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Title: Regarding TikTok and its affiliates posing a threat to the country.

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM):

Bytedance (which runs Hello, and TikTok) is the world's richest startup with 300 million users in India. Its applications collect 45% more permissions than other Apps granting them intrusive access on their users. In fact, the US government has imposed a fine of 5.7 million dollar on Bytedance for violating children's privacy. Studies show that its data is shared with China Telecom, a Chinese government-owned entity.

Bytedance also runs a network of paid influencers who receive 1 lakh per month and can impact our democratic process. In 2019, Facebook had to remove 11,000 fake morphed election-related media shared by Hello.

The Foreign Policy magazine also supports this view by stating that the Chinese government can tweak Bytedance's algorithms and make Cambridge analytical seem like child's play. Under the garb of a lighthearted application, TikTok and its affiliates pose a serious threat to India. It is high time we take serious action against such threats.

14.03 hrs

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