



(Laying wreath at Hot Springs by Praveen Dixit, IPS)

Police Commemoration Day

Interview of Praveen Dixit, IPS

By Dr Vaibhavi Pingale

<https://tatvita-analysts.com/wednesday-wisdom>

1. Police Commemoration Day honours the courage, dedication and sacrifices of police personnel in serving the nation. From your experience, what does this day signify for the police fraternity, and what should citizens understand about the responsibilities and challenges of policing?

21 st October is observed as Police commemoration Day every year in memory of 10 brave policemen who made highest sacrifice while performing their patrolling duty at Hot Springs in Ladakh bordering with China on this day in 1959. This is the day when police forces pay tribute to policemen who laid down their life in the previous year. This reminds the citizens that they are safe as police are alert & vigilant in protecting their life & liberty at all times and at all places.

2. Indian policing has evolved considerably over the decades, alongside changes in society, technology and the nature of crime. What are the most significant transformations you have witnessed in policing, and which changes have made the greatest difference in improving public safety?

Over the years, while traditional crimes continue to take place, several new crimes which have no borders are emerging. These include terrorism, infiltration of illegal immigrants, cybercrimes, pushing of drugs, weapons & mental subversion of Indian youth to destroy age-old respected values cherished by Indian masses. Social media is being used to radicalise the youth & to recruit them to terrorist activities, drugs and gang wars. Outside groups and neighbouring countries are playing a proxy war against India to disrupt economic progress of the country.

3. Policing involves much more than responding to crime; it includes prevention, maintaining public order, assisting citizens and building safer communities.

From your experience, which preventive policing practices have been particularly effective in reducing crime and improving public safety?

Creating awareness among various sections is very important to prevent crimes. This is a continuing process. Not only school children but women, elderly persons need to remain updated to live risk free life by adopting recommendations made by police through their websites, and use Helplines such as 112 India for all emergencies, 1930 for reporting cybercrimes, 1964 for anti-corruption and such other things.

4. Public trust and cooperation are essential for effective policing. What initiatives or approaches have you seen work particularly well in strengthening police–citizen relationships and encouraging communities to participate in maintaining safety and security?

While working as Commissioner of Police as well as Director General of Police, I had launched the scheme of Police Mitra. Nearly 500,000 men & women from all age groups, religions, languages joined in the same with enthusiasm. They were given regular briefing about measures to create safety & security. They used to work along with local police and were Ambassadors for promoting community safety.

5. Technology is transforming policing through CCTV surveillance, digital forensics, cybercrime investigation, data analytics, artificial intelligence and predictive tools. Which technological innovations are proving most useful in Indian policing, and how can technology be used responsibly while protecting citizens' rights and privacy?

Technological tools are evolving every day. In last few years, CCTV on streets as well as in society and office premises have been useful in identifying the criminals. In few areas these are upgraded now with AI as well to create alerts and take action in real-time. Forensic analysis of digital devises including CDR, sound analysis, digitisation of fingerprints, monitoring of social media have helped to a great extent in detecting as well as preventing crimes. Before forwarding any video, make sure it is not fake. Increasingly fake videos are being used to spread misinformation and mobilise mobs for violence at short time. Don't be part of these criminal activities.

6. Cyber fraud, online financial scams, identity theft and other digital crimes are increasingly affecting individuals and businesses. What practical measures can help police agencies prevent and investigate such crimes more effectively, and what should citizens and businesses do to protect themselves?

Most of the social media platforms have their bases in US, China etc. Devises used by citizens are enabling these foreign companies to have complete data of each and every individual. We need to be careful in putting our personal details and photos as within no time, anyone including the criminals are having access to the same.

We need to train the youth to become digitally responsible citizens & understand the motive of persons creating and sending you videos generated by AI. Mostly this spread disinformation and create hatred against certain sections. There is no end to how cyber criminals would deceive you by making you believe in the name of your near and dear. Women looking for matrimonial relations, the elderly looking for jobs, and persons intending to make investments are most vulnerable and realise they have been cheated after a long

time. As a precaution, I would suggest, citizens should not respond to any unknown call or video call, not to click on link not known, guard your OTP, change password regularly. Companies need to install advanced firewalls to secure their websites. They should upgrade their software regularly to prevent any bugs.

7. India's police personnel often work under demanding conditions, handling emergencies, investigations, public events and diverse responsibilities. What practices can help strengthen police training, professional development, mental well-being and operational efficiency so that personnel are better equipped to serve the public?

Use of case studies are quite helpful in training. Use of AI to identify gaps in training is highly recommended as failures are costly. Spiritual intelligence helps a lot in adopting a cool & balanced response to provocative incidents. Regular practice of Yoga, physical exercises, outdoor sports, home food and remaining away from any addiction is critical to have good health. Having supportive family which understands your job is a great source of motivation in discharging your duty.

8. Different Indian states and countries have introduced innovations in community policing, emergency response, crime prevention and public safety. Are there any Indian or international policing practices that you believe are particularly successful and could be adapted or replicated more widely?

Policing methods evolve through local history, culture and social milieu. Still, better coordination with international bodies certainly helps to know practices in other places. Dependence on technology is not enough. You also need to

cultivate human intelligence. A combination of human and technical knowledge makes policing successful. Increasingly regular conferences are held to discuss best practices in different States as well as countries. It is necessary to follow up on these and monitor their implementation.

9. As Indian cities expand and society becomes increasingly digital, policing requirements are also changing. What new skills, institutional capabilities and partnerships will be most important for police forces over the next decade?

In the digital world, the upgradation of skills is absolutely necessary. Following e-learning through portals such as Karma Yogi created by the Government of India and undergoing courses designed by BPR & D would ensure the policemen remain updated. Leadership skills would play an important part in the coming years. Being sensitive to people's grievances enables policemen to win their trust. Interaction with students, women, elderly persons need to be given priority so that they don't become victims to tricks being played by miscreants.

10. Drawing from your professional experience, what three priorities would you recommend for strengthening India's policing system over the coming years, while ensuring that policing remains effective, accessible and trusted by the communities it serves?

Challenges of today as well as tomorrow can be faced effectively by a) having trust in citizens, b) regularly creating awareness among citizens about new trends in crimes and sharing with them precautions to guard against them, c) adopting new technologies and keeping yourself updated with law and procedures laid down by the government would certainly help police in their jobs. I would also like to emphasise that they must say no to corruption under

all circumstances. Spiritual intelligence would help them a lot in keeping their morale high. Anticipating crises, remaining prepared to face these, being sensitive and remaining सदैव सतर्क is the key to being successful.
