



Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
Civil Secretariat: Home Department

Subject- Stoppage of transmission of Messages through various Social Networking Sites and Instant Messaging Services.

**GOVERNMENT ORDER No.: HOME/ISA/476 of 2017**  
**DATED: 26.04.2017**

Whereas, as per available inputs, over a period of time, a progressively increasing trend has been witnessed in regard to misuse of Social Media, like Face Book, Twitter, etc. by the elements inimical to public order and tranquility, thereby impinging on public safety, particularly in the Kashmir Valley; and

2. Whereas, it has further been observed that such elements are transmitting objectionable contents, to spread disaffection amongst public at large in Kashmir Valley against the State Administration and the Security Forces, with a view to inciting them to commit various offences at a large scale, cause damage to life and property and disturb peace and tranquility; and

3. Whereas, it is being felt that continued misuse of Social Networking sites and Instant Messaging Services is likely to be detrimental to the interests of peace and tranquility in the State; and

4. Whereas, it was also observed during law and order disturbances of 2016 in the Kashmir Valley that anti-national and subversive elements, inter alia, extensively misused Social Media sites and Instant Messaging Services for vitiating peace and instigating violence, which caused large-scale damage to life and property; and

Whereas, anti-national and inimical elements largely succeed transmitting unverified objectionable and inflammatory material/content through the medium of these Social Networking

sites and Instant Messaging Services without any accountability, thereby endangering public life and property and causing unrest/disharmony in the State.

6. Whereas, on careful examination of all relevant factors, it is observed that the use of social media platforms, which are being misused by anti national and anti social elements by transmitting inflammatory messages, in various forms, are immediately required to be regulated/curbed; and

7. Whereas, Section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 read with Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2007, inter-alia, confers powers upon the Central Government or the State Government to take possession of licensed telegraphs and order stoppage of transmission or interception or detention of messages.

8. Now, therefore, in the interest of maintenance of public order, the Government, in exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 read with the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2007 hereby direct all Internet Service Providers (ISPs), that any message or class of messages to or from any person or class of persons relating to any subject or any pictorial content through the following social networking sites shall not be transmitted in the Kashmir Valley, with immediate effect, for a period of one month or till further orders, whichever is earlier:

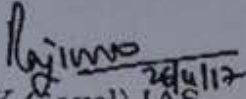
- (i) Facebook.
- (ii) Twitter.
- (iii) Whatsapp.
- (iv) QQ
- (v) WeChat
- (vi) Qzone
- (vii) Tumblr
- (viii) Google+
- (ix) Baidu
- (x) Skype
- (xi) Viber
- (xii) Line
- (xiii) Snapchat
- (xiv) Pinterest
- (xv) Telegram
- (xvi) Reddit



- (xvii) Snapfish
- (xviii) You Tube (upload)
- (xix) Vine
- (xx) Xanga
- (xxi) Buzznet
- (xxii) Flickr

9. Violation of the order shall be dealt with in accordance with the relevant provisions of law.

By order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

  
(R.K. Goyal) IAS

Principal Secretary to Government  
Home Department

No Home/ISA/2016

Dated 26-04-2017

Copy to:

- (i) Chief Secretary, J&K, Jammu.
- (ii) Financial Commissioner/Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, J&K.
- (iii) Director General of Police, J&K, Jammu.
- (iv) Commissioner/Secretary to Govt., General Administration Department.
- (v) Secretary to Government, Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs.
- (vi) IGP CID, J&K.
- (vii) Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir.
- (viii) IGP Kashmir Zone.
- (ix) All District Magistrates of Kashmir Division.
- (x) All Internet Service Providers.
- (xi) Government order file/stock file.