

**No. DM/34/2021-DM
Government of India
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Digital Media Division**

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

Dated: 16 September, 2021

To,

1. Digital news publishers
2. Publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms)

Subject: Formation and/or membership of publishers with self-regulatory bodies under Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021

Madam/Sir,

Attention is invited to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Codes) Rules, 2021, notified by the Government of India on 25th February, 2021.

2. Since the notification of the Rules, the Ministry has taken several steps for awareness among the digital media publishers related to various aspects of the Digital Media Ethics Code under the Rules. These include conduct of a series of interactive virtual meetings (webinars) with the stakeholders; release of FAQs in Hindi, English and multiple regional languages; etc. The Ministry has also received information from over 1,800 digital media publishers under rule 18 of the Rules.

3. As per rule 11(2) of the Rules, each publisher shall be a member of a self-regulatory body. In this regard, a common query asked by many publishers during the webinars was related to the process of formation of self-regulatory bodies under the Rules. In this regard, it is hereby informed that in accordance with rule 12, publishers or their associations, in coordination among themselves may constitute self-regulating bodies as per the provisions of the Rules. The self-regulatory body shall be headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court, a High Court, or an independent eminent person from the field of media, broadcasting, entertainment, child rights, human rights or such other relevant field, and have other members, not exceeding six, being

experts from such fields. After constitution, the self-regulatory bodies shall register with the Ministry.

4. The Ministry has already registered three self-regulatory bodies of digital media publishers, the details of which are available at the Ministry's website.

5. In this regard, the publishers are hereby requested to form self-regulatory bodies and seek registration from the Ministry under Rule 12. For the purpose of registration, the self-regulatory body may inform the Ministry regarding its composition, and the member publishers. The information may be sent via email to:

- Shri Amarendra Singh, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (Email: amarendra.singh@nic.in), or
- Shri Kshitij Aggarwal, Assistant Director, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (Email: kshitij.aggarwal@gov.in).

6. In case, a publisher has already become the member of a self-regulatory body and furnished the name of the body in the information furnished under rule 18, this communication may be ignored.

7. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,



10/09/2021

(Kshitij Aggarwal)

Assistant Director (DM)

Email: kshitij.aggarwal@gov.in