

TAMIL NADU POLICE JOURNAL

April–June 2008

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- Heinous/sensational crimes, Police procedure and steps taken in detection.
- Organised crime, economic offences, emerging trends in crime, cyber crime.
- Role of IT in policing, Computerisation, Computer as a tool in detection of crime.
- Latest trends in forensic science and medicine, computer forensics, scientific equipment, etc.
- Communication, photography, advances in finger print science.
- Police organisation, structure and reforms, modernisation, training initiatives.
- Intelligence, security, fundamentalism, terrorism and left wing extremism.
- Judicial decisions of importance to police officers and legal issues of interest to police and law officers.
- Exemplary police practices in India and abroad.
- Police sports meets, celebrations, workshops, seminars, etc.

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EDITORIAL

There are 754 SI cadets under training at the Tamil Nadu Police Academy at Oonamacherry, Vandalur and 3775 constables under training at 16 Police Recruit Schools throughout the state. Another 1550 constables are expected to join the PRSs within the next three months.

An inter PRS quiz competition, and an inter-PRS sports and cultural meet were the highlights for this quarter. The latter event was held at TNPA and included friendly volleyball and kabaddi matches between SI cadets of TNPA and the recruits of the 16 police recruit schools. The TNPA took on a carnival atmosphere during this meet. One more inter-PRS quiz competition is planned before the recruits complete their training.

The Madras District Police Act, 1859 (now re-named the Tamil Nadu District Police Act) laid the foundation for a modern police force for the state. The coming year will mark the 150th anniversary of the state police. To mark the year-long celebration of this event, the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu planted sapling in the Chief Office complex.

Editor

THE TAMIL NADU POLICE ACADEMY

AMIT VARMA, IPS
ADGP TNPA

*D*uring the first week of April, 2008, a newly constructed, freshly inaugurated Tamil Nadu Police Academy (TNPA) opened its portals to invite an unusually large batch of about 750 Sub Inspectors cadets for training on its 130 acre campus near Vandalur—35 kms from Chennai. This event was the culmination of ambitious, though tortuous, decade-and-a-half long efforts involving the conception, planning, designing and execution of a state-of-the-art training project for the Tamil Nadu Police.

Inaugurating the Tamil Nadu Police Academy in an extravagant ceremony on 15th March, 2008, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu outlined the lofty expectations from the institution, observing that this new facility was expected not only to endow the police personnel with sound physique and robust policing knowledge, but also to sensitise them towards concepts of overall public welfare and a sense of public service. The Chief Minister, in his hour long inaugural address, observed that the Academy should strive to train the cadets in the highest standards of integrity, conduct, etiquette and, above all, a passion for public service. It is to be understood that crimes have been occurring from time immemorial and will continue to occur; therefore, police

should strive to win the confidence of the public and obtain maximum cooperation in preventing crimes and maintaining law and order. The Chief Minister emphasised training at the Academy should inculcate such a spirit of good public relations to ensure public welfare and public safety.

These expectations are indeed a far cry from the straightforward motto of traditional police training—“*Mens sana in corpora sano*”—a healthy mind in a healthy body. Obviously the paradigms have radically changed since then and any new training institution has to reach out much further to achieve the new aims and objectives of policing.

The new Tamil Nadu Police Academy is the first police institution in the State that has been specifically and exclusively designed to cater to the training requirements of police Sub Inspectors and Deputy Superintendents of the State. The history of police training in the State is an old one.

The Genesis

The current system of policing was first introduced in Madras State after the Madras District Police Act came in force in 1859. In a process lasting several decades, the traditional police led by *Poligars* and *Pedda Naiks* were disbanded and fresh recruitments were made in the civil and armed constabulary. The posts of the constables, which were hitherto held by Europeans, were opened to the natives and these newly recruited ranks staffed the police stations in place of peons under the charge of a Head Constable, who was designated as the Station House Officer.

The recruits were trained in the colonial policing model in ad hoc District Schools established in district headquarters. While the recruitments in the constabulary were extensive, no matching facilities existed for training. The selected candidates

were imparted short and rudimentary training and left in the field to learn the art of policing. These schools did not have any dedicated training staff and the instructors were borrowed part-time from the field. The District Superintendent of Police, who held the overall charge of the training project, was usually too preoccupied with the daily demands of his job to pay adequate attention to this vital aspect. Resultantly, large variations were found in the standard of training in districts depending upon the interest and inclination of individual district police supervisors. In these schools, there also existed separate induction training courses for the constables, who were eligible to be promoted as the 'Station House Officer' (SHO), in the rank of head constables. There was another category of directly recruited 'Probationary Inspectors' who were also trained in these schools, albeit with a different curriculum.

