

Rachakonda Police – Serving Souls

Humaneness and sensitivity have long been perceived to be hidden behind the Khaki. The COVID 19 pandemic brought the nation to a standstill through lockdown. However, the Police have geared up themselves in no time to be tough on implementation of lockdown on one hand and to lend a helping hand to those suffering due to the lockdown.

Rachakonda Police under the leadership of Sri Mahesh Bhagwat IPS, Commissioner of Police has been a fore runner in serving the public.

COVID 19 policing has engaged the force in enforcing physical distancing in markets and other permitted places, cracking down on the violators, seizing the vehicles, checking entry and exit to jurisdiction, identifying the positive patients, their contacts, setting up containment zones, security at hospitals, shifting patients to hospitals, quarantine centers, checking home quarantined people, surveillance to enforce curfew, enrolling migrant labor, sending them to their states, dealing with stressed people for being stranded, liaison with other departments, ensuring logistics for carrying out all these and so on.

Behind the shield of Police action, there is also the compassion of Police which is a face only seldom seen and perceived by few only. Rachakonda Police has always been a pioneer in initiating many programs to serve the public. This Covid19 has only presented another set of scenarios to be addressed by the Police. Spearheaded by Sri Mahesh Bhagwat IPS, Commissioner of Police, Rachakonda, several initiatives and programs have been taken up by the Rachakonda Police Commissionerate.

Corona is threatening but Hunger is saddening –

Lockdown imposed due to Corona has caused colossal loss and burden on the livelihoods of poor and downtrodden, leaving them at a stroke to despair. The tough, stern paternal show of Police is for the safety of public. However, being the first line of interaction with public, Police get to see and know the plight of the public first hand. Herein arose the maternal instinct of Police who started feeding the thousands of poor and migrant labors.

In the initial days the efforts have been lone and singular by individual police officers on the field. In no time, the Commissioner of Police has formed a special unit at Commissionerate level to coordinate the efforts of all police officers on ground, to collate their efforts, to act as a single point for all the helping hands approaching and offering their services to the public through the Commissionerate, to guide them and ensure food and dry ration is supplied to the needy. So far, nearly 600 individuals, 80 companies and 90 NGOs have associated with Rachakonda Police in serving the needy and poor. Around 50 lakhs meals and per head meal kits have been served till now during the lockdown period.





The Grapes of Wrath – Migrant workers

The woes of migrant workers during the covid lockdown are beyond description. The pictures and videos of thousands of them walking barefooted with infants, with pregnant women, with kids is disheartening. Moved by their plight, the Government of Telangana has affirmed that not a single migrant worker will have to sleep with hunger and they are their responsibility. Accordingly, Rachakonda Commissionerate has piped in several donors to feed these in their areas. Areas with high concentration of migrant workers have been identified and cooked food during and dry ration have been supplied to them. Singular calls to corona control room have also been taken care of by supplying them with cooked food or dry ration.



A pioneering initiative has been taken up by Rachakonda Police in partnership with Tata Institute of Social Sciences to conduct a socio-economic profiling and need assessment survey of migrant workers in Rachakonda limits. Nearly 10,669 workers have been interviewed personally and their requirements assessed. Wherever interventions were required, they were attended to. For instance, requirement of dry ration kits, medicines, health checkup specially to sick and pregnant women, water supply, rental issues with owners were addressed.



Health check for migrant workers

Rachakonda Police, TISS already conducting socio-economic, need assessment survey

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In yet another proactive measure for migrant workers, Rachakonda Police started medical camps for them and their kin across the Commissionerate.

The Rachakonda Police along with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) are already conducting socio-economic and need assessment survey of migrant labourers who are currently stranded here due to the lockdown.

So far nearly 5,000 migrant workers and family members living in Jawahar-nagar, Norendimet, L S Nagar, Yasaiahilpore and Meerpet were surveyed. According to the police, during the survey, the needs for ration and food were addressed either by the police or forwarded to the GDMC and district administration for necessary intervention.

Similarly, it has been felt that there are pregnant women, children, and elderly persons among these



Doctors conducting health check for migrant workers and their families at Meerpet on Sunday.

groups who require medical check-ups," said Mahesh M Bhagwat, Police Commissioner, Rachakonda.

Hence, medical volunteers have taken up health check-ups for migrant workers and families residing in Rachakonda Police jurisdiction. As part of this, on Sun-

day a team of doctors from Surya Hospital with their teams visited Meerpet and conducted health check-ups for migrant workers.

An ambulance has been provided from Rachakonda Police headquarters for the purpose apart from several general medicines required

for such camp, personal protective equipment for the doctors, masks, sanitizers and face shield. "These checks and survey will be continued in Rachakonda where migrant workers are more in number and in need of immediate medical attention," Bhagwat said.

