

I&B Ministry's Move on Fake News

Why in news?

\n\n

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry withdrew its order which was earlier issued to regulate fake news.

\n\n

What did the order specify?

\n\n

\n

- I&B ministry recently released a notification on fake news.

\n

- Under it, accreditation of any journalist found guilty of disseminating “fake news” could be cancelled.

\n

- The complaints would be referred to the Press Council of India if they pertained to the print media.

\n

- It would be referred to the News Broadcasters Association (NBA) if they are related to the electronic media.

\n

- The regulatory agencies would have 15 days to dispose off a complaint.

\n

- During the period of probe, the journalist's accreditation would be suspended.

\n

- The note further said that on first violation, the accreditation would be suspended for 6 months.

\n

- The suspension on the second violation would be for a year and, on the third violation, it would be cancelled permanently.

\n

\n\n

What are the concerns with this?

\n\n

\n

- Many media stakeholders and opposition agitated against this.
- \n
- The move was seen as draconian since it paves the way for government's interference in press freedom.
- \n
- The notification released by the ministry did not define the phrase "fake news".
- \n
- The I&B order will only affect the accredited journalists.
- \n
- Various news portals were not covered by the government's accreditation policy.
- \n
- It is also said that government did not consult on "Media Ethics" with organisations like the PCI and NBA before passing this order.
- \n
- Following the outrage from the media and the Opposition, the Ministry has decided to withdraw its order.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Hindu

\n\n

\n\n

\n\n

Quick Fact

\n\n

News Broadcasters Association (NBA)

\n\n

\n

- The News Broadcasters Association (NBA) represents the private television news and current affairs broadcasters.
\n
- It is an organization funded entirely by its members.
\n
- The NBA presents a unified and credible voice before the Government, on matters that affect the growing industry.
\n

\n\n

Press Council of India

\n\n

- \n
- The Press Council of India is an autonomous, statutory, quasi-judicial body.
\n
- It governs the conduct of the print media.
\n
- It is also empowered to hold hearings on receipt of complaints and take suitable action where appropriate.
\n

\n\n

\n

