
Legal Aspects and Socio-Economic Impact of Internet Shutdowns in India

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Abstract

Internet shutdowns are not a new phenomenon. Internet shutdowns have now occurred across nearly all countries, they are on the rise in India, where some of the longest shutdowns have taken place. This article describes, how many times the internet shutdown, types of internet shutdown, durations of the Internet shutdown and kinds of services affected by internet shutdown, have been implemented by the government of India between 2012 and October 2023. This article brings together authors from the law, communications, political science, and human rights to encourage a reevaluation of how we understand Internet shutdowns by reframing how they are located within a broader landscape of other censorship and infrastructure challenges. This article examines the causes and effects of shutdowns in the Indian context and challenges our current thinking about them.

Key words: *Internet Shutdown, India, Internet Penetration, Internet Access, Legal Aspects*

Classification JEL – L86, F60

Introduction

The Internet has been recognized as one of the biggest technological advancements of recent times and has proved over the years that it is an important enabler of social and economic change (SFLC 2017). Internet shutdown is a concern in India. At a time when India is taking advantage of the effects of generic technology such as the Internet to promote and articulate Digital India, the increasing number of closures reflects the difficulties that come in the way of realizing India's digital ambitions (Kathuria et. al 2018).

Between January 2012 and October 2023, India experienced 769 Internet shutdowns in 24 out of 37 states/UTs in the country for several reasons and duration. Internet shut downs in, a website that is tracking the instances of internet shutdown in India, has been noted that in India since 2012, a total of 700 Internet Shutdowns have been done until this article is being

written. (2012-03, 2013-05, 2014-06, 2015-14, 2016-31, 2017-79, 2018-136, 2019-109, 2020-132, 2021-101, 2022-77 and till October 2023-77)¹.

Legal Framework for Internet Shutdowns

In India, Both the Central and State governments have the authority to shut down the internet. This is because public order, law and order, and the police are state-level concerns under the federal system imposed by the constitution.² As a result, it has also been noted that the political environment of a state has a significant impact on national decisions to shut down the internet. The state government has the authority to enforce an internet shutdown thanks to two statutes (Ruijgrok, 2022). First, the Criminal Procedure Code's Section 144.³ second, the central government passed the temporary suspension of telecom services rules (Public Emergency or Public Safety), 2017 in accordance with Section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act.⁴ Relevantly, since the Rules were announced in August 2017, Section 144 has only occasionally been employed.

Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code

These shutdowns are generally imposed under the authority of orders issued by the State Governments under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 blocking mobile and/or fixed-line Internet services for several reasons. Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code gives power to a District Magistrate, a sub-divisional Magistrate or any other executive Magistrate to “direct any person to abstain from a certain act or to take certain order with respect to certain property in his possession or under his management.”⁵

Serving the public interest and maintaining public order is the goal of Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. To exercise this executive power, the appropriate authority must judge that immediate action is required to stop a crisis from happening or quickly identify a solution.

Aside from that, the planned course of action is necessary to protect the interests of others, avert a threat to human life, health, or safety, disturb public order, or put an end to a riot or conflict.

In the case of *Gaurav Sureshbhai Vyas v. State of Gujarat*⁶, the Supreme Court of India affirmed the Gujarat High Court's 2015⁷ decision and ruled that passing an internet shutdown order under section 144 was constitutionally lawful. In the case of *Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India*⁸ in 2020, the Supreme Court of India put some procedural protections into

¹ For more updated information, see <https://www.internetshutdowns.in/> (Access on 31st October 2023)

² Constitution of India, 1951, Article 246 read with 7 Schedule

³ Criminal Procedure Code 1973, Section 144.

⁴ Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services Rules (Public Emergency or Public Safety), 2017; Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, Section 7(2)(5).

⁵ Analysis of Section 144 of CrPC (legalservicesindia.com)

⁶ *Gaurav Sureshbhai Vyas v. State of Gujarat* 2016 SCC OnLineSC 1866

⁷ *Gaurav Sureshbhai Vyas v. State of Gujarat* 2015 SCC OnLineGuj 6491

⁸ (2020) 3SCC 637

section 144's text. The order must be published and made accessible to the public; the court noted⁹. Moreover, it is not acceptable to suspend internet services indefinitely.¹⁰ The court further noted that these orders fall under the proportionality principle and that the authority is required to use the least restrictive option. This means that the issuing authority must balance the security interest of the state and individuals' rights.

