Newschecker

Section 1: Eligibility to be a verified signatory

This section aims to assess if an Applicant meets the eligibility criteria for becoming a verified signatory to the MCA Code of Principles.

1.1 The Applicant is legally registered in India

It should include the type of organization (company, LLP, partnership, trust, society, or sole proprietorship) and the registration number.
If your organization is a distinct unit or team within a larger organization, provide registration details of the parent company.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

https://newschecker.in/about-us

Newschecker is an independent fact-checking initiative of NC Media Networks Pvt Ltd. NC Media Networks is registered with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India as a private company and its Corporate Identification Number (CIN) is U92490DL2019PTC353700. All our details are available on the Ministry of Corporate Affairs website.
NC Media Network's website showcases Newschecker as one of the initiatives which is an independent fact-checking unit.
https://www.ncmn.in .

The Newschecker team works independently and exclusively for, and on Newschecker and does not participate in any other activities of NC Media Networks Pvt Ltd. Editorial decisions are taken by the Managing Editor in consultation with editors and the fact-checking team. The Directors or Publisher(s) do not control the same, nor do they have anything to do with the editorial process.

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

1.2 The Applicant's fact-checking activities have a substantial and demonstrable focus on India

Please share a list of articles, fact-checks, any study or research, or a project that demonstrates the applicant's focus on India.
Kindly note:
The assessor will also assess compliance through a review of random fact checks published over the previous year.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Since its inception in 2019, Newschecker has grown significantly. We initially started fact-checking in four Indian languages. Over time, we have expanded our coverage to include 11 languages across India. Our mission is to cater to underserved audiences by providing them with accurate information in their regional languages.

Here is an analysis of the instances of misinformation we found and debunked in 2024 in India:
https://newschecker.in/data-reports/year-in-misinformation-elections-dominate-misinformation-trends-in-2024-artificial-intelligence-makes-poll-debut

The fact checks we publish in multiple Indian languages can be found on the following URLs:
Hindi: https://newschecker.in/hi
English: https://newschecker.in
Bangla: https://newschecker.in/bn
Gujarati: https://newschecker.in/gu
Marathi: https://newschecker.in/mr
Punjabi: https://newschecker.in/pa
Tamil: https://newschecker.in/ta
Malayalam: https://newschecker.in/ml
Urdu:https://newschecker.in/ur
Kannada: https://newschecker.in/kn
Bhojpuri: https://newschecker.in/bh

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

1.3 The Applicant's fact-checking has been published either in English/Hindi and/or in one of the 22 languages listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India, in the course of the twelve months prior to the date of application

The applicant must have published an average of at least six fact-checks a month over the course of the 12 months prior to the date of application, and at least 75 fact-checks in the twelve months prior to the date of application.
If the applicant is working primarily in an under-represented language, in which no existing founding member of the MCA has been conducting regular fact checks, then the applicant must have published an average of at least 3 fact-checks per month over the course of the twelve months prior to the date of application or at least 75 fact-checks in the 24 months prior to the date of application.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

The "About Us" section lists languages in which we publish our fact checks in India: https://newschecker.in/about-us

URLs of the sections in which fact-checks for each of the languages are published:

Hindi: https://newschecker.in/hi
English: https://newschecker.in
Bangla: https://newschecker.in/bn
Gujarati: https://newschecker.in/gu
Marathi: https://newschecker.in/mr
Punjabi: https://newschecker.in/pa
Tamil: https://newschecker.in/ta
Malayalam: https://newschecker.in/ml
Urdu: https://newschecker.in/ur
Kannada: https://newschecker.in/kn
Bhojpuri: https://newschecker.in/bh

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

1.4 At least 75% of the Applicant's fact checks must relate to issues that could have an impact

1.4 At least 75% of the Applicant's fact checks must relate to issues that could have an impact on the welfare or well-being of individuals, the general public, or society, or have a public interest element

The assessor will assess compliance through a random review of the fact checks published over the previous three months.
No additional information required.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

1.5 The Applicant's editorial output must not be under the control of the state, any political party, or a politician

The assessor will assess compliance through a random review of the fact checks published over the previous three months.
No additional information required.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

1.6 The Applicant must, fully and fairly, disclose if it receives funds from local or foreign state or political sources

If the organization receives funding from local or foreign state or political sources, kindly provide a URL of the page on your website where a statement makes this information publicly available.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

We do not receive funding from local or foreign state or political sources.
We are transparent about our funding our website which can be seen here: https://newschecker.in/about-us

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

Section 2: Non-partisanship and fairness

This section aims to understand how an Applicant ensures impartiality in their fact-checking operation.

