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MAGAZINE NOTES

Supreme Court on Menstrual Health (Article 21)

15 February 2026 ·

POLITY

SOCIAL ISSUES

GS1

GS2

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Supreme Court on Menstrual Health (Article 21)

 **Down to Earth** Chapter 20 · 1 min read ·

- SC expanded **Article 21 (Right to Life and Dignity)** to explicitly include menstrual health and hygiene
- **Directives:** All states must ensure functional, gender-segregated toilets, safe water, and hygienic disposal mechanisms in schools
- Non-compliance linked to punitive actions like **de-recognition of schools**
- Addresses crisis: **20-23 million girls** drop out annually due to lack of sanitation facilities post-puberty

UPSC Angle

- **GS2:** Polity, fundamental rights, SC judgments
- **GS1:** Society, gender issues

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SC MENSTRUAL HEALTH RULING:

Constitutional basis: Article 21 (Right to Life and Dignity)

Girls dropping out post-puberty: 20-23 million/year

Mandate: gender-segregated toilets, safe water, disposal in schools

Penalty for non-compliance: de-recognition



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