

To,

25<sup>th</sup> March, 2017

Shri Raghubar Das

Honorable Chief Minister of Jharkhand

Chief Minister's Office

1st Floor, Project Building

Ranchi, Jharkhand - 834008

**Sub: Concerns over disruption of Internet services in the State of Jharkhand**

Sir,

We are a group of concerned citizens and organizations, writing to draw attention to the issue of Internet shutdowns, where access to entire Internet services is disabled region-wide upon state orders. Internet shutdowns are a cause for serious concern, as not only do they incur significant economic losses in the region, but they also obstruct the exercise of citizens' civil liberties in the digital space, including the right to freedom of speech and expression.

Civil society organizations in India have been tracking such state imposed disruption of Internet services in different regions across the country. Such restrictions on Internet services have been instituted for reasons varying from limiting the spread of hateful and communal messages on social media platforms, to prevention of cheating in exams. Till date, India has experienced a recorded number of 66 such incidents since 2012, with the number increasing more than two fold from 14 in 2015 to 31 in 2016.

The State of Jharkhand witnessed it's first instance of Internet shutdown in the industrial town of Bokaro when subsequent to the communal clashes in the town during the celebration of Ram Navami, Internet services were cut off from 16th April, 2016 to 18th April, 2016. Many people including police forces were injured and the mob damaged many vehicles too. The Internet was shutdown by the authorities to prevent use of social media as a tool for spreading communal fear and hatred.

The number of Internet shutdowns in India has been consistently rising over the years, and it has been observed that most shutdowns target mobile Internet services. At this point, it is pertinent to note that Internet proliferation in India is mostly through mobile networks, with the recent Performance Indicator Report by TRAI stating that as of September 2016, out of a total of 367.48 million Internet subscribers, 345.60 million subscribers access Internet through the medium of mobiles and dongles. The flagship programme of the Government, the Digital India initiative and its aim to digitize provision of government services to ensure convenience and transparency, is laudable. However, as the applications of Internet expands to areas such as e-commerce, education, and e-governance, it has become an intrinsic part of every citizen's day to day life. Especially in light of the Central Government's recent decision to demonitize Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 currency notes, along with the encouraged use of applications and payment mechanisms such as BHIM

(Bharat Interface for Money), Aadhaar Enabled Payment Systems (AEPS), Bharat QR Code payments transfer mechanism, UPI (Unified Payment Interface), as well as a host of e-wallet services such as Paytm, Mobikwik, Freecharge, Ola money and others that involve digital transactions, assurance of stable and consistent Internet connectivity is imperative.

Such frequent disruptions of Internet services not only incur extremely high levels of economic losses, but also bring the lives of residents in affected areas to a standstill. A report by the Centre for Technology Innovation at Brookings Institute, which attempted to quantify the economic losses suffered by nations due to Internet shutdowns, adjudged India to have suffered highest losses in the world, along the lines of US \$968 million.

We invite your attention to the Information Technology Act, 2000, which provides for restriction of access to some online resources in certain situations related to security of state. Section 69A and the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009 framed under this Section create a detailed framework and procedure for conditions that warrant temporary disabling of public access to contentious content. We acknowledge that for such reasons, a targeted restriction of online resources could be instituted as per Section 69A and this provision should act as the standard operating procedure instead of a complete restriction of Internet services on any medium in an area. In fact, even these Rules need to be reviewed to ensure that the restrictions imposed are necessary and proportionate.

Presently, most of the orders for such restrictions are issued by the state governments under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, which is a power given to the state governments to issue directions to a person in case of emergencies to prevent apprehended danger or nuisance. In the past this provision has been used to curb unlawful assemblies of people. However, the current use of this clause as a legal basis to disable an entire communication network is arbitrary.

Therefore, we strongly urge the state of Jharkhand to take requisite action that would prohibit the issuance of orders that make Internet services entirely inaccessible for a particular area, and rather recommend that Section 69A and the procedure established by the Rules therein be applied to limit the restriction to certain specific online content. In interest of transparency, we further request you to make public any such guidelines or recommendations issued to officials designated to order restriction of Internet access.

We are also enclosing an online petition initiated by a PhD student at IIT Madras, requesting the Prime Minister of India, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Law and Justice, as well as the Chief Ministers of affected states to take necessary action against Internet shutdowns. This petition makes note of the tremendous social and economic costs of Internet shutdowns, and has been endorsed by around 240 individuals so far. Also enclosed is SFLC.in's record of Internet shutdowns instituted across India between 2012 and 2017 for your kind perusal. We sincerely hope that you will take note and take appropriate action on this issue that is affecting overall development of the country and welfare of the citizens.