Temporary Suspension of Telecommunication Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017

The process for suspending telecommunication services is outlined in the Temporary Suspension of Telecommunication Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Regulations, 2017, which were published under section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

The executive branch of the union and state has the authority to impose an internet shutdown in accordance with these Guidelines. A shutdown of the internet will be implemented in accordance with Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, per subrule 2(6). Only in cases of "public emergency" or in the interest of "public safety," according to Section 5(2), may an internet shutdown be ordered. Nevertheless, nowhere in the parent statute are these phrases (public emergency and public safety) specified. Because of this, internet shutdowns are frequently imposed under circumstances that do not meet the criteria for a public emergency or public safety as set forth by legal decisions.¹¹

Telecommunication Bill, 2022

On September 21, 2022, the Department of Telecommunications introduced the Draft Telecommunication Bill, 2022 (hence referred to as "the Draft Bill"). The government aims to replace the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 with the Bill. The Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 read with the Regulations currently serves as the regulating legislation for Internet shutdowns in India, as was mentioned earlier. The Draft Bill's clause 24(1)(a) specifies the criteria and process for suspending telecommunications services. The clause extensively references the one before it. It keeps using the phrases "public emergency" and "public safety" without defining them in any way. Relevantly, clause 53 of the Draft Bill specifies that all rules, directives, or administrative orders made or allegedly made under the Indian Telegraph Act of 1885 shall continue to be in effect unless they are replaced by regulations made under the Draft Bill. The Telecom Suspension Regulations will therefore remain in effect until new regulations are announced by the government.

In May 2016, the SFLC filed applications under the Right to Information Act, 2005, among other details, with copies of orders approving the internet shutdown in Haryana in February 2016. In response to the application and the information sought, they received the following information (Appendix I):

⁹ Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India, (2020) 3SCC 637, para 108

¹⁰ Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India, (2020) 3SCC 637, para 110

¹¹ People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India (1997) 1 SCC 301, para 27-28; Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia v. State of Bihar and Ors (1966) 1 SCR 709, para 55.

1. Copies of orders issued under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, by District Magistrates of Jind, Hisar and Bhiwani, orders for stoppage of Internet services, and
2. Copies of orders issued by the District Magistrates of Jind and Hisar, permission for restoration of Internet services (SFLC 2017).

The Internet is not just a communication system, but a chosen platform for business and e-commerce, e-governance programs, a site for research and information, and many other things. As a result, a complete shutdown of the Internet has implications for the entire population of the region, including innocent people who have no role in creating a threatened threat or nuisance. This in turn violates citizens' fundamental right to free speech and expression under widespread censorship and Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution as it prohibits sending, receiving, and propagating information.

The Supreme Court in Bhasin's¹² case explicitly recognised that the freedom to access information through internet is a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a) and the freedom to conduct your trade, profession or business over the internet is also a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution.

Therefore, whenever the internet is suspended, these rights are being violated. Furthermore, these rights can't be restricted "just like that".

For instance, in Rajasthan, the internet shutdown order was issued to reduce the possibility of cheating or copying in the examination. This indicates the state governments and the Rajasthan Public Service Commission's incompetence. The suspicion of cheating and misconduct is arbitrary and unclear. There is still no proof or guarantee that the internet shutdown will achieve its intended goal, which is to stop cheating and other unethical behaviour during the scheduled exam. Instead, such restrictions have had an influence on every individual, affecting their access to justice, right to practise their profession, and right to freedom of speech and expression via the internet.

A restriction on internet access would be required to be reasonable and to be within the parameters established by the Constitution's Article 19(2) and Article 19(6) because of Bhasin's¹³ judgment. The court would make sure that there is not an unreasonable restriction on the right to free speech and expression while also maintaining peace and tranquillity. In terms of internet shutdown (IS), India has surpassed the rest of the world. Internet shutdown means completely shutting down the internet in one place. The current internet shutdowns affect much of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh. According to the website internetshutdowns.in, there were 136 internet shutdowns in India in 2018, with no other country in the world coming close to it. Last year also had a similar record in our country, last year (in 2022) a total of 77 internet shutdowns were seen in our country (Table 1).

¹² Anuradha Bhasin V. Union of India (2020) 3SCC 637

¹³ Ibid

Table 1: State-wise Internet Shutdown in different States of India from 2012-2023

Year/State	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Jammu & Kashmir	3	5	5	5	10	32	65	55	116	79	43	6	424
Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	1	3	8
Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Haryana	-	-	-	-	4	8	-	1	-	4	1	11	29
Rajasthan	-	-	-	1	6	19	30	12	-	10	14	6	98
Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	1	-	-	-	7
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	2	2	8	16	1	1	-	3	33
Bihar	-	-	-	-	2	3	5	1	-	-	1	17	29
Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	5
West Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	5	3	-	5	-	17
Meghalaya	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	4	4	2	1	-	16
Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	2	-	5
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	1	1	1	8
Nagaland	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	5
Manipur	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	1	1	-	1	27	34
Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	5
Odisha	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	-	1	-	6
Gujarat	-	-	1	5	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	11
Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	2	1	1	-	3	15
Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
NCT of Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	4
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Karnataka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Tamilnadu	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Telangana	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	3
Total	3	5	6	14	31	79	136	109	132	100	77	77	769

