

Section 69 (A) of Information Technology (IT) Act

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The government has asked social media platforms to take down Manipur videos under **Section 69 (A) of the information technology (IT) Act** as it could further disrupt the law-and-order situation in the state.



[ref- timesofindia]

About Section 69(A) of IT Act:

- The Centre has powers to **issue content takedown** orders to **social media companies** under **Section 69 (A)** of the Information Technology Act, 2000.
- It allows the **government to issue content-blocking** orders to **online intermediaries** such as Internet Service Providers (ISPs), telecom service providers, web hosting services, search engines, online marketplaces, etc.
- It requires the information or content being blocked to be deemed a threat to India's national security, sovereignty, or public order. [Bold important terms]
- If the **Centre** or **state government** are satisfied that blocking the content is "**necessary**" and "**expedient**" on grounds of:
 - **Sovereignty or integrity of India,**
 - **Defence of India,**
 - **Security of the State,**
 - **Friendly relations with foreign States,**
 - **Public order,**
 - **Preventing incitement** to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above or for investigation of any offence.
- As per rules that govern these **blocking orders**, any request made by the government is **sent to a review committee**, which then **issues these directions**.
- **Blocking orders issued** under Section 69 (A) of the IT Act are **typically confidential in nature**.