

I & B Ministry - Guidelines

16/12/11	Despite self-regulation having been put in place by the news and general entertainment channels, 25 notices were issued by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry against various channels for showing excessive violence, vulgarity and obscenity during the current year 2011.
10/12/11	Television channels have been advised by the Information & Broadcasting ministry to stop telecast of programmes promoting superstitions and blind belief.
05/12/11	The networth of news and current affairs channels has been raised almost seven times from `30 million to `200 million for the first channel and `50 million for each additional channel. The government issued notification on networth criteria of TV channels.
01/12/11	The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has warned prospective applicants for the e-auction for the third phase of FM Radio not to be misled by unscrupulous elements since it has not appointed any persons to liaise on its behalf.
28/10/11	Following the approval of President Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the ordinance to make digitisation of cable services mandatory by 2014, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry has set in motion the process to put the infrastructure in place for meeting the deadlines.
25/10/11	A scheme for creation of a National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) for providing Broadband connectivity to Panchayats at a cost of `200 billion for the initial phase was approved by the Union Cabinet.
24/10/11	Although the Information and Broadcasting Ministry has issued 349 letter of intent for setting up community radios in the country, only 115 organisations have operationalised their radio stations.
18/10/11	Uday Kumar Varma, who had earlier served as special secretary in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, was appointed as secretary.
13/10/11	The Cabinet cleared the proposal for an ordinance to commence work on digitisation of cable television. The ordinance seeks to amend the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act to meet the 31 March 2012 deadline for digitisation in the four metros.
10/10/11	Arvind Kumar, Joint Secretary (Broadcasting) in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, has been asked to stay on 'until further orders'. Earlier, he had been asked to take over as the chief vigilance officer in the National Buildings Construction Corporation from 1 October.
07/10/11	The Indian government is making it tougher for those who have dodgy backgrounds to launch new channels, particularly in the news genre. For news and current affairs channels, the net worth criteria has been revised upwards, climbing almost seven times from `30 million to `200 million for the first channel and `50 million for each additional channel.
07/10/11	The licence of TV channels who violate the Programme and Advertisement Code on five occasions or more will not be renewed. The Union Cabinet approved the stricter norms that included the net worth criteria for media companies.
28/09/11	The Information and Broadcasting Ministry is actively working with the Health and Family Welfare Ministry to find ways to prevent glamourisation of smoking in cinema and television.

26/09/11	The government is working on an ordinance to speed up digitisation of the cable and satellite television industry.
05/09/11	Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting S Jagathrakshakan admitted in Parliament that 19 state government had been asked to allocate land free of cost to AIR for setting up the AIR FM channels.
02/09/11	The Government has clarified that there is no proposal to make any changes in the Programme or Advertisement Codes stipulated under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995.
13/08/11	The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has held that certain episodes of the reality show 'Emotional Atyachaar', telecast on UTV Bindass, violate various provisions of the Programme Code and are not fit for unrestricted public exhibition.
23/07/11	The first meeting of the 18-member Task Force constituted by I&B to oversee and facilitate the implementation of digital addressable cable TV systems in the country held in New Delhi.
07/7/11	The Union Cabinet has approved auctions for the third phase of FM radio privatization. The government expects to earn ` 17.33 billion from auctioning the radio licences, Information & Broadcasting Minister Ambika Soni said.
28/06/11	The government has asked the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) and the News Broadcasting Association (NBA) to finalise within three weeks their strategy relating to surrogate advertisements.
22/06/11	Former Prasar Bharati chief executive officer BS Lalli has now been slapped with a money-laundering case by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the awarding of ` 2.46 billion broadcast rights contract for the CWG.
23/05/11	The I&B ministry endorsed the recommendation by the TRAI to enhance foreign direct investment (FDI) ceiling for DTH, IPTV and teleport from 49% to 74%. However, it rejected recommendation to reduce the FDI ceiling for local cable operators from 49% to 26%, arguing that the limit had been 49% since 1995.
20/05/11	The Information and Broadcasting ministry has cleared 75 new channels including a few from Star India, Zee Entertainment, Discovery and UTV Entertainment. Some of the channels cleared are in High Definition.
18/05/11	The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has taken strong exception to applicants for new television channels using mediators to negotiate with the Ministry on their behalf and said it was strongly opposed to interference by third parties in this regard.
03/05/11	An 18-member Task Force headed by the Additional Secretary in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, Rajiv Takru, has been constituted to oversee and facilitate the implementation of digital addressable cable TV systems in the country.
29/04/11	The I&B ministry has decided to make changes in the FDI to aid the process of digitalization.
28/04/11	Information and Broadcasting Minister Ambika Soni urged the media to avoid sensationalism and trivialising important news in the pursuit of commercial interests.

