

Government of India
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
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Website: www.meity.gov.in

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To

All Social media platforms

Subject: ADVISORY TO CURB FALSE NEWS / MISINFORMATION ON CORONA VIRUS

The Corona virus (Covid-19) outbreak has become a global concern with World Health Organisation declaring it a global health emergency. Countries across the world are trying their best to mitigate the spread of corona virus. While corona has created a hue and cry across the country today, it has been reported in media that there is a trend of circulation of misinformation, false / misleading news and sharing anonymous data related to Corona virus in various social media platforms creating panic among public.

2. It is pertinent to note that such fake or misleading news has the potential to impact that reliable sources of news / information are frequently drowned out by unverified information online. Also, it has been reported that impostors are exploiting the spread of Covid -19 in order to carry out fraud activities thereby claiming financial loss to the desperate people.

3. Social media platforms are intermediaries as defined under section 2(1)(w) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and are required to follow due diligence as prescribed in *the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 notified under section 79 of the IT Act*. They must inform their users not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that may affect public order and unlawful in any way.

4. Therefore, Intermediaries are urged to:

- (i) initiate awareness campaign on their platforms for the users not to upload/circulate any false news/misinformation concerning corona virus which are likely to create panic among public and disturb the public order and social tranquillity;
- (ii) take immediate action to disable /remove such content hosted on their platforms on priority basis;

- (iii) promote dissemination of authentic information related to corona virus as far as possible.
- (iv) Issue warning to imposters who misuse your platform and indulge in such fraudulent activities.



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