Addressing the Lockdown Blues –

Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise... In the meantime we have to deal with it and not all can do it. Loneliness, inability to go out, distanced from near and dear, worry about the state of affairs, stress of employment and such cause trauma. To assist those who require assistance and counselling, Rachakonda Police has initiated a psycho-social counselling call center manned by professionals. Several calls have been received and appropriate counselling done to them. Follow up call is also done to the caller to verify their state.



Adoption of Shelter Homes –

Old Age Homes, Orphanages and Homes for Specially Abled Persons are abodes for the inmates and places which need special attention during times of crisis. These homes mostly depend on the services of kind hearted people in the society. During this lockdown, neither such persons are able to serve them for various reasons nor the managements are in a position to venture out to manage things. Sri Mahesh Bhagwat IPS, Commissioner of Police Rachakonda, in a most thoughtful gesture, decided to adopt these homes on behalf of Rachakonda Police Commissionerate. The requirement of each of the home is assessed by the concerned SHO and furnished to the CP Office. The Citizen Volunteer Cell of CP Office managing the procurement and distribution of food, ration and other relief material then maps the donors to the homes and ensures that all that is necessary is supplied to them. Through out the Commissionerate, 77 homes have been identified and all 2876 of them have been supplied with dry ration, medicines, etc. Rachakonda Police have avowed that they would take care of these



Caring for Mothers –

Of the identified categories of people who are prone to Corona infection, pregnant women are considered more sensitive due to the danger of passing on the virus to the baby. Considering this, Rachakonda Police has initiated a program to support the pregnant women with a nutrition kit and instill confidence among them. The beneficiaries are identified through the local PHC. So far PHCs in the limits of 4 police stations with 700 pregnant women have been served with a kit comprising of ragi malt, dates, dry fruit, milk in tetrapack, a carton of eggs and fruits.



గర్భిణులకు పోషకాహారం పంపిణీ

సాక్షి, సిటీబ్యూరో: ఎల్బీనగర్ పరిధిలోని గర్భిణులకు టీసీపీ ఇంజనర్ల సోమవారం పోషకాహారం అందజేశారు. ఎల్బీనగర్ చంద్రవతి కాలనీకి చెందిన యువ జంటను కలిగి ఉన్న ఆలిలాద్, వ్యూరూత్ తదితరులు పోషకాహారం సమకూరారు.

Ensuring dignity of Women –

Added to the plight of migrant workers, is the menstrual issue faced by women walking kilometers or at makeshift shelters. To meet the untold agony, Rachakonda Police has distributed 8000 sanitary napkin packets to the women.



Transgender inclusive –

The often missed out or neglected community in service is transgender community. Rachakonda Police has distributed dry ration kits to all transgenders in the pockets of areas where they mostly inhabit.



Singing Cops –

Couple of officers have used their passion to address the Covid policing needs. While one has urged the public through his song to be cautious of and take safety measures, the other has composed a song on a positive note to motivate people.



Celebrating in adversity –

Small things make life happy, especially during the hard times of lockdown. More when it comes from near and dear. While many have been stranded and unable to travel, sons and daughters of residents of Rachakonda living in other states or abroad have requested Police to wish their mother or father or kids on their behalf on the occasion of their birthdays. Rachakonda Police have happily obliged their request and turned to be a cause for a smile on their faces.



Tapping the Energy and Time of Youth –

A Volunteer Cell has been formed at Commissionerate Office by enrolling youth who are relatively free during the lockdown. Scores of volunteers are working in managing food distribution and food supply management, TISS survey of migrant workers, medical check up to staff and migrant workers, psychological counselling, dog feeding, etc.



Facilitating the Public Amidst Lockdown -

E- Pass - A critical factor which is quite debilitating to the public otherwise always on the go, is the restriction placed on the movement. More so in case of those providing essential services during the lockdown period, for those in medical emergency, for those who are stranded and so on. Enabling an e platform to obtain pass for a hassle-free movement has been one of the earliest interventions undertaken by Rachakonda Police and is the first in Telangana State to launch a portal for the benefit of public to obtain e-pass.

Non-Medical Emergency Transport Services – While medical emergencies are attended by ambulances, it has been observed that the public are in requirement of transport for other non-emergency, medical or otherwise but essential purposes like a regular dialysis treatment, a critical injection to be taken periodically, a follow up checkup after a surgery or any procedure, regular dressing, ration for a physically handicapped or elderly couple, etc. Rachakonda Police partnered with Mahindra alyte and Srinivasa Tours and Travels who came forward to place their vehicles at the disposal of the Police for catering to the public requirements as noted above. So far, 1660 calls have been received and attended by the operators and control room requesting for the service.



Rachakonda Police is always geared up to meet any emergencies but wishes that with the cooperation of public, soon in the joint fight against the Corona virus, the frontline warriors will emerge victorious.

Rachakonda Police expresses its gratitude to the Government of Telangana, Telangana State Police, Medical department, other government departments, essential service providers, citizens for enabling Rachakonda Police stand ahead in the fight. Rachakonda Police also thanks all those partners who served as a beacon of hope in humanity in these testing times of Covid19.