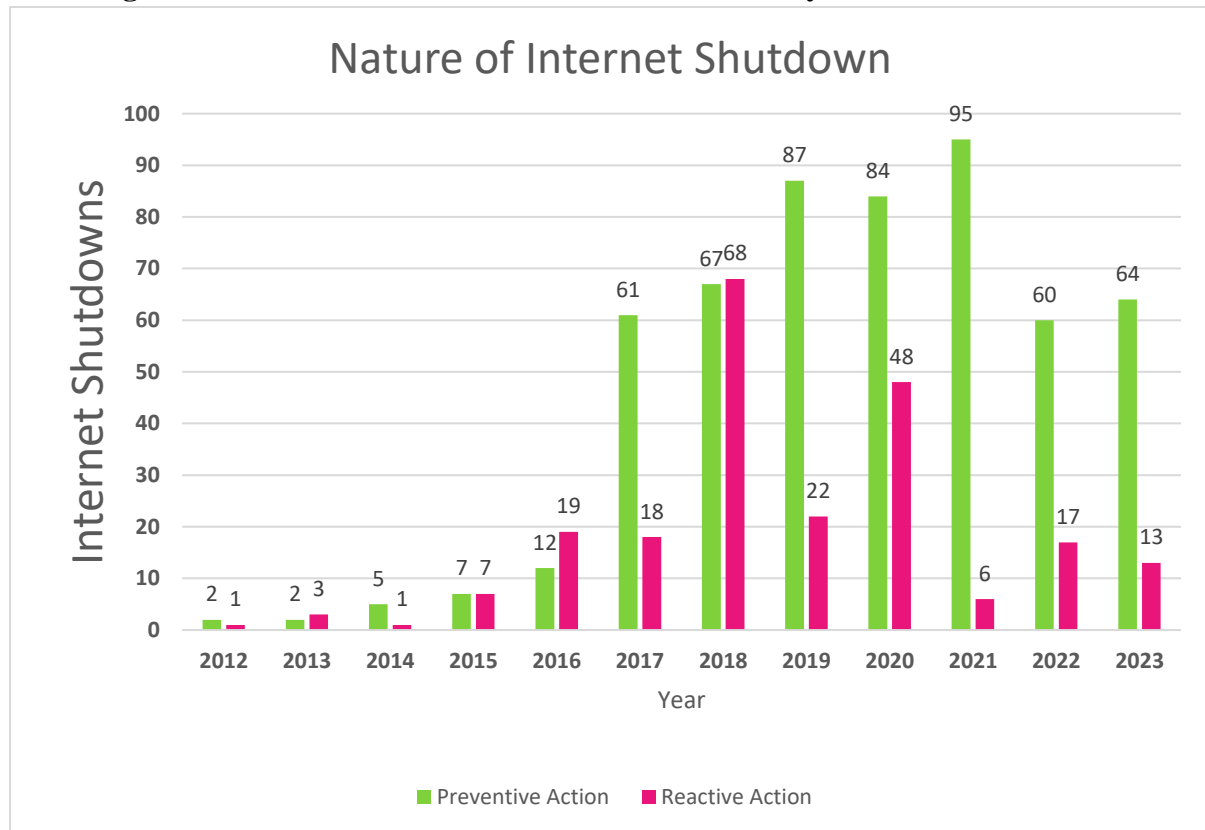
Source: <https://www.internetshutdowns.in/> Access on 31 October 2023

It has been observed that there is an internet disruption at some places for short times. However, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir and even sometimes West Bengal internet disruption gone for long duration. Based on available information, three types of patterns can be made out regarding how Internet shutdowns are imposed.

Nature of Shutdowns

A total of 769 Internet disruptions happened from January 2012 to October 2023. 546 were imposed as preventive measures, whereas 223 shutdowns as reactive measures for imposed in under to contain ongoing law & order situations (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Nature of Internet Shutdown from January 2012 to October 2023

