



LADAKH

Police Headquarters, Leh, Kargil, Ladakh - 194103

Ladakh Police succeeded in effective enforcement of various guidelines and restrictions issued by Government of India in combating and containment of COVID-19 in Leh and Kargil District of UT Ladakh. The efforts of police administration are summarized as under:

Mobilization of Ladakh Police Force

Ladakh Police mobilized all its manpower from various police units and deployed them on establishment of nakas, patrolling, checking, static guards at isolation, institutional quarantine centres and containment places to restrict movements. Detail police deployment plans were issued by the district SSP of Leh and Kargil. These deployments modified and upgraded from time to time, included, static naka, mobile patrolling, static guards on containment zones, isolation and quarantine places etc.

Safety First

All the police personnel were strictly advised to use all kinds of protective equipment such as alcohol based hand sanitizers, face masks, gloves to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Special directions and guidelines were issued in this regard



with special focus on frequent washing of hands before and after the duties, maintaining social

distancing while on duty, fumigation of all offices and vehicles frequently, use and wearing of body protective suits while on such duty where touching is necessary.

Monitoring People Movement

In order to enforce the restrictions and to prevent unnecessary movements of people and vehicular movements, police check posts were established and put in place at various strategic places and traffic points. These check posts were provided with touchless hand washing set, soap and sanitizers at the checking point. All the SHOs and In charge police posts within the town area and far flung places were activated to establish check posts in their area of responsibilities. Daily report was sought from the District SSP about the functioning and action taken by these checkpoints. Barricading was established and put on each police check posts to check the movements of vehicles and people. Zigzag barricading has also been established and put on the highway and other strategic roads to control the vehicular movement especially young persons who tend to bypass police check post. These check posts were tasked with checking the movement passes and permission issued by the administration and other Government authorities for their movement during the lockdown. Check posts were also established at the exit and entry points in the containment area. A magistrate was also deputed in the containment area who worked in co-ordination with the police deployed in the containment areas. Screening checkpoints were established enroute to Srinagar Leh and Leh Manali routes to screen and checked all the incoming and outgoing vehicles and passengers. The round the clock deployment of police and strict enforcement of restriction by police force helped the administration to contain the virus.



Screening at Leh Airport

A strict system was devised at KBR Airport, Leh to check and screen all the passengers coming in to Ladakh by air. Medical teams were deputed at Leh airport who worked in co-ordination with the Ladakh Police deployed at the airport. Touchless services were introduced at the airport with social distancing norms.

Patrolling and surveillance:

Police mobile patrolling parties, both on foot and on vehicles were constituted to conduct patrolling in the containment and town areas. Police patrolling parties also conducted patrolling in the various police stations and police posts of District Leh and Kargi of U.T Ladakh thereby creating awareness amongst the people to follow the restrictions imposed under Sec 144 Cr.PC and relevant sections of Disaster Management Act, 2005. The vehicles of these patrolling parties were fitted with public address systems and sirens that were used to create awareness among public. Strict surveillance was kept by Ladakh police on people in home quarantine in all villages and parts of Ladakh through beat in-charge of police stations/ police posts concerned. The reports by patrolling teams were further analyzed and studied based on which further precautionary measures were taken.

Precautionary Measures

Required under Sec 144 Cr.P.C and Sec. 51 Disaster Management Act, strict action was taken by concerned police stations against those who violated the restrictions imposed during the lockdown period. A total of 111 FIRs were registered under Sec. 188/ IPC and 51 DM Act till date. The action taken by seizure of vehicles and apprehension of violators created a credible deterrent amongst people who in general enthusiastically helped the police and the administration to prevent unnecessary movements.

Reporting Mechanisms

Daily reporting system was developed. District SSP was directed to file daily reports through respective police units. These reports covered key issues like availability of essential commodities and problems, grievances of migrant labourers and their requirements, agricultural activities in villages, people under quarantine, isolation, under surveillance, evacuation of stranded people and other grievances of people in various parts of the region.

WhatsApp Groups: WhatsApp groups were created in each police beat with Nambaradors, Sarpanches and Panches to monitor the activities of people who were home quarantined, institutional quarantined, in isolation.

Video footages: Dispatch of video footages by senior supervisory officers from field locations, especially the containment zones while on patrol duty on a realtime basis.

Phone calls by PCR to people under surveillance and on quarantine as well as migrant labourers to ascertain real situation.

Issues of Stranded Migrant laborers:

Migrant labourers stranded in the UT Ladakh were taken off by redressing their problems during the lockdown period. The staff of Disaster Response Force (UTDRF) of UT Ladakh was assigned to conduct awareness and counselling among the migrant labourers at various places. UTDRF helped them to get free rations, cash and clothing etc. The list of these labourers was further shared with the departments concerned.

Community participation

Various local NGOs and social groups and villages came forward to help the police in implementation of various guidelines to contain the virus. These organisations even provided free food and masks to the police force.

Evacuation of stranded Ladakhis

In order to evacuate the stranded people/ students / patients and pilgrims from various parts of India outside of Ladakh, Ladakh Police nominated and deployed senior police officers as Police Nodal Officers in Delhi, Chandigarh, Jammu and Srinagar for smooth evacuation of stranded people of UT Ladakh. A separate WhatsApp group was entitled "OPS Evacuation-Ladakh" with all the Nodal officers and government personnel of

INDIAN POLICE RESPONSE TO COVID - 19

UT Ladakh as members. The concerned officers worked dedicatedly round the clock and helped in evacuating about 27000 persons of Ladakh to Leh and Kargil.

Outcome

Ladakh Police pulled out all the stops to beat deadly coronavirus in the region by strict implementation

and enforcement of various guidelines and restrictions passed by the MHA, Govt, of India and respective authorities in the region. Due to good work done by the police personnel UT Ladakh was declared as zero positive on 19th, May 2020 after all the 43 positive cases were cured and turned negative. These 43 positive cases were mainly pilgrims who came back from Iran and their relatives.