

New IT rules are empowering and will protect users: Minister

'They will ensure a safer and more responsible social media ecosystem in India'

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NEW DELHI

Information Technology and Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday said the new information technology rules were empowering and protecting users.

The new IT rules will ensure a safer and more responsible social media ecosystem in India, the Minister said.

"Reviewed the implementation and compliance of Information Technology Rules, 2021 along with my colleague Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar ji. These guidelines are empowering and protecting users and will ensure a safer and responsible social media ecosystem in



India," Mr. Vaishnaw said in a post on the Koo platform, Twitter's Indian competitor.

The new rules, which came into effect from May 25, mandate social media companies to establish a grievance redress mechanism for resolving complaints from the users or victims.

All significant social media companies with a user

base of over 50 lakh shall appoint a grievance officer to deal with such complaints and share the name and contact details of such officers.

The big social media companies are mandated to appoint a chief compliance officer, a nodal contact person and a resident grievance officer.

All of them should be resi-

dents of India.

However, Facebook-owned Whatsapp has challenged the new IT rules for social media intermediaries requiring the messaging app to trace chats and make provisions to identify the first originator of information, saying they violate the right to privacy and are unconstitutional.

WhatsApp further alleged the requirement of intermediaries enabling the identification of the first originator of information in India upon government or court order puts end-to-end encryption and its benefits "at risk".

Some of the media houses have also challenged the new IT rules and the matter is sub judice.