PRESS NOTE

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Drones and hydrogen balloons to be extensively used in red zones and containment areas

Gandhinagar, Wednesday: Director General of Police Mr. Shivanand Jha said that technology is playing a major role in the surveillance of red zones and containment areas of the state. Drones and hydrogen balloons equipped with CCTV cameras come handy in monitoring the movement of people in these areas. The hydrogen balloons equipped with a PTZ Camera and 2-3 still cameras will be installed at certain heights for effective surveillance. These cameras are IP based cameras and can be easily accessed from the control room as well as from mobile phones used by authorities. This technology will help the police keep a watchful eye on the movement of people in highly affected areas.

To curb the havoc created by COVID-19, it is essential for the citizens to follow quarantine guidelines and complete the required period. For instance, 12 out of those Tablighi Jamaat members who arrived in various districts of Gujarat from other states tested positive for corona virus. However, their adherence to quarantine guidelines ensured that the virus did not spread to others.

Corona warriors are working day and night to ensure the safety of the citizens. Attacks on corona warriors including government employees, medical staff, and police officials will lead to strict legal action on attackers and they will be booked under PASA. Talking about the attacks that happened lately, Mr. Jha said 3 people were arrested in Surendranagar for attacking police officials on 4th April 2020, 1 in Rajkot, 2 in Gomtipur (Ahmedabad), 5 in Viramgam on 23rd April 2020 and one each in Amreli and Patan. Recently, 6 more incidents of attacks on corona warriors have come to light. A total of 88 accused have been booked under PASA for 37 cases which include 26 cases of attacks on Police, six on GRD Home guard, and two each on medical officers and revenue personnel, and one case of an attack on Asha worker.

Throwing light on the significant use of drones and CCTV during the lockdown, Mr. Jha said that, the cities and towns are being thoroughly observed through drone surveillance. 192 crimes have been registered through drones. A total of 23025 people have been arrested for 12636 offenses to date. Meanwhile, under the Smart City and VISWAS project, 96 individuals have been arrested for 81 crimes reported through the CCTV network tallying up to 4352 individuals for 3211 crimes. Additionally, 694 crimes have been registered so far and 957 people have been arrested through CCTV surveillance in residential societies.

Similarly, for spreading fake messages and rumors through social media, so far 778 crimes have been registered and 1599 accused have been arrested. 737 accounts have been blocked so far. 6518 offenses have been registered so far through videography, automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) and camera mounted special 'Prahari' Van.

Cases that have been registered so far include 1945 of the violation of lockdown, 766 against those violating quarantine, and 556 other cases. Also, 5653 vehicles have been seized in the state while 2,29,020 detained vehicles have been released so far.