2.1 The Applicant fact-checks use the same high standards of evidence and judgement for equivalent claims, regardless of who made the claim

Please share links to 10 fact checks published over the past year that you believe demonstrate your non-partisanship.
Please briefly explain how the fact checks selected show that you use the same high standards of evidence for equivalent claims, follow the same essential process for every fact check, and let the evidence dictate your conclusion.
Please provide a link to a page where the applicant shares its SOP for fact-checking equivalent claims, regardless of who made the claim.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

At Newschecker, we adhere to a rigorous and consistent methodology for all fact-checks, ensuring that every claim is

evaluated using the same high standards of evidence. This approach ensures impartiality and fairness in our work.

Key Aspects of Our Process:
Consistent Methodology: We follow the same essential process for every fact-check, regardless of the claim's origin or political context. This includes a thorough review of publicly available information and evidence. The methodology can be seen here: https://newschecker.in/our-methodology
Use of Standardised Tools and Techniques: We use the same tools and methodology to verify claims. This includes leveraging AI detection tools for identifying deepfakes or AI-generated content and using OSINT tools and techniques like conducting reverse image searches to verify the authenticity of images.
Primary Source Verification: A crucial part of our process is reaching out to the primary sources for accurate information. This ensures that our conclusions are based on the most reliable data/information available.
Evidence-Based Conclusions: The evidence dictates our conclusions- if a claim is found to be inaccurate, we report it as such, regardless of who made the claim or their political affiliation.
Transparent Attribution and Documentation: We attribute sources and hyperlink our findings to ensure transparency. This allows readers to follow the same methodology and arrive at a similar conclusion. Additionally, we provide screenshots and archive links to preserve evidence and facilitate independent verification.
Comprehensive Source Listing: At the end of each fact-check, we list sources used in our research. This documentation supports our findings and enhances the credibility of our conclusions.

TEN EXAMPLES WITH EXPLANATIONS

Below are examples of fact-checks published over the past year that demonstrate our adherence to high standards of evidence and our consistent approach to evaluating claims, regardless of political affiliations.

1) Video Showing Amit Shah Announcing End to SC/ST/OBC Reservations (Edited)
Link: https://newschecker.in/fact-check/amit-shah-bjp-unconstitutional-sc-st-obc-reservation-edited-video
Summary: A misleading video claimed Amit Shah vowed to end reservations for SC, ST, and OBC communities. However, the video was edited, and in the original video Shah was discussing unconstitutional reservations for Muslims in Telangana.

2) Viral Video of Rahul Gandhi Predicting PM Modi's Victory in Lok Sabha Elections(Edited)
Link: https://newschecker.in/election-watch/viral-video-of-rahul-gandhi-predicting-pm-narendra-modis-victory-in-2024-general-elections-is-edited
Summary: A video circulating on social media misquoted Rahul Gandhi as predicting Modi's victory in the 2024 elections. The video was found to be edited, distorting Gandhi's original statements.

3) Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann Thrashed by Public? (False Claim)
Link: https://newschecker.in/fact-check/punjab-cm-bhagwant-mann-thrashed-by-public-no-video-goes-viral-with-false-claim
Summary: A viral video claimed Bhagwant Mann was beaten by the public. However, the footage actually showed Amandeep Singh Boparai being assaulted, unrelated to Mann.

4) Maharashtra Polls: Viral Audio Note 'Exposing' Supriya Sule's 'Involvement in Bitcoin Scam'
Link: https://newschecker.in/fact-check/maharashtra-polls-heres-the-truth-behind-viral-audio-note-exposing-supriya-sules-involvement-in-bitcoin-scam
Summary: An audio note allegedly featuring Supriya Sule discussing the liquidation of bitcoins to fund election activities. The audio clip was found to be AI-generated using multiple detection tools.

5) Edited Video of Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury Endorsing BJP Over TMC
Link: https://newschecker.in/election-watch/fact-check-edited-video-of-adhir-ranjan-chowdhury-calling-it-a-better-choice-to-vote-for-bjp-than-tmc-goes-viral
Summary: A video suggested Chowdhury endorsed voting for BJP over TMC. However, the video was edited to misrepresent his words; he had criticised both parties and supported the Congress-Left alliance.

6) Video of BJP's Dinesh Lal Yadav Discussing Population Growth (found to be original and not a Deepfake)
Link: https://newschecker.in/fact-check/fact-check-the-video-of-bjps-dinesh-lal-yadav-discussing-population-growth-and-its-impact-on-unemployment-is-not-a-deepfake
Summary: A video featuring Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirahua' sparked controversy, with some claiming it was a deepfake. Newschecker found the video to be authentic based on analysis by AI detection tools.

