

The Quint

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: 06/03/2025

WebQoof is The Quint's fact-checking vertical. The Quint is a legally registered organisation, owned by Quint Digital Media Limited (earlier known as Gaurav Mercantiles Limited), a company listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) Limited. Mr. Raghav Bahl and Ms. Ritu Kapur are the Promoters of Quint Digital Media Limited. Please refer to the corporate website of the Company at www.quintdigitalmedia.com

Details of its legal registration are presented under the header 'How Are We Funded?' in the 'About Us' section here: <https://www.thequint.com/about-us>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

NEEDS MORE INFO

Date: 17/04/2025

Corporate website www.quintdigitalmedia.com is not responding.

Applicant

NEEDS MORE INFO

Date: 17/04/2025

The website migrated to <https://quintdigital.in/> in the past few days.

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 18/04/2025

The new url gives the required information.

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: 06/03/2025

All our fact-checks debunk claims made related to India or ones made by Indian social media users.

Our fact-checks:

<https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The fact-checks by the applicant have been widely available and seen across India.

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: 06/03/2025

All our fact-checks and videos for some of them can be found on their respective section pages.

WebQoof publishes fact-checks in English, Hindi, and Marathi.

English: <https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof>

Hindi: <https://www.thequint.com/hindi/webqoof>

Marathi: <https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof/marathi>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

There is no single URL that lists all the languages in which fact-checks are carried out by the applicant.

Instead, there are different URLs for each of the languages.

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: 06/03/2025

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The issues under fact-check are as per requirement.

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: 06/03/2025

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The random review indicates compliance.

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: 06/03/2025

The Quint has no commercial, financial and/or institutional relationship to the state, politicians or political parties in the country or countries it covers. No funding or support was received from foreign or local state or political actors over the previous financial year.

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

NEEDS MORE INFO

Date: 17/04/2025

The section on How Are We Funded? in <https://www.thequint.com/about-us> says:

The Quint is owned by Quint Digital Limited, a company listed on the BSE Limited. Raghav Bahl and Ritu Kapur are the Promoters of Quint

Digital Limited (formerly known as Quint Digital Media Limited). Please refer to the corporate website of the company at www.quintdigitalmedia.com.

It is noticed that the corporate website (www.quintdigitalmedia.com) is not responding, because of which information on source of funding (local, foreign, political etc.) is not available.

Applicant

NEEDS MORE INFO

Date: 17/04/2025

This information is available on the updated URL:
<https://quintdigital.in/>

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 18/04/2025

The new url gives the required information.

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: 06/03/2025

1. Old Clip of AIMIM Member Citing Owaisi's '15-Minute Speech' Viral as Recent
<https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof/old-video-of-aimim-candidate-syed-moin-15-mins-speech-viral-as-recent-fact-check>

2. False Claim Viral That Rekha Gupta Bought a Car After Becoming Delhi CM
<https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof/false-claim-viral-rekha-gupta-bought-new-car-after-becoming-cm-fact-check>

3. Old Video of Yamuna Clean-Up Drive Falsely Linked to BJP's Government in Delhi
<https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof/delhi-bjp-cleaning-yamuna-river-old-video-earth-warrior-fact-check>

4. Is Govt Giving Free Coaching to ONLY SC & OBC Students Under PM Cares? No!
<https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof/government-providing-free-coaching-sc-obc-students-under-pm-cares-viral-screenshot-fact-check>

5. Is Karnataka Govt Using Temples Funds for Churches & Mosques? A Fact-Check
<https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof/karnataka-government-using-funds-from-temples-for-churches-and-mosques-viral-claim-fact-check>

6. Old Clip Shared as Rahul Gandhi Meeting Delhi Railway Station Stampede Victims
<https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof/old-video-shared-as-priyanka-and-rahul-gandhi-meeting-delhi-railway-station-stampede-victims-fact-check>

7. Old Graphic Shared as BJP Increasing Delhi Metro Fares After Winning Elections
<https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof/bjp-government-in-delhi-increased-metro-fare-viral-recent-graphic-fact-check>

8. This Clip Doesn't Show Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann Crying After AAP Lost Delhi Polls
<https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof/bhagwant-mann-crying-after->

kejriwal-aap-lost-delhi-elections-fact-check

9. Clipped Video Viral With False Claim That Rahul Gandhi 'Insulted' Kharge

<https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof/rahul-gandhi-did-not-insult-kharge-by-asking-to-vacate-chair-false-claim-fact-check>

10. No, This Clip Doesn't Show Kejriwal Asking People to Vote for Congress in Delhi

<https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof/arvind-kejriwal-asked-people-vote-for-congress-2025-delhi-elections-fact-check>

Under the 'Methodology' section, we discuss in detail how claims are selected and the process followed for fact-checking them:

<https://www.thequint.com/about-us/webqoof>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The 10 fact checks and the SOP for fact-checking are acceptable.