Yours sincerely,

**CONCERNED CITIZENS/ORGANIZATIONS:**

Anivar Arvind, *Executive Director, Indic Project*

Centre for Internet and Society

Chetan Gupta, *Advocate*

Digital Empowerment Foundation

Faizal Farooqui, *CEO, MouthShut.com*

Geeta Seshu, *Journalist*

Internet Democracy Project

IT for Change

Prof. Kannan M Moudgalya, *Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay*

Dr. Nagarjuna G, *Chairperson, Free Software Foundation of India*

Prof. Rahul De, *Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore*

Satish Babu, *Chair, APRALO, ICANN*

SFLC.in

Society for Knowledge Commons

Venkatesh Hariharan, *Director - FinTech, iSPIRT*

**For further communications:**

Mishi Choudhary

President & Legal Director, SFLC.in

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## **ONLINE PETITION AGAINST INTERNET SHUTDOWNS (7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2017)**

Letter to

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs

Hon'ble Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics and Information Technology

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh

Sir,

We have grown increasingly concerned by the alarming rise in frequency of Internet shutdowns in India, where access to the Internet as a whole is disabled region-wide for a variety of reasons. Till date, there have been 62 Internet shutdowns in India between since 2012, and the annual tally of shutdowns has increased from 3 in 2012, to 5 in 2013, 6 in 2014, 14 in 2015, and 30 in 2016. Not only has the number of shutdowns risen consistently over the years, but such shutdowns have also come to be imposed for increasing durations of time. The longest ever Internet shutdown in India was recorded in the state of Jammu and Kashmir 2016, where mobile Internet services were suspended for 6 consecutive months. The Government's flagship Digital India initiative, with its aim to transform India into a digitally empowered society and a knowledge economy, is laudable and has sustained access to an open Internet at its heart. Moreover, as the role of the Internet expands to areas such as e-commerce, e-health, and e-governance, it has become an intrinsic part of every citizen's day-to-day life. The relevance of a stable Internet has increased even further in light of the Government's recent demonetisation scheme, and the accompanying push towards digital payment applications and systems such as BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) and AEPS (Aadhaar Enabled Payment Systems). Under these conditions, frequent disruptions of Internet services not only incur extremely high levels of economic losses, but also bring the lives of residents of affected areas to a standstill. A report by the Centre for Technology Innovation at Brookings Institute, which attempted to quantify the economic losses suffered by nations due to Internet shutdowns, adjudged

India to have suffered the highest amount of losses in the world to the tune of US \$968 million. We therefore strongly urge the Government to take requisite action that would effectively cease the issuance of Internet shutdown orders that render the entire Internet inaccessible for residents of affected areas, and direct that the procedure established by the IT Act and Rules be applied to limit access to specific online content. In the interest of transparency, we also urge you to make public any guidelines or recommendations issued to relevant authorities in pursuance of this petition.

*(This petition can be accessed at: <https://www.change.org/p/hon-ble-prime-minister-of-india-stop-internet-shutdowns>; and the list of signatories for this petition as of 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 can be found in the following pages)*

## Sheet1

Name	City	State	Postal Code	Country	Signed On
Ditty Mathew				India	2017-02-07
Ragul Kanth			605110	India	2017-02-08
Aditya Saky			560076	India	2017-02-08
bharath kumar gade			500045	India	2017-02-08
Yogesh G			607001	India	2017-02-08
Koteswararao Turaka			507303	India	2017-02-08
Srravya C			600033	India	2017-02-08
Ramaseshan S	Bangalore		605003	India	2017-02-08
Selva Kumar	Pondicherry		605009	India	2017-02-08
Ananda raj			600087	India	2017-02-08
Arun Prasath	Pondichéry		605010	India	2017-02-08
Bharat Sharma	New Delhi		110055	India	2017-02-08
SARITHA K S			688527	India	2017-02-08
ARUN KC			670142	India	2017-02-08
Shobhit Chaudhry			110014	India	2017-02-08
Nehmat Kaur			110014	India	2017-02-08
harish gadhari			506244	India	2017-02-08
Kushal Das			411013	India	2017-02-08
ganesh gopal			632009	India	2017-02-08
Priyanka Mittal			110014	India	2017-02-08
Prashant Sharma	Bharuch		392015	India	2017-02-08
Veeresh H R			560065	India	2017-02-08
PrithviRaj Narendra			560055	India	2017-02-09
Sukarn Maini			110014	India	2017-02-09
mang hauzel			795128	India	2017-02-09
MANU M			682017	India	2017-02-09
SHYAM MAHESHWARI			452016	India	2017-02-09
Parth Patel			411013	India	2017-02-09
Prasanna Venkadesh	Puducherry		605009	India	2017-02-09
Giridharan R			605008	India	2017-02-09
Shakti K			605008	India	2017-02-09
Pragathi jain Kashyap			600079	India	2017-02-09
Neibulie Sanchu			797001	India	2017-02-10
Prakash P			605502	India	2017-02-10
Venkatesh Vinaitheerthaan			600041	India	2017-02-10
vel chami			630004	India	2017-02-10
Arun Rajiah	Bangalore		560076	India	2017-02-10
Abhishek Zala			380058	India	2017-02-10
Anmol Shami			400706	India	2017-02-10
Avi Phimei konyak			797112	India	2017-02-10
Faheem Rasheed			190023	India	2017-02-10
Suhail Mir			190023	India	2017-02-10
Toky Jimomi			793001	India	2017-02-11
shubham sundaram			848504	India	2017-02-11
Yash Dalal			160062	India	2017-02-11
Shruti Sharma	Jeddah			Saudi Arabia	2017-02-13
Shah Khan	fiddlesborough		Ts1 3hn	nited Kingdo	2017-02-13
haynes davis	bangalore		560037	India	2017-02-13
Gian Franco Bonini			560066	India	2017-02-14
Mohit Gupta	New York	New York	10024	United States	2017-02-14
Ramita Bakshi	Edmonton		T6w0w1	Canada	2017-02-14
Mishi Choudhary			110014	India	2017-02-14