7) Viral Audio Claiming to be Swati Maliwal and Dhruv Rathee's Call Recording (AI-generated)
Link: https://newschecker.in/hi/fact-check-hi/ai-deepfake-hi/recording-of-call-between-maliwal-and-dhruv-rathi-is-ai-generated
Summary: An audio recording allegedly between Swati Maliwal and Dhruv Rathee was found to be AI-generated and not authentic.

8) Amit Shah, Gautam Adani, and Ajit Doval Banned from Entering US & Canada (False Claim)
Link: https://newschecker.in/hi/fact-check-hi/fact-check-hi/usa-canada-amit-shah-ajit-doval
Summary: Claims that Amit Shah, Gautam Adani, and Ajit Doval were banned from entering the US and Canada were debunked as false.

9) Om Birla's Daughter Anjali Birla Married a Muslim Man (False Claim)
Link: https://newschecker.in/hi/fact-check-hi/fact-check-hi/om-birlas-daughter-married-to-a-muslim-man
Summary: False claims circulated that Anjali Birla married a Muslim man. However, she married Aneesh Rajani from a Sindhi Hindu family.

10) Harsimrat Kaur Badal Praises AAP? (Edited Video)
Link: https://newschecker.in/pa/fact-check-pa/fact-check-pa/harsimrat-badal-praise-aap
Summary: A video claimed Harsimrat Kaur Badal praised AAP. However, the video was edited to misrepresent her statements; she actually commended the Shiromani Akali Dal.

Assessor´s verdict: **COMPLIANT**

2.2 The Applicant does not unduly concentrate its fact-checking on any one side

Please provide a link to a page on your website where the following is explained:
How you select claims to check,
How you establish the importance and reach of a claim, and,
How you ensure that your fact-checking is not concentrated on any one side.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

All the details are available here: https://newschecker.in/our-methodology

Assessor´s verdict: **COMPLIANT**

2.3 The Applicant discloses on its website and/or in the fact check any reasonable conflict of interest, other relevant interests, or bias, including that of the experts or organisations cited in the fact check

Please provide a link to a page where this policy is outlined on the applicant's website.
Please provide an example, if one exists, of how such a case was handled.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

We are committed to transparency and maintaining the highest standards of integrity in our fact-checking processes. Our conflict of interest disclosure policy is outlined on our website here: https://newschecker.in/more-information. This policy ensures that any conflict of interest, other relevant interests, or bias, including those of the experts or organisations cited in our fact-checks, is clearly disclosed.

Disclosure in Fact-Checks: We disclose any potential conflicts of interest directly in the relevant fact-check articles. This ensures that our readers are fully informed and can assess the context of our findings.
Expert Context: When quoting experts, we provide context about their affiliations and associations with organisations.

This allows our readers to make informed decisions based on the information presented.
While we do not have specific examples of conflicts of interest within our organisation, our policy ensures that if such a situation arises, it will be handled by disclosing the relevant information in the fact-check. For example- in political-themed fact-checks, we recognise that spokespersons or representatives of political parties may have vested interests in telling us what they do, so we ensure that our fact-checks are supported by multiple sources of evidence.

Assessor´s verdict: **COMPLIANT**

2.4 The Applicant is not affiliated with nor declares or shows support for any political party, any politician or political candidate, nor does it advocate for or against any policy positions on any issues save for transparency and accuracy in public debate

Please provide the URL of the page on your website where you declare that you are not affiliated or support any political party or politician.

APPLICANT Date: 03/03/2025

https://newschecker.in/about-us
We receive a fee for our services and do not accept funding or work with politicians/political parties.

Assessor´s verdict: **COMPLIANT**

2.5 The Applicant sets out its policy on non-partisanship for staff on its website/in internal documents. Other than for the sake of transparency and accuracy, its employees and consultants are prohibited from making any partisan statements or being involved in advocacy or policy debates on issues that may reasonably leave the audience with questions about its biases

Please provide a link to a page where this policy is outlined on the applicant's website.

APPLICANT Date: 03/03/2025

Our detailed non-partisanship policy can be found on our website at https://newschecker.in/more-information.
Additionally, every employee and consultant sign a code of conduct as part of their offer letter upon joining Newschecker, reinforcing our commitment to non-partisanship and professional conduct.

Assessor´s verdict: **COMPLIANT**

2.6 The Applicant discloses any ownership or stake in its organization held by sitting members of parliament, assembly, local governments; office bearers or spokespersons of political parties; or those directly or indirectly associated with political parties

Please provide a link to a page where this policy is outlined on the applicant's website.

