

# Impact of Internet Shutdown in J&K Media

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## Abstract

Jammu and Kashmir (UT) has witnessed a major political shift since 1947. At certain moments the government puts shutdown on the most important platform across the world i.e Internet across the union territory of J&K to avoid misinformation and disinformation. It does not only affect people in terms of businesses, education, health, services, banking, marketing etc but also affects the major communication backbone for any democracy like media houses. As in today's world everything is dependent on Internet because of digitalization of every record and use of applications, likewise media is transformed from traditional media to digital media. So if there is no internet there is no media. This paper highlights the need of internet in the digital media in Jammu and Kashmir (UT) and the difficulties faced by the media during frequent internet shutdowns in Kashmir valley.

**Keywords:** J&K, government, Internet, media and communication

## I. INTRODUCTION

Birth of internet and world wide web(www) in world has performed a giant function in redefining the development. Internet has giant usage in schooling, enterprise, health, banking, media and many others. It has changed or even surpassed cutting-edge method of mass verbal exchange. Media is extensively been used as a medium to fast attain out to the large number of target audience. Modern day verbal exchange has converted the way we talk and attain out to the huge audience via a medium that's net. The internet has made feasible innovative contacting practices and interface among authorities and residents. For most citizens, the internet and virtual media platforms have assisted in numerous engagements with the state, and additionally enabled residents to speak reality to strength.[1]

Media is taken into consideration to be the fourth pillar of democracy, a watchdog for society. Its most important objective is to reach a mass audience by

using numerous approach of communications together with newspapers, tv, magazines, & net primarily based internet portals. The fast change inside the world of technology has impacted the layout of media usage throughout the earth. Internet has made connectivity easier, accordingly the go with the flow of facts has turn out to be expeditious and efficient. The international appears to be a global village within the age of net. Media meddles the moral sense of a society, it impacts the decision making of standard public on numerous social and political problems.

### What is internet Shutdown:

Internet Shutdowns have been defined in diverse approaches which include phrases together with 'blackouts', 'digital curfews', 'kill switches' and others, but all awareness depends upon disruption of the Internet and relevant offerings. The essential intention is to manipulate the records sharing by means of a group of humans. Following are a

number of the definitions to enlighten the meaning of internet shutdown.

“An net shutdown happens when a person — normally a state authority by intentions disrupts the net or cell applications to manipulate the people. Shutdowns are on occasion called “blackouts” or “kill switches”.[2]

Internet closure is an absolute restriction positioned on the use of internet and its services because of an command issued by a central authority frame. It may be confined to a particular place and to precise length, time or range of days. Many times it could even make bigger endlessly. An internet shutdown may be restricted to mobile internet which on smartphones, or the wired broadband that normally attach a computer - or both at the same time.[3]

Network disconnections take place whilst telecommunications support, such as cellular or Internet networks or each, are put off or disrupted deliberately. During the time of community disconnection, phone calls or text messaging offerings or Internet-enabled offerings (along with social communication and so on.) are disrupted. The networks can be disrupted each technically and by law of land.[4]

Each time there's an internet shutdown numerous motives are mentioned by authorities of that unique region such as faux news stream. Internet shutdown is also achieved to prevent the news or contemporary affairs circulate among hundreds generally in touchy areas. The motives presented for gag over internet differ, with certain stability[5].

There are numerous agencies which screen the internet shutdown and related situations.. AccessNow maintains a document on tales and realities of shutdowns, even as a many other companies – Article 197, Human Rights Watch8, the Internet Society9 are a number of them.

As the UN Special draftsman on Freedom of Expression had put forth that Internet shutdowns

consist of a dramatic way of baring people of basic freedom rights[6]. They were rejected and condemned by vthe Human Rights Committee of United Nations[7]

## II. LITERATURE OVERVIEW

Internet shutdowns represent an emerging manner of on line censorship, even though it may be viewed also as a wonderful phenomenon. Scholars have diagnosed four “generations” of net censorship or manage. First, it was approximately filtering structures at the spine of the country’s internet. Second, it is growing a prison and technical competencies that enable state actors to deny access to information resources as and when wished. Third, it emphasized much less on denying get right of entry to than fruitful competing with ability of inflicting pain through powerful counter-records drive that crush, discredit, or deep down demoralize warring parties. Fourth, it's miles more approximately get admission to contested [8]. As Wagner argues, through limiting get right of entry to to particular text or particular websites or discrediting the citizen journalists and associated journalism, killing net aims to reconfigure , shape the public sphere.[9]