(The SHO was a head constable, who was selected from constables who passed the Station House Officer's examination. Above the SHO was the Inspector who had the charge of five or six police stations. The post of Inspector was filled in two ways, viz., by promotion of SHO and by recruitment from outside the police department. The officers selected in the latter manner were designated as 'Probationary Inspectors' until confirmed.)

In 1896, the Inspector General of Police, Madras, M. Hammick, recommended to the Government that an exclusive, self-sufficient training institution should be established in Madras Presidency to cater to the training requirements of probationary police inspectors, who were till then attached to the district police training centres. This led to the establishment of a temporary Training School accommodated in the fort at Vellore to cater initially to the training requirements of Inspectors; in 1897, the scope of the

school was expanded when it also started training the Head Constable aspirants for the posts of the SHOs in six months induction courses. The Assistant Superintendents of Police, who were recruited in England, were also required to attend the training at Vellore. The school also opened its portals to the private candidates whereby outsiders could undergo the training by paying Rs.60/- as course fee. The outsiders, who completed the training successfully were appointed alternately with the head constable, who had cleared the SHO's examination.

This state of affairs continued till the first Police Commission made some landmark recommendations regarding the training of police personnel. Some of the recommendations are summarised below:

- Establishment in every province of a well equipped provincial training school for officers of the rank of Sub Inspector and above. The Sub Inspectors were to replace the Head Constables as SHOs.
- Establishment of Central Provincial Schools for training the constables in towns accessible to several surrounding districts. The Principals of the schools were to be Assistant/Deputy Superintendents of Police. The course was to be for six months and recruits were to be despatched from the districts where they were recruited so that the schools functioned throughout the year.
- A carefully selected Superintendent of Police was to be put incharge of the institution.

The Embryo

The Police Training College (PTC) was the forerunner of the new Police Academy. Consequent to the recommendations of the Police Commission, the post of Sub Inspectors came into

existence, and over a period, they became Station House Officers in place of the Head Constables. The existing Police Training School at Vellore became a permanent institution, where the new training course for the probationary Sub Inspectors was started. Thus, the Police Training College, dedicated to the training of Police Sub Inspectors, came into existence in 1905. The first batch of 183 Sub Inspectors was trained at PTC Vellore and this training arrangement continued for the next 70 years, when the Police Training College moved to Madras.

The probationary Assistant Superintendents of Police of the Imperial Indian Police and, after independence, the Indian Police Service, who were allotted to Madras State were also trained in the Police Training College, Vellore. A bungalow, two kilometres away from the fort was converted into the Madras Police Officers mess for them.

The Police Training facility at Vellore was operating out of the barracks and grounds of a historic fort. This was a makeshift arrangement, but since the fort grounds had traditionally been used to accommodate troops and cater to their field practice, the facility could be easily converted for training police recruits. The Vellore Fort is said to have been first built by an Andhra chieftain towards the end of the 13th century. It was subsequently occupied by various famous conquerors such as, the illustrious Vijayanagar monarch—Krishna Deva Raya, and then by Deccan Sultans and Maratha chiefs. During centuries of occupation, the invaders kept adding to the edifice, expanding the barracks and adapting the fort to suit their requirements. The British took control of the fort in 1782, and confined the family of the slain ‘Tiger of Mysore’, Tippu Sultan in the fort barracks after the Seringapatnam battle of 1799. This led to the Vellore sepoy uprising of 1806, which was quelled by brutal force. The buildings occupied by Tippu’s family became the Police Barracks, still known as the Hyder and Tippu Mahals.

In 1976, the Police Training College was shifted to Ashok Nagar, Madras, and housed in yet another ad hoc accommodation, which was a three storied set of barracks constructed in a five acre plot of land, at a cost of Rs. 66 lakh. It was originally meant to accommodate the TN Special Police personnel drafted for duties at Madras city. These new premises were simply not suitable for police training. The new PTC could neither boast of any heritage nor facilities which could compare with the Vellore facility.

The inadequacy of police training facilities in the State attracted the attention of the Second Tamil Nadu Police Commission, which submitted its report to the government in 1990. The following excerpts of the report of the Commission, pertaining to training are self explanatory:

“The IPS Officers recruited by the Central Government and allotted to the states undergo a long period of training in the National Police Academy, Hyderabad. The Commission was very impressed with the physical facilities, training facilities, library and reprographic services, the syllabus, extra-curricular activities and the quality of the dedicated teaching staff...It is worth emulating...by establishing a Tamil Nadu Police Academy.

