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Media Transparency & Public Trust: Legal Obligations for News Organisation

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Abstract

Media transparency is crucial for societies to effectively combat misinformation and pollution. This article explores how media transparency plays a significant role in social and economic development. It discusses four key channels of transparency at the regulatory level: proactive disclosure by the government, release of requested materials by the government, public consultations, and leaks from sources. These channels help prevent misleading information from authorities, promoting a transparent environment essential for a thriving society and economy. The article also touches on challenges to transparency, such as threats to information dissemination and integrity, emphasizing the importance of truth, trust, fairness, and reputation in the media landscape.

Keywords: *Media transparency, social development, economic development, misinformation, pollution, regulatory level, government disclosure, public consultations,*

Introduction

Media Transparency is seen through strategy for its ability to assist social orders with responsiveness and aggression toward pollution. This fair method for managing and understanding media straightforwardness expressly oversees how media straightforwardness is a huge piece of the social and money-related new development. The article alluded to examines the four basic channels of straightforwardness at the administrative level; proactive dispersal by the public power; appearance of referenced materials by the public power; public social affairs; and breaks from sources. These four techniques for correspondence help to stop any kind of deplorable deluding exposure introduced by councils and specialists and work towards complete straightforwardness which means a lot to make a thriving social and

money-related structure. Exposure stands to be a threat to the specific spread and confirmation of information, which generally upsets that straightforwardness endeavors to accomplish. The going with regions opens on additional conspicuous pieces of Exposure, and different habits by which straightforwardness is disturbed moreover. Truth, trust, decency and reputation are key thoughts for sorting out the association among authors and promoting experts.

Research Objective

The objective of this research is to understand the legal obligations that are followed and practiced by media houses & professionals to imbibe media transparency & build public trust. This study also emphasizes the relationship between media and the general public. To investigate the legal obligations of news organizations concerning media transparency and its impact on public trust.

Literature Review

This relative examination looks at the lawful commitments forced on news associations in India with respect to straightforwardness and responsibility. It investigates how legitimate systems shape editorial practices and impact public impression of media believability. The review features the strain between legitimate commitments, for example, maligning regulations and opportunity of data acts, and editorial morals in keeping up with straightforwardness and cultivating public trust. This research aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the legal obligations of news organizations regarding media transparency and its significance for public trust. The findings will inform policymakers, journalists, and media professionals about the current state of regulatory frameworks, potential areas for improvement, and best practices for fostering transparency in the media industry. Ultimately, it seeks to promote accountability, integrity, and trustworthiness in journalistic practices, thereby strengthening democratic values and the functioning of civil society.

Research Questions

What are the existing legal frameworks and regulations governing media transparency in various jurisdictions?

How do news organizations interpret and implement these legal obligations regarding transparency?

What are the perceived challenges or ambiguities in legal requirements related to media transparency?

How do different stakeholders, including journalists, legal experts, and policymakers, perceive the effectiveness of current legal obligations in fostering media transparency?

What role does media transparency play in enhancing or detracting from public trust in news organizations?

How do news organizations balance the imperative of transparency with other considerations such as editorial independence and protection of sources?

What are the potential consequences for news organizations that fail to meet legal obligations regarding transparency?

Are there any emerging trends or shifts in legal frameworks that are shaping the landscape of media transparency and public trust?

How do cultural, political, and technological factors influence the implementation and enforcement of legal obligations for media transparency?

What strategies or best practices can news organizations adopt to ensure compliance with legal requirements while maintaining public trust in their reporting?

Methodology

This study will utilize a mixed-methods approach, integrating both qualitative and quantitative methodologies:

1. Legal analysis: A thorough examination of pertinent laws, regulations, and judicial decisions concerning media transparency in chosen jurisdictions.
2. Case studies: Investigation of particular instances where news agencies encountered legal disputes or controversies concerning transparency, analyzing the consequences and significance.
3. Content analysis: Evaluation of news reporting and editorial guidelines to gauge the degree of transparency practiced by various media organizations.

