

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Home Department

Civil Secretariat, Jammu

Subject: Temporary suspension of Telecom Services-directions reg;
Reference: Reports from IGP, Jammu & IGP, Kashmir

Government Order No: Home-120(TSTS) of 2020

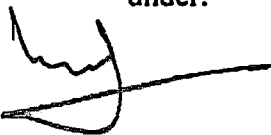
Dated: 12.11.2020

Whereas, taking note of the observations regarding regulation of internet services made in the report of the Special Committee constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the reports of the law enforcement agencies regarding the prevailing security environment, directions for allowing access to the high speed internet services were issued while ensuring that the same do not impede the efforts of the Government towards COVID Control measures, enabling access to educational programmes and ensuring conduct of business activities in an effective manner; and

2. Whereas, these directions have had a salutary effect on misuse of data services for rumor mongering, circulation of fake news, inducement of local youth to join the terrorist ranks and coordination of terror activities, and the situation requires continued close monitoring considering the attempts of infiltration from across the border, presence of foreign terrorists affiliated to Pak based terror outfits and a number of terror acts in recent past necessitating even complete suspension of the internet/telecom services, albeit for a limited period of time; and

3. Whereas, the recently announced elections to 280 District Development Council Constituencies and bye-elections to more than 13400 vacancies in PRIs/ULB, spread across the UT of J&K, are witnessing high level of interest amongst the people and it is apprehended that the terrorist and separatist elements shall make every possible attempt to disrupt the democratic process. During the last fortnight, there have also been targeted killing of the civilians/political activists, that manifest the nefarious designs of the terrorists to dissuade general public from participating in the election process. Such unlawful acts heavily rely upon high speed mobile internet connectivity and are required to be thwarted by taking appropriate pre-emptive measures to create an environment of safety and security for the contesting candidates and the general public.

4. Now, therefore, I, Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department, being satisfied that, it is absolutely necessary so to do in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State and for maintaining public order, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and sub-rule (1) of rule 2 of the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017, hereby direct as under:



I. Mobile data Services:

- a) The high speed mobile data services in the districts of Ganderba and Udhampur shall continue to be made available, while in rest of the districts, the internet speed be restricted to 2G only; and
- b) While the post paid sim card holders shall continue to be provided access to the internet, these services shall not be made available on pre-paid cards unless verified as per the norms applicable for post-paid connections.

II. Fixed line Internet connectivity:

Internet connectivity, without any speed related restrictions, shall continue to be made available with Mac-binding.

5. The aforesaid directions shall be effective from today, the 12th November, 2020 and remain in force till 26th November, 2020, unless modified earlier. The IsGP, Kashmir/Jammu shall communicate these directions to the service providers forthwith and ensure their implementation in letter and spirit.

By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.



(Shaleen Kabra) IAS,

Principal Secretary to the Government

Dated: 12.11.2020

No: Home/TSTS/2020

Copy to the:

1. Director General of Police, J&K.
2. Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor.
3. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu for n/a.
4. Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Jammu
5. Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, Srinagar.
6. Director Information, Department of Information and Public Relations, J&K for information and with the request to give wide publicity to the same through publication in the leading dailies, one each of Kashmir & Jammu.
7. All Deputy Commissioners/ SSPs.
8. Director, Archives, Archaeology & Museums.
9. General Manager, Government Ranbir Press for publication in the extraordinary issue of the Gazette.
10. Pvt. Secretary(ies) to Hon'ble Advisor(s) to the Lieutenant Governor.
11. Pvt. Secretary to the Chief Secretary, J&K.
12. Pvt. Secretary to the Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department.
13. I/c website, Home Department.
14. Government Order file (w2sc).

Copy also to the:

1. Joint Secretary (J&K), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
2. Pvt. Secretary to the Special Security Advisor, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.