

Bombay HC seeks Centre's reply on IT Rules challenge

Bombay High Court directed the Union government to file an affidavit regarding Kunal Kamra's plea challenging IT Rules 2021 amendment and Sahyog Portal.

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, regulate social media intermediaries and digital news publishers in India, aiming to address online content.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Bombay High Court** directed the **Union government** to file an affidavit by **July 29**.
- The directive is in response to a **petition** filed by stand-up comedian **Kunal Kamra**.
- The petition challenges the **constitutional validity** of the **Sahyog Portal**.
- It also challenges the **2025 amendment** to **Rule 3(1)(d)** of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.
- Mr. Kamra contends that these **provisions** enable **censorship rules** and procedures.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The **Information Technology Act, 2000**, is the primary law in India dealing with **cybercrime** and electronic commerce.

Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to **freedom of speech and expression**.

This right is subject to **reasonable restrictions** under **Article 19(2)** for reasons like public order, decency, or morality.

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, were notified by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** to regulate **digital content**.

High Courts in India derive their power from Chapter V of **Part VI** of the Constitution, specifically **Articles 214 to 231**.

The **Bombay High Court** is one of the oldest High Courts in India, established in **1862**.

Judicial review is a power of the judiciary to interpret the **Constitution** and declare any law or order void if it conflicts with the **Constitution**.

The **52nd Constitutional Amendment Act** of **1985** added the **Tenth Schedule**, dealing with **anti-defection law**, a key aspect of parliamentary democracy.

REVISION FLASHCARD

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Syllabus Relevance: High

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