APPLICANT Date: 03/03/2025

No sitting/former members of parliament, assembly, local governments, office bearers, or spokespersons of political

parties hold any ownership or stake in our organisation.
You can see more about this here: https://newschecker.in/about-us

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

2.7 The Applicant does not employ anyone who holds a salaried and/or prominent position in a political party, government, state, or public company under the direct or indirect control of a political party, government, or the state

Please provide the URL of the page on your website where this policy is outlined on the applicant's website.
Please provide an updated list of the currently employed individuals under applicant's fact-checking operation.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

At Newschecker, we maintain a strict policy of non-partisanship and independence from political parties, governments, or state-controlled entities. This ensures that our fact-checking operations remain unbiased and free from any potential conflicts of interest.
Our detailed non-partisanship policy is available on the Newschecker website here: https://newschecker.in/more-information
An updated list of individuals currently employed under our fact-checking operation is available here: https://newschecker.in/our-team. (Please note that this list of team members is subject to change and is updated regularly)

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

2.8 The Applicant only advocates for issues that are relevant to the mission of fact-checking, strengthening democracy, and improving general transparency and accountability of various organs of the state, and are compatible with the reputation for independence and impartiality

Please provide a link to a page where this policy is outlined on the applicant's website.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Newschecker has a strict no political affiliations policy as seen here: https://newschecker.in/more-information

Employees are not permitted to affiliate with any political party or advocacy organisation, except for those advocating transparency, information integrity or measures that strengthen democracy.

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

Section 3: Transparency of sources

This section aims to understand how the Applicant ensures that their readers can independently verify the findings mentioned in a fact check themselves.

3.1 The Applicant identifies the source of all significant evidence used in its fact checks and provides relevant links where the source is available online

The assessor will assess compliance through a random review of the fact checks published over the previous three months.
No additional information required.

Kindly note:
The Applicant must identify the source of all significant evidence used in its fact-checks and provide relevant links where the source is available online, such that its readers can replicate their work if they wish.
In cases where identifying the source would compromise the source's personal security, the Applicant should provide as much detail as possible and as is compatible with the source's safety.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

3.2 The Applicant uses the best available primary, not secondary, source of evidence

The assessor will assess compliance through a random review of the fact checks published over the previous three months.
No additional information required.
Kindly note:
Where suitable primary sources are not available, the applicant explains the use of a secondary source.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

3.3 The Applicant checks all key elements of claims against more than one named source of evidence, except where the one source is the only source relevant and available on the topic

The assessor will assess compliance through a random review of the fact checks published over the previous three months.
No additional information required.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

3.4 The Applicant always identifies and discloses its relevant interests, including any commercial relations, and that of its sources, in the fact checks, where the reader might reasonably conclude those interests could influence the accuracy of the evidence provided

The assessor will assess compliance through a random review of the fact checks published over the previous three months.
No additional information required.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

Section 4: Transparency of funding and organisation

4.1 The Applicant is an independent organization

4.1 The Applicant is an independent organization

Please provide the link to a page on your website detailing each source of funding that accounts for 7.5% or more of total revenue for the previous financial year.
This page must also set out the legal form in which the organization is registered (such as a non-profit, company etc) and the applicable details of its directors, and role of shareholders with 7.5% or more holding in the company.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

This page of the website has all the required details: https://newschecker.in/about-us

Newschecker is an independent fact-checking initiative of NC Media Networks Pvt Ltd, headquartered in Delhi. NC Media Networks is registered with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India as a private company and has the Corporate Identification Number (CIN) U92490DL2019PTC353700 (Certificate of Incorporation). All our details, including our latest financial returns, are available on the MCA website.

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

4.2 The Applicant is a dedicated fact-checking section or unit in an organization

Please share a link to a place on your website where the Applicant declares that there is no editorial interference by the parent organisation on the fact checks being carried out.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Newschecker is an independent fact-checking initiative of NC Media Networks Pvt Ltd. We declare this on https://newschecker.in/about-us

The Newschecker team works independently and exclusively for and on Newschecker and does not participate in any other activities of NC Media Networks Pvt Ltd. Editorial decisions are taken by the Managing Editor in consultation with editors and the fact-checking team. The Directors or Publisher(s) do not control the same, nor do they have anything to do with the editorial process.

