



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, JAMMU
कार्यालय जिलामजिस्ट्रेट, जम्मू
Wazarat Road-Jammu-180001(Jammu & Kashmir)
वज़ारतरौड, जम्मू -१८०००१ (जम्मू एवं कश्मीर)



ORDER

Whereas, the District of Jammu is a region of profound religious, linguistic and ethnic diversity, and its communal harmony is of paramount importance to the peace, security and well-being of all its residents; and

Whereas, social media platforms including WhatsApp, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, YouTube, Telegram and similar digital platforms have been increasingly misused to spread communally provocative, false, and inciting content, which has the potential to disturb public peace, cause communal tensions and endanger lives and property; and

Whereas, the dissemination of inflammatory content, morphed images, fabricated videos and false narratives through social media has been identified as a significant threat to public order in sensitive districts such as Jammu; and

Whereas, Article 19(2), Constitution of India permits the State to impose reasonable restrictions on the right to freedom of speech and expression in the interests of sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence; and

Whereas, Information Technology Act, 2000 specifically Section 69A, authorizes competent officers to direct blocking of access to online information in the interest of sovereignty, integrity, defence, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order; and

Whereas, the District Magistrate, Jammu, being satisfied that immediate preventive action is necessary to maintain public order, communal harmony and tranquility in the district.

Now, therefore, I, **Dr. Rakesh Minhas, IAS, District Magistrate, Jammu** in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) which empowers the District Magistrate to pass orders to prevent obstruction, annoyance or injury to any person lawfully employed, or danger to human life, health or safety, or a disturbance of the public tranquility, or a riot, or an affray, do hereby order as under:-

PROHIBITED ACT

With immediate effect, the following acts are strictly prohibited within the territorial jurisdiction of District Jammu:-

1. Posting, uploading, sharing or forwarding any content text, image, video, audio, meme, graphic or reel that promotes enmity, hatred or ill-will between communities on grounds of religion, race, caste, community, language or region.
2. Creating or disseminating any false, fabricated or misleading information designed to incite communal tensions, riots or violence against any group or community.
3. Circulating morphed, doctored or out-of-context images or videos to misrepresent incidents and inflame communal or religious passions.
4. Using any social media platform to call for boycotts, issue threats, or incite violence against any specific community, religion, caste or ethnic group.
5. Organizing or coordinating via social media any mob, unlawful assembly or procession aimed at targeting, intimidating or harming a particular community.
6. Broadcasting or sharing speeches, content or material that wounds the religious sentiments of any community or amounts to deliberate provocation of sectarian or communal nature.
7. Spreading rumours or unverified information relating to communal incidents, law and order situations, or security-related matters within the district.

The relevant Section, Offence and Punishment is detailed below:-



Section	Act / Sanhita	Offence	Punishment
Sec. 196(1)	BNS, 2023	Promoting enmity/hatred between groups via speech, writing, signs or electronic communication including social media	Up to 3 years imprisonment + fine, or both
Sec. 196(2)	BNS, 2023	Same offence committed at a place of worship or during religious ceremonies	Up to 5 years imprisonment + fine
Sec. 197(1)	BNS, 2023	Imputations or assertions prejudicial to national integration via electronic communication	Up to 3 years imprisonment + fine, or both
Sec. 152	BNS, 2023	Acts endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India via words, signs or electronic communication	Up to 7 years or life imprisonment + fine
Sec. 353	BNS, 2023	Statements conducing to public mischief; content inciting a community to commit offence against another	Up to 3 years, or fine, or both
Sec. 298	BNS, 2023	Uttering words with deliberate intent to wound religious feelings of any person	Up to 1 year, or fine, or both
Sec. 69A	IT Act, 2000	Non-compliance with directions to block or remove online content; threat to sovereignty, public order	Up to 7 years imprisonment + fine
Rule 3(1)(b)	IT Rules, 2021	Failure of intermediary to act on prohibited content violating public order or communal harmony	Loss of safe-harbour protection; civil and criminal liability

DIRECTIONS TO CITIZENS AND SOCIAL MEDIA USERS

1. All residents of District Jammu are directed to immediately refrain from posting, sharing or forwarding any content falling under the prohibited categories listed in Section III above.
2. Any person receiving inflammatory, communal or inciting content on any messaging or social media platform shall not forward the same and shall promptly report it to the nearest Police Station, the Cyber Crime Unit, or through the designated helpline.
3. Administrators and moderators of WhatsApp groups, Telegram channels, Facebook pages, YouTube channels and other community forums operating within or targeting residents of District Jammu shall bear joint responsibility for ensuring that no prohibited content is circulated through their platforms. Failure to act on reported prohibited content shall attract liability under applicable law.
4. All persons are directed to verify information from official and credible sources before sharing any content relating to communal, religious, security or public order matters. The official social media handles of the District Administration and Police shall be the authoritative source during any sensitive situations.
5. Any person with knowledge of individuals or groups planning to circulate inflammatory content to destabilize communal harmony is duty-bound to report the same to law enforcement authorities.
6. No one shall disseminate information through electronic means or otherwise that has tendency to evoke or excite separatist or secessionist feelings or which endangers sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.

DIRECTIONS TO SOCIAL MEDIA INTERMEDIARIES

1. Pursuant to Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, all social media intermediaries operating in India are directed to expeditiously act upon complaints and takedown notices issued by authorized officers of the District Administration regarding content violating public order and communal harmony.
2. The Sahyog Platform (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India), which enables district-level officers to submit content takedown requests to social media platforms, shall be actively utilized by designated officers for immediate action.
3. Social media intermediaries are directed to ensure compliance with takedown orders within the stipulated time frame under the IT Rules, 2021, failing which loss of safe-harbour protection and further legal action under Section 69A of the IT Act shall be initiated.

ENFORCEMENT MECHANISM

1. The Sr. Superintendent of Police, Jammu is directed to enforce this Order and ensure prompt registration of FIRs against violators without any undue delay.
2. The Cyber Crime Unit, Jammu shall undertake 24x7 surveillance of social media platforms to proactively identify, monitor and report prohibited content to the District Administration for immediate action.
3. Special Social Media Monitoring Cells shall be constituted at the Sub-Divisional level under the supervision of the respective Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to ensure grassroots-level monitoring and compliance.
4. Violations of this Order shall attract simultaneous action under relevant sections of BNS 2023, IT Act 2000 and under this Order itself. Multiple charges may be framed depending on the nature and gravity of the offence.

DURATION AND APPLICABILITY

This Order shall come into force immediately upon issuance and shall remain in force for a period of 60 (sixty) days from the date of issuance, unless extended, modified or revoked earlier by a subsequent order.

This Order shall apply to all persons within the territorial jurisdiction of District Jammu, regardless of the platform used or the physical location from which the content is posted, provided it targets, affects or is likely to affect public order within the district.

This Order is in addition to, and not in derogation of, any other Order, Act, Rule or Regulation in force relating to the maintenance of public order and communal harmony.

Given under my hand and seal on 17th of April, 2026.

No.: -DMJ/LO/26-27/284-91
 Dated: 17.04.2026



Dr. Rakesh Minhas, IAS
District Magistrate
Jammu
District Magistrate

Copy to the:-

1. Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department, J&K, Jammu for kind information.
2. Divisional Commissioner, Jammu for kind information.
3. Sr. Superintendent of Police, Jammu for information and necessary action.
4. Director, Information and Public Relations for information & necessary action and wide publicity through Electronic/print media.
5. Sub Divisional Magistrates (All) for information and necessary action.
6. SHOs (All) for information and necessary action.

Copy also to the:-

1. Addl. District Magistrate for information and necessary action.