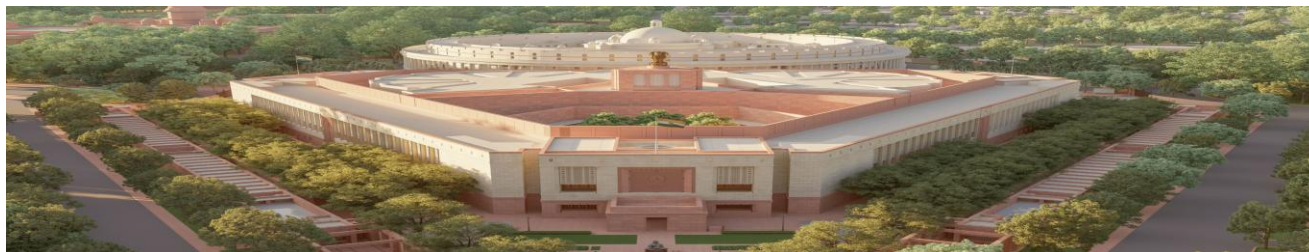


PRESS RELEASE



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT PARLIAMENT HOUSE NEW DELHI

THE TWENTY-SECOND REPORT (EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2024-25) ON THE SUBJECT 'REVIEW OF MECHANISM TO CURB FAKE NEWS' RELATING TO THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

13th October, 2025

The Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2024-25), on 4th October, 2025, presented to Speaker the Twenty-second Report of the Committee on the subject 'Review of mechanism to curb Fake News' relating to the Ministry Information and Broadcasting (MIB). Some of the important Observations/Recommendations are as under:-

Subject	Observations/Recommendations
<i>Multi-faceted and combined approach required to curb Fake News – Desired.</i>	<p><u>Introductory</u></p> <p>The Committee have felt that the issue of 'Fake News' requires a multi-faceted approach and combined efforts by individuals, Governments, Print as well as electronic media digital media growing and social media platforms in curbing the menace. Therefore, the Committee have desired that the hazards of 'Fake News'/misinformation are to be prevented so as to avoid misleading common people, mental trauma to victims and in maintaining the credibility and freedom of all forms of Media. The Committee have recommended the Ministry to act in right earnest through robust and comprehensive approach and provide details of the time bound action taken to address all the issues highlighted in the Report.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation No. 1)</p>
<i>Need for defining the term 'Fake News' and considering all the dimensions and parameters related to it – Recommended.</i>	<p><u>Need for defining 'Fake News'</u></p> <p>The Committee learnt that the term 'Fake News' has not been defined under any statute and there is ambiguity related to the term misinformation/fake news. A need has been felt for defining the term 'Fake News' per se in a subtle manner and incorporate suitable clauses in the existing regulatory mechanism for print, electronics and digital media while maintaining the delicate balance of combating misinformation and protecting freedom of speech and individual rights as guaranteed under the Constitution. The Committee have also cautioned the Ministry to consider all the dimensions and parameters related to the term in consultation with the Stakeholders while defining it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation No. 2)</p>

