

SC Allows Abortion of 30-Week Foetus

Source: IE

The <u>Supreme Court of India</u> allowed a minor sexual assault victim to **terminate her pregnancy at nearly 30 weeks**, citing exceptional circumstances to protect her well-being.

■ The MTP Act, 1971, amended in 2021 provides guidelines for terminating pregnancies under specific circumstances:

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	Time Since Conception	MTP Act, 1971	MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021
	Up to 12 weeks	On the advice of one doctor	On advice of one doctor
	12 to 20 weeks	On advice of two doctors	On advice of one doctor
	20 to 24 weeks	Not allowed	On advice of two doctors for special categories of pregnant women
	More than 24 weeks	Not allowed	On advice of medical board in case of substantial fetal abnormality
	Any time during the pregnancy	On advice of one doctor, if immediately necessary to save pregnant woman's life	On advice of one doctor, if immediately necessary to save pregnant woman's life

Article 21 of the Indian Constitution protects reproductive choices as part of personal liberty.
However, India's abortion laws are being questioned due to changes granting more authority to doctors after 20 weeks, favoring women's autonomy but raising debates about the rights of the unborn.

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