The Police Training College which was started in 1896 in Vellore and shifted to Madras in 1976 was the foremost in India, and perhaps, the most prestigious...this college was shifted to Ashok Nagar in Madras City into the buildings put up for Tamil Nadu special police in an area no more than a few acres...

The Commission made it a point to visit the premises of the erstwhile college at Vellore which now houses a training school for constables. It is spread over a large area...the barracks were built decades ago and are therefore, far from satisfactory judged by modern requirements and standards.

The facilities for PT parade, out-door sports, etc are what they ought to be; adequate facilities for classroom work exist. While for historic reasons, the college could have been continued there, it would not serve the present day requirements unless large sums are spent. The facilities at Ashok Nagar, Chennai, described earlier, where the college is now located, are not meant for a college and police officers strongly feel that a proper institution should be set up in a good location and provided with adequate facilities for proper training.

The Commission having visited the National Police Academy are convinced that the college at Ashok Nagar is an apology. A detailed blue print for the Tamil Nadu Police Academy should be drawn up...”

The Police Academy Project

As observed by the Police Commission, Tamil Nadu was indeed lagging behind in respect of police training. Several states, notably Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, had already established state-of-the-art police Academies with adequate training facilities. Over the years, other training institutions in the country also developed their training infrastructure. The Punjab Police Training College was upgraded into Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Police Academy, and Kerala Police Academy (KEPA) was newly established and inaugurated in 2004.

Following the Second Police Commission report, the government announced in 1994 the establishment of a full-fledged Police Academy in the state. The quest for a suitable site for the Police Academy led to the identification of 68 hectares of land at Veerapuram, located in the suburbs of Chennai, near Avadi—an acronym for “Armoured Vehicles and Ammunition Depot of India”—a place with an impressive history of defence and security establishments. To execute the

project, the government created the post of Director General of Police (Training) and Project Officer, TN Police Academy in October, 1994, and called for detailed project reportⁱ. The site at Veerapuram, however, turned out to be unsuitable as it was part of a traditional water body surrounded by forest land. A hunt for an alternative site begun, and four years later, action shifted to Oonamancheri—a nondescript village near the Zoological park at Vandalur. The extent of land was 53.5 hectares i.e. over 132 acres and the site was surrounded on three sides by the forest, while the village lake abutted the remaining flank. This site was allotted to the Police Department in 1998.ⁱⁱ

The next four years went in taking charge of the land, completing the paperwork and working out the conceptual type design for the Police Academy. Officers and architects visited several police training facilities in the country and held brain storming sessions with local police officers to work out an optimum conceptual design for the Academy. In 2002, the DG (Training) and Project Officer submitted to the government, a conceptual type design, prepared by the Architectural firm, M/s Gherzi Eastern Group. The conceptual design was aimed at training about 800 police officers (Sub Inspectors, DySsP and Addl. SsP). There was a provision to accommodate 161 trainers and support staff in the campus township.

The Government, in 2004, approved the conceptual type designⁱⁱⁱ, in which the cost of the project was estimated to be Rs. 54 crores (excluding land).

i G.O. Ms. No. 1398, Home (Pol.III) Department dated 17.11.1994

ii G.O.Ms. No. 173, Revenue Department dated 04.03.1998

iii G.O.Ms. No. 1199, Home (PoliceXI) Department dated 12.10.2004

With the approval of the conceptual design, the tempo picked up. The government directed that detailed technical estimates be prepared for the Academy as per the conceptual design, keeping the estimate at Rs.48 crores. The foundation stone for the Police Academy was laid on 10th November, 2004. Following the preparation of the detailed technical estimate, the government sanctioned Rs. 48.23 crores, clearing the deck for going ahead with the tender and follow up procedures^{iv}. The construction of the Police Academy started during the end of 2005.

The Tamil Nadu Police Academy infrastructure includes:

Training & Administration

- Administration Block I
- Administration Block II
- Academy Block
- Syndicate Block
- Forensic Lab
- Technology Centre
- Model Police Station
- Armoury Block
- Motor Transport Block

Amenities

- Auditorium
- Swimming Pool
- Officers Club

iv G.O. Ms. No. 309, Home (police Xi) Department dated 23.04.2005

- Meditation Centre
- Garage
- Laundry
- Library
- Computer Centre
- Memorial Pillar
- Guard Room & Armoury

Accommodation

• SIs	12 Blocks (G+2)	408
• DSP	1 Block (G+2)	34
• Officers Suites	3 Blocks (GF)	18
• Sr.Officers' Club	1 Block (G+1)	18
		478

Sports facilities

• Gymnasium	1 No.
• Athletic Track	1 No.
• Obstacle Course	1 No.
• Basket Ball Court	13 Nos.
• Volleyball Court	9 Nos.
• Football Ground	2 No.
• Kabaddi courts	3
• Badminton courts	2 (Indoor)
• Table Tennis	2
• Tennis Court	1
• Beach Volley Ball	2

- Roller Skating Rink 1
- Ceremonial Parade Ground 1 No.

