



Statement from the Asia Internet Coalition (AIC) on India's Information Technology Intermediary Guidelines (Amendment) Rules 2018

31 Jan 2019

(Please attribute quote to Jeff Paine, Managing Director, Asia Internet Coalition)

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The Asia Internet Coalition commends the Indian government for reviewing the Intermediary Guidelines to address platform abuse, however we are deeply concerned by key provisions of the Draft Rules that fall short of India's legal precedents and laws around privacy and free speech.

While Internet intermediaries fully support addressing issues like malicious misinformation, we strongly feel that blanket regulation that is overly broad and contains vague and ambiguous language will jeopardise citizens' fundamental rights to privacy and free speech.

Given the significant role that internet platforms play in growing the digital economy, we hope policy makers will take a long-term view and avoid reactive regulation. This is critical to ensure that India's consumers and small businesses can benefit from global digital opportunities, specifically Micro SMEs and SMEs that are the backbone of the Indian economy.

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About the Asia Internet Coalition

The Asia Internet Coalition (AIC) is an industry association comprising leading internet and technology companies. The AIC seeks to promote the understanding and resolution of Internet policy issues in the Asia Pacific region. For more information, visit www.aicasia.org