OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE
PUDUCHERRY

No. 133/OW/IGP/2025 **DATE: 25.08.2025**

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
PROCEDURE FOR DISPERSAL OF UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY

1. Introduction:

Section 189 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, defines unlawful assembly. Sections 148 and 149 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, envisage the situations where unlawful assemblies may be required to be dispersed and prescribes the procedure to be followed in such cases. It shall be ensured that only necessary and minimum force is used for dispersing the unlawful assemblies.

2. Pre-Incident Phase:

- **Intelligence Gathering:** Special Branch to collect the advance intelligence on approximate strength of gathering, leaders, and sentiment. Monitor social media for narrative control and rumour / fake news prevention.
- **Risk Assessment:** Evaluate the potential probability for violence and property damage based on intelligence inputs.
- **Resource Mobilization:** Based on the risk assessment, activate and prepare the designated Crowd Control Party elements. Ensure the availability of all necessary equipment and logistical support (vehicles, communication, medical, etc.), including sufficient anti-riot gear, riot control equipment and body worn cameras.
- **Magisterial Arrangement:** Inform and request the presence of a Magistrate at the scene.
- **Temporary Holding Areas:** Temporary holding areas for potential detainees shall be pre-identified and got notified and secured in coordination with the relevant Authorities.
- **Prohibitory Orders:** If deemed necessary, the prohibitory Orders as per law, shall be issued.

3. **Mobilization and Deployment:**

- Assemble the designated Crowd Control Party with anti-riot gear at a staging area. Deployment of Armed Police Personnel shall be minimized.
- Brief and deploy teams strategically based on the anticipated assembly location and potential routes.
- Initial deployment shall prioritize barricade and rope teams for containment.
- Exit routes to be identified for quick dispersal of the crowd.
- Deploy support elements (medical, fire brigade, holding area transport) to the designated standby points.
- Deploy sufficient Police Personnel from the Special Branch.

4. **On-Scene Management:**

- **Identification:** Clearly identify Police Personnel with visible uniform and identification.
- **Communication:** Establish clear and continuous communication channels between all teams and the Commanding Officer. Utilize the Public Address system for announcements and warnings.
- **Initial Engagement:** Attempt de-escalation through the dialogue with protest leaders, and stakeholder's efforts shall be made to address their grievances, and requesting the voluntary dispersal shall be made.
- **Issuing Warnings:** If voluntary dispersal is not achieved and the assembly is deemed unlawful and potentially disruptive, a clear and audible warning shall be issued by the Executive Magistrate or Senior Police Officer in both the regional language and English as per Section 148 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. Ensure that the warning is repeated and clearly understood.

5. **Use of Force Continuum:**

Minimum force may be used lightly in accordance with Section 149(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and only when deemed absolutely necessary and proportionate to the threat by following this general sequence:

- **Physical Presence and Direction:** Visible police presence and clear verbal instructions.
- **Barricades and Physical Barriers:** To contain and redirect the assembly.
- **Rope Teams:** For controlled physical restraint if barricades are breached.

- **Tear Gas:** Deploy and use tear gas against violent mobs after clear warnings as per Section 148 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, considering the wind direction.
- **Anti-Riot Gear Teams:** Direct intervention against violent individuals/groups after tear gas proves ineffective and warnings are repeated.
- **Arrest:** Apprehend individuals engaged in unlawful activities throughout the during of the operation.
- **Armed Component:** It shall be deployed as the last resort only when it is absolutely necessary for defence of life or property, clear and sufficient warnings shall be given as per Section 148 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023,before any such order is given. Only minimum force shall be used proportionately as required to disperse the unlawful assembly.

6. **Post-Dispersal Phase:**
   - **Securing the Area:** Establish pickets and patrols to prevent regrouping and maintain order.
   - **Casualty Management:** Ensure prompt medical attention and evacuation for the injured individuals (both protestors and police).
   - **Arrest Procedures:** Ensure lawful and humane handling of arrested individuals, adhering to all legal protocols. Transport them to the designated temporary holding area.
   - **Documentation and evidence collection:** Thoroughly document all the actions taken, including warnings issued, use of force, arrests made, and injuries sustained. Body worn cameras shall be used for this purpose. Photographic and video evidence is crucial and e-Sakshya shall be used to record all the evidences, CCTV footage, if any, shall be procured.
   - **Reporting:** Submit a detailed incident report to the appropriate Authorities.
   - **Review and Debrief:** Conduct a post-incident review to analyse the effectiveness of the operation and identify areas for improvement.

7. **Special Considerations:**
   - **Vulnerable Groups:** Exercise extreme caution and prioritize de-escalation when dealing with the assemblies involving children, women, the elderly, and the disabled persons.
   - **Arrest of Dignitaries:** Information regarding arrest of a Member of Parliament or a Member of Legislative Assembly shall be sent immediately to the Speaker, Lok Sabha/Chairman, Rajya Sabha/Speaker, Legislative Assembly, as the case may be.

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8. General Principles:

- **Minimum Force:** Use only the force necessary to achieve the legitimate objective of dispersing the unlawful assembly and restoring order.
- **Proportionality:** The force used shall be proportionate to the threat posed by the Assembly.
- **Legality:** All actions shall be in accordance with the law.
- **Professionalism:** Maintain a calm, respectful and professional demeanour at all times.

9. Suppression Clause:

This SOP supersedes the previous Standing Order No. 36/91, dated 13/02/1991 and its addendums.

10. Disclaimer:

It is made clear that this SOP is exclusively for the internal smooth functioning of the Police Department, Union Territory of Puducherry.

25/8/22

(Dr. AJIT KUMAR SINGLA, IPS)
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE
PUDUCHERRY

To

1) The Director General of Police, Puducherry.
2) The Deputy Inspector General of Police (L&O/AP&T), Puducherry.
3) The Senior Supdts. Of Police, (HQ/C&I/L&O/KKL/Traffic) Puducherry and Commandant/IRBn.
4) All SPs.
5) All Inspectors/SHOs/In-charge of OPs.
6) I/c Record Section.
7) The Web Officer, Puducherry.