

Information Technology rules 2021

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In news– Information Technology(IT) rules 2021 are important as allegations of an objectionable video of women students of Chandigarh University was leaked recently.

What these rules say with respect to video leakage of an individual?

- **According to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**, a victim can directly approach the grievances redressal officer of any social media site independently or through an investigation agency.
- All major social sites including Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter are bound to place their grievances redressal officers in India, as per the notified rules.
- The **grievances officer is bound to acknowledge the complaint within twenty four hours** and dispose of such complaint within a period of fifteen days from the date of its receipt. The concerned intermediary is also bound to remove or make the content inaccessible for the public.
- **According to the Part 2 of the amended IT Rules, 2021, the content which exposes the private area of an individual** or shows them in full or partial nudity or shows/depicts them in any sexual act or conduct, or is in the nature of impersonation in an electronic form, including artificially morphed images, all reasonable and **practicable measures are to be taken to remove or disable access** to such content which is hosted, stored, published or transmitted.
- The IT Rules, 2021 is secondary or subordinate legislation that suppresses India's Intermediary Guidelines Rules 2011.

- **The Rules prescribe a framework for the regulation of content by online publishers of news and current affairs content, and curated audio-visual content.**
- A three-tier grievance redressal mechanism with varying levels of self-regulation has been prescribed for publishers.
- **These rules have stemmed from section 87 of the Information Technology Act, 2000** and are a combination of the draft Intermediaries Rules, 2018 and the OTT Regulation and Code of Ethics for Digital Media.
- The Central Government of India along with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting(MIB) have coordinated in the development of the rules.
- Rules administered by MeitY include the due diligence required of intermediaries and the grievance redressal mechanism.
- Rules administered by MIB include a code of ethics, a self-classification system and an oversight mechanism.