

Right to Information

While permitting the examinees to inspect their answer books, Supreme Court held that the right to information is a facet of the freedom of “speech and expression” as contained in **Article 19(1)(a)** of the Constitution of India and such a right is subject to reasonable restriction in the interest and security of the State and to exemptions and exceptions.

Why is it Important for Students in India?

The fundamental right to information came to light with *CBSE and Anr vs Aditya Bandopadhyay and Ors. 2011 (8) SCC 497*, wherein the right of students seeking answer sheets and verification of marks were violated. The Supreme Court of India in 2011 announced that the Answer-Sheets of any exam come under RTI Act, 2005. CBSE, the examination authority at the time was charging the candidates of [JEE Main](#), [NEET](#), and [CBSE-UGC NET](#) charged a hefty fee of around Rs 1000 for 'answer sheets and verification of mark'. After the order was passed, students seeking their answer sheet have to pay Rs 10 as the application fee and, Rs 2 for its copies. Whereas, for students belonging to the Below-Poverty Line category, no fee was charged.