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: 06/03/2025

The process of fact-checking ranges from ground reporting to assessing government and publicly available data and contacting stakeholders and

authorities to verify facts. We also rely on online tools like InVID, X(formerly Twitter) Advanced Search, Google Advanced Search, Google Maps, etc., while analysing various parts of a message for a detailed response. We also, when possible, send out reporters on the ground to verify news stories and prevent misinformation from spreading. Our methodology can be found here: <https://www.thequint.com/about-us/webqoof>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

NEEDS MORE INFO

Date: 17/04/2025

The three queries about:

- * 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"

are not answered clearly. Instead, the methodology of fact checking is repeated.

Applicant

NEEDS MORE INFO

Date: 18/04/2025

We have sent our reporters on the ground many times to verify news stories, thus preventing misinformation from spreading. One of the examples is the time of the Kathua rape case. Our reporter travelled to Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir to verify and bring out the facts. We also rely on personal interaction with concerned parties to verify messages pertaining to them. For instance: For various messages about government schemes – when the details are not available on government websites – we write/call the concerned ministry/department for clarification.

By following these steps for as many claims as required, we take steps to make sure that we collect information from diverse sources. This ensures that the facts we gather can be corroborated by all parties concerned with respect to the claims in question, and our work is not concentrated on any side.

Selection of Claims:

1 We assess the impact that fake post can have – is it likely to instigate violence? Can it harm anyone? What will be the implications if it goes viral?

2 We assess the kind of damage it can do. In certain cases, posts can incite violence or can make an already sensitive situation worse, we prioritise based on the repercussions it can have.

3 We check the virality. In some cases, the most innocuous posts, which are viral, can mislead/misinform people.

4 Misinformation is parallel to the news cycle, we also focus on breaking news events and news cycles to ensure that we fact-check and debunk narratives and falsehoods around that.

5 We thoroughly assess the importance of the claim before publishing a fact-check and consider the number of people a claim may have reached. In cases where a claim is not shared by more than a couple of users, we refrain from publishing a report in order to prevent platforming misinformation.

6 On the other hand, if a claim makes seriously misleading, false, and/or potentially harmful statements, we choose to publish a fact-check report debunking it regardless of how many people may have shared it due to the impact it may have.

This can be found under 'Methodology' here:

<https://www.thequint.com/about-us/webqoof>

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 18/04/2025

The additional information serves the purpose of compliance.

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: 06/03/2025

We consistently and clearly state the organisational affiliations of the sources of information and the experts we cite in our fact-checks. When including experts' inputs, we verify the content of their statements with secondary sources to the best of our capabilities.

While Team WebQoof ensures that all data or information gathered is taken from the sources with the highest credibility, we ensure that there is no conflict of interest or bias in the information collected. In case of any conflict or bias, The Quint actively works against citing that source as the only source of information, doing our best to gather knowledge from other sources to corroborate the information received.

This information is published on our website under the 'Non-Partisanship Policy' header here:

<https://www.thequint.com/about-us/webqoof>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The applicant website mentions relevant points its Non-Partisanship Policy.

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: 06/03/2025

As a part of the company policy, team members are not allowed to be directly or indirectly involved with any political party or candidate. They are also prohibited from contesting or accepting any appointment or association of whatsoever nature with any public office.

This can be found under the 'Non Partisanship Policy' header here:
<https://www.thequint.com/about-us/webqoof>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The applicant website mentions relevant points its Non-Partisanship Policy.

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: 06/03/2025

As part of company policy, employees are required to sign an undertaking that clearly states that they are not directly or indirectly involved with any political party or candidate. Team members must not be involved directly or indirectly in any political activity, such as advocating or campaigning for any political party or candidate or public expressions of their personal political preference (like sticking banners in their houses, displaying political stickers or slogans on their vehicles, etc.).

Team members are prohibited from contesting or accepting any appointment or association of whatsoever nature with any public office.

More details of the work, methodology, and the team involved can be accessed here: <https://www.thequint.com/about-us/webqoof>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The applicant website mentions relevant points its Non-Partisanship Policy.

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: 06/03/2025

The policy can be found under our Editorial Code of Conduct:

<https://www.thequint.com/quintlab/editorial-code-of-conduct.pdf>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

NEEDS MORE INFO

Date: 17/04/2025

There is no categorical mention of stakeholders and their political affiliations.

