
Even though the early signs of the Corona Virus COVID 19 possible emerging as a threat to the Health Security were coming in February 2020, there were no activities involving direct participation by the Department. The Government through its District Administrations of North and South Goa and the Directorate of Health Services had set in motion the precautionary measures to contain the epidemic, should it arrive in Goa.

Since the first suspected infection case of Covid 19 occurred at the Dabolim Airport, and the person was quarantined at a Special Ward of GMC, necessary follow up action was happening at the GMC only, which is well equipped for the purpose.

As a matter of abundant precaution, Government opted to “Sanitize “ all public places in the State, like Markets, Bus Stands, Super Bazaars, Bus Servicing Depots etc This work was assigned to the Directorate of Fire and Emergency Services Department. The work was commenced from 1st April 2020, with make-shift PPE equipment and disinfectant material procured through CSR assistance from M/s. Deccan Fine Chemicals, Corlim & M/s. Vedanta (Sesa Goa). M/s.Deccan Fine Chemical, Corlim also supported this Directorate by providing 1400 ltr. of 10% concentrate Sodium Hypochlorite Solution for undertaking sanitization.

The Government thereafter procured 60 pieces of Re usable PPE, Safety Goggle & Nitrile Gloves for the department and the same were distributed to the 15 Fire Stations of Goa who were involved in the task. All public places as mentioned above, prioritized by the respective Municipality or Village Panchayat and recommended by the Directorate of Municipal Administration or the Directorate of Village Panchayats were sanitized. This Government initiative was much appreciated by the general public, as per field reports. As on 16.04.2020 So far 1572 numbers of places have been sanitized.
Goa witnessed a Storm and rain spell on 10th April and the Fire Stations had to re-deploy their resources to tackle that emergency. In all **115 Emergency Incidents** like trees fallen on homes, road blocks due to fallen trees or Branches, Power line disruptions needing our assistance to restore supplies, Vehicles damaged on roads etc. were attended.

The Staff of the Directorate of Fire & Emergency Services responded promptly to a request from the State Blood Bank at GMC to mobilize Blood donations, anticipating any emergency need for Blood of various Groups. The Fire Department staff and the NGO Rotary Panaji Mid Town Volunteer and willing citizens of Panaji around the Department Headquarters joined in this humanitarian gesture. The Blood Donation Camp which was held on 16th April 2020, a total of **41 Blood Units** was given to GMC Blood Bank. Dr. Sanjay Korgaonkar, Medical Officer & his team was present during this Blood Donation Camp.
Every year, the National Fire Service Day is observed on 14th of April, through a solemn Ceremonial Parade, laying of Wreath at the Martyrs’ Column and Guard of Honour. This year the function was held in low key on the 14th April in the morning, wherein a Wreath Laying Ceremony function was observed. Shri. Parimal Rai, IAS, Chief Secretary & Shri. Ashok Menon, Director, Fire & Emergency Services and all ranks of the Department placed the wreath on the Martyrs Column. The Traditional Fire Prevention Week from 14th to 20th April 2020, is being observed in a low key this year, but laying proper stress on the Dissemination of Awareness of Preventive aspects. We added the awareness on Precaution & Prevention of COVID-19 pandemic in collaboration with Collectorate of North Goa. The Fire Safety Educational Van of this Directorate is deputed with fire personnel to visit various places like Markets, Bus stand, Residential Colonies etc. in the State of Goa to exhibit videos on COVID-19 & Fire Prevention on its LED screen and to educate the community at large.

The Department has utilized the experience of participating in the fight against the Corona Virus 19 epidemic to identify areas where it has to improve its armour to be best able to tackle other types of Disasters that may arise in the future.

Sd/-

(ASHOK MENON)
DIRECTOR
FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Dated:16.04.2020