

Date: 21.11.2025

**ADVISORY**

To,

**All the Intermediaries including Social Media Intermediaries**

**Subject: Observance of due diligence by the Intermediaries under the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 regarding hosting, sharing, transmitting of sensitive content related to recent incidents.**

It has come to the notice of this Ministry that intermediaries including social media intermediaries have been displaying or transmitting content related to alleged persons involved in Red Fort blasts justifying their acts of violence, as well as audio-visual information in the nature of images & videos on how to make explosive material. Such displaying or transmitting of content may inadvertently encourage or incite violence, disrupt public order, and pose risks to the security, sovereignty and integrity of India, and by its very nature has the potential to seriously threaten national security, embolden extremist elements, and cause widespread public disorder. Further, the scale of spread of such content has been observed to be dangerously unrestrained due to the availability of the features such as “forwarding/re-sharing/ re-posting/ re-tweeting” on the social media platforms. The circulation of any content that glorifies, rationalises, or promotes acts of violence poses grave risks to public order, compromises ongoing law-enforcement and security operations, and endangers the safety of citizens.

2. In this regard, it should be noted that intermediaries, including social media intermediaries have a due diligence obligation under the Information Technology Act, 2000 (“IT Act”) and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (“IT Rules, 2021”) to expeditiously and proactively remove information that affects public order, security of the state and sovereignty and integrity of India.

3. As part of such due diligence obligations, it is the responsibility of concerned intermediaries including social media intermediaries to take immediate and effective action under the IT Rules, 2021 by ensuring that no user is allowed to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share any unlawful, sensitive or false information. Further, the exemption from liability for any third party information, data, or communication link made available or hosted by social media intermediaries as provided under section 79 of the IT Act shall not apply if such intermediaries fail to observethe due diligence obligations as prescribed under the IT Act read with IT Rules, 2021, or act in a manner that abets, aids, induces or

conspires the commission of the unlawful acts. In case of failure of the intermediaries to observe the due diligence obligations as provided in the IT Rules, 2021, the provision of section 79 of the IT Act shall not be applicable to such intermediary and they shall be liable for consequential action as provided under any law including the IT Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 ("BNS").

4. Considering the serious nature of the situation, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology ("MeitY") hereby reiterates, with heightened emphasis, that all the intermediaries including social media intermediaries must make reasonable efforts to not host such unlawful information from being disseminated on their platforms. In this regard, the intermediaries including social media intermediaries must observe their due diligence obligations that include the prompt removal or disabling access to such unlawful information specified under the IT Rules, 2021 well within the strict timelines as prescribed under the IT Rules, 2021 without exception.

5. Furthermore, apart from removing or disabling access to such information under the IT Rules, 2021 as part of the reasonable efforts to be undertaken, there is an additional liability on concerned intermediaries under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 ("BNSS") to mandatorily report certain offences perceived to be committed by any user of their platform that includes, among others, any act with the intent to threaten or likely to threaten the unity, integrity, sovereignty, or security of India. Non-compliance may attract penal consequences under the BNSS.

6. In addition to the above, the IT Rules, 2021 obligates the intermediaries to provide information under its control or possession, or assistance to the Government agency which is lawfully authorised for investigative or protective or cyber security activities, for the purposes of verification of identity, or for the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution, of offences under any law for the time being in force, or for cyber security incidents, well within the stipulated timeframes (as soon as possible but not later than 72 hours).

7. Given the gravity of the issue and its implications for national security, intermediaries are hereby advised to initiate enhanced monitoring mechanisms immediately and ensure that any content of the nature described above is expeditiously and proactively identified, and removed or disabled access to.

8. This advisory is issued with the approval of the competent authority in the MeitY.

Yours faithfully,



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