Sheet1

Thiyagarajan M		560098	India	2017-02-15
Simran Bagga		110033	India	2017-02-15
Shashank Chakravarthy		560085	India	2017-02-15
Prasanth Sugathan		682018	India	2017-02-15
Aasheena Asghar		160017	India	2017-02-15
Arjuna Rana		145001	India	2017-02-15
Aashna Singh		734001	India	2017-02-15
Harshna Barwal		176061	India	2017-02-15
Amber Asghar		160017	India	2017-02-15
tashi angmo		170061	India	2017-02-15
Narasimhan Kannan	Gainesville Virginia	20155	United States	2017-02-15
Alisha Kanwar		160011	India	2017-02-16
Kirthika Balasubramanian		600024	India	2017-02-16
Viji Narasimhan	Gainesville Virginia	20155	United States	2017-02-16
Venkatesh Hariharan	Mumbai	400079	India	2017-02-16
Krishna Priya		400076	India	2017-02-16
Rashmi T R	Chennai	600114	India	2017-02-16
Sumeet Anand		560102	India	2017-02-16
Oindree Bandyopadhyay		400007	India	2017-02-16
Aruna Bhaskar	Bangalore	560085	India	2017-02-16
Ram Bala	London	lg4 5jd	nited Kingdo	2017-02-16
Shujaat Bukhari		190001	India	2017-02-16
Mudasir Youssouf		151001	India	2017-02-16
Arun Singh		180002	India	2017-02-16
Muzamil Khan		190005	India	2017-02-16
Ajaz Kuchey		560007	India	2017-02-16
Adil Manzoor Bhat		191111	India	2017-02-16
Sheikh Faizan		193101	India	2017-02-16
Arjumand Ramzan		190001	India	2017-02-16
muhammad butt	Walthamstow	E176ae	nited Kingdo	2017-02-16
Bhat Tawseef		192231	India	2017-02-16
Vaishali Verma		226021	India	2017-02-16
kabir darshan		110014	India	2017-02-16
Srikanth Reddy Arika		520010	India	2017-02-16
sherry kaushal		440030	India	2017-02-16
Palak Purswani		400058	India	2017-02-16
Punkhuri Chawla	Lucknow	226001	India	2017-02-16
Arunima Saraf		131001	India	2017-02-16
Kishita Kaushal		440030	India	2017-02-16
Sanveer Chhabra		452001	India	2017-02-16
Puru Jain		131001	India	2017-02-16
Mudasir Dar		193101	India	2017-02-16
KHALID Ahanger		192122	India	2017-02-16
Smaran Kapoor		110054	India	2017-02-16
Uzair Fazili		190010	India	2017-02-16
Prem Chand kagithala	Banyias		United Arab Emir	2017-02-16
Arjun Jayakumar		110014	India	2017-02-16
Piyush Mittal		132103	India	2017-02-16
Sujata Madhok	New delhi	110 021	India	2017-02-16
Altaf Ahmad	Kualalumpur		Malaysia	2017-02-16
Nasir Mir		193222	India	2017-02-16
Nishant Mathews		500026	India	2017-02-16
Naheed Shafi		190001	India	2017-02-16

Sheet1

Humaira Amin			190003	India	2017-02-16
Perna Prakash			600032	India	2017-02-16
Zahid Bhat			193201	India	2017-02-16
Javid Dar			193201	India	2017-02-16
Manoj K	Thrissur		680555	India	2017-02-16
Manvi Rastogi			110016	India	2017-02-16
praman Gujral			160022	India	2017-02-17
Vaibhav Aggarwal			110078	India	2017-02-17
Arjun prabhakar			110014	India	2017-02-17
Shahid Shah			193303	India	2017-02-17
Zeal Shah	Ahmedabad		380007	India	2017-02-17
Muzamil Qureshi			190001	India	2017-02-17
Rajeev Sharma	Bhopal		Bhopal	India	2017-02-17
Shourya Mittal			301001	India	2017-02-17
Rajeesh K Nambiar	Kannur		670702	India	2017-02-17
Biswadev Roy Ghatak	Kolkata		700019	India	2017-02-17
Karishma Singh			831005	India	2017-02-17
Blaise M Crowley			682021	India	2017-02-17
Archana Bagaria	Mumbai		400053	India	2017-02-17
Sanchit Nangia			121007	India	2017-02-18
suryaprasad sharma			734008	India	2017-02-19
Manish Bhatia	Faridabad		121003	India	2017-02-20
Ishita Bhandari			110049	India	2017-02-20
Manav Juneja			110019	India	2017-02-20
Srishti Ghosh Shinde			410210	India	2017-02-20
Chetan Jaggi	Hyderabad		110049	India	2017-02-20
Rahul Roy			713148	India	2017-02-20
Praveen Yerramilli			530013	India	2017-02-20
Raman NRK			560066	India	2017-02-20
Priyashmita Guha	Bangalore		560037	India	2017-02-20
Basalingappagouda Pat	Aurora		L4G7H5	Canada	2017-02-22
palash p	Betul		460001	India	2017-02-22
Ankit Tripathi			110092	India	2017-02-22
Aditya Pawar			422013	India	2017-02-22
Anisha Patil			424002	India	2017-02-22
DrSudarshan Ray			700054	India	2017-02-22
Fatima Mohsin			226003	India	2017-02-23
Swarnima Bhattacharya	New Delhi		110007	India	2017-02-23
Ambica Shukla			400004	India	2017-02-23
Amrita Bhattacharya			226001	India	2017-02-23
Leena Soni			110019	India	2017-02-23
Ritu Srivastava	New Delhi		110016	India	2017-02-23
Rahul Kondi			560068	India	2017-02-23
Kashif Rizvi			400050	India	2017-02-23
Deepak Kumar	Bangalore		560079	India	2017-02-23
AKHIL SHUKLA	Lucknow		226004	India	2017-02-23
Tahir Amin	New York	New York	10001	United States	2017-02-23
Tarooqh Ahmed			560029	India	2017-02-24
Fibinse Xavier	Bangalore		560068	India	2017-02-24
Mac Kenzie			411027	India	2017-02-25
Nilesh Tawar			411041	India	2017-02-25
Nilesh Tawar			443201	India	2017-02-25
omkar patil			411041	India	2017-02-25



