



Spotting & Avoiding **FAKE Messages**



CA D K Tejwani

The Chamber of Tax Consultants | April 07, 2020

Fake news biggest hindrance in the fight against coronavirus, Home Ministry tells SC

 Vikash Aiyappa

Plea In Supreme Court Alleges Fake Social Media Handles Root Cause Of Riots; Seeks Removal

[Home](#) | [Apps](#) | [Apps Features](#) | [Coronavirus: Huge Surge in Fake News on Facebook, WhatsApp in India](#)

Coronavirus: Huge Surge in Fake News on Facebook, WhatsApp in India

If the exponential rise in fake coronavirus messages continues for some more days, the nation can face serious law and order problems.

Misinformation

Information that is **false**, but not created with the intention of causing harm.

Disinformation

Information that is **false** and deliberately created to harm a person, social group, organization or country.

Malinformation

Information that is **based on reality**, used to inflict harm on a person, organization or country.

NASA sent the live picture of India during the 9 minute long early Deepavali tonight.



**COVID-19
BREAKING**

**INDIA
TODAY**
8:10 PM

PM ADDRESSES NATION

**ALL-INDIA
LOCKDOWN INCREASED TILL
04TH MAY**

COURTESY: DD



NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER

**COVID-19
BREAKING
NEWS**

INDIA UNDER LOCKDOWN DATES INCREASED
PM announces to shut down everything till 04th May

➔ Forwarded

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Dear All,

Mandate for All:

Tonight 12 (midnight) onwards Disaster Management Act has been implemented across the country. According to this update, apart from the Govt department no other citizen is allowed to post any update or share any forward related to Corona virus and it being punishable offence.

Group Admins are requested to post the above update and inform the groups.

Please adhere this strictly. And do not post anything related to compravirus news or jokes, etc

<https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/centre-seeks-sc-direction-that-no-media-should-publish-covid-19-news-without-first-ascertaining-facts-with-govt-154601>

23:01

Why do we forward a message ?



Time for a quick
poll

48%

19%

13%

It might benefit others

Biased mainstream media does not cover such news

It might benefit others to be safe

4

ways to spot a fake
post

Look for frequently forwarded sign

1



Fake news often goes viral

Google it

2



india lockdown will be extended



All

News

Videos

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Settings

Tools

About 13,20,00,000 results (0.42 seconds)

timesofindia.indiatimes.com > times-fact-check > news > articleshow ▾

Lockdown extended in India: No plan to extend coronavirus ...

Claim: Modi government to extend coronavirus lockdown by a week

Claimed by: The Print

Fact check by Times of India: False

Feedback

Verify from authentic sources

3

Official Website of
Govt Authority / Source

Official twitter handle of
the Govt Authority/
Source

Indian Govt website for Corona info

#IndiaFightsCorona



Government of India is taking all necessary steps to ensure that we are prepared well to face the challenge and threat posed by the growing pandemic of COVID 19 – the Corona Virus. With active support of the people of India, we have been able to contain the spread of the Virus in our country. The most important factor in preventing the spread of the Virus locally is to empower the citizens with the right information and taking precautions as per the advisories being issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Important Information For Corona - Virus



+91-11-23978046 or 1075
Dial National Helpline Number

PDF

States & Union Territories
View pdf for Helpline Number



ncov2019[at]gov[dot]in
Helpline Email ID



States/UTs for quarantine
Guidelines

<https://www.mygov.in/covid-19/>

Twitter for Quick Updates

- Most Govt. departments have twitter handles
- Tweet appears much earlier than official communication on website

Twitter Blue Tick



- The blue verified badge on Twitter lets people know that an account of public interest is authentic.
- The badge appears next to the name on an account's profile. It is always the same color and placed in the same location

Ministry of Health  #StayHome #StaySafe 

@MoHFW_INDIA

This is the official twitter account of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

Mumbai Police 

@MumbaiPolice

Official account of Mumbai Police. For any emergency, Dial 100

माझी Mumbai, आपली BMC 

@mybmc

Official handle of BMC disseminating verified, credible and relevant updates for Mumbaikars. Dial 1916 in case of emergency.

Which one is genuine ?



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India ✓
@theicai

ICAI is a national professional accounting body of India, established on 1 July 1949 as a body corporate under the Chartered Accountants Act.

📍 New Delhi 🌐 [icai.org](https://www.icai.org) 🗓️ Born 1 July 1949 📅 Joined June 2013

96 Following 137.4K Followers

Follow



*"Don't stop when
you're tired,
STOP when you are
DONE"*

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
@Icai_Portal

I am here to develop our Interest in Ca course & also the required skill set for becoming a successful CA in fun way

📍 New Delhi, India 🌐 t.me/chartered_accou... 📅 Joined January 2020

Follow

Use Fact Checking WebSites

4

International Fact-Checking
Network (IFCN)

WebQoof

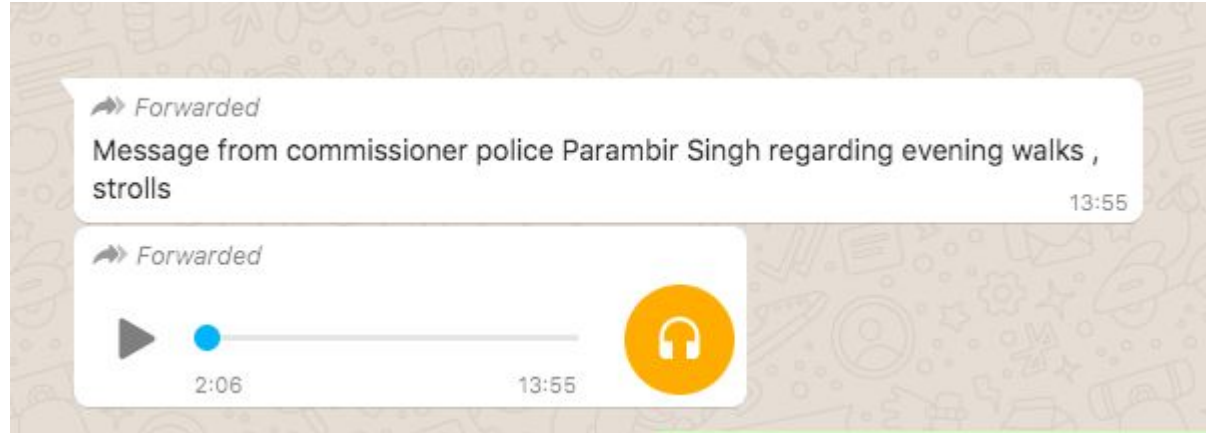
alt
news

FACT
Crescendo

INDIA
TODAY

Let us see few
examples of verifying
authenticity

Message from Police Commissioner



Fact Checking on twitter

Mumbai Police ✓ @MumbaiPolice · 38m

A 3rd audio message being circulated as one from @CPMumbaiPolice is fake too. Mr Param Bir Singh, has urged all citizens to neither believe its from him not circulated it any further as his. Any message for the city will be communicated here on Twitter or other official mediums



FAKE VOICE MESSAGE 3

1:53 5.4K views



Mumbai Police ✓
@MumbaiPolice

Official account of Mumbai Police. For any emergency, Dial 100

Mumbai, India mumbai.police.maharashtra.gov.in
Joined December 2015

32 Following 4.8M Followers

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

Follow

No corona virus post permitted

➔ Forwarded

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Dear All,

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Tonight 12 (midnight) onwards Disaster Management Act has been implemented across the country. According to this update, apart from the Govt department no other citizen is allowed to post any update or share any forward related to Corona virus and it being punishable offence.

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23:01

Fact Check by WebQoof

<https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof/fake-message-on-disaster-management-act-says-posting-on-covid-19-illegal-fact-check>

As a result, as long as false news is not being spread, there is no restriction on citizens to share any news or updates about the coronavirus situation. The message is therefore false and misleading.

Fact Check by WebQoof

No question of the Act being “implemented from midnight tonight”. Disaster Management Act was invoked on March 24

Fact Check by WebQoof

As per the Disaster Management [Act](#), there is no provision that mentions that apart from government departments, no other citizen can be allowed to talk, update or share any news related to a disaster.

Fact Check by WebQoof

the [Live Law](#) article which is being quoted in the message is specifically about COVID-19 information being telecast by media outlets.

Fact Check by WebQoof

The Supreme Court of India on 31 March has passed an **order** in a case relating to the treatment of migrant workers, the judges have expressly said that they do not want to "interfere with the free discussion about the pandemic"

GSTR-9 Date Extension



CBIC ✓
cbic_india



The last date for furnishing of Annual Return in the FORM GSTR-9 / FORM GSTR-9A and Reconciliation Statement in FORM GSTR-9C for the financial year 2017-18 has been extended from 31st January, 2020 to 14th February 2020. RoD Order No. 10/2020-CT dtd. 31.01.2020. @nsitharaman

