



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, RAJOURI

Tel: No 262244, FAX No: 262481

No: PA/DCR/2017/SS-65

Dated: 26.05.2017

ORDER

Subject: Magisterial Inquiry into incident of fake news regarding death of 40 Students in road accident, creating threat to security of state.

Whereas, on 25th May 2017 a news was received that a school bus with 40 students and 5 teaching staff on-board plunged into a gorge near Chattapani in Poonch on its way back from Peer Ki Gali to Manjakote.

Whereas, it was reported that students of Greeb Nawaz School, Manjakote had gone for an excursion and all the students were killed during an accident. Pictures of dead, injured and bus were also posted on whatsapp group.

Whereas, responding to the news of emergent situation conveyed by prominent and responsible citizens even confirmed by various agencies based on their information lead the district administration to press into action the entire machinery for rescue and relief as school was reportedly located in Manjakote Tehsil of District Rajouri. Ambulances and vehicles were rushed to Bafliaz and ahead to help rescue and helicopters of IAF were kept in a state of readiness for evacuation.

Whereas, entire machinery of district administration and police force was mobilized for rescue and relief but the news termed out to be fake after some officers traced out the driver and spoke to him and teachers on-board the said bus reported to have met an accident. Even after clarification issued by District Administration, Rajouri some whatsapp groups circulated that another bus was involved in the accident and details are awaited.

Whereas, the incident can't be ruled out as a planned strategy to attack the security of state as entire state machinery in twin district was pressed into action making the vital installations prone to enemy attacks or any such planned attack. Such incidents have the potential of threatening both law & order and security of state. There is a need to curb this practice

and also have regulations in place to control spread of unverified information in the name of news.

Whereas, the crime committed by the culprits in the instant case is of a grave nature which call for punishment of highest order under the law.

Therefore, a magisterial enquiry is ordered into the incident to be conducted by Sh Mumtaz Ali, KAS, Addl District Magistrate. He will be assisted by Sh Yousaf Choudhary, KPS, Addl SP Rajouri, Sh Sanjay Puri DIO NIC. Asstt Regional Transport Officer, Rajouri and General Manager Telecom BSNL Rajouri shall be co-opted members. The committee is at liberty to associate any other official or person for the purpose of enquiry into the incident. The committee shall issue public notice and summon such persons whom it deems fit for assisting to trace out the culprits.

The committee shall submit its report latest by 14th June 2017 and will also suggest measures for having a mechanism in place for such programmes of schools as well as regulations for spread of news items without verification or owning responsibility.


(Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary) IAS
District Magistrate
Rajouri

Copy to

1. Principal Secretary to Govt, Home Department.
 2. Divisional Commissioner, Jammu for favour of information.
 3. Secretary to Government, General Administration Department
 4. Secretary to Government, Revenue Department
 5. Deputy Commissioner, Poonch for information
 6. Addl Deputy Commissioner for n/a
 7. Superintendent of Police, Rajouri for n/a
 8. District Informatics Officer for information and n/a
 9. General Manager, Telecom, BSNL, Rajouri
 10. ARTO Rajouri
- ✓ DIO for public notice