TNPA Becomes Operational

The Tamil Nadu Police Academy was inaugurated on 15th March, 2008, by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The first batch of 756 Sub Inspector cadets of the 2008 batch came to the new campus soon after the inauguration and were introduced to a vigorous indoor and outdoor regimen. The indoor syllabus for the cadets includes:

- i. Major Acts (IPC, CrPC, Indian Evidence Act)
- ii. Police Standing Orders
- iii. Minor Acts
- iv. Special and Local Laws
- v. Forensic Science
- vi. Forensic Medicine
- vii. Police Administration
- viii. Modern India and Role of Police
- ix. Computer and Cyber Crimes

The outdoor syllabus has been revised and several new features have been introduced. The outdoor activities include:

- Yoga
- Karate and Unarmed Combat
- Obstacle Course
- Bomb Detection and Disposal
- Motor Transport—Mechanism & Driving
- Mob-operation

- Bayonet Training
- Field Craft
- Identification & Handling of Explosives
- Tear Smoke
- SATS—Small Arms Training Simulator
- Map Reading
- Traffic Management
- Disaster Management
- Drill and Parade—with and without Arms

The Tamil Nadu Police Academy runs with a staff strength of about 350 executive, ministerial and support personnel. In phase II, a township is being constructed which will accommodate the faculty and the support staff.

This is an eventful beginning of a new era in police training, and a meaningful culmination of an ambitious project.



TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Dr. SUNITHA KRISHNAN

Founder and Chief Functionary of Prajwala (NGO)

A capsule course on Trafficking in Women and Children was held in PTC from 14th to 16th May 2008. Dr. Sunitha Krishnan delivered a lecture outlining the dimensions in the problem of trafficking in India.

Dr Sunitha Krishnan is the founder and chief functionary of *Prajwala* (meaning an eternal flame), a Non Governmental Organisation based in Hyderabad. A mental health professional, she has been a full time activist in the field of anti-trafficking.

The following are excerpts from her lecture-cum-presentation:

A woman caught up in human trafficking can be regarded as an accused or as a victim: it all depends on the attitude. Experiences with the sensitisation programmes for Andhra Police has shown that attitudes change, as revealed by the outcomes one year after a training programme in AP:

No. of cases booked in AP invoking IPC as well as Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act	8896
No. of traffickers prosecuted	2200
Places of exploitation got closed completely	15
No. of persons convicted to 14 years of imprisonment	3

Trafficking involves buying and selling of human beings. Trafficking is the process. The purpose could be any of the following:

- **Prostitution:** It is estimated that there are 176 red light areas across India. While these are the most visible manifestations of the commercial sex industry, the trade also goes on in a less visible manner in hotels, lodges, beaches and on streets. Sex tourism also attracts trafficking. It is a myth that sex tourism in India involves only foreigners. About 85% of the clientele consists of Indians. There are escort services advertised on the internet, carrying a full catalog of girls, enabling a man in Chennai to choose a girl in Hyderabad and make payment online.
- **Sexual Exploitation:** A boy who escaped from a Home for Special Children in Visakapattinam approached the police and took them to a hotel where two foreigners (one of them a 78 year old Australian), engaged in sexual activities with three inmates of the Home. These foreigners were regular visitors to the Home as donors and used to take out the boys in the guise of picnic. Freddy Peats, a septuagenarian of foreign origin, was the first to be convicted on charge of paedophilia in India. He had been running a Home in Goa in the name of *Gurukul* and using the children for the nefarious trade.
- **Adoption:** Even new born babies are bought and sold in the guise of adoption. Agents reconnoitre remote tribal villages in Andhra Pradesh looking for pregnant women who are offered Rs.500/- The women are told, it is the payment for giving away a girl baby for adoption. If the baby turns out to be a boy, they can

keep the baby as well as the money. The girl babies procured in this manner are sold to foreign countries.

