

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Home Department
Civil Secretariat, Jammu

Subject: Temporary suspension of Telecom Services-directions reg;

Reference: i. Letter No. KZ/PS/Restoration/1471-72 dated 17.06.2020 from IGP, Kashmir.
ii. Letter No. JZ/Internet/400-41/2020 dated 17.06.2020 from IGP, Jammu.

Government Order No: Home- 66 (TSTS) of 2020
Dated: 17.06.2020

Whereas, the directions for regulation of internet services have been issued from time to time and reviewed by the appropriate authority at regular intervals to ensure that these directions, apart from meeting other requirements, are least restrictive and satisfy the principle of proportionality; and

2. Whereas, the present position with regard to availability of the internet services, with limited restrictions, is as under:-

I. Mobile data Services:

- i. The internet is available at 2G speed.
- ii. The post-paid sim card holders have been given access to the internet. However, in respect of pre-paid sim cards, such access is available after verification as per the norms applicable for post-paid connections.

II. Fixed line Internet connectivity:

Internet connectivity is available with Mac-binding; and

3. Whereas, the restrictions on high speed mobile internet have been placed, *inter-alia*, to prevent/reduce rumor mongering and fake news by anti-national elements, to curb uploading/downloading/circulation of provocative content on the social media and to counter attempts of recruiting youth into the terrorist ranks. The restrictions on access to internet have been eased in a gradual manner, with social media having been made available without any constraints like whitelisting of websites, etc.; and

4. Whereas, it has been observed that these restrictions have not caused any impediment in the efforts of the Government towards addressing health related issues and COVID control measures. Also, there has been no handicap of any nature in the sphere of education or in carrying out the business activities; and

5. Whereas, since the issuance of the latest directions, on 27th May, 2020, regarding regulation of internet services, many terrorists have been eliminated by the security forces with minimum collateral damage and without adversely impacting the public order. This has, to a large extent, been possible by ensuring that the data services are not misused by the anti-national elements/OGWs for mobilizing crowds at the encounter sites or at other places that have potential of getting affected; and

6. Whereas, there are intelligence inputs about the preparedness of terrorists to infiltrate from across the border, as is also borne out from recent infiltration attempts by the terrorists in the Kalakot and Naushera sector (on the LoC) of the Jammu province, and umpteen number of ceasefire violations all along the border. Reports further indicate that services that rely on availability of high speed internet are extensively utilized for coordinating and facilitating infiltration.

7. 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 order that the directions/restrictions indicated at para 2 above shall continue to remain in force till 8th July, 2020, unless modified earlier.

8. The IsGP, Kashmir/Jammu shall ensure communication of these directions to the service providers forthwith and also ensure implementation of these directions with immediate effect.

By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.


(Shaleen Kabra) IAS,

Principal Secretary to the Government

Dated: 17.06.2020

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) (S), (F) & (B) 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.