## Sheet1

pravin kandekar		413133	India	2017-02-25
akshata kulkarni		411046	India	2017-02-25
Onkar Karale		411041	India	2017-02-25
Shubham Priyadarshi		411041	India	2017-02-25
Omkar Narhe		411041	India	2017-02-25
sagar mali		411041	India	2017-02-25
nitin jadhav		411041	India	2017-02-25
Prajakta Mahalpure		411041	India	2017-02-25
Yash kulkani		4110410	India	2017-02-25
samina shaikh		411041	India	2017-02-25
rohit kolage		412114	India	2017-02-25
Snehal Samak		411046	India	2017-02-25
gayatri mahale		411041	India	2017-02-25
mahesh nelwade		411041	India	2017-02-25
Kartik Bhokare		411041	India	2017-02-25
Avanish Gaur		110078	India	2017-02-26
sreeharsha thanneeru		500072	India	2017-02-26
Teja Tarun		110019	India	2017-02-28
kuldeep dhaka	Modinagar	201204	India	2017-03-02
Dhanesh Sabane		411009	India	2017-03-02
Dhanya Dharmajan		688555	India	2017-03-06
Nilesh Trivedi		560102	India	2017-03-06
Priyanka Demla		400706	India	2017-03-07
salim abbas surka		400010	India	2017-03-07
Tanvi Bhakta		560094	India	2017-03-08
Basil Ajith		695009	India	2017-03-11
Deepa Damodaran		560068	India	2017-03-17
Anil Singh		110075	India	2017-03-17
Sanup Narayan		670502	India	2017-03-17
Lakshmi Kuchumanchi		560103	India	2017-03-18
Jagmeet Singh		148024	India	2017-03-18
Eduardo Hernandez	Bahia Blanca	8000	Argentina	2017-03-19
Elaisha Asher		400056	India	2017-03-20
Kshama Loya		400021	India	2017-03-20
kabir choudhary		400021	India	2017-03-20
arjun gupta		400011	India	2017-03-20
Shekha Arora		400036	India	2017-03-20
Malika Bajpai		400054	India	2017-03-20
Noopur Tripathi	alyan Dombivli	421301	India	2017-03-20
Anil Pradyumna Chakicherla		524002	India	2017-03-20
Sagar Maradia		388120	India	2017-03-20
Vaibhav Tyagi		400104	India	2017-03-20
Soham Parkar		400601	India	2017-03-20
Tripti Agrawal		400013	India	2017-03-20
Nirav Chheda		400054	India	2017-03-20
Mitali Sheth		400026	India	2017-03-20
Sandeep Bhalothia		131001	India	2017-03-20
Titiksha Mohanty	Sonepat	400054	India	2017-03-21
Sajal Jain		131001	India	2017-03-21
Shreya Mukundan		131001	India	2017-03-21
vipin mittal		110058	India	2017-03-21
Raghu Sinha		131001	India	2017-03-21
Anish Raizada		400049	India	2017-03-21

Sheet1

Ann Rachel		560005	India	2017-03-21
Muskan Tibrewala	Chennai	40	United States	2017-03-21
snigdha chauhan		131001	India	2017-03-21
Farhan Ahmad		224001	India	2017-03-21
Diya Mehta		132001	India	2017-03-21
Devesh Khandelwal	New Delhi	110053	India	2017-03-21
Avani Tewari	перезные Челны	110070	Ukraine	2017-03-21
Mansi Sheth		400007	India	2017-03-21
Dhwanit Vaidya		400047	India	2017-03-21
Vidhan Gupta		400012	India	2017-03-21
Hitesh Bhandari		400099	India	2017-03-21
Siddharth Singh		131001	India	2017-03-21
Kanika Dabra		175143	India	2017-03-21
Ramya Dronamraju		131001	India	2017-03-21
suril desai		400021	India	2017-03-22
Kunal Desai		400001	India	2017-03-22
Spoorti Hiremath		560098	India	2017-03-22
Vishal Singh		131001	India	2017-03-22
Mayank Goyal	Kota	324006	India	2017-03-22
Raghav Agrawal		2201010	India	2017-03-22
Rohit Ghosh		700054	India	2017-03-22
Adya Luthra		110016	India	2017-03-22
Kartik Prasad		10012	India	2017-03-22
Kavya Kartik	Arlington	122002	India	2017-03-23
Saswati Soumya Sahu		751025	India	2017-03-23
Dhruv Yadav	Calcutta	700097	India	2017-03-23
Abhishek Pathak	Calcutta	700094	India	2017-03-23
Tanmay Setia		131001	India	2017-03-23
Anshika Nill		131001	India	2017-03-23
joel martin		600094	India	2017-03-23
Himanshu Malik		122009	India	2017-03-24
Harsh Gandhi		303021	India	2017-03-24

