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Digital access a part of fundamental right to life and liberty – Supreme Court

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Context

- **Inclusive and meaningful digital access to e-governance** and welfare delivery systems is a part of the **fundamental right to life and liberty**, the Supreme Court held in a judgment on Wednesday.
- A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan, hearing a petition on how people with disability find it nearly impossible to complete the digital Know Your Customer (KYC) process, said that the **state has an obligation to provide an inclusive digital ecosystem to the marginalised, underprivileged, vulnerable, disabled, and historically excluded sections of society**. Amidst the “wave of digital progress” in India a crucial aspect often overlooked is whether this technology is truly inclusive, the court said.
- “The right to digital access emerges as an instinctive component of the right to life and liberty, necessitating the **state to proactively design and implement inclusive digital ecosystems to serve not only the privileged, but also the marginalised,**” said Justice Mahadevan, who authored the judgment.