

Foreign Investment Policy

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is the nodal Ministry for formulation of policies on foreign investment in the Broadcasting, Film, Print and Advertising Sectors. It examines proposals for foreign investment and frames guidelines keeping in view the national interest.

Advertising and Film Sector

Foreign Direct Investment in both Film and Advertising Sectors is permissible up to 100% on the automatic route without any other conditions.

Print Media

The regime of Foreign Investment in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodical is as follows: -

- I. Foreign investment (including FDI) upto 74% in Indian entities publishing scientific/technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals.

Where only Indian editions of foreign scientific/technical/speciality journals etc. are being published with no foreign investment (including FDI) being made, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will give approvals on a case by case basis subject to prescribed conditions.

Guidelines for publication of Indian editions of foreign scientific, technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals and for foreign investment in Indian entities publishing scientific, technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals and the Application Form prescribed for the same are available in the segment ['Codes & Guidelines'](#).

- II. FDI upto 26% in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing in news and current affairs with suitable safeguards like verification of antecedents of foreign investor, keeping editorial and management control in the hands of resident Indians and ensuring against dispersal of Indian equity.

Guidelines for Foreign Direct Investment in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing with news and current affairs and the Application Form prescribed for the same are available in the segment ['Codes & Guidelines'](#).

Operation of Foreign News Agencies in India

The existing policy for operation of foreign news agencies in India is governed by a Cabinet Decision of 1956, which is also based on the recommendations of the First Commission. The operative part of the decision is reproduced below:

“Communication facilities should be granted to foreign news agencies only where the distribution of news within the country is to be effected through an Indian news agency owned and managed by Indians, which would have full and final authority in the selection of foreign news for distribution and which would also be in a position to supply Indian news in a reasonable volume to the foreign news agency with whom they have a working arrangement”.

This decision has been the yardstick for examining requests of foreign news agencies to operate in India. Direct distribution of financial news by foreign news agencies to selected clients for their own use and not for further reproduction and publication, has been allowed.

Broadcasting Sector

Foreign investment proposals involving uplinking from Indian soil may be allowed to Indian Companies, who are broadcasters having minimum 80% of Indian shareholding and Indian Management Control. There is no restriction on foreign equity in proposals relatd to production of software, marketing of TV rights, air times, advertisements, etc. No foreign equity is allowed in private FM broadcasting (licences to be issued). For a cable network company, not less than 51% of the paid -up share capital should be held by Indian citizens.

Foreign investment where allowed, will be with the conditions that:

- (a) all future laws on Broadcasting will be applicable to them and they will not claim any privilege or protection by virtue of this approval;
- (b) they will not undertake any broadcasting from Indian soil unless specially permitted to do so.