STATE POLICE MEDIA CENTRE
KERALA POLICE

Police Headquarters
Vazhuthacaud
Thiruvananthapuram - 695010
☎ **0471 2318188**
✉ **info.pol@kerala.gov.in**

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Operation P-HUNT: Fifteen persons arrested 100 FIRs registered

Fifteen persons were arrested and 100 FIR registered in Operation P Hunt conducted by Countering Child Sexual Exploitation Centre of Kerala Police (CCSE). As part of the covert enforcement efforts under Operation P-HUNT-26.1, the CCSE Centre had identified 703 suspect locations across the State, following which coordinated inputs were disseminated to 20 district-level teams constituted under the supervision of the respective District Police Chiefs.

These teams, comprising cyber cell personnel, technical experts and women police officers, conducted simultaneous statewide raids during the operation. The drive resulted in the seizure of 243 digital devices, including mobile phones, modems, hard disks, memory cards, laptops and computers.
Further investigation into additional individuals involved in the circulation of such material is ongoing and stringent action continues to be taken against all offenders, in line with Kerala Police's zero-tolerance policy towards online crimes against children.
The special drive was conducted under the supervision of SP Cyber Operations Ankit Asokan.
The technical intelligence and analytical support for the operation were led by Prakash S.P., Inspector, assisted by Asha V. Rekha, Sub Inspector and Anoop G.S, Akshay Santhosh, Arunraj R, Midhun V.S and Adarsh T.R - members of the CCSE Squad.

Countering Child Sexual Exploitation) Centre of Kerala Police
The CCSE (Countering Child Sexual Exploitation) Centre of Kerala Police, functioning under the Cyber Operations wing, was constituted to address the growing and complex challenges of online child sexual exploitation.

In continuation of the sustained and focused efforts against online child sexual exploitation, the CCSE Centre, has commenced the year with Operation P-HUNT-26.1, reaffirming its zero-tolerance policy towards online abuse and exploitation of children.

Since the launch of Operation P-HUNT, Kerala Police has consistently strengthened its technological, intelligence and operational capabilities to address the evolving nature of online child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

Each successive edition of the operation has demonstrated measurable improvement in detection, identification and disruption of offenders involved in viewing, storing and circulating such content. Operation P-HUNT-26.1 marks a significant advancement over previous editions, reflecting improved inter-departmental coordination, enhanced intelligence gathering and more robust field execution.

Key Enhancements and Uniqueness of P-HUNT-26.1

Unlike earlier editions, Operation P-HUNT-26.1 adopted a multi-source intelligence-driven approach, integrating:

● Inputs received from Cyber Tiplines,

● Data derived from continuous digital surveillance of multiple online platforms, and

● Actionable intelligence generated from analysis of previous P-HUNT operations.

A major highlight of this edition is the formation of a dedicated Victim Identification Task Force, comprising a specially trained pool of officers from the Kerala Police Cyber Division.

These officers received focused training on victim identification methodologies, enabling the operation to go beyond offender detection and place renewed emphasis on victim rescue, identification and protection.

In addition, handpicked officers from local Police Stations and Cyber Police Stations across the State were specifically trained to participate in this special operation, ensuring uniformity in procedures and adherence to victim-centric and legally compliant operational standards.

Technology-Enabled and Transparent Operations

To enhance transparency and accountability, field operations were conducted using Body-Worn Cameras, a first-of-its-kind initiative in P-HUNT operations. The special teams were further strengthened by the inclusion of Cyber Forensic Experts from the Forensic Science Laboratories (FSL), ensuring immediate technical validation and forensic integrity of seized digital evidence.

The operation also made use of drone-based monitoring, operated by trained Kerala Police personnel. Live drone and body-worn camera feeds were streamed in real time to Control Rooms established at the Police Headquarters and the CCSE Headquarters. These control rooms were monitored by senior police officers, including the State Police Chief, who provided real-time directions, supervision and strategic guidance during the operation.

Intelligence-Led Field Execution

To ensure operational efficiency and precision, field teams were provided with comprehensive, pre-validated intelligence dossiers well in advance. This information, compiled by the Cyber Intelligence Team, enabled targeted interventions, minimized operational delays and ensured lawful and effective execution of search and seizure procedures.