



**Minutes of two day International Police Conference on
SMART Policing: Journey So Far and Road Ahead**

**Organized by
Foundation for Police Research (FPR),**

at New Delhi during 8-9th May 2015

The Foundation for Police Research (FPR), a not for profit organization, organized two days international conference during the 2nd International Police Expo held at Pragati Maidan on 8-9th May, 2015. The theme of the conference was on the vision of Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi i.e. **Smart Policing – Journey so far and road ahead**. Conference was inaugurated by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports. The conference was attended by very senior police officers, academicians, forensic scientists, defence personnel and delegates from different states and union territories. The key note address was delivered by Shri Sankar Sen, IPS (Retd.), Former Director-National Police Academy, Hyderabad. Other important presenters were Shri M S Gupta, IPS, DGP Rail, Madhya Pradesh, Shri J P Pandey IPS (Retd.) DG, Uttarakhand, Shri O P Mishra, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Delhi Police, Shri Vineet Kapoor, Chief of Security and Protocol (ADC-Police) to the Head of State- Governor of State of MP so on and so forth.

Inaugurating the conference Hon'ble Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports (I/C), Shri Sarbanada Sonowal emphasized that *“a very significant aspect of SMART Policing would be to equip Police with the most updated technology, information and resources to help the Police force perform efficiently and make society safe and secure”*

During two days deliberation, number of recommendations came out which are as under:

1. Smart policing requires the police to be sensitive – sensitive to the feelings, aspirations and rights of the people, and particularly to those belonging to the disadvantaged groups. This lack of sensitivity has made police today in India an alienated force, out of sync with the popular feelings and aspirations. For this, it is necessary instil into the police organisation a human rights culture which respects human dignity and frowns upon abuse and misuse of force. Sensitive police will also be an efficient police.

2. Smart policing also implies that policing have to be evidence-based and research-based. Policing based upon hunches and on old and out dated experiences does not work. In today's changing conditions only research-based and evidence-based policing will enable the police to fashion appropriate strategies and work out proper responses to crime and disorder.

3. The police have to be techno-savvy. Cutting edges of technology will make police more cost-effective and efficient. To reduce crime, police in many advanced countries, are relying upon predictive crime-mapping. The technology uses crime data to predict where crimes are more likely to occur in future. This enables the police to allocate resources more efficiently. Computers have to be used in a big way to fight back crime. Other surveillance technologies are becoming popular with police force in advanced countries. Police in UK are equipping local policing team with body cameras which has increased officers' safety and improve efficiency. Facial recognition technology is also playing a big role in the future of policing and has become an important tool for tracking organized crime groups.

4. Smart policing requires the police to conduct surveys to know about real incidence of crime. Police statistics are often unreliable as a large number of cases are either not reported, or if reported, not registered. Crime victim survey will give an idea of true incidence of crime and interaction between the citizens and police officers has to be introduced in a big way. Crime victim surveys should be done in a big measure to prevent burking of crime and helping the police to know the true incidence of crime and work out suitable preventive strategies.

5. Issue of body-cameras to police officers in order to provide not only a prima-facie verification of complaints of police misbehaviour, but also protect officers from false or partisan complaints.

6. Authorizing citizens to make audio-visual record of their own or other citizens' interactions with the police, in view of police objections to such recording as shown in media reports of the Delhi Police banning carrying of cell phones by people visiting police stations.

7. Upgrading police control rooms and the websites of various oversight agencies like the NHRC so that citizens could upload images and videos to which they want to draw the attention of the police or the oversight agency for any corrective action, whether they relate to a continuing offence like encroachment or environmental offences, or to a crime in progress, or to disorderly conditions, or to police misbehaviour or deviance. This would help police in detection and also in finding witnesses.

The above recommendations will surely be helpful to the police force if properly researched and implemented. The Foundation for Police Research (FPR) may take a lead with its strong supporting researchers and technical hands.