Media Transparency

Media transparency, also referred to as transparent media or media opacity, is a concept that explores how and why information subsidies are being produced, distributed and handled by media professionals, including journalists, editors, public relations practitioners, government officials, public affairs specialists, and spokespeople. In short, media transparency reflects the relationship between civilization and journalists, news sources and government. According to a textual analysis of “Information Subsidies and Agenda Building: A Study of Local Radio News”, an information subsidy is defined as “any item provided to the media in order to gain time or space” (Burns, 1998). In order to understand media transparency, one must gain an understanding of the different aspects in which media transparency is researched, understood, and explored. Media transparency deals with the openness and accountability of the media and can be defined as a transparent exchange of information subsidies based on the ideas of newsworthiness. Media transparency is one of the biggest challenges of contemporary everyday media practices around the world as media outlets and journalists constantly experience pressures from advertisers, information sources, publishers, and other influential groups. News sources may influence what information is published or not published.

Sometimes, published information can also be paid for by news sources, but the end media product (an article, a program, a blog post) does not clearly indicate that the message has been paid or influenced in any way. Such media opacity, or media non-transparency, ruins the trust and transparency between the media and the public and have implications for transparency of new forms of advertising and public relations (such as native advertising and brand journalism).

Media transparency is defined to be a normative concept and is achieved when:

there are many competing sources of information;

the method of information delivery is known; and

funding of media production is disclosed and publicly available.

Public Trust

As per the overview led in India in 2022, around 66 per cent of the respondents confided in media. The consequences of the worldwide overview uncovered the slope of confidence in China, UAE and Thailand. Then again, trust in news diminished by the biggest offer in Germany that year. With the coming of the COVID-19 pandemic in mid-2020, news utilization in India saw an increment across most media designs, particularly TV. While the public looked for ordinary updates and data in regards to the improvement of the pandemic circumstance, issues like the spread of phony news as well as news media validity turned into a worry. Papers were the most believed news source among different media.

On the computerized front, a blend of inheritance news distributor applications and news aggregators was the purchasers' decision, particularly in the event that it included reality really taking a look at highlights. Regarded columnists and editors were likewise referred to as a justification for customers to believe news brands.

In 2023, purchasers seemed to direct away from heritage news TV slots while trust in the state-claimed news channel, DD India, and the country's public telecaster, All India Radio, soared. Given the G20 highest point facilitated by India that year and the impending general decisions in 2024, interest in the news is supposed to resurge. Subsequently, the public authority progressively put resources into promoting efforts across papers and online stages.

News Consumption Preferences of Indian Citizens

The Indian mediascape contains a huge number of enrolled papers and periodicals, north of 900 confidential TV slots, and in excess of 1,000 radio broadcasts working in numerous provincial dialects including Hindi and English. The nation's media and media outlet was esteemed at in excess of a trillion Indian rupees and is supposed to develop. Over the long haul, news utilization has turned into a necessary piece of regular day-to-day existence in this tremendous majority rules government of over 1.4 billion individuals. India's news industry is to a great extent overwhelmed by the TV and print areas, with the Hindi-talking market representing a significant part of the media utilization in the country. The news channels Aaj Tak and CNN-News18 arose on top with the biggest portions of viewership in the Hindi and English-talking markets, separately. Nonetheless, this doesn't imply that news in territorial dialects is deficient and sought after; around 100 channels are dedicated to provincial information. Among the heap dailies distributed the nation over, Urdu and Telugu had the second and third most noteworthy number of distributions, while papers in Marathi were the most circled after those in Hindi and English. Moreover, India's transmission industry has plenty of music-based FM stations of which it is just the country's public telecaster, All India Radio, that is permitted to deliver news.

In the meantime, the fast entrance of cell phones and portable web in India has prompted computerized media to arise as a central participant in the news business. The more youthful, metropolitan, and more taught news crowds in India oftentimes access news through web-based sources that incorporate online entertainment stages. India is home to more than 150 million dynamic web-based shoppers of information in Indian dialects, most of which are packed in provincial India. In an undeniably eager video market, online news was ideally consumed as recordings which further took care of into YouTube's progress in the country.⁴

Regulation Of Media in India

Media in India is for the most part self-controlled. The current bodies for guidelines of media, for example, the Press Committee of India which is a legal body and the News Broadcasting Principles Authority, a self-administrative association, issue norms which are more in the idea of rules. As of late, the Administrator of the Press Board of India, previous Equity of the High Court, Mr. M. Katju, has contended that TV and radio should be brought inside the extent of the Press Gathering of India or a comparative administrative body. We examine the current model of guidelines of various types of media. This note was first distributed at Rediff.⁵ 1. What is the Press Chamber of India (PCI)?