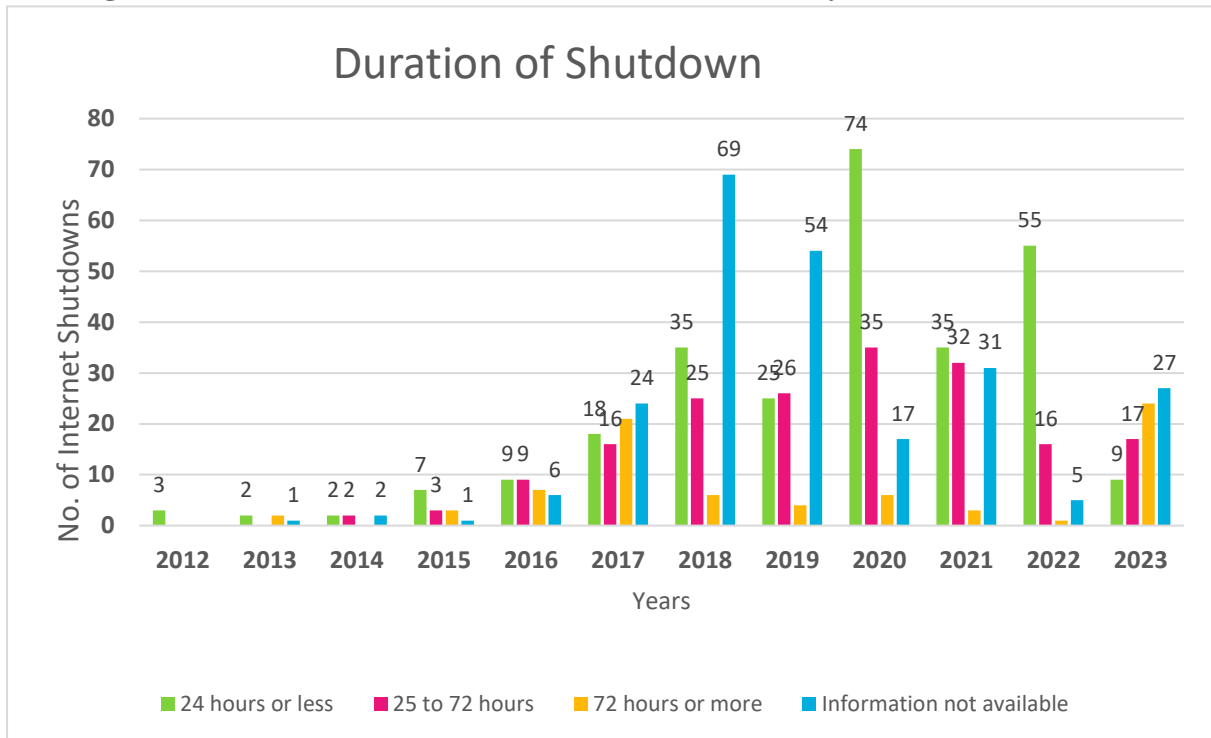


Source: <https://www.internetshutdowns.in/Access> on 31 October 2023

Duration of Shutdowns

From January 2012 to October 2023, there are 769 disconnections of Internet happened. 274 times internet disrupted for less than 24 hours, 181 times for 24 hours to 72 hours, 77 times for more than 72 hours, while there is no information available about 237 times of timing of internet disruption (Figure 2). The main reason behind no-information of timing for internet disruption was no public notifications issued by respective government or Internet service provider.

