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An Study of Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) In Union of India

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ABSTRACT

The case of *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India* (2017) is a landmark judgment of the Supreme Court of India that transformed the understanding of fundamental rights in the country. It arose in the context of challenges to the Aadhaar scheme, where concerns were raised about the collection and use of personal data and its impact on individual liberty. A nine-judge constitutional bench, in a unanimous decision, held that the right to privacy is a constitutionally protected right, intrinsic to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. The Court further declared that privacy is an inalienable aspect of human dignity and autonomy, extending across various facets of personal life such as bodily integrity, information privacy, and decisional autonomy. This judgment overturned earlier rulings that had denied privacy the status of a fundamental right and placed India in line with global constitutional democracies that recognize privacy as central to human freedom. Beyond its immediate implications for Aadhaar, the ruling laid the foundation for future jurisprudence on data protection, surveillance, and individual rights in the digital age. Thus, the Puttaswamy case represents a historic moment in India's constitutional evolution.