- **Organ Trade:** During a raid on an orphanage in Andhra Pradesh about seven years back, dead bodies of children were found buried in the courtyard, with retina, cornea, kidney, etc., removed.
- **Labour:** Children are sold to work in hotels and in other establishments. In a glass bangle industry, children were seen confined to 1m x 1m cubicles to work on glass burners. Having been confined to the tiny cubicles for a long period, these children could not even get up and stand. When they were taken to the office of an NGO, they refused to come in and insisted on being outside, stating that they had not seen sunlight for years. Children are also sold to brick industries in Surat and other places, where they are kept chained and made to work for 18 hours a day.
- **Circus :** Children are trafficked to work in circus.
- **Beggary:** Destitute and runaway children are taken away for begging. Their limbs are cut off or eyes removed before they are put on the job of begging. It is estimated that in Hyderabad district the daily collection through begging is about Rs.16 lakhs.
- **Domestic work**
- **Camel Jockeys:** Children who are three or four years old are preferred for this purpose. The child is tied to a leg of a camel and suffers torture during the camel race. A five-and-a-half year old child who returned from the gulf was found to be paralysed on one side because of an accident when the rope tying him to the camel gave way.

- **Pornography:** During a rescue in San Francisco, thousands of pornographic pictures of Indian children came to light.

In Andhra Pradesh, only one third of the children who go missing are ever traced. The rest remain missing and could possibly have been trafficked for one of the above purposes.

Human trafficking is an organised, transnational crime with a multi billion dollar turn-over.

A human trafficker need not necessarily be a *goonda* or a lowly pimp. He could turn out to be a suave, well-to-do person, Indian or a foreigner, practising deception to lure gullible persons.

Journey of a Victim

- A typical victim comes from an optionless background. Driven by poverty or consumerist greed, a vulnerable and desperate person is an easy prey to traffickers.
- Very few of the victims are abducted by force: most are lured away by fraudulent means by offer of job opportunity, marriage proposal, modeling career, etc. A 13-year-old girl left Hyderabad for Mumbai after establishing contact over web chat with a man who claimed to be a film director and offered to make her a star. After being enticed away from her home, she was shown photographs of famous actresses in compromising positions and was told that she had to emulate them. The starry-eyed teenager willingly submitted herself to sexual exploitation and when she was rescued, she violently resisted the effort, blaming the rescuers for destroying her future career.
- It is difficult to intercept a victim during the course of trans-shipment because she is unaware of what

fate has in store for her. Having been brainwashed that prosperity awaited her at the end of the journey, she would neither raise an alarm nor cooperate with any attempt to rescue her from the clutches of the trafficker.

- On reaching the destination, the victim is subjected to coercion and torture to take up prostitution. A seven-year-old child was kept confined to a room for eight days with a snake as companion. Girls who resisted have been subjected to beatings or were cut with thin razor blades or subjected to other forms of cruel treatment.
- Once the girl ceases to resist, she is forced to cater to ten or more clients a day. Condoms are seldom used and if the girl becomes pregnant, she has to undergo abortion with the help of a quack.
- Having been bought for a few thousand rupees, she is deemed to be indebted and made to work for years generating income of lakhs of rupees for the pimp or the madam. The cost of her upkeep and even the expenditure on abortion are all added to her debt.
- The girl suffers STD or HIV or other diseases. One girl who developed rashes in her genitals was taken to a quack who simply poured acid on the affected part to erase symptoms of rashes. Rescued at the age of 16, she had to undergo hysterectomy (removal of uterus) one year later and died at the age of 19, a victim of AIDS.
- The 'auntie' warns the girl against any attempt to escape, telling her that as a fallen girl she will not be accepted by her family. For good measure, she is also threatened that compromising photographs will be sent to the family if she ran away. She is also told that if

she approached the police, she would only be arrested and put in prison.

- After being in the trade for five or six years, the girl is informed that her debt is cleared and that she would get a payment of Rs.200/- or 300/- A year or two later, she is offered Rs.2000/- or 3000/- —provided she goes back to her village and gets two more girls for work. Returning to her native place with prosperous looks, she pretends to have come back from Dubai and announces that there are two more job vacancies for willing girls. As she is not a stranger, her words are believed and girls are willingly handed over. From a victim, she has become an abettor and procurer, soon to become a perpetrator and an independent brothel madam.

Boys are also trafficked in this manner, subjected to castration and to be sold as eunuchs.

Victims of trafficking suffer not only physical illnesses but also many forms of psychological disturbances. They undergo Post Traumatic Stress Disorders, such as anxiety, depression, etc. A boy sold as an eunuch refuses to return home as 'he is not a man any more'. Having been betrayed repeatedly, the victims are completely detached from the concept of trust, refusing to believe anyone who offers to help them. They undergo an identity crisis, losing self-worth and self-esteem and are gripped by 'learnt helplessness'. The values learnt at home are forgotten. The victims are further victimized as they become addicted to alcohol, *ghutka*, *khaini* and other forms of substance abuse. Stockholm Syndrome (affinity for the captor) develops in many of the victims. They reach a stage where they normalise exploitation, treating exploitation as the norm.