The PCI was laid out under the PCI Demonstration of 1978 to safeguard the opportunity of the press and to keep up with and work on the guidelines of papers and news organizations in India.

What is the arrangement of the PCI and who delegates the individuals?

The PCI comprises of a director and 28 different individuals. The Director is chosen by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Executive of the Rajya Sabha and a part chosen by the PCI.

The individuals comprise of individuals from the three Lok Sabha individuals, two individuals from the Rajya Sabha, six editors of papers, seven working columnists other than editors of papers, six people occupied with overseeing papers, one individual who is participated occupied with overseeing news organizations, and three people with extraordinary information on open life.

What are its capabilities?

The elements of the PCI incorporate among others (i) assisting papers with keeping up with their freedom; (ii) form a general set of rules for columnists and news organizations; (iii) help keep up with "exclusive requirements of public taste" and encourage liability among residents; and (iv) survey improvements prone to confine stream of information.

What are its powers?

The PCI has the ability to get grievances of infringement of the editorial morals, or expert wrongdoing by a proof-reader or writer. The PCI is answerable for enquiring into grievances. It might bring observers and make proof under vow, request duplicates of openly available reports to be submitted, and even issue alerts and rebuke the paper, news organization, manager or columnist. It might in fact require any paper to distribute subtleties of the request. Choices of the PCI are conclusive and can't be pursued under the watchful eye of a courtroom.

What are the limits on the powers of the PCI?

The powers of the PCI are limited in two ways. (1) The PCI has restricted abilities of upholding the rules given. It can't punish papers, news organizations, editors and writers for infringement of the rules. (2) The PCI just outlines the working of press media. That is, it can uphold guidelines upon papers, diaries, magazines and different types of print media. It doesn't have the ability to audit the working of the electronic media like radio, TV and web media.

Are there different bodies that audit TV or radio?

For screening films including short movies, narratives, network shows and promotions in theatres or broadcasting by means of TV, the Focal Leading body of Film Affirmation (CBFC) endorsement is required. The job of the CBFC is restricted to controlling the substance of motion pictures network shows, and so forth. Not at all like the PCI, it doesn't have the ability to give rules comparable to norms of information and editorial direction.

Program and Ad Codes for controlling substance broadcast on TV, are given under the Satellite TV Stations (Guideline) Act, 1995. The Region justice can hold onto the hardware of the link administrator in the event that he communicates programs that abuse these Codes. Certain guidelines have been recommended for content open over the web under the IT Rules 2011. Be that as it may, an administrative body, for example, the PCI or the CBFC doesn't exist. Grievances are addressed to the web access supplier or the host. Radio Channels need to follow a similar Program and Promotion Code as followed by All India Radio. Confidential TV and radio channels need to adjust to conditions which are important for permit arrangements. These incorporate norms for the broadcast of content. Rebelliousness might prompt suspension or renouncement of the permit.

Is there a course of self-Guided by TV slots?

Today news channels are represented by instruments of self-guideline. One such system has been made by the News Telecasters Affiliation. The NBA has contrived an Implicit set of rules to control TV content. The News Broadcasting Guidelines Authority (NBSA), of the NBA, is enabled to caution, reprimand, blame, express objection and fine the telecaster a total of up to Rs. 1 lakh for infringement of the Code. Another such association is the Transmission Editors' Affiliation. The Promoting Principles Gathering of India has additionally drawn up rules on the satisfaction of ads. These gatherings are overseen through arrangements and have no legal abilities.

Is the public authority proposing to make an administrative organization for TV telecasters? In 2006 the public authority had arranged a Draft Broadcasting Administrations Guideline Bill, 2006. The Bill made it required to look for a permit to broadcast any TV or radio channel or program. It likewise gives guidelines to guidelines of content. It is the obligation of the body to guarantee consistency with the rules given under the Bill.

Due Diligence Requirement for Intermediaries: The Rules came into effect on 25 February 2021. However, the provisions pertaining to due diligence requirements for significant social media intermediaries have been given a lead time of three months from the date of notification of the threshold of a significant social media intermediary (i.e. 25 February 2021) to implement the prescribed measures. Non-compliance with the provisions of the Rules may disqualify the intermediary from seeking exemption of liability under the IT Act and the intermediary may be liable to punishment under any law for the time being in force, including the IT Act and the Indian Penal Code 1860.

