



KERALA POLICE INFORMATION CENTRE

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No. 216/PR/PIC/PHQ/18

Date 23.08.2018

Press Statement

In certain selected news reports, on the Rescue efforts of the administration during the recent floods in Kerala, it is noted that, a totally wrong and misleading picture has been portrayed on the role played by the Defence forces in the rescue efforts and the lack of coordination with the State administration. It has been stated in some reports that the actual number of rescue helicopters in the air and rescue boats on the ground was far less than what was reported. It is also stated that the Army and the Air Force halted operations after dark.

In this regard it is clarified that the Kerala State Government, the Police Department, the Defence Forces, Para Military Forces, were all working hand in hand, and in total unison, which was the main reason for the success achieved in the rescue operations.

It is reiterated that the role played by the Indian Air Force is actually praise worthy and goes much beyond their normal call for duty. The Air Force led by Air Marshal B Suresh, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Southern Air Command (SAC) practically worked on a 24 X 7 basis, in total coordination

with the District Administration and the Police Department, both in Rescue and rehabilitation process.

The Air Marshal, who was passionately committed to the cause, was personally present in the Technical area, all these days and was leading from the front. It was his personal intervention that ensured that the entire resources of the Air Force was utilised effectively for the rescue. The Air Force not only helped in air lifting stranded persons from flooded houses, lifting those requiring urgent medical aid, supply food items to marooned families, but they also played a major role in transporting troops and relief materials from all around the country to the flood affected areas. The Air Marshal made it a point to attend all the coordination meetings chaired by the Chief Minister, where he guided the rescue efforts, and all the decisions taken in the Meeting were fully implemented.

The role played by the Army and Navy also is equally appreciable. All the Defence Forces operated hand in hand with the Disaster Management Control Rooms and it was this coordination that helped in saving lives and in making this rescue operations successful.

The efforts of the Air Force has been truly invaluable and they have worked hand in hand with the Police and the State Administration in the Rescue and Relief operations in Kerala. All the reports to the contrary are false and baseless. It is requested that these facts may be highlighted in your esteemed newspaper and all reports to the contrary may be disregarded.

Loknath Behera IPS
State Police Chief
Kerala