

## **Know all about media regulation laws in India and the Companies Act 2013**



Your search to know about the media regulation laws in India ends here. After the legislature, executive, and judiciary, the media is the fourth estate of democracy. Unlike the communalism or totalitarianism of countries like China and Russia or the bourgeois democracy allowing complete media freedom like the US, India has fair media freedom allowed by its constitution to be a democratic country. Though the Indian Constitution does not provide media freedom separately, Article 19 (1) (a) gives indirect provision for freedom of speech and expression. Until globalization in the 1990s, the government-controlled most of the mass media, but the Cable Networks Act of 1995 started a new regime of foreign media to enter India. In 2004 broadcasting and cable services were included in the ambit of telecom services to become the regulator, including TRAI or the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

So, check out the many media laws in India and the Companies Act 2013 and its recent amendments for running the companies complying with the rules and regulations to avoid fines and other issues.

### **Evolution of the media laws in India**

India has a long history of mass media laws starting from British colonial rule. The first [media regulatory laws in India](#) started when Lord Wellesley promulgated 1799 the press regulations. It started imposing pre-censorship on the budding newspaper industry at that time. And in 1835 came the Press Act to undo most of the repressive features of the previous legislation. In 1857 came the gagging Act to make licensing compulsory for having or running printing presses. There were many laws for the freedom of the media after India got freedom until the 2005 law for the Right to Information. Now the government is framing rules for social media apart from controlling the electronic media. India ranks 150 out of the 180 countries in the 2022 world press freedom index announced by the global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders. Hence, media companies need the best lawyers to know about all the laws to comply with them or face the consequences.

### **What is the Companies Act 2013?**

The Companies Act 1956, enacted after independence, regulated companies' incorporation, responsibilities, directors, and dissolution. Only in 2013 did the Indian government partially replace the 1956 Act with the Companies Act 2013. The Act came into force in parts with Section 1 on August 30, 2013, and 98 different sections on September 12, 2013, to bring changes as private companies can have up to 200 members than the previous 50 members. Another 198 sections came into force on April 1, 2014.

### **What were the amendments of the Companies Act 2013?**

Within five years of amending the Companies Act of 1956 into the Companies Act of 2013, the government made many other significant amendments between 2018 and 2020. The Lok Sabha passed the first ordinance brought by the Ministry of Law and Justice in November but not by the Rajya Sabha. It amended 31 sections of the 2013 Act, prescribing penalties and fines for defaulting on its sections. The amendments by the new ordinances re-categorized certain offenses and brought many changes.

The above facts about the media laws in India and the Companies Act 2013 and its amendments will convince you to seek the support of the best lawyers to deal with such issues without any hassles.

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