

## Government Frames Rules to Blacklist Fake News (Download PDF)

(August 27, 2018)

Information & Broadcasting Ministry amended Guidelines for Journalists' Accreditation stating that if journalist is found to have "created & propagated" fake news, journalist's accreditation will be suspended or permanently cancelled.



*Image of Fake News*

- In press release issued Monday evening, Press Council of India & News Broadcasters Association (NBA), 2 regulatory bodies for print & television media respectively, will determine whether news is fake or not.
- While I&B Minister Smriti Irani said that both these bodies were not "regulated/operated" by govt. , statement was defined punishment & left both definition of fake news & nature of complaint open-ended.
- Once complaint is registered for "determination of fake news," accreditation of journalist who "created & propagated fake news" will be "suspended till such time determination regarding fake news is made by regulating agencies mentioned above.

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- Determination is “expected to be completed within 15 days” by regulating agencies.
- Journalist is accredited w/Press Information Bureau of Centre after she/he has least “5 years’ experience as full-time working journalist. “
- Freelance journalists need to have 15 years’ experience & foreign correspondents 5 years w/valid work visa.
- Amendment by claiming increase in “instances of fake news in various mediums including print & electronic media. “
- On receiving any complaints of such instances of fake news, it would be referred to Press Council of India if it pertains to print media & to NBA if it relates to electronic media, for determination of news item being fake or not.
- Accreditation Committee of Press Information Bureau, which consists of representatives of both Press Council of India & NBA shall be invariably be reached out to for validating any accreditation request of any news media agency.
- If publishing or telecast of fake news is confirmed, journalist’s accreditation shall be suspended for 6 months for 1<sup>st</sup> violation, 1 year for 2<sup>nd</sup> violation & will be permanently cancelled if there is 3<sup>rd</sup> violation.
- While examining requests seeking accreditation, regulatory agencies will examine whether `Norms of Journalistic Conduct’ & `Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards’ prescribed by PCI & NBA respectively are adhered to by journalists & it would be obligatory for journalists to abide by these guidelines.

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