16/04/11	The Government should immediately move to either set up a Parliamentary Committee and a Broadcasting Council as envisaged under the Prasar Bharati Act 1990 or take a comprehensive look at the Act as recommended by the Group of Ministers without any delay, a Parliamentary Committee has said.
13/04/11	The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has in its final report decided that digitisation of addressable cable systems will be completed in the country by December 2014.
05/03/11	Information & Broadcasting Additional Secretary Rajiv Takru, Joint Secretary Arvind Kumar, and Deputy Secretary KS Rejimohan took the meeting where the cable operators and multi-system operators (MSOs) gave their points of view on digitalisation.
14/02/11	Information and Broadcasting Ministry joint secretary (Broadcasting) Arvind Kumar, said that the government is in no hurry to allow FM radio stations to air news bulletins in the absence of an oversight agency to monitor the content.
08/02/11	Information and Broadcasting Minister Ambika Soni led a delegation of the entertainment industry in a meeting with Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, she handed to him a list of the demands from her Ministry.
05/02/11	While accepting the recommendation of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India that there should be no cap on the number of satellite broadcasting channels to be permitted to be downlinked or uplinked from India, the government has proposed that the networth requirement of Non News and Current Affairs channels and downlinking of channels may be increased from ` 15 million to ` 50 million and enhanced by ` 25 million for each additional channel.
04/02/11	The Government has set a deadline of 31 March 2012 for shift to digital addressability in the four metros of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai while rejecting the sunset date of 31 December 2013 for analogue transmission in the country as recommended by the sector regulator.
10/01/11	Information and Broadcasting Minister Ambika Soni said that the Council, set up earlier this year by the Indian Broadcasting Foundation and the Indian Society of Advertisers, should take note of the recommendations made by the Television Ratings Committee headed by the Ficci Secretary General Amit Mitra.
04/01/11	Information and Broadcasting Minister Ambika Soni declined to comment on a directive of the Allahabad High Court on item songs in films, saying she had not received a copy of the notice. The order was passed by a division bench of the Lucknow bench comprising Justices Pradeepkant and Rituraj Awasthi. On 23 December, a woman had filed the PIL seeking an immediate ban on the two songs.
04/01/11	Information and Broadcasting Minister Ambika Soni said her Ministry had been forced to face unnecessary embarrassment when the Bombay High Court stayed its notice to Colors channel on Bigg Boss twice.
24/12/10	The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has, in a fresh notice, asked Hindi general entertainment channel Colors to telecast the reality show Bigg Boss after 11 PM.
08/12/10	Forty private television channels have still not sent their operational status to the I & B Ministry despite a notice to them in May to do so by 11 June. According to information supplied in Parliament, the Information and Broadcasting Minister CM Jatua asked all channels to give details of their operational status along with WPC licence.
01/09/10	A Panel under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting recommends amendment to

	the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to stop piracy in the country.
21/08/10	A total of 82 community radio stations have become operational in India, according to data available till 31 July said I&B state Minister CM Jatua.
10/08/10	The Information and Broadcasting Ministry opposes TRAI's idea to move onto digital by 2013.
09/08/10	The Information and Broadcasting Ministry revokes the licenses given to 20 FM radio stations.
02/08/10	Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting CM Jatua informs the Parliament there are 264 applications for new TV channels pending with the Ministry till July 23, 2010.
12/07/10	The Information and Broadcasting Ministry allocates Rs 256.85 crore for revamping the television channels in the North Eastern states.
22/06/10	I&B Ministry asks all community radio stations that have either signed Grant of Permission Agreement (GoPA) or received letters of intent (LoI) from the Ministry to submit their up-to-date status report to the ministry.
21/05/10	The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting asks Google, Yahoo and MSN not to post the ad links related to sex-determination tests.
11/05/10	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting sets-up a committee under the chairmanship of FICCI Director General Amit Mitra to review the existing TRP system.
10/05/10	Information and Broadcasting Ministry announces to increase the ambit of Journalists Welfare Fund to include the electronic media journalists into the scheme as well.
03/04/10	Joint Secretary at I&B ministry, DP Reddy takes additional charge of Broadcasting at the Ministry.
01/04/10	The Information and Broadcasting Ministry begins receiving TV channel applications for uplinking/ downlinking permission.
19/03/10	Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ambika Soni announces to set-up a "National Centre for Animation and Gaming" & "National Heritage Mission" to bring alive the memories of 100 years of Indian cinema.
05/03/10	I&B Minister Ambika Soni informs the Parliament that the Press Council of India is expected to receive a report from its Sub-Committee proving the malaise of paid news by the end of this month.
19/02/10	The Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ambika Soni asks Prasar Bharati to be more transparent in its actions while addressing the second meeting of the Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament attached to her Ministry.
18/02/10	The I&B Ministry asks the stakeholders to submit their views on the proposed PRB Act (Amendments), 1867 by March 3, 2010.
17/02/10	The I&B Ministry appoints Uday K Varma, Special Secretary at I&B Ministry to look into the matter for a resolution of IPL telecast issue, in the wake of international news agencies approaching the Government to intervene into the issue.
24/02/10	The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issues advisory for media, asking them to exercise caution while covering the terrorist incidents in the country.
19/02/10	The Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ambika Soni asks Prasar Bharati to be more transparent in its actions while addressing the second meeting of the Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament attached to her Ministry.

17/02/10	The I&B Ministry writes to the TRAI, seeking its opinion on the "framework and functioning" of the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC).
10/02/10	I&B Ministry asked 164 private channels, which were given permission to uplink before December 2005, to register for downlinking in the country.
20/01/10	I&B proposes Rs 14 billion for DD, AIR digitization.
19/01/10	I&B Ministry decides to cease receiving new applications for uplinking/ downlinking TV channels from India.