According to UN statistics, only 6.3% of the trafficked victims are rescued. Even those rescued often exhibit hostility towards the rescuers and behave violently, partly because of the effects of withdrawal symptoms. Unable to adjust to the new surroundings, they attempt to escape. In one instance, 24 of the 58 girls rescued from Delhi escaped after rescue.

Prajwala started its mission by trying to prevent trafficking and it first set up a school with just five children of prostitutes. Today, it runs 17 transitional schools with a pupil strength of 5000. It has made films which have been screened for the benefit of villagers and slum dwellers to educate about the threat of trafficking. It has carried out two rescue missions abroad. More than 2500 victims have been rescued in all by the efforts of this organization and 1700 of those rescued have been rehabilitated successfully. In the first corporate-social partnership, *Amul Pizza* parlours were set up to employ rescued persons. Placement in housekeeping, home care, geriatric care and nursing has been done in super speciality hospitals and hotels. After imparting training in welding, carpentry, printing and photo lamination, 120 girls are employed in a large industry. Integration of the victims back into the society is, however, an uphill task because 50% of the families refuse to accept the victims. Quite often, the families are themselves involved in the trafficking.

The AP Government arranges immediate relief of Rs. 10,000/- to rescued victims. Free housing is also arranged.

Rescuers have a tough time and are frequently subjected to attacks and sometimes cases are foisted against them.

The magnitude of the turnover in human trafficking can be gauged from the fact that Rs. 16 crore worth of property of Bhakti Ram Pande was confiscated when a prostitution racket in Delhi was unearthed. Human trafficking has been a

low-investment, high-return industry. Co-ordinated action by police and NGOs has made it a high-risk venture.

Police response to sensitisation has been encouraging. When a film on human trafficking was shown to senior police officers in Kolkata, they wanted the film to be screened in all theatres to create awareness. When it was pointed out that about Rs. 3 lakhs will be required for converting the digital movie to film format for showing in theatres, an on-the-spot collection was made from the participants realising a sum of Rs. 30000/-. Within a week, the balance was mobilised. The eight-minute movie was converted to a film with Bengali subtitles.

Policy changes are also essential. There is need for a Trafficking Victim Protection Act. Government has to allot money in the budget for rescue and rehabilitation.

A police officer has to look at the problem not only in his official capacity as a law enforcer but also should view it from a personal perspective as a father, mother, brother or sister.

Denying a problem does not make the problem vanish. Acknowledging the problem will help to find ways to respond and combat the problem.



DO YOU KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD ‘CATTLE’?

K. RAMANUJAM, IPS
ADGP Training, Police Training College

One suspects that there are thousands of police officers who do not know or cannot recall the meaning of the word ‘cattle’, though presumably it is an essential component of day to day policing. If you are one among this unfortunate lot and do not have a dictionary at hand, you need not worry: grab your copy of the Police Act (which you, presumably, always keep next to you) and look up Section 1 of Police Act, 1861 which elucidates: *“the word ‘cattle’ shall, besides horned cattle, include elephants, camels, horses, asses, mules, sheep, goats and swine”*. Surely, this makes much greater sense than a pedantic dictionary definition which goes something like:

“Cattle -domesticated quadrupeds held as property or raised for use; specifically, bovine animals on a farm or ranch.”

When you read such a definition, you realise that your ignorance was not confined to the word ‘cattle’ but also encompassed other terminologies like ‘domesticated’, ‘quadruped’, ‘bovine’ and ‘ranch’. *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary* adds to the confusion by going on to say that cattle could also refer to ‘human beings especially en masse’. When you finish reading the definition in the dictionary, you are no

better informed than when you opened the dictionary. It is in such situations that you realise the importance of the Police Act.

With all the talk about the need to modernise the Police Act, which is about to celebrate the sesquicentennial (unfortunately, as this word is not defined in the Act, you will have look it up in a dictionary), as a prelude to modernising the police force, one would have feared that the word ‘cattle’ would have been eliminated from the revised versions. Any such worries are allayed by the Model Police Act 2006 drafted by an eminent committee headed by Tr. Soli Sorabjee. Sec 2(b) of this model Police Act says, in no uncertain terms, that “*Cattle include cows, buffalos, elephants, camels, horses, asses, mules, sheep, goats and swine.*” In fact, this word has been given a pre-eminent position in the model Police Act, figuring as the second definition in the Act, next only to the definition of the word ‘Act’ itself, and coming ahead of the definitions of ‘core functions’ of the police, ‘internal security’ and ‘organised crime’. But for the fact that rigid alphabetical order had to be adopted for cataloguing the definitions, the word ‘cattle’ would have got an even more pre-eminent rank in the Act. Cattle cannot have any grievances against the police.

