



# ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Police Headquarters, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh -791113

| Web : arunpol.nic.in

**C**COVID presented unique challenges for policing, which Arunachal Pradesh Police converted into opportunities for better community relations and team building, through their activities during this time.

An important task was to motivate the police personnel to perform their duties without worrying about their safety. Arunachal Police took many steps to ensure the safety of police personnel on frontline duties. The regular supply of PPE and masks was ensured by the PHQ. Hon'ble CM also sanctioned Rs.5 lakh to each SP from CM Relief Fund for providing PPE, masks and other protective gears to Police Frontline Workers. Besides, Rs.25 lakh was also sanctioned from CM Relief Fund for providing PPE Kits to Police. Senior officers toured extensively with full protective gears to brief and motivate Police staff deployed for the frontline duties.

We initiated 'in house production of the mask' for our staff across Arunachal Pradesh. A small tailoring unit was set up at 1st AAP Bn campus, Chimpu with the help of "APP Ladies Welfare Organization". So far, we have produced more than 30,000 masks and supplied to various Districts/Battalions and Units regularly. This created a team spirit in which the entire police force and their families reaffirmed their commitment to perform their duties in the times of this unprecedented pandemic. The masks were supplied in addition to PPE kits and Hand sanitizers distributed by District SPs and COs APPBn and IRBn to their staff.

All staff above 55 years of age were given exemptions from duties. All Police personnel with medical problems and expecting women police personnel were also given exemptions. Staff on frontline duty were properly rotated. Regular medical check-up of frontline staff was also organized with the help of Medical Authorities.

DGP Arunachal Pradesh himself repeatedly visited frontline police staff deployed at check gates and Naka duties and interacted and motivated them.

This motivated team of police personnel had to meet lots of expectation from the public as Police was the most visible department of Government on the field, especially in the initial stages. Arunachal Pradesh Police provided shelter, food and transport to migrant labourers, daily wage earners, stranded people, elderly, physically disabled etc. who were rendered incapable of either procuring ration or feeding themselves. Community kitchens were arranged at Thana level to feed the stranded people and fresh vegetables were procured and distributed to Police families and messes in the Districts / Battalions.

Besides, some IPS officers were designated as state-wise nodal officers for helping persons from Arunachal Pradesh stranded in various parts of the country. They coordinated with the authorities in those states and ensured that the stranded persons have a safe place to stay and necessary rations and medical help (if needed) were also provided. These officers coordinated the timely and safe return of the stranded persons to Arunachal Pradesh as per the SOPs. One of our officers Shri Hemant Tiwari, IPS, SP Lower Subansiri escorted 42 Arunachal Pradesh students from Kota, Rajasthan to Itanagar by road.

Beyond the call of duty, All IPS officers posted in Arunachal Pradesh contributed 10 days salary and all APPS officers contributed 2 days salary to the CM Relief Fund to strengthen the healthcare infrastructure in the state for COVID response.

The police came to the aid of the state in establishing the main quarantine centre. At the Police Training Centre, Banderdewa facilities were provided by Arunachal Pradesh Police to establish the main quarantine centre for the state. This was

very significant because there was resistance from the public at various locations where quarantine centres were proposed to be established. The police department gave full support for the quarantine centre and thus started the process of COVID management in the state.

Having won the hearts of the people through their activities, it became easier to enforce the lockdown and other preventive measures in the state. For the purpose, traditional as well as modern methods were used by the Arunachal Pradesh Police. Besides involving various organizations i.e. Student Unions, Civil Society, Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Market Associations and RWAs, we took advantage of social media as well. Arunachal Pradesh Police is very active on Social Media, and we have a large following. All District SPs and Senior Officers of PHQ have their own Twitter accounts which they regularly update. APP's Facebook Page was an important medium to disseminate information and also connect with people in distress. A small "Video clip" involving members of the public was collated from the snippets shot remotely in the comfort of their homes and circulated on WhatsApp, to spread the message of "Stay Home Stay Safe" to the masses. Policemen on duty always used PPE and sanitizers and took all precautions. This was done in a demonstrative manner to put across a message by presenting an example.

Civil Society, Students Union, Community Based Organisations, Women Associations, Resident Welfare Associations, Market Associations, Self Help Groups and the common public were engaged in a participative manner to encourage people to follow Lockdown norms voluntarily. Counselling and Awareness programmes were launched extensively to spread the message of "STAY SAFE –STAY HOME". In Cities and villages, people on their own followed the lockdown norms up to a large extent. Awareness through local media, social media and informal platforms also helped in a big way. During the lockdown, Painting and Essay competitions of school children on COVID themes were organised by SSP and COs. Participants submitted their entries from the comfort of their homes.

There were a couple of incidents recorded where the Policemen on duty were found behaving rashly. Strict action was initiated against those found guilty and advisory was issued to concerned SSP and unit in-charge to ensure proper briefing of staff on the ground. No such incident was repeated.

Drones were extensively used by SSP to check lockdown violations in the HQs and Arunachal – Assam border districts like Bomdila, Capital, Tezu, Changlang, Khonsa and Longding.

Thus, through a combination of motivated staff and community outreach, Arunachal Police went beyond the call of duty during the COVID lockdown period.

### TWITTER



DC Longding, Arunachal Pradesh @DC\_LongdingAP May 4

Help being extended to the senior citizens, widows and disabled persons in remote villages during lockdown. Rice and Dal were distributed to the needy by the Longding police. @DgpPradesh@SpLongding@Ravindra\_IPS



## INDIAN POLICE RESPONSE TO COVID - 19



**Madhur Verma** @IPSMadhurVerma Apr 15  
Ration distribution to more than 250 families twice a week since the beginning of lockdown.



**Madhur Verma** @IPSMadhurVerma Apr 12  
Help provided to 16 stranded labourers in Lekhi village with regard to food supplies.