Furnishing information to the government: The rules state that intermediaries must provide information for verification of identity or assistance to any lawfully authorised government agency for prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of offences or for cyber security incidents, no later than 72 hours of receiving a written order.

Preservation of records: The Rules require intermediaries to preserve, maintain, and/or store the following information for 180 days: (a) any information that has been removed or access to which has been disabled under certain provisions of the Rules; and (b) user's information regarding registration, after cancellation or withdrawal of such registration. *Disabling access:* Intermediaries are not permitted to store, host or publish unlawful information which is prohibited under any law for the time being in force. In case such unlawful information is hosted, stored or published, the intermediary must remove or disable access to such information as early as possible, but within 36 hours of receiving a court order or being notified by a government agency.

Removal of/disabling access to explicit content: The Rules require expeditious action from an intermediary to remove or disable, within 24 hours of complaint, access to any material exposing the private area of any person, material with any nudity or depiction of any sexual act or conduct, or impersonation in an electronic form. In addition, intermediaries must provide a mechanism for receipt of complaints from users to enable them to provide details in relation to such explicit content.

Grievance redressal: Under the Rules, intermediaries must prominently publish on the website, mobile application or both- (a) the name and contact details of the grievance officer and (b) the complaint mechanism. The grievance officer must acknowledge the complaint within 24 hours and dispose of it within 15 days and provide reasons to the complainant for any action/inaction.

Details to be published: Intermediaries must prominently publish rules and regulations, privacy policies and user agreements on its website, mobile-based application or both. The users must be informed about types of information that are 'objectionable' which they shall not share, display, upload, etc. In addition to the types of objectionable information prescribed under the 2011 Rules, certain new types of information have been specified under the Rules. Therefore, intermediaries will have to consider revising the existing documents in this regard. Intermediaries must inform users at least once every year about (a) rules and regulations, privacy policy or user agreement and any changes thereunder; and (b) the intermediary's right to terminate the user's access or remove the non-compliant information from its platform in case of non-compliance with the rules and regulations, privacy policy or user agreement.

Additional Due Diligence Requirements for Significant Social Media Influencers Significance threshold: Social media intermediaries with fifty lakh (five million) registered users or more have been classified as significant social media intermediaries and are subject to additional due diligence requirements beyond those prescribed for intermediaries in general. However, the Government may require any other intermediary to also comply with the rules applicable to significant social media intermediaries if the services of such intermediary impose a material risk to the sovereignty or integrity of India, security of the State, etc. While in practice this could prove to be more of an enabling provision for the Government, at this initial juncture it appears that even relatively smaller social media platforms could be brought under the ambit of stricter compliances under the Rules.

Officers and contact address in India: All significant social media intermediaries are required to appoint: (a) a Chief Compliance Officer; (b) a Nodal Contact Person; and

(c) a Resident Grievance Officer, each of whom is to be an employee residing in India. The Rules also necessitate significant social media intermediaries to have a physical contact address in India published on their website mobile application or both. These mandatory requirements for all significant social media intermediaries, not only have significant implications in terms of setting up infrastructure and deployment of resources and employees in India but may also have significant commercial and tax implications for such intermediaries.

Active monitoring: In a departure from the 2011 Rules, significant social media intermediaries shall endeavor to deploy technology-based measures, including automated tools to identify information that depicts rape, child sexual abuse or conduct, or information that has previously been removed. The Rules also require the maintenance of appropriate human oversight and periodic review of such automated tools. The measures deployed are required to take into consideration, the interests of free speech and expression, and privacy of users, including interests protected through the appropriate use of technical measures.

Compliance report: Significant social media intermediaries must publish a monthly report containing details of- (a) the complaints received; (b) action taken; and (c) the number of links/information removed or to which access is disabled, pursuant to any proactive monitoring by using automated tools or any other relevant information as may be specified.

Identification of first originator of information: Significant social media intermediaries which provide messaging services will be required to enable identification of the first originator of information if required by a court order or an order passed under Section 69 of the IT Act. In case the originator is outside the Indian territory, the first originator in India will have to be identified. The Rules mention that the contents of the message are not required, but the identity of the originator is required to be disclosed.

