



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, UDHAMPUR

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Subject: Order under Section 144 of CrPC for taking action against the violators for spreading of rumours through social media in view of unconfirmed COVID-19 cases in District Udhampur.

ORDER

Whereas, the prevailing health situation due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has given rise to serious concerns in India and in J&K as well; and

Whereas, in this connection it has been generally observed that rumours are being flashed through Social Media platforms like WhatsApp / Facebook / Instagram for confirmation of positive Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in District Udhampur, as a result general masses in the area may panic, which may lead to law and order problems; and

Whereas, it is imperative to prevent the circulation of such false / unconfirmed news / information and rumours through WhatsApp groups and other social media platforms including Facebook, etc; and

Whereas, in view of the above and requirement of a speedy remedy for proper maintenance of law & order and prevention of any disturbance to public tranquility in the district, I, Dr. Piyush Singla, IAS, District Magistrate, Udhampur by virtue of powers vested under Section 144 CrPC, hereby order that: -

- i. No WhatsApp group administrator or any person(s) is allowed to upload any false information / un-confirmed fabricated news or rumour with regards to confirmation of positive Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in district Udhampur unless and until confirmed from the district administration Udhampur or any higher authority;
- ii. Violation by any WhatsApp group administrator or any person(s) shall be liable for action under Indian Penal Code in case of any untoward incident / law and order situation disturbance to public tranquility arises due to uploading / spreading of any false unconfirmed fabricated news with regards to confirmation of positive Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19);
- iii. Masks and sanitizers are essential items to combat the Novel Coronavirus and all the **Proprietors of Medical Shops as well as Wholesalers of Medical Agencies / Stockist of such items functioning in District Udhampur** shall ensure that there should be no hoarding and **no extra charging of these items**. In case of any violation by any **retailer / wholesaler / stockist** will be liable for imprisonment and all the SHOs of district Udhampur are directed to take strict action against such violators under the relevant sections of law;

- iv. General public of district Udhampur shall also lodge a written complaint against such violators, if found any indulged in the above practice in the nearest police station / police post.

Senior Superintendent of Police Udhampur shall ensure enforcement of this order in letter and spirit.

No: 167/DMU/JC
Date: 16-03-2020

Sd/-
District Magistrate
Udhampur

Copy to the: -

1. Divisional Commissioner Jammu for favour of kind information.
2. Deputy Inspector General of Police Udhampur-Reasi Range for info and n/a.
3. Senior Superintendent of Police Udhampur for info and n/a.
4. Additional District Magistrate Udhampur for info and n/a.
5. Sub-Divisional Magistrate _____ (All) for n/a.
6. District Information Officer Udhampur for wide publicity of this order through print, electronic, radio and social media.
7. Tehsildar _____ (All) for immediate compliance.
8. **Designated Officer (ACF), Food Safety, Food & Drug Administration, District Udhampur is hereby directed to get all such retailers / wholesalers / stockist checked through his team in the District Udhampur and warned the said stockist to abstain from hoarding and no extra charging on above said essential items. Moreover, during the said checking if any retailer / wholesaler / stockist is found indulged in such practice, take immediate action under relevant section of law through the concerned SHO under an intimation to this office.**
9. All SHOs of District Udhampur for strict compliance.
10. Office file.


ADDL DISTRICT MAGISTRATE
UDHAMPUR
16/03/2020