


**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB  
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE  
(HOME-4 BRANCH)**

No.1781

Dated: 20.03.2023

**ORDER UNDER SECTION 5 OF INDIAN TELEGRAPH ACT. 1885 AND RULE 2 OF  
TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF TELECOM SERVICES  
(PUBLIC EMERGENCY OR PUBLIC SAFETY RULES, 2017)**

1. Whereas, Director General of Police, Punjab has brought to my notice that certain sections of society are holding protests at several places in the State and are likely to threaten public order by incitement to violence as also resorting to wide spread violence with an aim to stoke and cause communal tension, obstruction or injury to persons, danger to human life and property, disturbance of public peace and tranquillity thereby threatening public safety and public order in the State of Punjab.
2. Whereas, Director General of Police, Punjab has further brought to my notice that these sections of society widely use social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp etc. and also Short Message Service (SMS) for spreading of inflammatory material and false rumours, to provoke mobilization of mobs of agitators and demonstrators, mobilize their own manpower and resources for their anti-national activities. There is a clear continuation of potential of threat to public safety, disruption of public utilities, damage to public assets and amenities and disturbance of public law and order in the State of Punjab on account of misuse of mobile internet services, SMS services and other dongle services. He has further stated that there is an imminent need to curb the spread of misinformation and rumours through various social media platforms, such as WhatsApp, Facebook Twitter and other internet based messaging services on mobile internet services, SMS and other dongle services which could provoke further mobilisation of mobs of agitators and demonstrators who can cause threat to public safety, serious loss of life and damage to public and private properties by indulging in arson or vandalism and other types of violent activities
3. Therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 5 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 read with Rule (2) of Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 and all other enabling powers in this behalf, it is directed that all mobile internet services (2G/3G/4G/5G/CDMA/GPRS), all SMS services (excluding banking and mobile recharge) and all dongle services provided on mobile networks, except the voice calls, in the territorial jurisdiction of Punjab shall be further suspended from 20/03/2023 (1200 hrs) to 21/03/2023 (1200 hrs) in continuation of this office Order No.1750 dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023, in the interest of public safety, to prevent any incitement to violence and to prevent any disturbance of peace and public order. The Broadband Services are not being suspended so that Banking facilities, Hospital Services and other essential services are not disrupted.


  
Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt. of Punjab,  
Home Department

Copy of the above is forwarded to the following with the request to convey this order to the designated Officers of the Telegraph Authorities/Service Providers:

1. Director General of Police, Punjab
2. ADGP Intelligence, Punjab

Copy of the above is forwarded to the following for their information and necessary action:

1. Chief Secretary, Punjab
2. Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister, Punjab
3. All members of the Review Committee.
4. All Deputy Commissioners in the State of Punjab.
5. Director Public Relations, Punjab: with a request to give wide publicity to this order.
6. All Telecom Service Providers in the State of Punjab (Through ADGP Intelligence)

  
Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt. of Punjab,  
Home Department