NC Media Network's website showcases Newschecker as one of the initiatives which is an independent fact-checking unit. https://www.ncmn.in

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

4.3 The Applicant discloses the names of persons or entities holding over 10% of the shares/stakes in it

Please share a link to a place on your website where the Applicant provides the names of persons and entities that hold more than 10% shares in it. This applies for both independent fact-checking organisations as well as fact-checking operations that are part of a bigger parent company.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

We declare these details here: https://newschecker.in/about-us

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

4.4 The Applicant provides information about who runs its editorial operations and how

Please share a link to a place on your website where the Applicant provides the following information:
An organizational structure
By whom editorial control is exercised
Clarify how is editorial control exercised
The professional biography of all those who, according to the organizational structure, play a significant part in its editorial output.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

All of these details are mentioned on this page: https://newschecker.in/our-team

The professional biography is mentioned under each team member and elaborates on their role in the organisation

Editorial control is exercised by Ruby Dhingra, the Managing Editor, with the assistance of editors on the team who are also clearly mentioned on the same page.

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

4.5 The Applicant provides an easy means on its website and/or via social media for users to communicate with its editorial and fact-checking team

Please share a link to where on your website and/or social media where you encourage users to communicate with your editorial team. This includes all interactive channels such as tiplines, chatbots, social media handles, email addresses etc.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

At Newschecker, we provide multiple easy-to-use channels for users to communicate with our editorial and fact-checking team. Here are the links and details for these interactive channels:

1) Submit A Claim Page: Users can submit claims for fact-checking through our dedicated “Submit a Claim” page: https://newschecker.in/submit-a-claim. This page provides a direct means for users to share forwards and viral messages they suspect are untrue.

2) How Can We Help Page: For users who wish to connect with us for other reasons, such as feedback or general inquiries, we have a “How Can We Help?” page: https://newschecker.in/contact-us. This page includes a contact form for users to fill out.

3) WhatsApp and Email: At the end of each fact-check article, we clearly provide contact information for immediate engagement stating "If you would like us to fact check a claim, give feedback or lodge a complaint WhatsApp us at **+91-9999499044** or email us at **checkthis@newschecker.in**. You can also visit the Contact Us page and fill the form."

4) Social Media Handles: Our social media pages are listed on the top right section of each page. Users can reach out to us through these platforms for general inquiries or to share claims.

5) Contacting Team Members: In the “Our Team” section of our website, you can find links to email specific team

members directly, as well as links to their professional profiles on platforms like X (formerly Twitter). Link: https://newschecker.in/our-team

6) Corrections and Complaints Page:
Users can send feedback, corrections, or complaints through this page. https://newschecker.in/corrections-and-complaints

Assessor´s verdict: **COMPLIANT**

Section 5: Transparency of methodology

5.1 The Applicant's fact-checking methodology is available on its website

Please provide a link to the statement on your website that explains the methodology you use to:
Select fact-checks
Research fact-checks
Write fact-checks
Publish fact-checks
Includes definitions of any/all rating systems used

APPLICANT Date: 03/03/2025

We follow the same essential process for every fact-check, regardless of the claim's origin or political context. This includes a thorough review of publicly available information and evidence and on-ground verification through an investigation of primary sources as well. The methodology we follow can be seen here: https://newschecker.in/our-methodology

Assessor´s verdict: **COMPLIANT**

5.2 The Applicant selects claims to fact-check based on their reach and importance

The Assessors will review the methodology to make sure it is complete.
Kindly note:
In its methodology, the Applicant explains how it selects claims to check, how this explains its reach and importance; and where possible explains the reason for choosing the claim to check.
No additional information required.

APPLICANT Date: 03/03/2025

Assessor´s verdict: **COMPLIANT**

Conversation:

Assessor **NEEDS MORE INFO**

Date: 18/04/2025

Provide more clarity on how they select the fake claims

Applicant NEEDS MORE INFO

Date: 21/04/2025

Hi, This section has been updated to provide more information. You can see it on this link: https://newschecker.in/our-methodology. Do let us know if any further information is required.
Warm regards

5.3 The Applicant provides evidence that supports and undermines a claim, irrespective of who made the claim

Assessors will review the methodology to make sure it is complete. No additional information required.
Kindly note:
The Applicant provides all the relevant evidence in a fact check that appears to support the claim, as well as relevant evidence that appears to undermine it.
The Applicant assesses the merits of the evidence found using the same applicable high standards, regardless of who made the claim.

APPLICANT Date: 03/03/2025

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

5.4 The Applicant makes a demonstrable effort to contact the person/organization making the claim to seek supporting evidence

The assessor will assess compliance through a random review of fact checks published over the previous three months. No additional information required.
Kindly note:
If the proponent of the claim fails to reply in a timely manner, this should not impede the fact check.
If the proponent adds caveats to the claim, it is free to continue with checking the original claim.
If it determines that reaching out to the proponent of a claim may endanger their online/offline safety in any manner, it may not reach out.
If the claim is already in the public domain through social media etc., the Applicant is not under obligation to reach out.