12:03 PM - 31 Jan 2020

22 Retweets 63 Likes



10



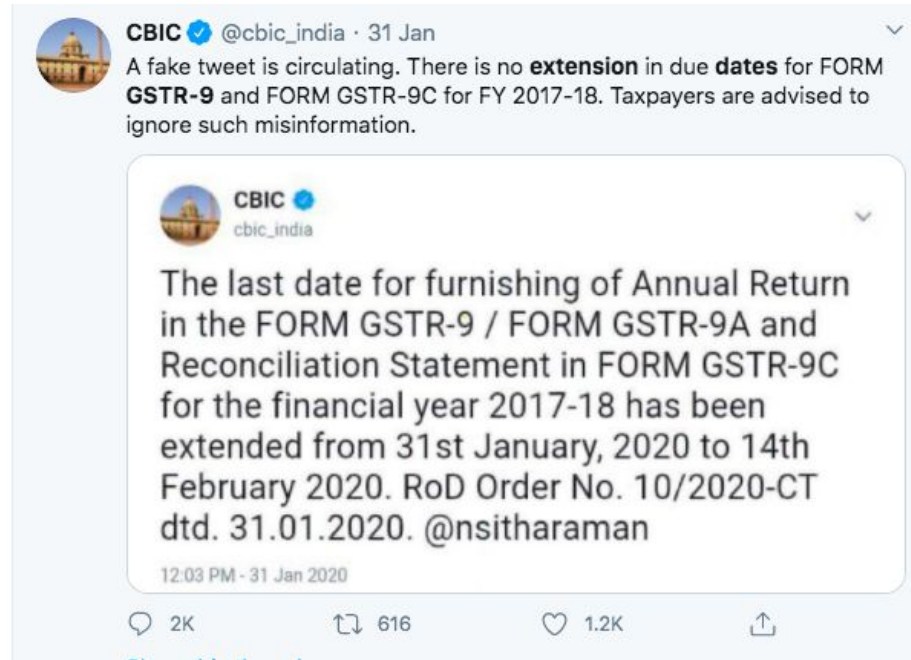
22




63




Fact Checking on Twitter handle



CBIC  @cbic_india · 31 Jan

A fake tweet is circulating. There is no **extension** in due **dates** for FORM **GSTR-9** and FORM GSTR-9C for FY 2017-18. Taxpayers are advised to ignore such misinformation.

CBIC 
 cbic_india

The last date for furnishing of Annual Return in the FORM GSTR-9 / FORM GSTR-9A and Reconciliation Statement in FORM GSTR-9C for the financial year 2017-18 has been extended from 31st January, 2020 to 14th February 2020. RoD Order No. 10/2020-CT dtd. 31.01.2020. @nsitharaman

12.03 PM - 31 Jan 2020

2K 616 1.2K

https://twitter.com/cbic_india/status/1223173549269168128

4

Simple actions to
avoid fake posts

Do not forward if you are not sure

1



Help prevent the spread of rumors

Think about the messages that you receive, because not everything you are sent about coronavirus may be accurate. Verify the facts with other trusted official sources or [fact checkers](#). If you aren't sure something's true, [don't forward it](#).

Do not rely on images and videos

2

Sharmal Perera
Yesterday at 15:28 · 🌐
Stop Eating Bakery Items



STOP EATING BAKERY ITEMS!
IT IS STRICTLY ADVISED TO NOT TO EAT
BAKERY ITEMS AS IT IS NOT WASHABLE AND
CAN GET INFECTED EASILY.



Send Link rather than image

3

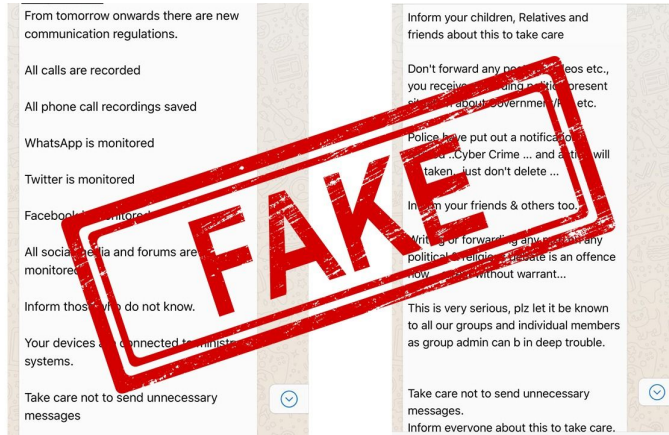


<https://twitter.com/ETNOWlive/status/1244807473313337347>



Flag it back to the sender

4



**Let us stop forwarding
fake messages**

— Thanks ! —