<p><i>To augment efforts for effectively dealing with the challenges and problems created by Fake News in digital as well as social media platforms and to set up a Committee of experts to suggest amendments in existing Acts/Rules/Guidelines to address the misinformation or the fake news - Urged</i></p>	<p><u>Regulatory Mechanism for curbing Fake News</u> Regarding the adequacy of the existing legislative provisions and mechanisms to tackle the menace of Fake News, some of the stakeholders submitted that they are adequate and some felt it was not adequate in terms of the fact that intermediaries, content providers and social media platforms are not covered by the law. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have been urged to augment their concerted efforts to effectively deal with the challenges and problems created by Fake News in digital as well as social media platforms, in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. Similarly, there is a need to strengthen the Press Council of India by way of developing online Complaint Portal like CPGRAM. The Ministry has been asked to explore the option of having an independent centralized monitoring body with representatives from MeitY, all forms of Media and stakeholders for adjudicating cross-platform fake news cases and recommend penalties. Since there is a need for amending the existing Acts/Rules/Guidelines related to Print Media for tackling the issue of 'Fake News', the Committee have recommended the Ministry to set up a Committee of experts to suggest amendments in existing Acts/Rules/Guidelines like 'IT Act, 2000', 'The Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act 1995, etc. to address the misinformation or the fake news effectively.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation No. 3)</p>
<p><i>Inclusion of the condition in the uplinking/downlinking permissions mandating Broadcasters to either join a registered SRB or establish their own SRB – Appreciated</i></p>	<p><u>Role of Self Regulatory Mechanism in curbing Fake News</u> While acknowledging the support of most of the Stakeholders for Self-Regulatory Monitoring Mechanism to curb Fake News, the Committee have felt that for making the Self-regulatory mechanism effective, all TV channels should be brought under its umbrella. The Committee have appreciated the Ministry's initiative for inclusion of the condition in the uplinking/downlinking permissions for satellite TV channels mandating Broadcasters to either join an SRB registered with the Ministry or establish their own SRB and get it registered with them. The Committee have asked the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to ensure that fact checking mechanism and internal ombudsman be made mandatory in all print, digital and electronic media organisations of the Country.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation No. 4)</p>
<p><i>Collaborative effort among all the stakeholders to develop tools and technology for detecting Fake News/Misinformation would play a crucial role in curbing Fake News - Opined</i></p>	<p><u>Organization/ Mechanism involved in Fact Checking</u> Despite there being many independent fact-checkers, fact-check organizations and Fact Check Units of Media organisations, yet they work in isolation. Since no single organization, Government or Private, have the capacity to cross check and handle the large volume of fake news, the Committee have opined that a collaborative effort among all the stakeholders to develop tools and technology for detecting Fake News/Misinformation would play a crucial role in curbing Fake News. Further, while noting the submission of MIB, that giving FCU (under PIB) a statutory basis is necessary for checking Fake News relating to the plans, programmes and initiatives of the Government, the Committee have recommended the Ministry to explore its feasibility and apprise them about the same.</p>

	(Recommendation No. 5)
<i>To ensure frequent meetings of Inquiry Committee to hear cases and fix a time limit to clear pendency– Recommended</i>	<p><u>Cases related to Fake News</u></p> <p>While noting the plans/proposal of the Ministry to reduce backlog/pendency of cases with respect to print, electronic and digital media, the Committee have recommended them to ensure frequent meetings of Inquiry Committee to hear cases and fix a time limit to clear pendency on a fast-track mode and also categorize backlog items in order to expedite their disposal.</p> <p>(Recommendation No. 6)</p>
<i>Need for amending the penal provisions for publishing/telecasting Fake News; Need for clearly assigning accountability; etc., for peddling 'Fake News' – Opined.</i>	<p><u>Penal Provisions related to Fake News</u></p> <p>Suggested that the amount of fine can be increased so as to make it deterrent enough for creators/ publishers of fake news. The Committee have desired for clearly assigning accountability of Editors/Content heads for editorial control; of Owners/Publishers for institutional failures, of Intermediaries/Platforms, etc., for peddling 'Fake News'. The penal provisions for publishing/telecasting Fake News in relevant Act/Rules/Guidelines for each form of Media (print, Electronic, Digital) maybe amended. The Ministry may explore the feasibility of cancelling the accreditation of a journalist/creator who is found guilty of creating and/or propagating 'Fake News'.</p> <p>(Recommendation No. 7)</p>
<i>Time-Bound Grievance Redressal Framework and implement digital tracking system of the grievances/complaints on the lines of PCI initiative; To emulate best practices, etc. - Urged</i>	<p><u>Grievance Redressal Mechanism</u></p> <p>Ministry urged to formulate concrete Time-Bound Grievance Redressal Framework and implement digital tracking system of the grievances/complaints on the lines of PCI initiative. The Committee have also asked the Ministry to look into the feasibility of the following and apprise them accordingly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Prescribe a time limit for PCI Complaint Resolution Mechanism; (ii) Have unified digital portal for grievance redressal w.r.t 'Fake News/misinformation; (iii) Emulate best practices of international standard/certain States/Union Territories that have dedicated helpline number/portal to counter misinformation and fake news; (iv) Impress upon Social Media Platforms to strengthen their grievance redressal mechanism through helpline number or other recourse for dealing with cases of Fake News; and (v) Increase public awareness about the existing Grievance Redressal Channels/ mechanism to prevent misinformation/ Fake News. <p>(Recommendation No. 8)</p>
<i>To have balanced approach for using AI to curb Fake News; To explore the</i>	<p><u>Artificial Intelligence and Fake News</u></p> <p>With a word of caution, the Committee have advocated for a balanced approach for using AI to curb Fake News wherein AI tools are leveraged with human oversight and have also urged for close coordination between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and other concerned</p>

