

# **Fact Check Unit**

## **Press Information Bureau**

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

#### **1. When was the PIB Fact Check Unit created**

The Unit started its operations in November, 2019.

#### **2. What is the objective of the Fact Check Unit?**

The objective of the Fact Check Unit is to act as a deterrent to creators and disseminators of fake news & misinformation and to provide people with an easy avenue to report suspicious and questionable information pertaining to the Government of India for fact-checking.

#### **3. Where can users submit their Fact Check queries?**

WhatsApp Hotline - +91 8799711259

Email ID - [socialmedia@pib.gov.in](mailto:socialmedia@pib.gov.in)

Website Portal - <https://factcheck.pib.gov.in/>

#### **4. What kind of queries can be submitted to the PIB Fact Check Unit?**

The PIB Fact Check unit only takes up queries related to the Government of India, its Ministries, Departments, Public Sector entities etc. Any matter that does not pertain to the Union Government is **not** taken up for evaluation/fact-checking by the Unit.

#### **5. Does the PIB Fact Check Unit accept queries only related to social media?**

No, it caters to any queries related to the Government of India, irrespective of the platform. .

**6. Does the PIB Fact Check Unit receive queries on call?**

No, the PIB Fact Check Unit receives queries only through Whatsapp Hotline, email and web portal.

**7. Can I submit queries on a letter?**

No, the Unit takes queries only through three online mechanisms

**8. Does the PIB Fact Check Unit charge any fees for fact checking?**

No fee is charged by the PIB Fact Check Unit for fact checking.

**9. Does the PIB Fact Check Unit maintain a record of phone numbers or email ids of persons sending queries?**

No, PIB Fact Check Unit maintains no record of complainants.

**10. What platforms is the PIB Fact Check Unit present on?**

PIB Fact Check Unit has a presence on and places all fact-checked information on the following platforms

- a. Twitter
- b. Facebook
- c. Koo
- d. Instagram and
- e. Telegram

**11. Where can I find all the fact checks done by the PIB Fact Check Unit till date?**

All the fact checks done by PIB Fact Check Unit can be found on its social media accounts.

## 12. What process is followed for Fact Checking?

A two step process is undertaken to evaluate any received information

- a. The received queries are researched against authoritative Government sources like websites, press releases, government social media accounts etc.
- b. The query is checked with the concerned Ministry through an attached PIB Officer and relevant information is gathered.

## 13. What is the FACT Model followed by PIB Fact Check?

The fact checking process is based on the **FACT** model – **Find, Assess, Create and Target**.

**Find:** The PIB Fact Check Unit takes Suo Moto cognizance on Fact Checking as well as receives queries on Whatsapp Hotline, email, web portal and from Ministries/Departments.

**Assess:** The Unit segregates the received information after ascertaining whether it falls within the ambit of Fact Check Unit. The relevant queries are researched using various fact checking tools and verified through open-source information available only on Government websites, notices, circulars, documents, and e-gazettes.

**Create:** After verifying the authenticity of the received information from authorized sources, the Fact Check Unit creates content fit for social media.

**Target:** The PIB Fact Check Unit then posts the content on its various social media platforms, which are as follows :

Twitter - @PIBFactCheck

Instagram - /PIBFactCheck

Koo - @PIBFactCheck

Telegram - [t.me/PIB\\_FactCheck](https://t.me/PIB_FactCheck)

Facebook - [/PIBFactCheck](https://www.facebook.com/PIBFactCheck)

**14. Does the Unit take help of private fact checking organizations for its work?**

No, the Unit only takes up queries related to the Government of India and does not reach out to any private entity for its work.

**15. What is the annual budget of the Fact Check Unit?**

No separate budget has been allocated for the Fact Check Unit.

**16. Where is the PIB Fact Check Unit office located?**

National Media Center, Raisina Road, New Delhi