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Government of India
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Shastri Bhawan,
Rajendra Prasad Road,
New Delhi – 110 001

April 2, 2020

Office Memorandum

Subject: Constitution of a Fact Check Unit in Press Information Bureau on COVID-19

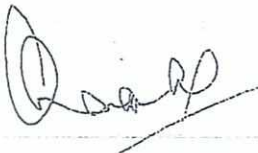
It has been decided to set up a Fact Check Unit (FCU) in the Press Information Bureau (PIB) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on COVID-19. The Unit will receive messages from public at large and send them response in a defined time-frame. The official version of any news on COVID-19 would be made available by the Unit.

2. The Unit will be headed by Shri Nitin Wakankar, Director General, BOC and shall be manned by officers as per list annexed. The Unit shall function 24x7 and shall be receiving messages/queries from public at large on its designated email, whatsapp and twitter handles. On receipt of any query/message, the FCU shall take following steps:-

- (i) The query/message should be immediately acknowledged.
- (ii) The FCU should send a reply promptly. Where considered necessary, it may forward the message/query to the concerned Ministry/Department in the Central Government with the request to send its comments/facts on the query to the FCU within 12 hours. Thereafter, an appropriate reply/response will be sent by the FCU to the person from whom the message/query has been received.

2. The FCU should be prompt in its response in order to address the various queries received by it and should also ensure that authentic and correct and updated information is shared with people at all times.

3. The PIB shall provide all logistical, physical and financial resources for the smooth and unhindered functioning of the Unit. The Unit shall be



operational from today and function till 30th April, 2020 or such time as extended by the Government.

4. The FCU shall work under the overall supervision of Principal DG, PIB.



(Vikram Sahay)

Joint Secretary to the Govt of India

T.No.011-23073775

To

1. Shri Nitin Wakankar, Director General
2. All Officers concerned

Copy to:-

- (1) Pr DG PIB
- (2) PS to HMIB
- (3) Sr. PPS to Secretary, I&B
- (4) Additional Secretary, I&B
- (5) All Joint Secretaries in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting