MESSAGE

TO : 1. All DPCs and All SHOs in all Police Stations
     2. All Officers in list 'B'

INFO : CAAs To All Officers in PHQ/DD,PR/Kerala Police Website.

FROM : State Police Chief

No. U6-129635/2020/PHQ Dt 16-07-2021

Please note that the Circular No.07/2021/PHQ dated 15.07.2021, issued from PHQ is cancelled and revised as Circular No.23/2021/PHQ dt.15.07.2021 since duplication in numbering inadvertently occurred while issuing the Circular. A copy of Circular No.23/2021/PHQ dt.15.07.2021 is enclosed herewith for information, perusal and strict compliance.

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For State Police Chief
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Dated. 15-07-2021

Circular. 23/2021/PHQ

Sub: SLP (Crl) No. 3543/2020 filed by Sri. Paramvir Singh Saini Vs Baljith Singh and others - Directions of Hon'ble Supreme court with regard to installation of CCTV ameras in Police Stations - instructions -reg.

Ref: 1. Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 02.12.2020 in SLP(Crl) 3543/2020 filed by Sri. Paramvir Singh Saini Vs Baljith and others.

Kerala Police had already initiated steps for bringing all Police Stations of the State, under CCTV surveillance. The project is being implemented in a phased manner, due to the paucity of budgeted funds. Steps are being taken to ensure that the CCTV cameras are installed in each and every Police Station, functioning in the State.

02. Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Order cited had directed the constitution of State Level Oversight Committee (SLOC) and District Level Oversight Committees (DLOC) for the smooth implementation of the CCTV installation, in all Police Stations in the State. Orders have already been issued vide reference 2nd cited regarding the constitution of SLOC and DLOCs.

03. It shall be the duty of the SLOC to see that the directions passed by the Hon'ble Court are carried out. Amongst others, the duties of SLOC consist of:
a) Purchase, distribution and installation of CCTVs and its equipment; b) Obtaining the budgetary allocation for the same; c) Continuous monitoring of maintenance and
upkeep of CCTVs and its equipment; d) Carrying out inspections and addressing the grievances received from the DLOC; and e) To call for monthly reports from the DLOC and immediately address any concerns like faulty equipment. Likewise, the DLOCs are having the following obligations: a) Supervision, maintenance and upkeep of CCTVs and its equipment; b) Continuous monitoring of maintenance and upkeep of CCTVs and its equipment; c) To interact with the Station House Officer (hereinafter referred to as the "SHO") as to the functioning and maintenance of CCTVs and its equipment; and d) To send monthly reports to the SLOC about the functioning of CCTVs and allied equipment. e) To review footage stored from CCTVs in the various Police Stations to check for any human rights violation that may have occurred but are not reported.

04. In view of the Supreme Court Order cited, the SHO of the concerned Police Station will assess the working condition of the existing CCTV cameras installed in the police stations immediately and take corrective action to restore the functioning of all nonfunctional CCTV cameras. The SHO in co-ordination with the DCMU and the Telecommunication wing will ensure that the CCTV data maintenance, backup of data, fault rectification etc. is done properly, on time.

05. Further, in order to ensure that no part of a Police Station is left uncovered, it is imperative to ensure that the CCTV cameras are installed at all entry and exit points; main gate of the police station; all lock-ups; all corridors; lobby/the reception area; all verandas/outhouses, Inspector’s room; Sub-Inspector’s room; areas outside the lock-up room; station hall; in front of the police station compound; outside (not inside) washrooms/toilets; Duty Officer’s room; back part of the police station etc.

06. CCTV systems that have to be installed must be equipped with night vision and must necessarily consist of audio as well as video footage. In areas where there is either no electricity and/or internet, efforts may be taken to provide the same as expeditiously as possible using any mode of providing electricity, including solar/wind power. The internet systems that are provided must also be systems which provide clear image resolutions and audio. Most important of all is the storage of CCTV camera footage, which can be done in digital video recorders and/or network video recorders. CCTV cameras must then be installed with such recording systems so that the data that is stored thereon shall be preserved for a period of 18 months. If the
recording equipment, available in the market today, does not have the capacity to keep the recording for 18 months but for a lesser period of time, it shall be mandatory to purchase one, which allows storage for the maximum period possible, and, in any case, not below 1 year. It may be noted that this will be subject to review by the State Government, so as to purchase equipment which is able to store the data for 18 months as soon as it is commercially available in the market.

07. As per the direction of the Hon'ble Court, whenever there is information of force being used at police stations resulting in serious injury and/or custodial deaths, persons will be free to complain for a redressal of the same through the State Human Rights Commission etc. The Commission may then immediately call for the CCTV camera footage, in relation to the incident for its safe keeping, which may then be made available to an investigation agency, in order to further process the complaint made before the forum.

08. In the circumstances, in all Police Stations where CCTVs have already been installed, all officers concerned are instructed to mandatorily comply with the above instructions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

To:
1. All SHOs in all Police Stations- for information and urgent necessary action
2. All officers in List B- for information and urgent necessary action
3. CAs to all Officers in PHQ/DD.PR

Copy To: Circular Register, Kerala Police Website.