

# India calls for WhatsApp reforms after lynchings

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India has stepped up pressure on WhatsApp to check the spread of fake news, blamed for lynchings across the country

India on Tuesday called on WhatsApp to clamp down on fake news spread on the messaging app that has been blamed for lynchings across

the vast South Asian country.

Mobs have killed more than 20 people in two months following unfounded allegations spread on the Facebook-owned platform, which has 200 million users in India.

Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad met WhatsApp chief executive Chris Daniels to discuss the messages spreading violence.

Prasad said on Twitter that he had asked the firm "to work closely with [law enforcement agencies](#) of India and create public awareness campaign to prevent misuse of WhatsApp".

The minister said he was assured by Daniels that WhatsApp "will soon take steps" to comply with New Delhi's demands, which include opening a corporate office and the appointment of a grievance officer in India to act on complaints.

The Indian government has stepped up pressure on WhatsApp as the number of killings has grown.

The firm rolled out new safeguards in July—including limiting the number of users a message can be forwarded to—and ran newspaper adverts to raise awareness about [fake news](#).

"While WhatsApp has contributed significantly to India's digital story, it needs to find solutions to sinister developments such as mob lynching and [revenge porn](#)," Prasad was quoted as saying after the meeting by Press Trust of India news agency.

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