

No: 2(6)/2024-CL&DG-Part(1)
Government of India
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
Cyber-Laws & Data Governance (CL&DG) Group
Electronics Niketan, 6, CGO, Complex, New Delhi-110003
Website: www.meity.gov.in

Date: 09.02.2026

ADVISORY

Subject: Observance of due diligence by intermediaries, including the Artificial Intelligence platforms under the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 in relation to generation, hosting, and dissemination of information concerning religious matters or otherwise unlawful information.

It has come to the attention of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology ("MeitY") that certain Artificial Intelligence (AI) based platforms and applications are generating, modifying, hosting and disseminating content relating to religious scriptures, beliefs, practices and institutions in a distorted, misleading or inaccurate manner. Such instances include algorithmic alteration or misrepresentation of sacred texts and doctrinal teachings, which have the potential to hurt religious sentiments, misinforming users, and creating potential for social/ communal disharmony and public disorder. The scale and speed of dissemination of such content is further amplified by automated generation and due to the availability of features such as "forwarding/re-sharing/re-posting/re-publishing" rapidly across digital platforms, thereby increasing the risk of widespread social impact and public disorder.

2. The generation and dissemination of distorted or unauthorised religious content through AI systems has the potential to seriously hurt religious sentiments, disturb communal harmony, and adversely affect public order. Religious matters in India are deeply intertwined with social peace, constitutional values, and public morality. Any trivialisation, misrepresentation, or algorithmic distortion of religious scriptures, beliefs, or institutions can lead to social unrest, erosion of trust in digital platforms, and threats to public order and unity of the country. In particular, misrepresentation and disinformation relating to matters of religion, when generated or amplified through digital systems, may have serious consequences for public order and social stability. Further, the scale and speed at which AI-generated content can be created and amplified poses heightened risks due to features such as automated generation, re-sharing, and mass dissemination across platforms. The Government emphasises that religious content in the Indian context is closely connected with constitutional values, social cohesion and maintenance of public order, and any digital system that trivialises, distorts or inaccurately represents such content may attract legal consequences under applicable laws.

3. In this regard, it should be noted that intermediaries, including AI platforms, AI tool providers, and 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 ensure that their platforms are not used to host, generate, publish, transmit, or share unlawful information, including information that is racially or religiously objectionable or that promotes enmity between different groups on grounds of religion with intent to incite violence, or that deceives or misleads the addressee about the origin of the message or knowingly and intentionally communicates any misinformation or information which is patently false and untrue or misleading in nature, or that threatens public order or causes incitement to the commission of cognisable offences, or violates any law for the time being in force. Given that the IT Act, read with the rules made thereunder, is a technology-neutral legislation that does not distinguish between computer resources in general and those that use Artificial Intelligence or any other emerging technologies. Accordingly, the provisions of the IT Act apply uniformly to all computer resources, including those leveraging AI or similar technologies. Further, the IT Act does not distinguish between any information that is generated using AI tools or any other technology and those which are generated by users themselves while dealing with the cyber offences or otherwise. Hence, these obligations apply equally to content generated or amplified through AI systems.

4. As part of such due diligence obligations, it is the responsibility of concerned intermediaries, including AI-based service providers and social media intermediaries, to ensure that no user is allowed to host, generate, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share any unlawful or misleading religious content, including content that distorts sacred texts, misrepresents religious doctrines, or mocks, trivialises or inaccurately portrays matters of faith. The exemption from liability under section 79 of the IT Act shall not apply if such intermediaries fail to observe due diligence obligations as prescribed under the IT Act read with the IT Rules, 2021, or if they abet or aid the commission of such unlawful acts. Intermediaries shall therefore ensure that AI systems deployed by them incorporate safeguards to prevent generation or dissemination of content that misrepresents or distorts religious matters in a manner that may fall within the restricted categories under the IT Rules, 2021.

5. Considering the sensitive and serious nature of religious matters and their direct impact on social harmony and public order, MeitY reminds with emphasis that all intermediaries, including AI platforms, must make reasonable and proactive efforts to ensure that their systems do not generate, promote or disseminate distorted, misleading or religious content or other unlawful content. This includes implementation of appropriate safeguards by deployment of appropriate technology-based measures including algorithmic safeguards, content moderation mechanisms, human oversight, culturally informed content review processes, etc. and expeditious removal or disabling access to such unlawful information/communication link processes in strict compliance with the timelines prescribed under the IT Rules, 2021. Intermediaries are further advised to undertake immediate review of their training datasets, model outputs, content moderation frameworks and grievance redressal mechanisms to ensure that religious content is handled with due sensitivity, factual accuracy and respect for diversity of faiths, and that any reported violations are addressed promptly and transparently.

6. Furthermore, apart from removing or disabling access to such unlawful or misleading content, there is an additional liability on concerned intermediaries under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 ("BNSS") to mandatorily report offences perceived to be committed on their platforms, including acts that are likely to threaten public order, social/ communal harmony, or the unity and integrity of India, as has been emphasised in previous advisories issued by the Ministry.

7. In addition to the above, the IT Rules, 2021 obligate intermediaries to provide information under their control or possession, or assistance to duly authorised Government agencies for the purposes of verification of identity, and for the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of offences, or for cyber security incidents, within the stipulated timeframe (as soon as possible but not later than 72 hours).

8. Given the growing use of Artificial Intelligence systems for content generation and dissemination, all intermediaries are hereby advised to deploy enhanced monitoring and accountability frameworks immediately to ensure that religious content is handled with due sensitivity, accuracy and respect, and that no distorted, misleading or unlawful religious material is permitted to proliferate on their platforms. Any non-compliance by the intermediaries with the statutory due diligence obligations may result in loss of exemption provided under section 79 of the IT Act and exposure to consequential legal action under applicable laws.

9. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority in the Ministry, without prejudice to any other action that may be taken by the Government or law enforcement agencies under any law for the time being in force.

Yours faithfully,



(Notan Roy)

Scientist 'E', Cyber Laws, MeitY

Tel.: 011-24301706 (O)

Email: notan.roy@meity.gov.in /
gccyberlaw@meity.gov.in