

IMMEDIATE

No.11034/54/2018-IS.IV
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
(Internal Security-I Division)

North Block, New Delhi
Dated: 4th July, 2018

To:

1. Chief Secretaries of all States / UTs
2. Directors General of Police of all States / UTs

Sir/Madam,

The recent incidents of lynching of persons by mobs in some States, fuelled by rumours of lifting/kidnapping of children, are a matter of serious concern. State Governments and UT administrations need to adopt measures to ensure that such unwarranted violence, based on unverified allegations circulating in the social media, is not allowed, as these have no place in a civilized society or the rule of law.

2. State Governments and UT administrations are advised to keep watch on the social media for early detection of such trends of circulation of rumors and fake news, having potential for violence, and take all required measures to counter them effectively. They are also advised to suitably direct their district administration to maintain regular interface with the local communities in this regard so as to be able to dispel such rumours and fake news.

4. State Governments and UT Administrations are further advised to identify vulnerable areas or localities, if any, and direct the district administration to conduct community outreach programmes, involving the local functionaries, for creating awareness and building confidence. The local administration should also establish suitable contact points in villages and towns for keeping abreast with the trends in social media.

5. It is equally important that complaints of kidnapping or abduction of children are promptly acted upon and in a manner that instils a sense of confidence in the affected family or locality that action as per law would be taken and the guilty would be brought to book. A statement showing the number of cases registered against kidnapping and abduction of children in the States/UTs for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 is enclosed for ready reference. State Governments and UT Administrations are requested to take appropriate measures in this regard.

6. This issues with the approval of the Union Home Secretary.

Encl: as above.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S.C.L. Das', is written over a large, faint oval-shaped stamp or watermark.

(S.C.L. Das)

Joint Secretary (IS-I)

Ph.23092548, Fax:23092551