No. DI/INF/Advisory-COVID-19/2020/ Dated: March 24, 2020

To,
All Social Media Platforms

Sub: ADVISORY TO CURB FALSE NEWS AND 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.

Social media platforms are intermediaries and are required to follow due diligence in such circumstances. 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.

The Social Media Platforms are therefore urged to initiate awareness’ campaign on their platform for the users not to upload/circulate any false news/misinformation concerning corona virus which are likely to crate panic among public and disturb the public order and social tranquillity; take immediate action to disable/remove such content hosted on their platforms on priority basis; promote dissemination of authentic information to corona virus as far as possible.

(Meghana Shetgaonkar)
Director, Information and Publicity