<i>feasibility of Licensing requirements for AI content creators and mandatory labelling of AI-generated videos and content – Recommended</i>	<p>Ministries/Departments to develop concrete legal and technological solutions for identifying and prosecuting individuals and entities responsible for disseminating AI-generated fake news. Inter-Ministerial coordination for exploring the feasibility of Licensing requirements for AI content creators and Mandatory labelling of AI- generated videos and content recommended.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation No. 9)</p>
<i>To emulate best practices adopted by other countries; To have a dedicated Inter-Ministerial Task Force; To conduct nation-wide campaigns to educate citizens about the risks of cross-border fake news – Recommended</i>	<p><u>Challenges associated with Fake News crossing international borders</u></p> <p>Acknowledging the complexities involved in fake news crossing borders the Committee have felt that apart from Inter-Ministerial collaboration at national level and multi-lateral cooperation with international bodies, following may also be considered to address the concerns related to Cross-Border Fake News:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The Ministry may emulate best practices adopted by other countries, for example like French Law on Election Misinformation, etc with a perspective of dealing with Fake News in India; (ii) To have a small but a dedicated Inter-Ministerial Task Force to deal with issues related to cross-border misinformation/Fake News with representatives from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and eminent legal experts in the field; and (iii) To conduct nation-wide campaigns to educate citizens about the risks of cross-border fake news, especially in regional languages. <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation No. 10)</p>
<i>To begin media literacy at School/College with comprehensive media literacy curriculum; To train teachers, instructors, librarian, etc., and to have public awareness campaign, guidelines and frameworks for</i>	<p><u>Awareness/Training/Media literacy</u></p> <p>While noting that there are many ways to impart media literacy, the Committee have opined that media literacy beginning at School/College level can have far reaching effect and play a crucial role on young minds. The Ministry has been urged to consider, during their consultation with stakeholders, a comprehensive media literacy curriculum which can be designed for the educational journey of students. Training the teachers, instructors, librarian, etc., at the school level can also be considered. Besides public awareness campaign, guidelines and frameworks for media literacy for encouraging critical thinking recommended.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation No. 11)</p>

<i>media literacy – Urged</i>	
<i>To address the concerns associated with algorithm biases, its role in amplifying Fake News and issues related to Big Tech Companies, intermediaries/publishers; To have a dedicated Nodal officer (in India) in the Big Tech companies; etc. – Recommended</i>	<p><u>Social media, Algorithm and Fake News/Misinformation</u></p> <p>In order to make social media/intermediary platforms more accountable w.r.t peddling Fake content/News, the Committee have endorsed the view that for enforcing transparency in algorithms, introduce stricter fines, and penalties for repeat offenders, establish independent regulatory body, use technological tools like AI to curb the spread of misinformation, etc. Besides, the Committee have urged the Ministry to explore ways and means to address the concerns associated with algorithm biases and its role in amplifying Fake News and apprise them in this regard. The Committee have also called upon the Ministry to look into the feasibility of the following and apprise them accordingly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To work with MeitY and other stakeholders and bring out a solution to address the issues related to Big Tech Companies and individual content creators or influencers; (ii) The Ministry may come out with concrete solutions with respect to intermediaries/publishers particularly to deal with 'Safe Harbour'; (iii) To have a dedicated Nodal officer (in India) in the Big Tech companies; etc. <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation No. 12)</p>
