mainly tenuous stipulations our guild has perpetually chanced upon. In the topical years, at hand state been debates on best to Privacy, its safeguards, fair restrictions against this right, a choice of positions and non-recognition of this correctly by a few courts, and the ongoing deliberation on the subsistence of a constitutional rectify to Privacy. a lot of Indian jurists take part in raised the problem that – “While here is a perfectly to life, is nearby a genuine to privacy?” This raises a enormously trying poser for constitutional jurists that although one has the aptly to life, does that plus entail the upright to have a animation of their possess choice, devoid of any communal scrutiny. in attendance is no clear agreement of the distinctive paradigms of the entirely to privacy, and nearby exists a be deficient in of a academic framework to help out us in this respect. This manuscript tries to pull out such a imaginary framework by identifying the three paradigms of privacy constitutional rights or the “Triangle of Privacy” - Zonal, Rational and Decisional. Further, the authors boast as well tried to arrange the “integral fraction test”, consequential from Maneka Gandhi decision, to prove the liaison between the dead on to own liberty u/a 21 and utterly to privacy. It is contended that at the spirit of liberty is the fitting to delimit one's have possession of model of reality and thus, “privacy” is of the equal rudimentary temperament and oddball as “personal liberty”. Finally, the broadsheet calls for a constitutional amendment by the legislative body adopting the sensibly impressed out reasonable to privacy as a essential real under role III of the Indian Constitution.

Keywords: *Right, privacy India , government ,genuine, liberty*

Introduction

On one occasion a progress has ready a difference between the "outer" and the "inner" man, between the verve of the soul and the get-up-and-go of the body, between the spiritual and the material, between the sacred and the profane, between the realm of divinity and the realm of Caesar, between the cathedral and the State, between the human rights inherent and absolute and human rights that are in the authorization of control to end and grab away, between community and private, between people and solitude, it becomes out of the question to keep away from the suspicion of privacy by doesn't matter what repute it may be called - the conception of "private deep space in which staff may befit and stay behind himself."

Privacy is extremely greater and broad concept. It varies with the times, the chronological context, the grandeur of refinement and the general sensible philosophy. Custom correlated to privacy fail to agree from society to culture; location to situation; and group system to community system. Privacy is a inherent penury of a male to start party boundaries and to constrain the statement of others into that area. The thought of privacy covers digit of aspects, for paradigm non-disclosure of in rank about oneself, his sexual affairs, privacy of concern secrets and non-observance by others etc. In exhibit time, the growth in the technology appearance the individual's privacy, for armor of individual's in attendance are loads of look which keep the privacy. With esteem to the vicinity of an exclusive existence, the permission to privacy protects one's identity, integrity and intimacy. Personality includes one's name, gender, appearance, feelings, honour and reputation, and subsequently on.

Meaning of Privacy

At hand is no solo and unified focus of real to privacy, but it know how to be summarised as follows “The reasonable to privacy is a fit to own a sphere around us, individuals possessions that are divide of us such as our body, home, property, thoughts, feelings, secrets, and identity. The rectify to privacy gives us the facility to want which parts of this province tin be accessed by others and to monitor the extent, ill-treat of individuals parts we pick to disclose”. In short, every original has entitlement to continue their individual information, facts, stealthy until and if they permit an important person to employment it. An separate preserve indicate how a good deal in order at come again? extent, at pardon? time, in I beg your pardon? conditions they opt to part that information, and they be able to additionally pick out to bound the waste of it.

Right to Privacy in India

Very well to privacy in India is a distinctive assortment of constitutional, customary and public bylaw totally scattered over diverse above-board fields. As we colloquy about customary right, it is treated as easement forming element of constitutional law. As a role of our constitutional civil rights to days and liberty, it is measured to be the illustration of progressive promotion of being constitutional rights and central freedoms. Nearby are more than a few customary regulations predominant in India which shield privacy importance of an individual. Similarly, constitutional provisions enclose provided defensive umbrella to this right. Besides customary policy and constitutional provisions a number of other statutes have appreciation for proper to privacy straightforwardly or indirectly. Hence, an endeavour is life prepared by the researcher to confer these provisions independently in the succeeding pages.

Nearly all of the cases of privacy in India are also connected to patrol observation or married rights, sexual autonomy, rough of press, phone-tapping and AIDS infected people. Hence the theme of privacy which is frequently questioned before the go out with is limited. Privacy is, expand an emanating accurate under the clear constitutional provisions. For this goal it cannot get beyond the regard Article or Provision under which it emanates. Sometimes, the restriction forced on fastidious provision may not be sensible for the restriction of privacy. One of the Articles which is over and over again referred for this birthright is Article 21 which is by now overburdened with latest developments.

