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सत्यमेव जयते



भारतीयप्रेसपरिषद् PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

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Dated: 24.01.2024

Press Release

The Press Council of India advises the print media to refrain from publishing any content that may be false or manipulated or has the potential to disturb communal harmony or public order.

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting vide advisory No.DM/15/2022-DM dated 20 January, 2024 advises various media platform to maintain adherence to the norms and regulations applicable to the media, especially in matters related to public order, factual accuracy of information being published/ broadcast, and communal harmony among various religious communities of India.

Further, the Ministry of I&B has observed that certain unverified, provocative and fake messages are being spread in light of the Ram Lalla Pran Pratishtha event at Ayodhya, which can disturb communal harmony and public order. In this regard, attention is invited to provisions of the Programme Code under the Cable Television Network Regulation Act, 1995, and Norms of Journalistic Conduct laid down by the Press Council of India under the Press Council Act, 1978, a reference to which has also been made in the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

Attention is also invited to the following Norms of Journalistic Conduct of the Press Council :-

Norm 1. Accuracy and Fairness:

- i) *The Press shall eschew publication of inaccurate, baseless, graceless, misleading or distorted material.*

Norm 4. Cast, Religion or Community References:

- vi) *It is the duty of the newspaper to ensure that the tone, spirit and language of a write up is not objectionable, provocative, against the unity and integrity of the country, spirit of the constitution, seditious and inflammatory in nature or designed to promote communal disharmony.*

Norm 32. "Paramount National Interest:

- i) *Newspaper shall, as a matter of self-regulation, exercise due restraint and caution in presenting any news, comment or information which is likely to jeopardize, endanger or harm the paramount interests of the State and society, or the rights of individuals with respect to which reasonable restrictions may be imposed by law on the right to freedom of speech and expression under clause (2) of Article 19 of the Constitution of India.*

In light of above and having regard to the larger public interest involved, the Print Media is advised to refrain from publishing any content that may be false or manipulated or has the potential to disturb communal harmony or public order.

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