APPLICANT Date: 03/03/2025

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

5.5 The Applicant encourages readers to send in claims to fact check

Please provide a link or links to channels where the public can submit claims for verification while making it clear what readers can legitimately expect will be fact-checked and what isn't fact-checkable.

APPLICANT Date: 03/03/2025

Submit A Claim Page: Users can submit claims for fact-checking through our dedicated "Submit a Claim" page: https://newschecker.in/submit-a-claim. This page provides a direct means for users to share forwards and viral messages they suspect are untrue. It also clearly states the following:

Please note that we do not fact-check:
- Opinions or subjective statements.
- Predictions or speculative content that cannot be presently verified.
- Generalised or vague assertions lacking specific details.

WhatsApp and Email: At the end of each fact-check article, we clearly provide contact information for immediate engagement stating "If you would like us to fact check a claim, give feedback or lodge a complaint WhatsApp us at **+91-9999499044** or email us at **checkthis@newschecker.in**. You can also visit the Contact Us page and fill the form."

Social Media Handles: Our social media pages are listed on the top right section of each page. Users can reach out to us through these platforms for general inquiries or to share claims.

Assessor´s verdict: **COMPLIANT**

5.6 The Applicant quotes experts after establishing their credibility

The assessor will assess compliance through a random review of the fact checks published over the previous three months.
No additional information required.
Kindly note:
Assessors will look for professional work experience, educational qualification etc. of the quoted experts in fact-checks or mentions peculiar circumstances that will qualify him/her to stand as specially qualified.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Assessor´s verdict: **COMPLIANT**

5.7 The Applicant ensures each investigation undergoes at least one round of editing before publication, by someone other than the author

Assessors will review the methodology to make sure it is complete. No additional information required.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Assessor´s verdict: **COMPLIANT**

5.8 The Applicant presents findings in precise, factual, and non-emotive language while taking care not to overstate conclusions

The assessor will assess compliance through a random review of the fact checks published over the previous three months.
No additional information required.
Kindly note:
This means the opinion of authors/fact-checkers in the article should never be included.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Assessor´s verdict: **COMPLIANT**

Section 6: Open and honest corrections policyy

6.1 The Applicant has a corrections or complaints policy that is easily and prominently visible

and accessible on its website

Please provide the link to a page on your website detailing the process for:
Identifying and publishing corrections
Readers to register complaints
Kindly note:
The policy sets out a clear definition of what it does and does not cover
How major mistakes, especially those requiring revised conclusions of a fact check, are handled
Communicates that some complaints may justify no response
The applicant adheres to the corrections policy scrupulously

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Corrections and Complaints Policy:
At Newschecker, we have a clear and accessible corrections and complaints policy. This policy is outlined on our website at https://newschecker.in/corrections-and-complaints

Reporting Errors and Discrepancies:
• We encourage our readers to report any perceived errors or discrepancies in our fact-checks. This can be done by emailing us directly at checkthis@newschecker.in, as clearly indicated on our Corrections and Complaints page.
• Corrections are taken seriously and addressed promptly. If an error is confirmed, we update the fact-check article with a clear and visible correction note explaining the change.

Additional Avenues for Contact and Feedback:

1. How Can We Help? Section: For users who wish to connect with us for any reason, we provide a "How Can We Help?" section on our website: https://newschecker.in/contact-us. This page includes a convenient contact form for users to submit inquiries or feedback.

2. WhatsApp and Email (Article Footer): At the end of each fact-check article, we reiterate our commitment to engagement by providing the following contact information: "If you would like us to fact-check a claim, give feedback, or lodge a complaint, WhatsApp us at +91-9999499044 or email us at checkthis@newschecker.in. You can also visit the Contact Us page and fill out the form."

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

6.2 Where credible evidence is provided demonstrating that the Applicant has made a mistake worthy of correction, it makes the correction openly and transparently, seeking to ensure as far as possible that readers of the original see the correction and the corrected version

Please provide a short statement on how the Applicant's corrections policy was adhered to over the previous year. Kindly include evidence of two examples of the responses provided by the Applicant to a correction request over the previous year. Where no correction request has been made in the previous year, you must state this in your application, which will be publicly available in the assessment if your application is successful.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Text

Over the past year, our dedication to accuracy and transparency has been evident through our commitment to self-review and correction. In instances where we identified anything worthy of correction or update, we promptly took action. For example:

