

Twitter 'agrees to block fake Indian PM accounts'

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Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh attends a function at The Bose Institute in Kolkata in June. Twitter has agreed to remove six fake accounts which purport to be Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's following a request from the Indian government, the premier's spokesman said on Thursday.

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The government asked the micro-blogging website to remove the accounts on the grounds that they misrepresented the [prime minister](#) and risked increasing ethnic or religious tension.

"Officials at [Twitter](#) have told us they are reviewing our request to remove the six fake PM accounts and they intend to cooperate," Pankaj

Pachauri, Singh's spokesman told AFP.

"These accounts often feature mischievous, communalist (ethnic or religious) sentiments that can be misconstrued by Twitter users as coming from the prime minister himself," he added.

Twitter representatives were not immediately available to comment on Thursday.

The prime minister's official account, @PMOIndia, was opened in January this year and has attracted 176,000 followers.

The request to block the six [fake accounts](#) is part of an Internet crackdown by the government following a mass exodus of migrants from the country's northeast who fled southern cities such as Bangalore.

Tens of thousands of people fled back to the remote northeast last week after Internet posts, phone text messages and doctored video clips messages spread rumours that they would be attacked by Muslims.

The government has ordered [social networking sites](#) to take down provocative posts, and some online content has been blocked. Bulk text messages sent by mobile phones have also been temporarily banned.

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