



GRC BULLETIN

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MeitY

Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2025

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INDUSTRY
SPECIFIC

Authority

Ministry of
Electronics and
Information
Technology (MeitY)

Circular Date

Oct 22, 2025

Circular Number

G.S.R 775 (E)

Effective Date

Nov 15, 2025

MEITY - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (INTERMEDIARY GUIDELINES AND DIGITAL MEDIA ETHICS CODE) AMENDMENT RULES, 2025

Applicability : All intermediaries operating in India

Introduction

The Government of India has issued a new update under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, to strengthen how intermediaries (like social media platforms, web hosts, and digital media companies) handle unlawful or harmful online content. This amendment, called the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2025, was notified on 22nd October 2025 and will come into force on 15th November 2025. The update ensures faster removal of unlawful content and adds accountability for government-authorised officers who order such removals and making the process more transparent, proportionate, and legally backed.

Faster Action on Unlawful Content

Intermediaries must remove or disable unlawful information within 36 hours once they receive *actual knowledge* of it through proper channels.

What Counts as “Actual Knowledge”

Now, platforms can only act when they receive:

- An order from a court of competent jurisdiction, or
- A reasoned written intimation from a government-authorised officer (not below Joint Secretary rank).

Accountability of Government Officers

Officers giving removal orders must:

- Clearly mention the legal basis and the law violated.
- Specify the exact URL or online location of the unlawful content.
- Have a periodic review of such orders once every month by a Secretary-level officer to ensure fairness and necessity.

Police Authorisation Rule

If the order comes from the police, it must be from an officer not below Deputy Inspector General (DIG), who is specially authorised by the government.

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Transparency and Checks

The amendment ensures that government takedown orders are:

- Legally justified
- Proportionate and consistent
- Reviewed regularly to prevent misuse

Conclusion

This update is meant to make India's online ecosystem safer and more accountable both for users and for authorities. It prevents misuse of takedown powers while ensuring quick removal of harmful content that threatens India's sovereignty, security, or public order.

SOURCE: [Click here for more details](#)



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