Figure 2: Duration of Internet Shutdowns from January 2012 to October 2023

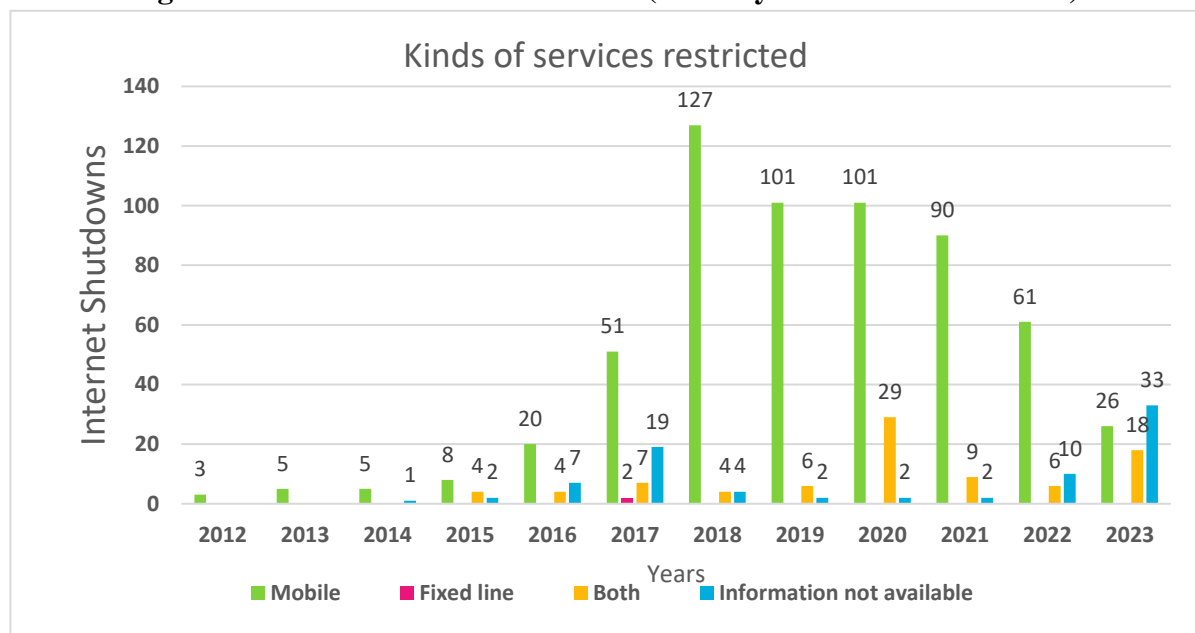


Source: <https://www.internetshutdowns.in/> Access on 31 October 2023

Kinds of Services Affected

Our study demonstrated that 598 reported incidents for disruption of mobile Internet services, 87 reported for both mobile and fixed-line Internet services, and only 2 shutdowns was reported for fixed-line services alone were recorded (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Kinds of Services restricted (January 2012 to October 2023)



Source: <https://www.internetshutdowns.in/> Access on 31 October 2023

The question here is, should we be worried about internet shutdown? Research and empirical evidence have shown that internet shutdowns have negative economic, political, and social impacts.

Economic Effect

A simple answer to this could be that we are all in a comforting environment. Our phone may possibly have internet, broadband or Wi-Fi, today we can ask for comfort food, go out for a walk, search Wikipedia or anything on Google. With the use of the internet, all this has become common today, apart from this; you can conduct online transactions, run your business, fill out the exam form, see the results, and do many tasks. All these facilities are available due to the Internet, if suddenly all of them are taken away, even if it is only for 1 week or a few days, it may cause us a lot of inconvenience.

Many studies are on a micro-level if its impact is seen on a macro scale, according to the study of various reports, the internet shutdown has caused billions of losses. A report (West, Darrell M., 2016) by the Brookings Institute, which aimed to quantify the losses suffered by various countries due to such internet, adjudged India to have topped the list by incurring losses to the tune of US \$968 million to the year 2016 itself. To measure national Internet shutdown costs, Brookings used the following formula: [national GDP * duration (measured as a percent of the year based on a few days the Internet was shut down) * extent of digital economy (measured as percent of national economy derived from the digital economy) + the multiplier effect of the disrupted digital economy]. Another report (Kathuria et al 2018) by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, which quantitatively assessed the economic impact of Internet Shutdowns across India projects an economic loss of approximately US \$3.04 billion due to Shutdowns in the country during the period of 2012-17. Yet another report prepared by Deloitte and launched by the Global Network Initiative, found that an average high-connectivity country stands to lose at least 1.9% of its daily GDP for each day all Internet services are shut down. For an average medium-level connectivity country, the loss was estimated at 1% of daily GDP, and for an average low-connectivity country, the loss was estimated at 0.4% of daily GDP (Deloitte, 2016). All these reports convey that with the growing dependence on the online ecosystem, the economic impact of internet shutdowns has also magnified.

How does this damage happen? Because the help of the internet runs many businesses today. Many retail shops, accounting firms, BPO firms, and IT centres require continuous internet, otherwise, the operating system will not be there. If we think that this loss has been made by the government, this loss which has been \$3.04 billion by 2017 (according to Kathuria et al 2018), has come not only to the government but also to the common man, it has also been counted the loss of his own business. These losses are increasing more in developing countries. People of developed country like the USA and the UK, do not tolerate internet shutdowns, just like internet shutdown has become normal in our country, if there is any problem on the internet, internet stops first, it seems that our losses in the coming time the

days are going to grow. Now India has 451 million¹⁴ active internet users who are 5 years & above as of Q1 2019 and India's Internet penetration is now 36% (India Internet 2019, 2019). In the era of digitilisation, businesses that are heavily dependent on electronic transactions are exposed to serious consequences. For example, e-payments are becoming increasingly common not only in the developed world but in many developing countries. In India also, the government has launched many plans towards demonetization and digital payments but frequent Internet disruptions across various states are inversely impacted on economy (Internet Society, 2019).

Social Impacts

There are also many social impacts of Internet disruption. Not only does the internet shutdown to have an impact on the running of people's lives smoothly, but it also impacts the ability to transfer online job applications, complete identity documents, submit school and college assignments, and remittances Puts. In societies where most people rely on the social media internet for basic communication, it can affect the family's smooth running and the school run. This disrupts transportation systems, especially ride-sharing applications that rely on the Internet for geo-location data and online payment systems. In countries such as Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, and Somalia, where local people are very dependent on the transfer of remittances, internet shutdown can affect the sending and receiving of necessary cash supplies. In areas where the Internet has become intertwined in the health and education sectors, its absence can disrupt the entire value chain (Mare, 2019).