It is noteworthy to focus on whilst the literature on the impact of the net on society and politics have been provided as a binary concerning cyber-optimists and cyber pessimists, there is want to underscore the point that the surely existing of kingdom of studies in the discipline factors to the life of spectrum as opposed to the aforementioned taken without any consideration dichotomy. Although generally tend to gravitate towards the pessimistic and positive ends of the controversy, there's similarly a growing amount of literature that reveal the grey regions of this debate on the effect of the proliferation of the net[10]. In the middle of the spectrum, are cyber-realists who undertake a extra careful approach that transcends both the cyber-optimist and cyber-pessimist processes.[11][12]

Cyber-optimists view the net and virtual media technologies within the fantastic light at the same time as cyber-pessimists cognizance on its bad impact on society. Cyber-optimists awareness on its effective transformative impact on aspects like political, social and economic sports [13] Platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter are being appropriated for commercial enterprise, social and political transactions. In repressive regimes, virtual media structures have come to be the mainstream opportunity media. Dominant debates have overly emphasised the high-quality effect of social media as manner for protest mobilization.[14]

Cyber-pessimists recognition on the negatives like the proliferation of hate speech, recruitment of terrorists, illicit financial flows, on line harassment, spread of faux information and cyber-propaganda and different forms of dark participation. [15]

The internet is a dual powered with each empowering and disempowering possibilities. Adapting digital media to Damocles' steel, creator puts forth about individuals who are given powers with the aid of taking the seat below the sword achieve this haunted through the steady chance of being killed with the aid of the same sword, due to the fact slaughter ought to come on the slightest disruption.[16][17] This remark dovetails with overview that media [ in addition to digital media] are platforms, wherein media power and associated-strength have played out.[18]

Ever-since the globalization of protests spawned by the Arab Spring and the Spanish Indignados, internet shutdowns have become the guns of ultimate hotel for authoritarian governments. Reflecting on the Arab Spring conceptualized the 'kill switch' in Egypt under Hosni Mubarak in 2011 as a 'suicide switch'. As, 'kill transfer' turned into a 'suicide transfer', which concluded by giving more spark to the protests that came about on 28th of January could have occurred in any other case. Instead of deterring human beings from flooding the streets, the kill transfer method mobilized a large

mass of human beings to illustrate in Cairo and other cities. [19]

A variety of African governments are deploying censorship, criminalization of speech, surveillance and manage or closure of media homes as strategies and strategies to throttle the loose float of information [20]

Beyond the continent of Africa, net shutdowns were used to demobilize protestors and citizens in Asia, Europe and South America. Countries like Syria, Nepal, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Yemen, China, India, North Korea, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Turkey and Myanmar were at the forefront of using net shutdowns as a tactic of paralyzing and demobilizing protestors. Internet shutdowns have generally used in particular at some point of crucial activities like elections or protests or for the duration of terror assaults or country wide emergencies to silence dissent and curtail freedom of meeting rights. These shutdowns violate the human rights including freedom to express and meeting, right to know statistics and political goods. Various justifications for shutdowns were thrown around consisting of the want to shield state establishments and chiefs, and those in charge of electoral crises, monitoring the propaganda, and alleviate dissent and security of a nation[21]

### **Internet Shutdown and media in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**

As per the internet shutdowns organization India shuts internet for highest number of times than other countries .Jammu and Kashmir being the volatile state due to political demography witnesses maximum number of internet shutdowns. Media in union territory of Jammu and Kashmir which laid its foundation in 1989,Jammu and Kashmir State press and publication Act has been facing immense pressure in carrying out the work in this political and military sensitive region. Jammu and Kashmir has faced internet shutdown 180 times since 2012,out of which some shutdowns last for hours, days and even

months. The recent internet shutdown was put for almost 55 days across the union territory to maintain the peace. The print media, digital media including journalists face the biggest challenge during internet curbs or blackouts. Right from gathering the news to printing and broadcasting it, media suffers due to the internet curbs due to non availability of resources online. One cannot send the information from a long distance to his/her own office. Newspaper agencies face problems in publishing the paper. internetshutdown.org internet shutdowns provides the following details regarding the internet shutdown in Jammu and Kashmir:

Year	Days
2012	03
2013	05
2014	05
2015	05
2016	10
2017	32
2018	65
2019	55

### III. CONCLUSION

If freedom to expression applies on the internet then putting a limit to the internet accessibility must be subjected to restricting freedom of expression. Internet shutdown not only affects the various sectors of region rather it hinders the economic growth of a region. It puts a negative impact on the inter and intra communication in the societies. It restricts the media sector to a least importance which is not healthy for a developing country like India. Right to information, right to communication is must and must be given to all sections. Blackout must be avoided to maximum and media must be given free access to accomplish their basic existence of information delivery to the common masses.

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