In July 2024, Newschecker published an article debunking the viral claim that IPS officer Anu Beniwal, who qualified under the EWS quota, was the daughter of an IPS officer and had misused the quota to secure her position through corrupt means. The article clarified that Anu Beniwal's father was not an IPS officer but rather someone who had faced health challenges and managed a small button factory. However, during an internal review, we identified that the initial

article mentioned conflicting information, stating that her father was both a businessman and a farmer. Recognising this error, we promptly removed the incorrect line and updated the article with a note at the end explaining the change and specifying the date of correction to ensure transparency for our readers. Here is the link: https://newschecker.in/fact-check/ips-anu-beniwals-father-in-civil-services-no-viral-claim-is-false
On August 9, 2024, Newschecker received an email regarding a fact-check about a viral claim that the US team performed at the Olympics to a specific song. The complainant argued that our fact-check was incorrect because the US team did perform on that song at the Olympics. Our original article focused solely on debunking a viral video that falsely claimed to show this performance at the Paris Olympics. Upon reviewing the complaint and re-examining our article, we confirmed that our fact-check was accurate as it correctly pointed out that the video in question was old and not from the Paris Olympics. However, to avoid any confusion for readers, we issued an update in the article directing them to where they could find information about the actual performance of the US team. This clarification ensured that readers could access accurate details without ambiguity. Here is the link: https://newschecker.in/fact-check/old-video-of-us-artistic-swimming-team-performing-to-ar-rahmans-taal-shared-as-paris-olympics

These examples showcase our proactive approach to self-review and correction, ensuring that our users have access to accurate and reliable information at all times.

File

Download File

Assessor´s verdict: **COMPLIANT**

6.3 The Applicant, existing verified signatories or those seeking renewal, sets out the complaints policy expressly. It informs its readers (either on its corrections/complaints page or on the webpage where it declares itself to be an MCA verified signatory) that if they believe the verified signatory is violating the MCA Code of Principles, they may raise a complaint with the Fact Checking Network (FCN) Board through the link provided on the verified signatory's website

Please provide the link to a page on your website detailing the process for readers to register complaints
If you are a verified signatory of the MCA, please provide the link to a page on your website that explains readers that they can raise a complaint with the FCN Board through the link provided on the verified signatory's website.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Newschecker displays its membership in the Misinformation Combat Alliance (MCA) on the footer of every page of our website, where both the MCA logo and the IFCN signatory badge are prominently featured. This ensures that readers are aware of our commitment to the highest standards of fact-checking.

The process for registering complaints is detailed on our Corrections and Complaints page, which can be accessed here: https://newschecker.in/corrections-and-complaints. This page provides clear instructions for readers to report errors, submit feedback, or lodge complaints about our fact-checks.

Additionally, as we are currently seeking to become a signatory of the Fact-Checking Network (FCN), we inform readers on this same page that if they believe Newschecker has violated the principles that align with FCN standards, they may escalate their concerns to the FCN board and provide directions on where they can do this.

Assessor´s verdict: **COMPLIANT**

6.4 If the Applicant is the fact-checking unit of a media company, its parent company adopts and adheres to the same corrections policy as is being followed by the Applicant

Please provide a link to the parent media company's honest and open corrections policy and provide screenshots of corrections as evidence that it adheres to this.
If you are the parent company then you have already provided this information in previous points. No further evidence required.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

The parent company, NC Media Pvt Ltd, adheres to the same corrections policy as Newschecker. The corrections policy is outlined in the Terms and Conditions section（point number 21 of the parent company's website, which can be accessed here: https://www.ncmn.in/terms-and-conditions

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

Section 7: Intellectual property rights

7.1 The Applicant publishes all fact checks on its website, and does not keep the fact checks behind a paywall. The fact checks should be easily accessible in the public domain and without coste

The assessor will review a random selection of fact checks published over the previous year. No additional information required.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

7.2 The Applicant observes & respects intellectual property laws, creative commons licences, copyrights when using, modifying, and/or merging any contente

Please provide the link to a page on your website that states the policy or guidelines regarding the use and respect of intellectual property rights.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

We strictly observe and respect intellectual property laws, Creative Commons licenses, and copyright regulations when using, modifying, or merging any content. Our commitment to these principles is outlined in the following sections of our website:
Copyright Policy: Mentioned here: https://newschecker.in/terms-and-conditions
Creative Commons Licensing: Mentioned here https://newschecker.in/more-information

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

7.3 The Applicant allows, where possible & applicable, the organization's content to be used for non-commercial purposes under a Creative Commons license with source attribution