## INTERNET SHUTDOWNS IN INDIA SINCE 2012\*

S. No.	Year	State	Region	Reason
1.	2017	Haryana	Rohtak, Sonipat, Jhajjar, Bhiwani, Panipat, Hisar, Kaithal, Charkhi Dadri, Fatehabad, Jind and Sirsa	Mobile Internet services were suspended in 'sensitive' districts including Rohtak, Sonipat, Jhajjar, Bhiwani, Panipat, Hisar, Kaithal, Charkhi Dadri, Fatehabad, Jind and Sirsa on <a href="#">18th March, 2017</a> as a precautionary measure in the wake of Jat protests outside the Parliament. The services were restored on <a href="#">19th March, 2017</a> .
2.	2017	Haryana	Rohtak and Sonapat	Internet services were suspended in the districts of <a href="#">Rohtak</a> and <a href="#">Sonapat</a> for 24 hours – from 5 pm on 25 <sup>th</sup> February to 26 <sup>th</sup> February, 2017 while the Jats observed 'Black Day' in Haryana on February 26, 2017.
3.	2017	Haryana	Jhajjar, Panipat, Sonipat, Hisar, Rohtak, Jind and Bhiwani	Mobile Internet services were suspended indefinitely on <a href="#">17<sup>th</sup> February, 2017</a> in the districts of Jhajjar, Panipat, Sonipat, Hisar, Rohtak, Jind, and Bhiwani following violent protests during the ongoing Jat agitations, and were reportedly restored on <a href="#">19<sup>th</sup> February, 2017</a> .
4.	2017	Haryana	Rohtak, Bhiwani, Hisar, Sonipat, Panipat	Mobile Internet was suspended in districts of <a href="#">Rohtak</a> , <a href="#">Bhiwani</a> , <a href="#">Hisar</a> , <a href="#">Sonipat</a> , and <a href="#">Panipat</a> starting 31 <sup>st</sup> January, 2017 due to the ongoing Jat agitations in various parts of the state.
5.	2017	Nagaland	Entire state	Mobile Internet services were disrupted in the entire state starting <a href="#">30<sup>th</sup> January, 2017</a> as clashes ensued between the locals and police over the State government's decision to apply reservation in civic body elections. The services were restored on <a href="#">20<sup>th</sup> February, 2017</a> .
6.	2017	Haryana	Jhajjar	Owing to the agitations being held by the Jat community, mobile Internet services were suspended in <a href="#">Jhajjar</a> starting 29 <sup>th</sup> January, 2017.

\*This data was updated on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017. If you know of an incident we have missed from the list, please write to us at [mail@sflc.in](mailto:mail@sflc.in) with the subject line 'Missed Internet shutdown', preferably with a news report for corroboration.

7.	2017	Nagaland	Wokha and Phek	Mobile Internet services were suspended in <a href="#">Wokha</a> and <a href="#">Phek</a> districts starting 19 <sup>th</sup> January, 2017 due to violence in the area on the issue of reservation in local body elections. The suspension later spread to the entire state of Nagaland on 30 <sup>th</sup> January, 2017, and Internet services resumed on <a href="#">20<sup>th</sup> February, 2017</a> .
8.	2016	Rajasthan	Bhilwara	Internet services were suspended in the district of Bhilwara to <a href="#">maintain law and order</a> for reportedly 72 hours starting <a href="#">27<sup>th</sup> December, 2016</a> as the Nagrik Suraksha Manch (a citizens' group) called for a city wide Bandh to protest lack of action taken against the accused in the ongoing communal riots.
9.	2016	Rajasthan	Bhilwara	Mobile internet services were disrupted in the district of Bhilwara on <a href="#">19<sup>th</sup> December, 2016</a> due to the ongoing communal tensions.
10.	2016	Manipur	East and West Imphal	Orders were issued by the District Magistrate to disconnect mobile Internet services in <a href="#">East</a> and <a href="#">West</a> Imphal from <a href="#">18th December, 2016</a> due to law and order turmoil over economic blockade by the United Naga Council (UNC). Mobile Internet services were reportedly restored on <a href="#">30<sup>th</sup> December, 2016</a> after a 12 day disruption.
11.	2016	Rajasthan	Bhilwara	Internet services were suspended under Section 144 on <a href="#">13<sup>th</sup> December 2016</a> till 5 pm in the district of Bhilwara due to the onslaught of communal tensions coinciding with the preparations of a Muslim religious function, Barafwat.
12.	2016	Jammu and Kashmir	Anantnag	Mobile phone services were reportedly suspended in parts of Kashmir, including Anantnag on <a href="#">8<sup>th</sup> December, 2016</a> as a gun-fight ensued between militants and the security forces.
13.	2016	Bihar	Bhojpur, East Champaran, Gopalganj	Both, mobile and broadband internet services were disconnected from <a href="#">15<sup>th</sup> October</a> to prevent misuse of social media platforms due to violent communal clashes

				in the area. They were restored in Bhojpur on <a href="#">18<sup>th</sup> October, 2016</a> , whereas East Champaran was connected back to internet on <a href="#">20<sup>th</sup> October, 2016</a> .
14.	2016	Maharashtra	Nashik	Mobile Internet services and bulk SMS were blocked for two days (48 hours) on <a href="#">10<sup>th</sup> October, 2016</a> in Nashik district as protests emerged over the alleged rape attempt of a 5 year old girl by a teenage boy.
15.	2016	Uttar Pradesh	Bijnor district	Internet services were suspended in the Bijnor district on <a href="#">18th September, 2016</a> for reportedly 48 hours after communal clashes ensued in the region due to the alleged harassment of a school girl.
16.	2016	Rajasthan	Bhilwara	Internet services were blocked for 24 hours in Bhilwara on <a href="#">16th September, 2016</a> after the stabbing of a 21 year old as he was returning home from Ganpati Puja.
17.	2016	Jammu & Kashmir	Kashmir	Ahead of Eid celebrations, fixed-line Internet services were suspended in Kashmir on <a href="#">12th September, 2016</a> as a precautionary measure in light of the ongoing violence in the region. These services were reportedly resumed on <a href="#">17th September, 2016</a> . However, mobile Internet services remain suspended since 9th July, 2016
18.	2016	Jammu & Kashmir	Kashmir valley	After the disconnect from mobile internet services since 9th July, 2016, broadband internet services were also suspended in the Kashmir valley on <a href="#">13th August, 2016</a> for <a href="#">5 days</a> as a precautionary measure to prevent rumor mongering due to unrest between the protestors and the security forces.
19.	2016	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Mobile internet services were disrupted for two days in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh on <a href="#">10th August, 2016</a> following the death of former Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Kalikho Pul.
20.	2016	Bihar	Saran district	Due to communal clashes in the Saran district after a video of the desecration of

				hindu deities went viral on social media, all internet services were shut down in the district under Section 144 of CrPC on <a href="#">6th August, 2016</a> till <a href="#">8th August, 2016</a> to prevent spread of rumors.
21.	2016	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu region	Due to bandhs being declared in the Chenab valley to show solidarity with protests being undertaken by Kashmiris, mobile internet services were suspended in Jammu region on <a href="#">5th August, 2016</a> . The services were reportedly <a href="#">restored</a> on the same day.
22.	2016	Jammu & Kashmir	Pulwama district and the towns of Ananatnag, Shopian, Pulgam and Sopore, and some parts of Srinagar	Following the killing of Burhan Wani, Kashmir valley and the Jammu region experienced a suspension of mobile internet services to check the spread of rumors by anti-social elements on <a href="#">9th July, 2016</a> . However, mobile internet services were restored in Jammu region on <a href="#">26th July, 2016</a> ; after being suspended for 17 days. Reportedly, mobile internet services were restored in Kashmir valley on 19 <sup>th</sup> November for post paid connections and on <a href="#">27th January, 2017</a> for pre-paid connections.
23.	2016	Rajasthan	Barmer and Jaisalmer	After the death of a person in police firing, mobile internet services were shut down in Barmer and Jaisalmer for 48 hours on <a href="#">30th June, 2016</a> as calls for a Bandh was announced by the community members of the person who was killed.
24.	2016	Jammu & Kashmir	Poonch district	Over a controversial issue, mobile internet services were suspended in the Poonch district on <a href="#">22nd June, 2016</a> on operational and security grounds and to prevent law and order situations and were restored the same day
25.	2016	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu	Mobile internet services were suspended in Jammu region on <a href="#">22nd June, 2016</a> ahead of a wrestling match, the venue for which is disputed between two communities, and experienced violence in 2014 as well. There is no exact information available as

				to when the services were restored.
26.	2016	Jammu & Kashmir	Entire state	Mobile internet services were suspended in the entire state after a youth resorted to vandalization and desecration of a temple in Jammu, that led to a spur of violence in the region on 15th June, 2016. The services were reportedly restored on <a href="#">18th June, 2016</a> .
27.	2016	Haryana	Rohtak	Mobile internet services and bulk SMS were blocked in Rohtak on <a href="#">5th June, 2016</a> , along with the prolonged shut down in Sonipat as well, to curb the use of social media from instigating violence in the Jat agitation. There is no information available regarding the restoration of internet services.
28.	2016	Haryana	Sonipat	Mobile internet services were blocked in Sonipat, Haryana on <a href="#">4th June, 2016</a> until further notice to prevent spread of misinformation prior to the agitation organized by the Jat community on 5th June, 2016. There is no information available regarding the restoration of internet services.
29.	2016	Uttar Pradesh	Azamgarh	In Azamgarh, the local administration resorted to suspension of mobile & broadband services from <a href="#">16th to 18th May, 2016</a> as a precautionary measure to check the outbreak of riots due to communal tension in the area.
30.	2016	Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Surat and Rajkot,	Pursuant to the Patel reservation agitation, mobile internet services were suspended in various parts of Gujarat on <a href="#">17th April, 2016</a> and restored on <a href="#">19th April, 2016</a>
31.	2016	Jharkhand	Bokaro	Subsequent to the communal clashes in the city of Bokaro during celebration of Ram Navami, internet services were cut off from <a href="#">16th April, 2016</a> to <a href="#">18th April, 2016</a> to prevent spreading of communal fear and hatred through social media.

