

# Information Technology rules 2021

September 20, 2022

**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.