



Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the District Magistrate, Kishtwar
(Mini Secretariat Complex, Kishtwar-182204)
(Phone/Fax: 01995-261466/259555, e-mail: dckishtwar-jk@nic.in)

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Subject: Regulation of Un-registered Online News Portals/Social Media Platforms in District Kishtwar.

ORDER
U/S 163, BNSS 2023.

Whereas, it has been brought to the notice of the undersigned that there has been mushrooming of unregistered online news portals and social media pages reporting on news and current affairs without any form of registration, verification or accountability; and

Whereas, it has been further reported that such unregistered Online News Portals/Social Media News Portals are publishing news and current affairs content without adhering to due standards of authenticity, thereby creating scope for misinformation, misrepresentation and public disorder; and

Whereas, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, vide G.S.R. 139(E) dated 25th February, 2021, has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021; and

Whereas, these unregistered online news Portals/ Social media News Portals fall within the definition of publisher of news and current affairs and publisher of online curated content as provided under sub clause (t) and (u) of section 2 of the said notification; and

Whereas, as per section 9 (1) of Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, the publisher of news and current affairs content and the publisher of online curated content need to adhere to the Code of Ethics laid down in the appendix to these rules; and

Whereas, unregistered portals operating without compliance to the above framework pose a serious risk of spreading unauthenticated information, which is prejudicial to public order, tranquility, and harmony in the district; and

Now, therefore, in view of the reasons stated above and in exercise of the powers conferred upon me under **Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023**, I, **Pankaj Kumar Sharma (JKAS), District Magistrate, Kishtwar**, do hereby order and directed that:

1. All unregistered Online News Portals, self-styled media persons and Social Media handles/pages, operating within the jurisdiction of District Kishtwar shall strictly adhere to the Code of Ethics laid down in the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.
2. No unregistered or unauthorized Online News Portal/Social Media News Portal shall publish or circulate news/current affairs content without due compliance with the statutory framework in force.
3. All Cyber Cafe operators within District Kishtwar shall ensure that no person is allowed entry without furnishing valid identity proof and shall maintain proper records of users as per norms.

4. Circulation of objectionable, misleading, or inflammatory messages on social media platforms/networks, likely to disturb public order and peace, is strictly prohibited and violators shall be dealt with sternly under law.
5. The District Information Officer, Kishtwar, shall furnish a comprehensive list to this office, within seven (07) days positively, and verified list of all registered and unregistered news portal owners/operators, media organizations, and social media news handles functioning within District Kishtwar.

Owing to the necessity of the situation, this order is passed ex-parte under Section 163(2) of the BNSS, 2023.

This order shall come into force with immediate effect and will remain in force for a period of two months.

Any violation of this order shall be punishable under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and other applicable laws.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, shall ensure implementation of this order in letter and spirit.

Given under my hand & seal on this 29th day of December, 2025.

**District Magistrate,
Kishtwar.**

No: DMK/2025-26/4284-89

Dated: 29.12.2025

Copy to the:

1. Commissioner / Secretary to the Govt. Department of Information & Public Relations, Civil Secretariat, J&K, for favour of kind information.
2. Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, for favour of kind information.
3. Sr. Superintendent of Police Kishtwar, for favour of information and necessary action.
4. District Information Officer, Kishtwar, for information and with the directions to furnish detail of all registered/unregistered news portal owners/operators.
5. District Informatics Officer (NIC) Kishtwar for information and uploading the contents of the order on official District web site.
6. Office record/file.