32.	2016	Jammu & Kashmir	North Kashmir, Srinagar and south Kashmir's Pulwama district	To check rumor mongering about an incident that led to death of 4 people in a firing by security forces, mobile internet services were suspended in the area on <a href="#">14<sup>th</sup> April, 2016</a> and restored on <a href="#">18<sup>th</sup> April, 2016</a>
33.	2016	Haryana	Rohtak, Jhajjar	Mobile internet services were suspended in various districts in Haryana as a prohibitory measure in light of the possible re-agitation of the Jat community for classification as Other Backward Classes (OBC) on <a href="#">18<sup>th</sup> March, 2016</a> and restored on the <a href="#">same day.</a>
34.	2016	Gujarat	Mehasana	Mobile Internet services were suspended in the district of Mehasana on <a href="#">28<sup>th</sup> February, 2016</a> for 12 hours from 8 am to 8 pm as the Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) decided to continue with their women's conference despite being officially refused permission by the district Government.
35.	2016	Gujarat	Entire state of Gujarat	Mobile Internet services were suspended for 4 hours in the entire state to prevent cheating on the Revenue Accountants Recruitment Exam on <a href="#">28<sup>th</sup> February, 2016</a>
36.	2016	Rajasthan	Bharatpur	Due to the agitations of the Jat community for reservations as OBC, internet services were shut down on 22nd February, 2016 and restored on the evening of <a href="#">23rd February, 2016</a> in the Bharatpur district.
37.	2016	Haryana	Jhajjar, Panipat, Sonipat, Hisar, Rohtak, Jind and Bhiwani	Subsequent to the Jat reservation protest in Haryana, mobile Internet, and SMS services were blocked in many areas beginning <a href="#">19<sup>th</sup> February, 2016</a> .
38.	2016	Jammu & Kashmir	Kashmir	On the occasion of Republic Day, mobile internet services were snapped for a few hours as a precautionary measure on <a href="#">26<sup>th</sup> January, 2016</a>
39.	2015	Jammu & Kashmir	Kashmir	On the visit of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, the mobile internet services were temporarily blocked in the Kashmir region as a precautionary measure for his high profile address at a public rally on <a href="#">7<sup>th</sup></a>



				<a href="#">November, 2015.</a>
40.	2015	Rajasthan	Bhilwara	In an incident of communal tension over the alleged killing of a muslim youth, internet services were suspended in Bhilwara for 24 hours on <a href="#">24th October, 2015.</a>
41.	2015	Gujarat	Rajkot	On <a href="#">17<sup>th</sup> October, 2015</a> , mobile internet services were suspended for 2 days in the area due to threats made by Hardik Patel to hold a protest in the stadium where a one day international cricket match was scheduled between the teams of India & South Africa.
42.	2015	Meghalaya	Garo Hills	Internet services were blocked in the Garo Hills region for 24 hours to prevent spread of inflammatory messages during the voting period for the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) elections on <a href="#">11<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.</a>
43.	2015	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu	Jammu experienced suspension of mobile internet services on <a href="#">8<sup>th</sup> October, 2015</a> for around <a href="#">5 hours</a> to prevent misuse of social media after three carcasses of slaughtered cows were found in the Udhampur area, and the organization of a beef party by an independent MLA
44.	2015	Gujarat	Godhara	Mobile internet services were shut down as a precautionary measure in the town for 24 hours on the occasion of Ganesh Visarjans, when derogatory messages against Islam started making rounds on Whatsapp on <a href="#">28<sup>th</sup> September, 2015</a>
45.	2015	Jammu & Kashmir	Entire state of Jammu & Kashmir	Mobile, and wireless internet services were shut down during Eid celebrations on <a href="#">25<sup>th</sup> September</a> and <a href="#">28<sup>th</sup> September, 2015</a> , apprehending violence against the prohibition on cow slaughter and selling of beef in the State.
46.	2015	Gujarat	Surat	The city of Surat experienced suspension of mobile internet services on <a href="#">19<sup>th</sup> September, 2015</a> as Hardik Patel was detained by the police for violating prohibitory orders against taking out a

