

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS & COMMUNICATIONS (DIGITAL MEDIA)
DEPARTMENT



Circular Memo No. 18/DM/ITE&C/2018

Dated. 15-09-2018

Sub: ITE&C Dept. – Leakage of Aadhaar Data on certain websites of Government of Telangana – Compliance to Guidelines for Telangana Government Websites (GTGW) – Restricting the non-compliant websites from public access – **Most Urgent** - Reg.

Ref: 1. Circular Memo No. 06/DM/ITE&C/2018, Dt. 04.04.2018 from Information Technology, Electronics and Communications Dept.
2. U.O Note 15/DM/ITE&C/2018, Dated. 16.07.2018 communicated over email from Principal Secretary, ITE&C Dept.

In the reference 1st cited above, certain action items were issued for the Departments, HoDs and other Government entities with respect to compliance of their websites/ portals/ web applications with Guidelines for Telangana Government Websites (GTGW).

2. In the U.O Note cited 2nd above, attention of the Departments, HoDs and other Government entities was brought to the communication received from Government of India with respect to publishing personal identity or information i.e. Aadhaar Number and demographic details along with sensitive personal information such as Bank Details in contravention of Aadhaar Act, 2016 and Information Technology Act, 2000 on specific websites of Telangana.

3. It was also mentioned that, "Publishing of identity information i.e. Aadhaar Number along with demographic information such as name, date of birth, address etc. is in clear contravention of the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, more specifically Sections 29(2), 29(3), 29(4) and constitutes an offence under section 37, 40 and 41 punishable with imprisonment up to 3 years." Further, "Publishing of financial information including bank account details, being sensitive personal data, is also in contravention of provisions under the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Rules framed thereunder, more specifically Rule 3 & Rule 6 of the Information Technology (Reasonable Security Practices and Procedures and Sensitive Personal Data or Information) Rules, 2011 and constitutes an offence under Section 43A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the offending parties are liable to pay damages by way of compensation to persons affected."

4. In the email communication cited above, the Departments, HoDs and other Government entities were advised to immediately review all the information published online for common public access and to take all precautions to ensure compliance to the Aadhaar Act, 2016, Information Technology Act, 2000.

5. However, despite several reminders on the subject, **incidents of cyber attacks and leakage of Aadhaar Data on Government websites were reported to Hon'ble Minister for IT and the Department of ITE&C in the past three weeks.** There has been continuous coverage by print and electronic media bringing disrepute to the Government of Telangana. Citizens have higher expectations from Telangana Government websites/ applications as the State was a pioneer in the e-Governance initiatives and continues to command respect from other Indian States.

Dir.
Website

6. In view of the above, your attention is drawn to the following:

- Websites not complying with mandatory guidelines of GTGW (See: <http://www.telangana.gov.in/gtgw/resources>) **shall be restricted from public access after 31th October, 2018.**
- Websites leaking sensitive personal/ personally identifiable information like Aadhaar Data **will be immediately restricted from public access** until the concerned page was corrected/.removed from the servers by respective departments.
- Special attention may be paid for complying with Guidelines Nos. 121 to 131 of Section 10 (1) of GTGW that pertain to Aadhaar Act, 2016.
- All the websites must immediately undertake a Security Audit of their online digital assets – websites/ web applications/ MIS. The Departments, HoDs and other Government entities may take the assistance of Telangana State Technology Services Ltd. (TSTSL), a PSU under ITE&C Department, in this regard. Alternatively, they can also reach central government agencies offering such services.
- Install Security Socket Layer (SSL) Certificate for your website. Digital Media, ITE&C Department may be contacted for any help in this regard.

7. In case of any assistance or clarifications, Government Departments/ HoDs/ other bodies may reach office of Director, Digital Media, Room No 424 B, III Floor, 'D' Block, Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad-22 or mail or call at dir_dm@telangana.gov.in/ ad_portal@telangana.gov.in/ 040-23456397. They may also reach Assistant Director (Infra) over phone (040-23450043) or e-mail at (jtdir_infra_itc@telangana.gov.in).

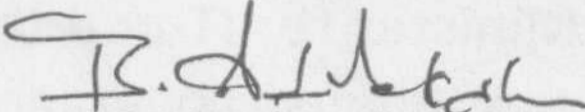
8. In view of the repeated incidents of cyber attacks, defacing, leakage of personal/ personally identifiable information such as Aadhaar data on Government websites and the related alerts/ warnings from agencies of Government of India, concerned citizens and the adverse media coverage, the matter may be treated as the **most urgent**.

JAYESH RANJAN
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

All the Departments of Secretariat
All the HoDs in the State
All the Constitutional/ Independent Bodies
All the District Collectors
The SIO, NIC, BRKR Bhavan, Hyderabad
The DG, CGG, MCRHRDI Campus, Hyderabad
The CEO, TS Online, Hyderabad

//FORWARDED : : BY ORDER//


SECTION OFFICER