The corporate website of the company at www.quintdigitalmedia.com is not responding.

Applicant

NEEDS MORE INFO

Date: 17/04/2025

As part of company policy, employees are required to sign an undertaking that clearly states that they are not directly or indirectly involved with any political party or candidate. Team members must not be involved directly or indirectly in any political activity, such as advocating or campaigning for any political party or candidate or public expressions of their personal political preference (like sticking banners in their houses, displaying political stickers or slogans on their vehicles, etc.).

Team members are prohibited from contesting or accepting any appointment or association of whatsoever nature with any public office.

This policy is applicable to stakeholders as well.

Details about investors can be found here:

<https://quintdigital.in/investors/>

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 18/04/2025

The new url gives the relevant information.

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: 06/03/2025

Policy: <https://www.thequint.com/quintlab/editorial-code-of-conduct.pdf>

The Quint's WebQoof team has seven fact-checkers, headed by the vertical's editor, Abhilash Mallick.

1. Abhilash Mallick, Editor, Fact-Check
2. Aishwarya Varma, Assistant Editor, Fact-Check
3. Rujuta Thete, Senior Correspondent
4. Abhishek Anand, Senior Correspondent
5. Khushi Mehrotra, Correspondent
6. Siddharth Sarathe, Principal Correspondent, Quint Hindi Fact-Check Team
7. Faizan Ahmed, Correspondent, Quint Hindi Fact-Check Team

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The required information is mentioned in relevant section of the website.

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: 06/03/2025

Through our work, we make sure to advocate for issues related to the mission of fact-checking by verifying the factual accuracy of the news we put out as well as counter misinformation and falsehoods in the media and the public sphere.

We aim to ensure accountability by the state and public leaders, upholding values of a robust democracy by putting out verified, impartial information.

Available under 'Who We Are', here:

<https://www.thequint.com/about-us/webqoof>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The required information is mentioned in relevant section of the website.

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: 06/03/2025

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The sources of all significant evidence used in the fact-checks are identified in a random review of fact-checks published over the previous three months.

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: 06/03/2025

Assessor 's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The relevant information is mentioned in the fact-check items on the website.

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: 06/03/2025

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The relevant information is mentioned in the fact-check items on the website.

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: 06/03/2025

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

A random review of the fact checks published over the previous three months indicates compliance.

Section 4: Transparency of funding and organisation

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: 06/03/2025

The Quint is owned by Quint Digital Limited, a company listed on the BSE Limited. Raghav Bahl and Ritu Kapur are the Promoters of Quint Digital Limited (formerly known as Quint Digital Media Limited). Please refer to the corporate website of the company at www.quintdigitalmedia.com.

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

NEEDS MORE INFO

Date: 17/04/2025

The corporate website www.quintdigitalmedia.com. is not responding.

Applicant

NEEDS MORE INFO

Date: 17/04/2025

The website recently migrated to this URI: <https://quintdigital.in/>

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 18/04/2025

The new url gives the required information.

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: 06/03/2025

Team WebQoof is an independently functioning vertical at The Quint, with no interference from other editors or editorial teams.

Mentioned under 'WebQoof Team' here:

<https://www.thequint.com/about-us/webqoof>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The applicant is an independent vertical dedicated to fact-checking.

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: 06/03/2025

Only The Quint's founders, Ritu Kapur and Raghav Bahl, hold over 10 percent of shares.

Information about Quint Digital Limited's (QDL) shareholding details can be seen under the 'Who Owns The Quint?' header, here:
<https://www.thequint.com/about-us/webqoof>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The information is provided with clarity.

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: 06/03/2025

Our website carries all relevant information for the organisational structure, how the editorial team works and the teams/beats they oversee on the About Us page.

The detailed list of our editorial team, along with the names of team members for different verticals, can be seen on the 'Who We Are' page on The Quint's website:

<https://www.thequint.com/about-us/webqoof>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The information is provided as mentioned.

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: 06/03/2025

Apart from listing the email IDs of each team member in the WebQoof team on the 'About Us' page (<https://www.thequint.com/about-us/webqoof>), the same page also provides contact details for the Grievance Officer on the same page.

Additionally, every fact-check carries a paragraph with the team's email ID and WhatsApp tipline number, which is also visible on the team's section page.
<https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The information is provided as mentioned.

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: 06/03/2025

The process of fact-checking ranges from ground reporting to calling various stakeholders and authorities to verify facts, reverse searches, and analysing various parts of a message for a detailed response.

We have sent our reporters on the ground many times to verify news stories,

thus preventing misinformation from spreading.