If you wondered cynically whether it was not odd for cattle to be defined in the Police Act, you must remember that when this Act was originally made in 1861, there was practically no other legislation to govern the conduct of humans or cattle, possibly other than the Indian Penal Code. Since it was one of the primary duties of the Police to maintain order in general and on the roads in particular, the law makers had to allow ‘cattle’ to trespass into the Act. Remember there was no Motor Vehicles Act then—this lacuna arising from the fact that there were no motor vehicles then. There were roads and there were cattle—horned or otherwise—and no wonder the law sought to ‘take the bull by the horns’ by laying down a definition or

interpretation of the word ‘cattle’. The Police Act stipulates a fine not exceeding Rs. 50 for slaughtering cattle, riding or driving cattle recklessly or furiously and other such wanton acts causing detriment to passengers or residents on a road, in an open place, street or thoroughfare. The Cattle Trespass Act came into force only in 1871 with a more wide ranging description adding buffaloes, mares, geldings, ponies, colts, fillies, pigs, rams, ewes, lambs, and kids. Ironically, in the Cattle Trespass Act, ‘officer of police’ is defined before the term ‘cattle’.

Baffled by the Herculean task of defining obscenity, Justice Stewart said: “*I know it when I see it.*” If you belong to this school with reference to cattle and question the legitimacy of a definition of the word in a Police Act made for the 21st century, you must note the following figures for the 21st century India:

Number of policemen (civil and armed)— excluding CPMFs (NCRB— Crime in India 2006)	1.57 million
Number of registered motor vehicles (Planning Commission figure for 2004)	72.72 million
Cattle and livestock—excluding poultry (National Dairy Development Board figure for 2003)	485 million

(*Note:* The cattle population given above includes yaks but not elephants).

You cannot obviously exclude half a billion lives from the Police Act.

Definitions and interpretations have always occupied a prominent position in our laws. When I walked into a class where an Instructor was trying to explain the salient features of the Official Secrets Act to newly recruited Sub Inspector cadets, I found him struggling with the definition

in Section 2(2) of the Act which says: “*expressions referring to communicating or receiving include any communicating or receiving, whether in whole or in part, and whether the sketch, plan, model, article, note, document, or information itself or the substance, effect or description thereof only be communicated or received...*” Both the instructor and the instructed were under the impression that this was the definition of the word ‘expressions’. The Official Secrets Act does not define ‘official secret’, though it drops quite a few subtle hints on the matter. This set me thinking why could not the instructor start by explaining what is an official secret and what you should and should not do with it, and then elaborate on the meanings of the esoteric terms in the Act—or for that matter why couldn’t the Act itself be in this logical sequence. This led me on to the discovery that the British, who bequeathed us with the legacy of a plethora of Acts, have now changed tack: their Official Secrets Act 1989 starts with explanations of what are the offences and their penalties while the definitions and interpretations are tucked away inconspicuously towards the end, followed by Extent and Short Title—a complete reversal of the sequence seen in our Acts.

This reversed sequence (main provisions followed by interpretations, commencement, extent and short title) is also seen in the UK’s Police Act 1996—which, in its obsession with terms like chief officer of police, police area, police force and police fund, sadly ignores cattle altogether. The omission of cattle is understandable, considering that the cattle population in the United Kingdom is only 8.998 million. Still, what will a British police officer do when he desperately needs to know the precise meaning of ‘cattle’? May be he is not required to bother much about cattle. Or may be, he knows it when he sees it.



THE CASE OF THE MISSING TEACHER

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*I*t may not be out of context to recall the 1960s Tamil film “*Andha Nall*”, a detective story in which all, but the actual murderer who is none other than the hero’s wife, are viewed with suspicion in a case of murder. Finally, the detective pins the murder of the husband on the wife. It is said that truth is stranger than fiction. In a bizarre repeat of the movie, albeit with certain changes, the tale of the “*Missing Teacher Meenakshi*” also possessed similar twists and turns. All and sundry who were in one way or other closely or distantly connected, related or known to the teacher were made to bear the brunt of police interrogation. The actual assailants all along secretly smirked at the misdirected police efforts till they were caught.

In October, 2004, “Meenakshi” or “Kulithalai Meenakshi” had become a household name throughout Tamil Nadu, thanks to the mass media which followed the case of the missing teacher doggedly. Her pretty face was splashed all over TV Channels, newspapers and magazines. She was as familiar as the woman next door. Reams and reams of papers were written about her, all laced with salacious stories. For how can a young and beautiful woman just disappear into thin air like that? Who was Meenakshi? What did she do? Why did she

disappear? Who was responsible for her disappearance? To elicit answers to these questions let's start at the beginning.