The current COVID-19 pandemic set the example of the tension between potential harm and the benefits of social media access, and the challenges posed in reducing harm (Marchant & Stremlau, 2020). In March 2020, social media outlets, including Facebook, Google, Reddit, and others, released a joint statement announcing coordinated efforts to counter misinformation about the pandemic and elevate "authoritative content" on their platforms (Facebook, 2020). In many ways, Internet access is now seen as more imperative than ever. Yet countries like Ethiopia, India, and Myanmar have continued to restrict Internet access in certain restrictions, particularly those often associated with separatist or refugee groups, despite even more insistent condemnation from human rights organizations than usual (Access Now, 2020).

Conclusion

In conclusion, everyone was affected by this shutdown. This article is part of SFLC.in's ongoing campaign to end unlawful internet shutdowns. These are all about economics, moreover, UN resolution advocates, state that shutting down the Internet is wrong. "The provision, protection, and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet 2014" since it is non-binding. If the country does not follow this, it means that the number of times the internet

¹⁴ Of the overall internet population, 385 million are 12+ years old and 66 million are 5-11 years old who access the internet on the device of their family member.

shutdown has been done in India, it has been violated. Obviously, the government does not do it on its own, but it must be done under compulsion. If the situation is getting worse at some place, the fear is that people do not send false rumours through many social media like Facebook, Twitter, or WhatsApp; People should not be afraid anymore. Internet shutdown is performed repeatedly to control it. The first solution to this could be that if anti-social messages are being circulated in social media, only a few selected APPs can be banned for 2 or 3 days, as well as shutting down the entire Internet of people, it causes a lot of problems. The second thing is that the police should be upgraded, police reform should be brought, and the police should be trained on how to handle such cases. Also, perhaps people are aware of the use of social media. It is unfortunate that the government is not promising to do an internet shutdown in future.

Limitations of the study

Regarding data availability, some limitation needs to be acknowledged. This study only uses data that are reported in newspapers or social media. Data from official records may provide a more comprehensive result.

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Appendix I**ORDER UNDER SECTION 144 OF THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE 1973**

Whereas it has been made to appear before me that the Jat reservation agitation has spread throughout the District Hisar. There are ongoing instances and further likelihood of blockade of Railway track, highway and other roads by the agitators. Similarly, there is likelihood of damage to public property and commission of cognizable offences related to safety and security of individuals and property. This has caused a great inconvenience to the general public and adversely affected the essential services and supply of commodities. Many gatherings of these agitators are being facilitated by way of spreading disinformation and rumours through various social media such as Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Flickr, Tumblr, Google+, on mobile phones. Similarly, SMS services on mobile phones are being used to spread disinformation and for facilitating gatherings of agitators. As per reports received, there is imminent danger of disturbance of public tranquility due to inflammatory material being transmitted/ circulated to the public through social media/ messaging services on internet 2G/3G/Edge/ GPRS.

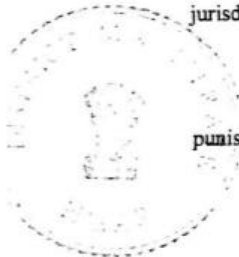
In view of the tense situation in Haryana and on account of Law & Order disturbance, I, Dr. Chander Shekhar Khare, District Magistrate Hisar, by virtue of powers conferred under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, hereby order immediate stoppage the internet services (2G Edge, 3G, 4G, GPRS) provided on mobile network in the territorial jurisdiction of Hisar District, Haryana. Telecom Service Providers are hereby directed to ensure compliance of this order.

This order is issued to prevent any disturbance of peace and public order in the jurisdiction of Haryana and shall remain in effect till further orders.

This Order is being passed ex-parte in view of the emergent situation.

In case of violation of the aforesaid order, person found guilty shall be liable to be punished as per Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court this day, 18th February 2016.




District Magistrate
Hisar.

No. 1194-1256 /PR/IMA, dated 18/02/2016

A copy of the above is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action please:-

1. The Deputy Director General, TERM Cell (H), ~~Barwala~~.
2. All Telecom Service Providers operating in Haryana Telecom Circle.
3. The Chief Secretary to Govt. Haryana. (For information)
4. The Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt. Haryana, Home Department, Chandigarh. (For information)
5. The Director General of Police, Haryana, Panchkula. (For information)
6. The Addl. Director General of Police, CID (H) Panchkula. (For information)
7. Divisional Commissioner, Hisar.
8. District & Session Judge, Hisar.
9. All District Magistrates in the state.
10. The Superintendent of Police Hisar with 5 spare copies
11. SDM Hisar/Hansi/Barwala.
12. CTM Hisar.
13. Civil Surgeon Hisar.
14. All Tehsildars/Naib Tehsildars in District Hisar.
15. All BDPOs in District Hisar.
16. DIPRO Hisar.
17. PA to DM Hisar.