Please provide the link(s) that has the Creative Commons license or a similar open licensing statement clearly displayed, either on content or on a visible part of the website along with clear guidelines for how to attribute their work.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Creative Commons Licensing: Mentioned here https://newschecker.in/more-information

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

7.4 The Applicant respects the output of other fact checking institutions/initiatives and independent fact checkers, and does not republish or reuse any part thereof without obtaining explicit consent or crediting the source clearly; and where possible, does it only after notifying them, based on the license type of the content

Please provide the link to a page on your website that states the policy or guidelines on reusing fact-checks of other fact checking institutions/initiatives and independent fact checker/s.
Please provide examples, if any, where you collaborated with other fact-checking institutions/initiatives and independent fact-checkers for a fact-check, explaining your methodology.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Our policy on reusing fact-checks from other fact-checking institutions: https://newschecker.in/more-information
We respect the intellectual property and efforts of other fact-checking organisations, initiatives, and independent fact-checkers. We do not republish or reuse any part of their content without providing clear attribution to the original source. Where applicable, we notify the original creators prior to reuse, ensuring compliance with the licensing terms of their content.

Collaborations:
In cases where collaboration is necessary, we work closely with other fact-checking organisations to combine expertise and resources for accurate and impactful fact-checks.

For example, we partnered with The Healthy Indian Project (THIP) to produce health-related fact-checks in Nepali and Kannada languages. This collaboration leveraged THIP's expertise in health-related misinformation and our multilingual capabilities to deliver accurate information to diverse audiences. Our methodology involved joint research, content sharing, and cross-verification to ensure the highest standards of accuracy and reliability.

- Examples of jointly written articles can be seen here: https://nepal.newschecker.co/author/newschecker-and-thip and here: https://newschecker.in/kn/author/newscheckerandthip/1

- Additionally, at the end of each collaborative article, we clearly state: "This article is published in collaboration with THIP Media" to maintain transparency and credit both organisations.

Participation in Shakti Collective 1.0: As part of Shakti 1.0, a consortium of 100+ fact-checkers and news publishers in India, we worked collaboratively to aid the early detection of online misinformation and deepfakes while amplifying the reach of fact-checks in regional languages. Newschecker partnered with DataLEADS and GNI as part of Shakti Collective to combat election-related misinformation. Our verified fact-checks were shared with mainstream

organisations such as NDTV and ABP News, amplifying their reach across diverse audiences and can be seen here::
1) Published in ABP: https://news.abplive.com/authors/newschecker-in-shakti-collective
2) Published on NDTV: https://www.ndtv.com/search?searchtext=NewsChecker

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

7.5 The Applicant discloses all references and sources that have been used in the fact-check

Kindly provide your answer as a Yes/No
The assessor will review a random selection of fact checks published over the previous year. No additional information required.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Yes

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

Section 8: Commitment to privacy and safety

8.1 The Applicant obscures the image and/or identity of subjects of a fact-check article when there is a reasonable concern for their safety, privacy, and dignity, including but not limited to, images/identity of children, victims of heinous crimes and sexual assault against women, and other vulnerable individuals

Please provide the link to a page on your website that states the policy regarding use of sensitive subjects such as children, victims of crimes, and other vulnerable individuals.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Policy on Protecting Privacy, Dignity, and Personal Information available here: https://newschecker.in/more-information

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

8.2 The Applicant is restrictive, respectful, and considerate when mentioning or identifying minors (as permitted under existing law) and makes all possible efforts to protect their privacy

Please provide the link to a page on your website that states the policy for mentioning or identifying minors and the efforts it would take to ensure and protect their privacy.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Policy regarding minors is available here: https://newschecker.in/more-information

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

8.3 The Applicant anonymises, or at least partially conceals, any personal information (such as telephone numbers, IDs or passports, bank account numbers, email addresses etc) that could allow the harassment of people, except in cases where it forms the crucial evidence of a fact-check, subject to applicable laws including the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023

Please provide the link to a page on your website that states the policy on handling personal information in their fact-checks. The policy should stress the importance of anonymization and seeking consent when necessary.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Policy on handling personal information available here: https://newschecker.in/more-information

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT

8.4 The Applicant has put in place measures that aim to address the risk of trauma or harassment experienced by staff as a result of its activities, from both internal and external actors, including but not limited to, providing training to prevent and identify symptoms.

Please provide the link to a page on your website that states the policy regarding harassment and trauma experienced by staff. The policy should include definitions, procedures for reporting and addressing incidents, and potential consequences for those involved.

APPLICANT

Date: 03/03/2025

Policy regarding harassment and trauma experienced by staff is available here: https://newschecker.in/more-information

Assessor´s verdict: COMPLIANT