

Social Media Policies in the Indian Army

Key Points for Army Officers

Point 1

- **Strict Social Media Policies:** The Indian Army enforces rigorous guidelines on social media usage to protect national security and prevent unauthorized information dissemination.

Point 2

- Ban on Specific Applications: In July 2020, the Army prohibited the use of 89 applications, including Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok, to mitigate data breaches and enhance security protocols.

Point 3

- Delhi High Court's Stance: The Delhi High Court upheld the Army's ban on social media platforms, recognizing the potential risks to national security and the necessity of such measures.

Point 4

- Enforcement and Compliance: The Army has authorized officers to ensure adherence to social media policies, with disciplinary actions in place for violations, including severe reprimands and other penalties.

Point 5

- Case of Unauthorized Social Media Use: A retired Lieutenant Colonel was booked for participating in a podcast in uniform, highlighting the importance of adhering to social media and uniform regulations even post-retirement.

Point 6

- Monitoring Mechanisms: The Army has established monitoring systems to oversee compliance with social media directives, ensuring that personnel adhere to the established guidelines.

Point 7

- Legal Recourse and Challenges: Attempts to legally challenge the Army's social media policies have been dismissed by courts, reinforcing the legitimacy and necessity of these regulations.

Point 8

- **Direct Takedown Authority:** The Ministry of Defence has empowered the Army to directly issue notices to social media platforms for the removal of unlawful content, streamlining the process and enhancing control over sensitive information.

Point 9

- Alternative Communication Channels: To maintain communication without compromising security, the Army encourages the use of secure, in-house applications and platforms designed to protect sensitive information.

Point 10

- Continuous Policy Updates: The Army regularly reviews and updates its social media policies to address emerging threats and technological advancements, ensuring robust security measures are in place.