				rally in the area.
47.	2015	Gujarat	Navsari district	From <a href="#">12<sup>th</sup> September</a> to 13 <sup>th</sup> September, 2015, <a href="#">mobile internet services</a> were cut off in the district of Navsari, Gujarat in lieu of a march organized by Hardik Patel & his affiliated political organization.
48.	2015	Manipur	Entire state of Manipur	Complete internet shut down (mobile and broadband, except for certain BSNL lines) starting <a href="#">2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2015</a> for <a href="#">a week</a> after violence in Churachandpur district.
49.	2015	Gujarat	Entire state of Gujarat, with prolonged bans in Surat & Ahmedabad	Mobile Internet services shut down in the entire state of <a href="#">Gujarat</a> from 25 <sup>th</sup> August to 2 <sup>nd</sup> September, 2015 after a mega rally led by Hardik Patel seeking OBC status for the Patel community. Mobile internet remained blocked in Ahmedabad & Surat, even post 2 <sup>nd</sup> September, 2015
50.	2015	Jammu & Kashmir	Kashmir	Due to the sudden rise in militant activities in Kashmir, as a preventive measure, mobile internet services were suspended from 8:30 am till 12:00 noon during the Independence Day celebrations in the area on <a href="#">15<sup>th</sup> August, 2015</a> . Similar measures are adopted on both, Republic Day & Independence Day in the area <a href="#">every year</a> .
51.	2015	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu	Both, mobile and broadband Internet services were temporarily blocked in Jammu due to the ongoing clashes between the Sikh groups and the state police of Jammu & Kashmir on <a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> June, 2015</a> . Although broadband services were restored on <a href="#">6<sup>th</sup> June, 2015</a> , there is no information available about the restoration of mobile Internet services.
52.	2015	Nagaland	Entire state of Nagaland	Mobile and broadband Internet services were suspended for 48 hours on <a href="#">7<sup>th</sup> March, 2015</a> , after lynching video of a rape accused goes viral
53.	2014	Gujarat	Vadodara	Mobile Internet blocked for three days starting <a href="#">27<sup>th</sup> September, 2014</a> in the city of Vadodara, after riots over a morphed picture of a Muslim religious shrine
54.	2014	Jammu &	Kashmir Valley	Mobile Internet services were blocked as a

		Kashmir		part of a security protocol on the occasion of Independence Day on <a href="#">15<sup>th</sup> August, 2014</a> . The services were restored within a few hours after the official ceremony was completed.
55.	2014	Jammu & Kashmir	Parts of Kashmir	Internet blocked in parts of Kashmir to stop political leaders from addressing a UNHRC event in Geneva via video link on <a href="#">17<sup>th</sup> March, 2014</a> . There is no conclusive information available with respect to the restoration of internet services.
56.	2014	Jammu & Kashmir	Few areas in the state	The Defence Ministry had asked the Department of Telecom to selectively ban mobile Internet in some places considered 'hot spots' in the state on <a href="#">11<sup>th</sup> March, 2014</a> . There is no information available about the restoration of services in the area.
57.	2014	Jammu & Kashmir	Most parts of Kashmir	Due to organization of protests at the first death anniversary of Afzal Guru on <a href="#">9<sup>th</sup> February, 2014</a> , mobile internet services, and internet through plugged in devices was blocked in most parts of the Kashmir valley as a precautionary measure against apprehended violence till around 5:30 pm on <a href="#">10<sup>th</sup> February, 2014</a> .
58.	2014	Jammu & Kashmir	Kashmir Valley	As a precautionary measure on <a href="#">26<sup>th</sup> January, 2014</a> , mobile internet, along with mobile telecommunication services was suspended for a few hours.
59.	2013	Jammu & Kashmir	Entire state	Mobile internet and telephony services were suspended on <a href="#">15<sup>th</sup> August, 2013</a> for security reasons on Independence Day.
60.	2013	Jammu & Kashmir	Entire state	The entire state experienced a blackout of mobile internet services, lasting almost <a href="#">5 days</a> , starting <a href="#">10<sup>th</sup> August, 2013</a> , due to communal riots that spurred in the Kishtwar district of the state.
61.	2013	Jammu & Kashmir	Kashmir Valley	Disconnect of internet services through mobiles & dongles in the Kashmir valley post the killing of four people in the Ramban district after clashes with the Border Security Forces (BSF) on <a href="#">18<sup>th</sup> July</a> .

				<a href="#">2013</a>
62.	2013	Jammu & Kashmir	Entire state of Jammu & Kashmir	TV News channels and mobile Internet banned immediately after Afzal Guru's execution on <a href="#">9<sup>th</sup> February, 2013</a> till <a href="#">15<sup>th</sup> February, 2013</a>
63.	2013	Jammu & Kashmir	Kashmir Valley	On the occasion of Republic Day, as a part of a security drill, mobile phone and Internet services were suspended on <a href="#">26<sup>th</sup> January, 2013</a>
64.	2012	Jammu & Kashmir	Kashmir valley	Mobile internet services were suspended on <a href="#">21<sup>st</sup> September 2012</a> till 5:00 pm owing to the protests over the movie 'Innocence of Muslims'
65.	2012	Jammu & Kashmir	Kashmir valley	Mobile services were suspended on <a href="#">15<sup>th</sup> August, 2012</a> as a precautionary measure for an hour owing to Independence Day.
66.	2012	Jammu & Kashmir	Kashmir valley	Mobile Internet as a part of a larger mobile telephony ban was restricted on <a href="#">26<sup>th</sup> January, 2012</a> as a standard security protocol.