PRESS NOTE

15th May, 2020

Police personnel are on toes to curb the spread of COVID-19, especially in Red zones and containment areas

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Gandhinagar, Friday: Director General of Police Mr. Shivanand Jha said that police are working dedicatedly to fight the battle against COVID-19 but the fight cannot be won without the cooperation of citizens. He added that it is very essential for shopkeepers and citizens to be aware and maintain social distancing at all times. The red zones and containment areas are under the constant watch of the police to ensure the strict implementation of lockdown.

Travel arrangements to send migrants labours back to their natives have been made. Those who have registered and completed all processes are being sent back on priority while others shall remain calm, and cooperate with the administration. Yesterday, migrants lost their temper and created chaos in Surat, Botad, and Bharuch but they must understand that cooperating with administration can ease the process. Local authorities have also been notified to find migrants who have set on foot and accommodate them in shelter homes. They have been ordered to arrange buses or trains for their travel.

Some people have been using this difficult situation to spread rumours and communal hatred. For instance, a man from Bhuj, Kutch tried to create enmity between different communities by spating hate against the other community through a microphone used for azan in the mosque. He has been booked under PASA and sent to Surat jail. Likewise, Nirona police station, West Kutch and Bhuj city police station have registered a crime against the two accused of posting communal statements on social media. In Mehsana district, an accused has been arrested for posting a post that has previously spread communal animosity on social media.

The state police condemn forging passes and misusing valid permits given for essential services. To ensure that people do not misuse the services, the police are checking passes and permissions for all vehicles. Two people were caught yesterday for forging passes. Talking about another incident, Mr. Jha said 17 people have been arrested in Rajkot with fake stamped passes of collector office. A similar case has come to light where workers from Jharkhand were being sent back through fake bus pass. A case has been registered for this illegal act.

Talking about police personnel who were tested corona positive, Mr. Jha said that 10 officials are set to rejoin their duties upon recovering and 110 other police officers who came in their contact have completed their quarantine period and are back on duty.

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. 210 crimes have been registered through drones. A total of 23547 people have been arrested for 13050 offenses to date. Meanwhile, under the Smart City and VISWAS project, 91 individuals have been arrested for 92 crimes reported through the CCTV network tallying up to 4544 individuals for 3403 crimes. Additionally, 720 crimes have been registered so far and 997 people have been arrested through CCTV surveillance in residential societies.
Similarly, for spreading fake messages and rumors through social media, so far 799 crimes have been registered and 1654 accused have been arrested. 757 accounts have been blocked so far. 7114 offenses have been registered so far through videography and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) and with camera mounted special 'Prahari' Van.

Cases that have been registered so far include 1985 of the violation of lockdown, 703 against those violating quarantine, and 635 other cases. 5839 vehicles have been seized in the state while 2,41,228 detained vehicles have been released so far.

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