

Follow Us:

**The Indian EXPRESS**

Friday, May 29, 2020

[Home](#) [India](#) [World](#) [Cities](#) [Opinion](#) [Sports](#) [Entertainment](#) [Lifestyle](#) [Tech](#) [Videos](#) [Explained](#) [Aajio](#)

SUBSCRIBE

Sign in

[Home](#) / [India](#) / In Haryana, rumour mills in an overdrive, so are cops

In Haryana, rumour mills in an overdrive, so are cops

The state police said that as many as 32 persons have been arrested while 56 FIRs have been lodged for posting rumours, fake news and hate messages during the lockdown.

Written by [Sukhbir Siwach](#) | Fatehabad | Published: April 8, 2020 9:16:45 pm

Home Minister Anil Vajpayee had instructed the police department to initiate stern action against those circulating fake, misleading and unverified information about COVID-19 on social media so that potential confusion and panic among the general public could be prevented. (Representational/PTI)

“Some persons from a particular community have come to our village. They are throwing currency notes and water bottles which are **coronavirus** infected in our village to spread the disease. Nobody should pick the same, otherwise the disease will spread in our village.”

This was an announcement made from three community loudspeakers by three different individuals in Fatehabad’s Samain village at around 2 am on the intervening night of April 3 and 4. Many villagers stepped out of their houses as speakers blared the warning, but found nothing to substantiate the claims.

But police in its probe found a clear attempt to spread fear and hate against a particular community and booked three village residents — Manoj Kumar, Mohan Lal and Satish under Sections 505 (2) (promoting enmity between communities with rumours) and 188 (disobedience of prohibitory orders) of the IPC and section 54 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

But Samain is not the only case. Over the past four days, three such cases have surfaced in Hisar and Fatehabad district in which police have taken action. The instances come close on the heels of rise in coronavirus cases linked to the Tablighi Jammah congregation in Delhi.

Fatehabad SP Rajesh Kumar told [The Indian Express](#) that all three accused from Samain village have been arrested. “We will lodge one more FIR which has similar nature. We have come to know about a video in which claim was made that a person from a minority community has landed in Peeli Mandori village to spread coronavirus. We have not found any truth behind the claims made in the video. Now, we will lodge an FIR against the person who prepared this video,” said the SP.

Third case belongs to a village of neighbouring Hisar district in which the police have lodged an FIR against a villager, Ravinder Sharma. In this case, a minority community member complained to the police alleging Sharma was posting fake

audio message to target their community. “This audio message has already spread in many villages,” alleged the complainant.

A Hisar-based lawyer, Vikram Mittal, said, “Few days back, an audio clip was in circulation on WhatsApp groups in which it was claimed that coronavirus infected currency notes of Rs 2,000 were thrown in Chamar Kheda village of Hisar district. After circulation of the audio, the villagers came out from their houses and did not sleep for entire night. However, it was apparent from the talk that the audio was planted and was an attempt to disturb the communal harmony in the village. The tough stand by the police is sending a clear signal to such elements that such attempts won’t be tolerated.”

On Tuesday, villagers from Dehman village of Fatehabad district called health officials to take samples of a person belonging to the minority community who had landed in the village from Sikkar (Rajasthan) last week. “We have found him fit as there are no symptoms of coronavirus in him. We have convinced the villagers that there is no point in taking his samples in this situation,” a health official said. Initially, some villagers even demanded that the person along with his family be sent to a government school for isolation, but the health officials said that he can be quarantined at his home itself.

Meanwhile, the state police said that as many as 32 persons have been arrested while 56 FIRs have been lodged for posting rumours, fake news and hate messages during the lockdown. In addition, said Haryana DGP Manoj Yadava, 12 cases have been registered regarding the incidents of attacks on religious minorities in which 25 accused have been arrested so far.

Home Minister Anil Vij had instructed the police department to initiate stern action against those circulating fake, misleading and unverified information about [COVID-19](#) on social media so that potential confusion and panic among the general public could be prevented. “All such rumour-mongers have been booked under different sections of IPC and the IT Act,” said the police.

Directing all the District Police Chiefs (CPs/SPs) to show “zero tolerance” towards any attempt to spread rumours or otherwise vitiate communal harmony, Yadava

asked them to accord highest importance to prevent such kind of incidents by taking stern action against anti-social elements in their respective jurisdiction.

□ *The Indian Express is now on Telegram. Click [here to join our channel \(@indianexpress\)](#) and stay updated with the latest headlines*

For all the latest [India News](#), download [Indian Express App](#).

© The Indian Express (P) Ltd

0 Comment(s) *

* The moderation of comments is automated and not cleared manually by indianexpress.com.