Voluntary verification: The Rules impose an obligation on significant social media intermediaries to enable users who register for their services from India, or use their services in India, to verify their accounts by using any appropriate mechanism, including the active Indian mobile number of such users, to verify their accounts and to provide a visible mark of verification. However, it is specified that the verification cannot be used for any other purpose unless consented by the user.

Grievance redressal: The grievance redressal mechanism of a significant social media intermediary is required to enable tracking of the grievance/complaint through a ticket number associated with such a complaint. The intermediary is required to provide reasons for any action/inaction. The proposed mandatory grievance redressal mechanism may entail a considerable overhaul of the existing grievance redressal mechanism.

Removal of/disabling access to information: In case any objectionable information is removed by an intermediary on its own accord, the following steps need to be taken -

ensure that prior to the removal/ disabling access, the user who created, shared, uploaded such content is notified of such removal/ disabled access along with reasons;

provide adequate and reasonable opportunity to the user to dispute the action and request for reinstatement of such access; and (c) resident grievance officer to maintain appropriate oversight over the dispute resolution mechanism.

Compliances For Ott Platforms

Code of Ethics: The Rules have introduced a Code of Ethics (Code) to be complied with by publishers of online curated content (OCC)/over-the-top platforms (collectively, OTT Platforms) and publishers of news and current affairs (News Portals), which lays down general principles, metrics for content classification and guidelines for classification of content. It may be relevant to note that the guidelines prescribed in the Code are similar to a notification issued by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) dated 6 December 1991 guiding the Board of Film Certification to follow certain principles for sanctioning films for public exhibition.

The Code also prescribes age ratings and content descriptors and technology enabled access controls similar to the provisions of the Universal Self-Regulation Code for Online Curated Content Providers, issued by the Internet and Mobile Association of India in 2020.

Compliance with the Code: OTT Platforms have to comply with applicable law and consider the following aspects in respect of content - (a) sovereignty and integrity of India; (b) threatening, endangering or jeopardizing the security of the State; (c) detriment to India's friendly relations with foreign countries; and (d) content which is likely to incite violence or disturb the maintenance of public order, and further, take into consideration India's multi-racial and religious context. Any violation or non-compliance with the Code will make OTT Platforms liable for consequential actions under the law which has been contravened.

Grievance redressal mechanism:

The Rules require OTT Platforms and News Portals to formulate a robust three-tier grievance redressal mechanism, as follows:

First Level: Self-regulation by the OTT Platform/ News Portal itself through a grievance officer who will be based in India and whose contact details are to be placed on the platform's website and interface. The grievance officer is required to take decisions on every grievance registered, within 15 days of receipt of the grievance.⁸

Second Level: By an independent self-regulatory body constituted by publishers or their associations, of which the OTT Platforms/ News Portals need to be members. Such self-regulatory bodies will be comprised of industry experts and headed by a retired Supreme Court or High Court judge or other eminent personality in a relevant field, and is to be registered with the MIB within 30 days of notification of the Rules. The self-regulatory body is required to address grievances not resolved under the first level within 15 days and act as an appellate body against decisions made by the OTT Platform/ News Portal.

Third Level: Oversight by MIB through an inter-departmental committee constituted by the Government (Committee). This Committee will hear violations of the Code of Ethics framed under the Rules, arising out of decisions taken at level two, and if a complaint is referred to the committee by MIB. At the third level, MIB will appoint an "Authorized Officer" authorized to issue directions for blocking access to any information/ content and submit recommendations of the Committee in respect of blocking of any content to MIB. On MIB's approval, the Authorized Officer can direct any OTT Platform/ News Portal to block relevant content. Powers of the self-regulating body in the second level and the Committee in the third level, include recommending actions such as (a) warning, censuring, admonishing or reprimanding an entity; (b) requiring an apology; (c) including warning cards or disclaimer by an entity; (d) in case of OTT platforms, direct the platform to reclassify ratings/ edit synopsis/ or modify content descriptor/ age classification and parental control; and (e) referring content to MIB for consideration by the oversight mechanism, where the content may incite commission of a cognizable offence affecting public order.