District Magistrate

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, HISAR

ORDERS

In view of restoration of peace and normal situation after jat reservation agitation, throughout the District Hisar, I Dr. Chander Shekhar Khare, IAS, District Magistrate, Hisar do hereby withdraw my earlier order dated 18.02.2016 under section 144 Cr.P.C. issued vide endst. No. 1194-1256PA/MA dated 18.02.2016 regarding stopping the internet services (2G Edge, 3G, 4G, GPRS) and bulk messages provided on mobile network in the territorial jurisdiction of Hisar District, Haryana at 09:00 PM on 01.03.2016 and allow for restoration of above services.

Given under my hand and seal the Court this day of 1st March, 2016.




District Magistrate,
Hisar.

Endst. No. 1786-1885 /MA dated 1-3-2016

A copy is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action:-

1. Chief Secretary to Govt., Haryana, Chandigarh.
2. Additional Chief Secretary to Govt., Haryana, Home Department, Chandigarh.
3. Director General of Police, Haryana, Panchkula.
4. Addl. Director General of Police, CID, Haryana, Panchkula.
5. Commissioner, Hisar Division, Hisar.
6. Inspector General of Police, Hisar Range, Hisar.
7. District & Sessions Judge, Hisar.
8. All District Magistrate in Haryana State.
9. Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Hisar.
10. Superintendent of Police, Hisar. (With 20 spare copies of the order)
11. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Hisar.
12. General Manager B.S.N.L., Hisar.
13. Deputy Director General TERM Cell (H), Ambala.
14. All Telecom Service Providers Operating in Haryana Telecom Circle.
15. Sub Divisional Magistrate, Hisar/Hansi/Barwala. (With 5 spare copies)
16. District Development & Panchyat Officer, Hisar. (With 9 spare copies)
17. All Tehsildar/Naib Tehsildar of Hisar District.
18. Executive Officer/Secretaries of Municipal Corporation/ Council/Committee Hisar/Hansi/ Barwala/Narnaund/Uklana.
19. DIPRO, Hisar with 10 spare copies of the order.
20. PA to DC/Steno to CTM/DRO/DDPO, Hisar.

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ORDER UNDER SECTION 144 OF THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, 1973.

Whereas it has been made to appear to me that there is likelihood of causing tension, annoyance, obstruction or injury to persons, danger to human life and property, disturbance of public peace & tranquility within the limits of Jind District by some agitators, miscreants and antisocial elements on account of spreading of Jat reservation agitation throughout the District Jind.

And whereas, there is imminent danger of disturbance of public tranquillity due to inflammatory material being transmitted/circulated to the public through social media/messaging services on internet like 2G/3G/EDGE/GPRS.

And whereas, to thwart and prevent occurrence of any possibility i.e. unlawful activities, blocking of highways, other roads, passages, railway tracks, water channel, power houses etc. and damage to public property and commission of cognizable offences related to safety and security of individuals and property activities causing a great inconvenience to the general public and adversely affecting the essential services and supply of commodities by way of spreading disinformation and rumours through various social media such as Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Flicker, Tumblr, Google+, on mobiles phones, sending bulk SMS services on mobile phones and for facilitating gatherings of agitators, it has become necessary to take steps and measure to maintain law and order in District Jind in public interest.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me by virtue of section 144 of Code of Criminal procedure, 1973. I, Vinay Singh, IAS, District Magistrate, Jind do hereby order immediate stoppage the internet services (2G,EDGE,3G,4G,GPRS) and bulk messages provided on mobiles networks in the territorial jurisdiction of Jind District, Haryana. Telecom Service Providers are hereby directed to ensure compliance of this order.

This order is issued to prevent any disturbance of peace and public order in the jurisdiction of Haryana and shall come into force with effect from 18-02-2016 and shall remain enforce for a period of one month upto 17-03-2016 (both days inclusive) unless withdrawn earlier.

This order is being passed ex-parte in view of the emergent situation. It shall be published for the information public through press and publicity Van of the public Relations Department and by affixing the copies of this order on the Notice Boards of the District, Sub Divisional Magistrate, and Tehsil Courts, BD&POs, Gram Panchayats, Municipal Council/ Committees, Bus Stands and public places, Police Stations as well as in the Cinema Halls.

Any person found guilty for violation of aforesaid order, will be liable for punishment under section 188 of the Indian Penal Code.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court of this day 18th February, 2016.