ADVERTISEMENT

• LIVE BLOG

Punjab Board PSEB 10th, 8th, 5th Result 2020 LIVE Updates: Not marks students to get grades

4 hours ago

Coronavirus India LIVE Updates: Over 370 flights carrying 30,814 passengers operated till 5 pm today, says Aviation Minister

6 hours ago

Delhi-NCR Weather Update: Temperatures drop as national capital, neighbouring cities get light rain

8 hours ago

TV news on May 29: Nia Sharma-Rashami Desai react to Naagin 4's end and more

8 hours ago

BEST OF EXPRESS



What the deceleration in GDP growth rate tells us about Indian economy



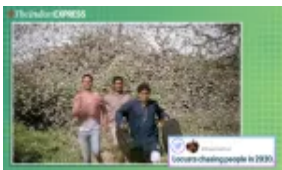
DGCA says locust swarms pose threat to aircraft during landing and takeoff phase, issues guidelines



Entertainment
Ponmagal Vandhal review: Jyotika-starrer is let down by muddled writing



Entertainment
Yogesh (1943-2020): Stories in a song



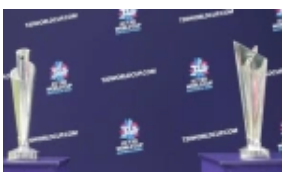
Trending
As India deals with locusts, people are sharing memes on dealing with it



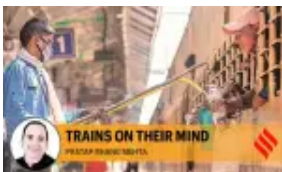
Trending
It's raining memes on social media as Indians speculate on lockdown extension



Sports
Athletes return to training but face fitness challenge



Sports
Staging T20 World Cup 'very high risk', admits Cricket Australia



Opinion
Death of a mother at a railway station, a conversation in Heaven



What the deceleration in GDP growth rate tells us about state of the Indian economy



Lifestyle
Lockdown hairstyle:
People want Abhishek
Bachchan's signature
hairband look



Technology
New scam alert: Don't
share WhatsApp
verification PIN with
anyone

ADVERTISEMENT

MUST READ



Sports
Athletes return to
training but face fitness
challenge



Sports
Staging T20 World Cup
'very high risk', admits
Cricket Australia



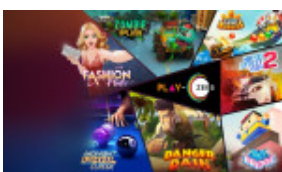
Sports
Federer becomes
world's highest-paid
athlete



Technology
New scam alert: Don't
share WhatsApp
verification PIN with
anyone



Technology
Borderlands: The
Handsome Collection is
free for a limited time on
the Epic Store



Technology
ZEE5 wants to become
a super entertainment
app

Lifestyle



Lockdown hairstyle:
People want Abhishek
Bachchan's signature
hairband look

ADVERTISEMENT

BUZZING NOW



Trending
As India deals with
locusts, people are
sharing memes on
dealing with it



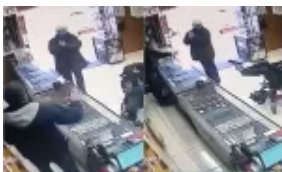
Trending
It's raining memes on
social media as Indians
speculate on lockdown
extension



Trending
'Feisty' 103-year-old
woman celebrates with
beer after beating
COVID-19



Trending
Woman spots wolverine
on Washington beach,
but authorities refuse to
believe her



Trending
Teen with cerebral palsy
attempts to rob
jewellery store at
gunpoint

MAY 29: LATEST NEWS ▶



2 Mumbai schools to
house Byculla, Arthur
Road jail inmates



Govt says testing lab
not possible in each
district, Bombay HC
expresses 'displeasure'



As lockdown 4.0 nears end, curve still ahead of projections



Nanded civic body rules out mass transmission of virus



Delhi: Cases up over past 10 days, so is positivity rate



Maharashtra recovery rate up to 43.3%, past national average



Challenge to plasma therapy: Getting donors to come forward



Migrants now returning in fewer numbers to Uttarakhand



Delhi: Armed men rob staff at hospital of Rs 1,500; RML institute dean admitted to Max

Monsoon set to arrive, more precautions needed: Uddhav Thackeray



ADVERTISEMENT



[The ExpressGroup](#) | [The Indian Express](#) | [The Financial Express](#) | [Loksatta](#) | [Jansatta](#) | [inUth](#) | [Ramnath Goenka Awards](#)
[T&C](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Advertise with Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Statutory provisions on reporting \(sexual offenses\)](#)



Copyright © 2020 The Indian Express [P] Ltd. All Rights Reserved

 Powered by [WordPress.com](#) VIP