At hand are more than a few customary and constitutional provisions for very well of privacy, without constitutional guard this authentic cannot be secluded in a carrying great weight way. The Constitution provides individual framework and constitutionally cosseted primary constitutional rights cannot be enforced against classified character alone. Customary regulations are actual narrow and inadequate. Legal provisions, therefore, are other foremost to safeguard the privacy interest.

At hand is no only unifying legislation connecting to straight to privacy in India. Nearby are quite a few statutes which straight or indirectly care for perfectly to privacy. How and at could you repeat that? limit utterly of privacy is positively guarded in India is a probe answered by a number of legislations? The Indian system provides safeguard of anyone through a variety of officially authorized provisions limited in quite a few punishing laws. The cozy up to may be acceptable in representation an adverse inference, in state of affairs of such refusal.

The decent to privacy in India has urban through a string of decisions over the endure 60 years. Over the years, inconsistency from two in advance judgement produced a discrepancy of attitude on whether the privilege to privacy is a supporting right. The question of a constitutional right to privacy under Part III of the Constitution was first raised in the decision of *Kharak Singh v. The State of UP*¹, where the petitioner was subjected to continuous surveillance as under Regulation 236 of the U.P. Police Regulations. The majority opinion on the question of the existence of right to privacy, was that “our Constitution does not in terms confer any like constitutional guarantee.” But Justice Subba Rao, while pronouncing the minority opinion, observed that “it is true our Constitution does not expressly declare a right to privacy as a fundamental right, but the said right is an essential ingredient of personal liberty” Although, the Supreme Court began to accept certain points of the minority view, the right to privacy was still waiting for its place in Indian constitutional jurisprudence.

In *Gobind v. State of Madhya Pradesh*², the Supreme Court held that a “limited” right to privacy was implied within the ambit of Part III of the Constitution, which originates from the Articles 19(a), 19(d) and 21. However, it was noted that the said right is not of an absolute character, and comes with reasonable restrictions arising out of countervailing public interest. In this decision, Justice Mathew taking the US jurisprudence into consideration, observed that the right to privacy exists within the penumbral zones of the Fundamental rights explicitly guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution.

Moreover, the Supreme Court in *R. Rajagopal v. State of Tamil Nadu*³, again asserted that the right to privacy is an implicit right under Art. 21 and has acquired sufficient constitutional status. The Court noted that the said right includes a “right to be let alone” and the right “to safeguard the privacy of his own, his family, marriage, procreation, motherhood, child-bearing and education among other matters”.

The Supreme Court in *People’s Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India*⁴, held that telephonic conversations are private in nature and thus, telephone-tapping would be unconstitutional unless conducted by a procedure established by law. The Court concluded by saying that “we have, therefore, no hesitation in holding that the right to privacy is a part of the right to ‘life and personal liberty’ enshrined under article 21 of the Constitution. Once the facts in each case constitute a right to privacy, article 21 is attracted. The said right cannot be curtailed, except according to procedure established by law.”

Most recently, the Bombay High Court in *Shaikh Zahid Mukhtar v. The State of Maharashtra*⁵, held that Section 5D of the Maharashtra Animal Preservation Act, 1976 violated the right to privacy of an individual and thus, should be struck down. Whereas, the Patna High Court in *Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies v. The State of Bihar*⁶, held that Indian citizens have the right to enjoy their liquor within the confines of their house, in an orderly fashion, and that right is derived from the right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The supreme court of India upheld the landmark judgement in *Justice K.S. puttaswamy v. Union of India*⁷ is a resounding victory for privacy. The ruling is the outcome of a petition challenging the constitutional validity of Indian biometric identity scheme Aadhaar. The judgement’s ringing endorsement of the right to privacy as a fundamental right marks a watershed moment in the constitutional history of India. The one page order signed by all nine judge declare “Right to privacy is an intrinsic part of right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and entire part III of the constitution”. The Attorney General, Mukul Rohatgi, citing the old and controversial view on Right to Privacy in *M.P. Sharma and Kharak Singh*, had argued that Right to Privacy does not exist, stating that the matter should be referred to a larger bench. However, the bench is yet to be constituted.

Objectives of the Study

¹ AIR 1963 SC 1295.

