

Sharing newspaper PDFs is illegal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Early on in the lockdown, many who missed their morning newspaper or had safety concerns took to reading PDFs of The Times of India ePaper shared on social media groups. But even after studies have shown that newspapers are safe and do not spread the coronavirus, many are still continuing with these illegal downloads despite warnings from experts that this could invite legal action against admins of such WhatsApp groups and members.

This way of reading newspapers is also risky because it opens up the possibility of someone tampering with the content in the newspaper. A third party circulating the newspaper without permission may

“If a digital edition is being circulated without owner's permission, it's a violation of Copyright Act as well as IT Act Sec 43, which says if any attempt is made to destroy, delete or alter any information residing in a computer resource, or diminish its value or utility, it is illegal

— Pavan Duggal | Senior SC lawyer

even manipulate and alter the content. This can lead to a whole host of legal and credibility issues, and could make one more susceptible to reading the very fake news that newspapers diligently work to avoid.

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