We also rely on personal interaction with concerned parties to verify messages pertaining to them. For instance: For various messages about government schemes – when the details are not available on government websites – we write/call the concerned ministry/department for clarification.

Since the messages that we receive range from text messages to videos, the way we handle them differs.

The process is explained in detail under the 'Methodology' section, here:
<https://www.thequint.com/about-us/webqoof>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The methodology is described on the website.

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: 06/03/2025

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The information is available at <https://www.thequint.com/about-us/webqoof>

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: 06/03/2025

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The methodology has all the required information.

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: 06/03/2025

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

A random review of fact checks published over the previous three months establishes compliance.

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: 06/03/2025

At the end of every fact-check, we publish a paragraph encouraging people to send us claims that they may find suspicious via email or to our WhatsApp tipline.

It reads, " (Not convinced of a post or information you came across online and want it verified? Send us the details on WhatsApp at 9540511818, or e-mail it to us at webqoof@thequint.com and we'll fact-check it for you. You can also read all our fact-checked stories here.)"

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

A message on the website provides a cellphone number and an email address for people to submit claims for verification.

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: 06/03/2025

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

A random review of the fact checks published over the previous three months supported the claim.

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: 06/03/2025

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The methodology supports the applicant's claim.

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: 06/03/2025

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

A random review of the fact checks published over the previous three months supports the applicant's response.

Section 6: Open and honest corrections policy

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: 06/03/2025

Owning up to any error quickly and completely, and being transparent when correcting a factual error – that's our mantra. Therefore, as a professional organisation, while we endeavour to work with flawlessness and accuracy, we are also mindful of the fact that mistakes need to be corrected promptly.

We admit and correct any serious factual errors at the first opportunity, subject to legal advice where appropriate. Any amendment is notified at the bottom of an article. If a retraction is needed, it is accompanied by an explanation as to why it was felt to be necessary, subject to the approval and discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and senior editors.

You can read our corrections policy and ways to contact our grievance officer, here:

<https://www.thequint.com/about-us/webqoof>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The corrections policy gives out comprehensive answers to the queries.

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: 06/03/2025

Text

Team WebQoof did not receive any correction request in the previous calendar year.

Our last error was made in a fact-check published on 9 January 2024 in a fact-check about images being incorrectly shared as ones from Lakshadweep.

We corrected the error and in the report and stated the same at the bottom of the article.

Report:<https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof/images-andaman-and-nicobar-islands-india-maldives-thailand-viral-claim-fact-check#read-more>

File

[Download File](#)

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

NEEDS MORE INFO

Date: 17/04/2025

The attached example of a correction of an error made by the applicant

(although dating prior to the previous calendar year) only mentions "regret" over the error; it does not make it possible for readers to of the original know what was the error and the correction thereof.

Applicant

NEEDS MORE INFO

Date: 18/04/2025

Going forward, we will update the correction message to inform about the change made in the copy.

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 18/04/2025

The assurance about updating correction messages in future can be accepted as compliance.

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: 06/03/2025

On our 'About Us' page, we state that we are members of the IFCN and the MCA,

informing people that they could report violations by The Quint to the respective bodies.

Links to complaints pages of the IFCN and FCN have been provided on the same page, under the 'Who We Are' heading: <https://www.thequint.com/about-us/webqoof>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The relevant link in the applicant's website mentions the required information.

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: 06/03/2025

The Quint and Team WebQoof follow the same corrections policy, which can be read here:

<https://www.thequint.com/about-us/webqoof>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The applicant is the fact-checking unit of a media company and the website states the required information.

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 cost

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

APPLICANT

Date: 06/03/2025

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The fact-checks are easily accessible, free of any clear or hidden charge.

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

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: 06/03/2025

For fact-checking purposes, The Quint uses and includes information disseminated in the public domain, providing hyperlinks and appropriate attributions in all possible instances. Content in the form of social media posts are also added as hyperlinks and screenshots with all of the original poster's details visible.

When sourcing stock images/videos or content available under the Creative Commons license, we ensure proper attribution to the owner of said content.

If any of the aforementioned content has been altered to highlight, dismiss, compare, or present specific information, the same is clearly stated as such with appropriate punctuation. In case of media, the caption of the shared content states that it has been "Altered by The Quint," with the alterations being clearly visible.

This is mentioned under the 'Intellectual Property and Republished Content in Fact-Checks' header on our Terms and Conditions page:
<https://www.thequint.com/terms-and-conditions>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The link given in the applicant's response has the required information.

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: 06/03/2025

Under the Terms and Conditions mentioned on our website, we clearly state that our content can be reproduced for non-commercial purposes with due attribution.

"[Quint Digital Media Limited] grants you a limited licence to access and make personal use of this site but not for commercial purposes. We permit the use of materials on this website subject to due credit is given to [Quint Digital Media Limited]. The use shall also be subject to non-commercial use and limited to personal or academic dissemination (including on social media and use on all kinds of media). Copyright should be acknowledged."

This is available in full under the 'Copyright and Trademarks' section, here: <https://www.thequint.com/terms-and-conditions>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The link given in the applicant's response has the required information.

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: 06/03/2025

In some instances, Team WebQoof is unable to get to the original author/source/person associated with a certain claim when another news or fact-checking organisation has been able to. Whenever this happens, The Quint either uses the relevant information by crediting it to the organisation by incorporating their names and hyperlinks to their pages, or by expressly contacting the author/creator of the content and taking permission prior to publication.

This can be read under the 'Intellectual Property and Republished Content in Fact-Checks' header here:

<https://www.thequint.com/terms-and-conditions>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

NEEDS MORE INFO

Date: 17/04/2025

The required clause is given in the relevant section of the website, but no example of such collaboration is given.

Applicant

NEEDS MORE INFO

Date: 17/04/2025

One example of using apart of another fact-checking organisation is in this fact-check, where we reused Boom's findings in part, with credit.
<https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof/videos-of-two-awami-league-leader-being-lynched-in-bangladesh-shared-with-false-communal-claim-fact-check#read-more>

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 18/04/2025

The given example is relevant and shows compliance.

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: 06/03/2025

Yes

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

A random selection of fact checks published over the previous year makes it clear that references and sources are mentioned.

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: 06/03/2025

The Quint, owing to safety and privacy considerations, only partly discloses any information or details which could potentially be used to identify or target an at-risk person(s) or a person in sensitive situations, even if they may have provided consent to do so.

Following the law of the land, The Quint does not identify minors in sensitive cases, subjects of gruesome crimes, or victims of sexual assault and other vulnerable individuals. We carry out all possible efforts to maintain their privacy and dignity.

Even in reports involving state machinery, The Quint does not name officials who were contacted unless they explicitly give their consent to do so.

This has been stated under the 'Prohibited Activities' header on our Terms and Conditions page:

<https://www.thequint.com/terms-and-conditions>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The relevant section of the website makes it clear that the policy is 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: 06/03/2025

Following the law of the land, The Quint does not identify minors in sensitive cases, subjects of gruesome crimes, or victims of sexual assault and other vulnerable individuals. We carry out all possible efforts to maintain their privacy and dignity.

This has been stated under the 'Prohibited Activities' header on our Terms and Conditions page:

<https://www.thequint.com/terms-and-conditions>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The relevant section of the website mentions the policy in this regard.

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: 06/03/2025

The Quint, owing to safety and privacy considerations, only partly discloses any information or details which could potentially be used to identify or target an at-risk person(s) or a person in sensitive situations, even if they may have provided consent to do so.

This is done by obscuring personal information such as addresses, full names, contact details and such in documents and images/videos, or by changing names and identifiers in text reports while categorically stating that the same has been done at the relevant spots in reports, podcasts, or videos. Unless deemed essential to the fact-check report, we do not reveal ANY of this information and comply with the provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023.

This has been stated under the 'Prohibited Activities' header on our Terms and Conditions page:

<https://www.thequint.com/terms-and-conditions>

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The relevant section of the website mentions the policy in this regard.

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, 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: 06/03/2025

Under the 'Staff Safety' section on our About Us page, The Quint specifies its approach to fostering a healthy and safe working environment.

Page: <https://www.thequint.com/about-us/webqoof>

In the event of a fact-checker being harassed for their work, The Quint guides the staff member to take necessary steps to mitigate its impact and provides paid mental health days off to all staff members whenever they may need them.

With regard to Team WebQoof, the Editor oversees work assignments, ensuring that no team member is overly exposed to graphic, violent, or distressing content. All work is assigned with appropriate trigger disclaimers, while keeping a free, two-way window for communication when a team member may want a claim to be reassigned if they feel distressed.

To ensure a safe work environment, The Quint addresses issues to minimise the harmful impacts of exposure to trauma on a case-to-case basis and aids its staff to attend events, trainings, and conferences which help them find support systems among peers and help them equip themselves to address any future distress or trauma.

Assessor's verdict:

COMPLIANT

Conversation:

Assessor

COMPLIANT

Date: 17/04/2025

The 'Staff Safety' section of the applicant's website contains the relevant policy details.