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Government of India
इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
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दिनांक 20.03.2020
Date.....

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. However, it has been reported in media that there is a trend of circulation of misinformation/false news and sharing anonymous data related to Corona virus in various social media platforms creating panic among public.

2. 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 *Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 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.

3. 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.



(Rakesh Maheshwari)

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