Endst. No. 97-120/P.A./MA

Dated 18.2.2016

ok
District Magistrate
Jind

A copy is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action please:-

1. The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Haryana, Chandigarh.
2. The Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt. Haryana, Home Deptt., Chandigarh.
3. The Director General of Police, Haryana, Chandigarh.
4. The Commissioner Hisar Division, Hisar.
5. Inspector General of Police, Hisar.
6. District & Sessions Judge, Jind.
7. Addl. Deputy Commissioner, Jind.
8. Superintendent of Police, Jind.
9. Sub Divisional Magistrate, Jind/ Narwana/Safidon.
10. District Information & Public Relation Officer, Jind.
11. All head of offices in district Jind.
12. All Telecom Services Providers operating in Haryana Telecom Circle.

ok
District Magistrate



Order

In view of appearing normal situation after Jat Reservation Agitation throughout the District Jind, I, Vinay Singh, I.A.S., District Magistrate, Jind do hereby withdraw my earlier Order dated 18.02.2016 under Section 144 Cr.P.C. issued vide endst No. 37-120/P.A./M.A dated 18.02.2016 regarding stopping the internet services (2G Edge, 3G 4G GPRS) and bulk messages provided on mobile network in the territorial Jurisdiction of Jind District, Haryana on 01.03.2016 and allow for restoration of above services

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this day of 1st March, 2016.


District Magistrate,
Jind. 

- Endst No. 255-300 /PA/M.A dated 1-3-2016
- A copy is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action :-
- 1 Chief Secretary to Government Haryana, Chandigarh.
 - 2 Additional Chief Secretary, to Government Haryana, Home Department, Chandigarh.
 - 3 Director General of Police, Haryana, Panchkula.
 - 4 Director General of Police, CID, Haryana Panchkula.
 - 5 Commissioner, Hisar, Division, Hisar.
 - 6 Inspector General of Police, Hisar Range, Hisar.
 - 7 District & Session Judge, Jind.
 - 8 All District Magistrates, in Haryana.
 - 9 Superintendent of Police, Jind.
 - 10 General Manager, BSNL, Jind.
 - 11 Deputy Director General TERM Cell (H), Ambala.
 - 12 All Telecom Service Providers operating in Haryana Telecom Circle.
 - 13 Addl. Deputy Commissioner, Jind.
 - 14 Sub Divisional Magistrate, Jind/ Narwana/ Safidon.
 - 15 All Tehsildar/ Naib Tehsildars of District Jind.
 - 16 All B.D.P Os of District Jind.
 - 17 E of Secy. Municipal Council/ Committee of District Jind.
 - 18 DIPRO, Jind.
 - 19 P.A. to D.C./ Steno to CTM/DDPO/DRO, Jind.


District Magistrate,
Jind. 

ORDER UNDER SECTION 144 OF THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, 1973

Whereas it has been made to appear before me that the Jat reservation agitation spread throughout the District Bhiwani. There are ongoing instances and further likelihood of blockage of Railway tracks, highways and other roads by the agitators. Similarly, there is a threat of damage to public property and commission of cognizable offences related to safety and security of individuals and property. This has caused a great inconvenience to the general public and adversely affected the essential services and supply of commodities. Many meetings of these agitators are being facilitated by way of spreading disinformation and rumors through various social media such as Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Tumblr, Google+, on mobile phones. Similarly, SMS services on mobile phones are being used to spread disinformation and for facilitating gatherings of agitators. As per reports received, there is imminent danger of disturbance of public tranquility due to inflammatory material being transmitted/ circulated to the public through social media/ messaging services on internet 2G/3G/Edge/GPRS.

In view of the tense situation in Haryana on account of Law & Order disturbance, I, Pankaj, IAS, District Magistrate, Bhiwani by virtue of powers conferred under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, hereby order immediate stoppage of the internet services (2G Edge, 3G, 4G, GPRS) provided on mobile network in the territorial jurisdiction of Bhiwani District, Haryana. Telecom Service Providers are hereby directed to ensure compliance of this order.

This order is issued to prevent any disturbance of peace and public order in the jurisdiction of District Bhiwani and shall remain in effect till further orders.

This order is being passed ex-parte in view of the emergent situation.

In case of violation of the aforesaid order, person found guilty shall be liable to be punished as per Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code.


Given under my hand and the seal of the court this 18th day of February, 2016.


District Magistrate,
Bhiwani.

No. 17-67 / STDC/MB Dated. 18-02-2016

A copy is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action:-

- The Deputy Director General, TERM Cell (H), Ambala.
- All Telecom service providers operating in Haryana Telecom Circle.
- The Chief Secretary to Govt. Haryana, Chandigarh.
- The Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt. Haryana, Home Department, Chandigarh.
- The Director General of Police, Haryana, Panchkula.
- The Addl. Director General of Police, CID(H) Panchkula.
- District & Session Judge, Bhiwani.
- All District Magistrates in the State of Haryana.
- The Superintendent of Police, Bhiwani.
- All Sub Divisional Magistrates in District Bhiwani.
- All Tehsildars/Naib Tehsildars in District Bhiwani.
- DIPRO, Bhiwani.


District Magistrate,
Bhiwani.