While self-regulation mechanism by OTT Platform/ News Portal is retained as the foremost level of grievance redressal, and an institutional self-regulation mechanism may also enable citizens to have their grievances heard through a formal process within definite time frames; the oversight mechanism by the Government, though placed at the third tier and presumably intended to be the last resort only, definitely tightens the Government's grip on the overall operations of OTT Platforms.

Content classification:

OTT Platforms are required to classify all content such as films, web series or other shows based on age, themes, content, tone and impact, and target audience. Further, OTT Platforms will need to give due consideration to issues related to discrimination, psychotropic substances, liquor, smoking and tobacco, imitable behavior, language, nudity, sex, and violence, while classifying content.

The rating categories provided in the Rules are – "U" (suitable for all ages), U/A 7+ (suitable for persons aged 7 years and above), U/A 13+ (suitable for persons aged 13 years and above), U/A

16+ (suitable for persons aged 16 years and above) and 'A' (restricted to adults). OTT Platforms are also required to implement parental controls for content classified as U/A 13+ or higher.

Going forward, apart from the implementation of content classification by OTT Platforms as per the Rules, content makers will also have to consider such classification while producing any content and may need to choose the audience of their films, shows or series perhaps at the development stage itself. For OTT Platforms, another practical impact will be that content already existing on the platforms will also need to be classified /re-classified as per the Rules.

Disclosure: All OTT Platforms, News Portals and self-regulating bodies are required to make full disclosure of grievances received by them, manner of grievance disposal, action taken etc., publicly and updated monthly. OTT Platforms and News Portals are required to preserve records of content transmitted by them for a minimum of 60 days and make such records available to the self-regulating body/ central government/ government agency, as may be requisitioned for implementation of the Rules.

Compliances For News Portals

Notification: All News Portal and OTT Platforms that operate in India are required to inform MIB of details of their respective entities within 30 days of the notification of the Rules.

Compliance for news:

In a move to level the playing field vis-à-vis print and television media, the Rules now require News Portals to comply with norms of the Press Council of India (under the Press Council Act 1978), and the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation) Act 1995. Compliance with specific norms formulated by the Press Council of India is a welcome change for effective news dissemination and to tackle the evils of fake news and irresponsible reporting, and may also help ensure that news content across all mediums follows certain principles such as accuracy and fairness, pre-publication verification, right to privacy, criticism of public figures, caution in criticizing judicial acts, violence not to be glorified, etc.

The term 'news and current affairs' content which was not previously defined under any legislation has now been defined under the Rules as newly received or noteworthy information, including analysis, especially about recent events primarily of socio- political, economic or cultural nature, available over the internet or computer networks. Further, any digital media will be considered news and current affairs content where the context, substance, purpose, import and meaning of such information is news and current affairs content. Compliance Report: News Portals and OTT Platforms are required to submit periodic compliance reports every month setting out details of grievances received, and actions taken by them. Power of MIB: With regards to the furnishing of information, the MIB also additionally has the power to direct a News Portal/ OTT Platform to furnish any information for implementation of the Rules.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the relationship between media transparency and public trust is a complex interplay influenced by various factors, including legal obligations on media portals.

Throughout this research, it has become evident that media transparency plays a crucial role in fostering public trust in media institutions. When media outlets provide clear and comprehensive information about their sources, processes, and potential biases, they enhance their credibility and integrity in the eyes of the public. Legal obligations on media portals can serve as important mechanisms for promoting transparency and accountability within the media industry. However,

the effectiveness of these obligations depends on several factors, including the scope of regulations, enforcement mechanisms, and the adaptability of laws to evolving media landscapes. While some jurisdictions have robust legal frameworks governing media transparency, others may lack adequate regulations or face challenges in enforcement. Moreover, it is essential to recognize that legal obligations alone may not be sufficient to ensure transparency and public trust in media. Media organizations must also embrace ethical principles, journalistic standards, and self-regulatory mechanisms to uphold integrity and credibility. Collaborative efforts involving governments, media professionals, civil society, and technology platforms are needed to address the complex challenges facing the media industry and enhance transparency.

In conclusion, while legal obligations on media portals can contribute to fostering transparency and public trust, they should be complemented by broader efforts to promote media literacy, encourage responsible journalism, and empower audiences to critically evaluate information. By strengthening transparency and accountability across the media ecosystem, we can safeguard the integrity of democratic societies and uphold the public's right to reliable and impartial information.

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