² AIR 1975 SC 1378.

³ AIR 1995 SC 264.

⁴ AIR 1997 SC 568.

⁵ 2017 (2) ABR 140.

⁶ 2016 (4) PLJR 369.

⁷ (2014) 6 SCC 433.

The right to privacy has been brought into conspicuous prominence in the legal literature in view of the perpetuating debate amongst the legal thinkers and Judges. However, very scarce systematic documented information in the form of books on legal aspects of privacy is available. The difficulty is further compounded because of the absence of any specific legislation and organizational rules ensuring privacy and confidentiality. Hence, to make an extensive and comprehensive study of the subject, this study is proposed to be undertaken with the following objectives in mind.

- (i) To find out the systematic evolution of privacy in its historical perspective.
- (ii) To explore the legal provisions of the Indian legal system to identify and highlight the status of the right and extent of the protection enshrined in those legal provisions. Apart from the statutory analyses the thrust of the study would be to assess the constitutional position of this right under our Constitution more particularly Part III dealing with the Fundamental Rights.
- (iii) As the privacy is no longer regarded as an abstract concept. Identifiable with a national culture, a political system and a specific period of time, the concern for its protection in modern democratic societies characterized by enormous sophisticated bureaucratic structure and greatly advanced technological communications and information system, has become more intense, the computer age as the present era is known greatly threatened to make privacy impossible and present new challenges for any legal system which tend to protect this right. The focus of the present study would be to highlight the emerging challenges of new technological age, a social transformation and point out as to how and to what extent the legal system has cope up with the further extension and protection of the right to privacy.
- (iv) The right to privacy is not specially spelled out in our Constitution. Judges none-the-less have considered the existence of such a right in numerous cases and regarded it as implicit in the fundamental freedom to life and personal liberty in numerous judicial determinations. The focus of this study would be to present the views of the Judges in particular instances as a reflection of judicial attitude towards privacy as a right and how and why and to what extent it is to be protected against invasions or intrusions. This would include a critical evaluation of judicial response in the furtherance and extension of this right.

Hypotheses

The study shall proceed on the following hypotheses :

- (i) Whether right to privacy should be included in Part III of the Constitution of India so as to give explicit constitutional recognition to this right as one of the fundamental rights?
- (ii) How far the judiciary has contributed in the growth of this right?
- (iii) Whether there is a necessity to protect right to privacy from the potential threat of interference emanating from contemporary technologicil innovations?

Methodology

Since the present study is not based on empirical experience, the researcher has selected India as a whole for the present study. The main focus of study is on the theoretical aspect which has been analyzed on the basis of material collected from different sources which mainly include

Constituent Assembly Debates, Reports of Law Commission, recommendations of the Second Press Commission, the Nordic Conference of Jurists on Right to Respect for Privacy, 1967 and the Report of Younger Committee, 1972. This study is conducted in various libraries. It consists of studying various literatures available in this field. While dealing with particular aspect of privacy a brief reference of American and British Legal provisions are also given. Basically on the topic of conceptual basis of privacy Western luminaries contribution has been taken as a fundamental basis. However, the oriental concept of right to privacy is also included in several appropriate places. Constitutional stand of this right is discussed with reference to customary and statutory provisions. Further, the study is a critical evaluation of decided case law. As primary sources Constitution of India, USA and United Kingdom, Act of Parliament and judicial pronouncements have been taken and as a secondary sources different literatures, that is, books, articles, case comments, encyclopaedias. Corpus Secundum Juris, dictionaries and newspapers, have been consulted. Further, to simplify and unify the citation system, the same system has been adopted as it is directed generally for cases in different countries law reports.

Conclusion

Though the bench in M.P. Sharma and Kharak Singh had seized Art. 21 to not add in genuine to privacy and the carry some weight is human being referred to a bigger constitutional bench, that does not render the entire the following decisions by the Supreme ask for recognising its life officially untenable. This point was distinguished in Harbhajan Singh v. country of Punjab and Ashok Sadarangani v. UOI, everyplice the Supreme see experimental that “the pendency of a position to a better Bench, does not want that every one of other proceedings linking the similar originate would hang about stayed till a assessment was rendered in the reference.... Until such time as the decisions cited at the save are not customized or distorted in any way, they [continue to storage

space the field]." However, although perfectly to privacy has been recognizable by several judgements to be implicit under share III of the Constitution, and at the moment justified to privacy befall the important justification of the constitution.