The young and beautiful Meenakshi, (A-31/2004) was a teacher with Thiru. Vi. Ka. School, Panikkampatti, 10 Kms. from Kulithalai, her home town. She was well educated and academically brilliant. As a young girl she had fallen in love with her husband Jothiramalingam, a relative, and married him and was the proud mother of a nine-year-old beautiful girl. Jothiramalingam ran a fertilizer shop in Kulithalai. It was a small and happy family. The couple led an uneventful but contented life. They had everything they wanted

She used to ride her TVS-50 to school and back daily, till that fateful evening. On 19th October, 2004, Meenakshi, as usual, rode her TVS to school. There was nothing extraordinary about it. Only this time she did not return home to her loving husband and daughter who waited anxiously till late in the evening. Perturbed over his wife's absence, Jothiramalingam, like a good citizen immediately sought police help the same evening. A case was registered in Kulithalai PS Cr.No.795/2004 u/s Missing person and an extensive search mounted. Days of meticulous search by the local police through her friends, relatives and colleagues yielded no clue. The police made enquiries at Meenakshi's school and also scoured the entire route taken by her on the day of disappearance. Way side villagers were also brought within the scope of enquiry. But there was no clue. Meanwhile a good two months had elapsed. Patience was wearing thin on the part of the husband.

The disappearance of the woman came to be interpreted in myriad ways, not all of them complimentary. Tongues set about wagging, weaving stories around the missing beautiful woman. Investigation was blighted right from the beginning as rumours about the missing Meenakshi spread like wild

fire. The abrupt disappearance of a working woman from a small town became a subject of hot gossip. She was alleged to have eloped. The hand of a locally powerful politician was suspected. Meenakshi, a devoted wife and committed teacher, was accused of disloyalty, unfaithfulness and elopement. A pretty young working woman, daily riding a motor cycle to school across remote villages had been the cynosure of all eyes, not all of them benign. No one cared for the sentiments of the bereaved family. A widower, a motherless child and a village school without their star teacher did not prevent the public from indulging in insensitive gossip. The cruelty of the gossiping public in and around the villages and the insensitivity of the media did very little to help the investigation or the family.

A distraught Jothiramalingam, after a long wait, chose to knock on the doors of the High Court in mid December 2004 through a Habeas Corpus Petition (No123/2004). The High Court on hearing both the sides and perusing the Case diary came down heavily on the police for not investigating the fact of involvement of the local MLA in the case of the missing woman. There was an anonymous petition found enclosed in the case diary without any probe into the contents. The High Court was pleased to transfer the case to Crime Branch CID in the first week of January 2005 and directed the Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu to nominate a Superintendent of Police to investigate and monitor the investigation personally. C. Sridhar, IPS, Superintendent of Police, CB CID (North Zone) took over investigation on 10.01.2005, almost three months after Meenakshi's disappearance. Investigation conducted till then was thoroughly reviewed and further areas of enquiry identified and expeditiously pursued. The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court closely monitored the case through status reports filed before it at all hearings.

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Sustained investigation and interrogation of a number of persons on the ten Km village road connecting Kulithalai with Panipakampatti finally enabled the detectives to restrict the area from where the teacher had disappeared. On the fateful evening, Meenakshi started riding her two wheeler just before 5 O' clock from the school back to Kulithalai. Two Kms down the road she had passed a fertilizer shop. The shop keeper, a friend of her husband, attested to this fact. Another two kms down the road was a manned railway crossing. The gatekeeper had closed the gate by 5.30 p.m. on that day and stated that he had not seen any one cross the gate by then. The teacher had mysteriously disappeared in this stretch of about 1½ kms between the fertilizer shop and the railway crossing. There were big banana groves on either side of the road and one or two villages straddling the road.

Suspects

A family friend who was also a colleague was accused of illicit intimacy with the missing teacher. His fault was that he had spoken to her on the cell phone on several occasions. He was promptly tried and hanged by the media and the public. Loans in the family and her disappearance were linked for obvious reasons. It was alleged that he was aware of her hiding.

Pappa Sundaram then MLA, Kulithalai had many enemies in his long political career. Local politics got enmeshed in this affair and made matters worse for police. Pseudonymous petitions and phone calls implicated him, his sons and friends in the disappearance of the teacher. Entire investigation had to be directed towards them. Pappa Sundaram, son Karunakaran and friends Ranganathan, Raja and Balasuramanian were all thoroughly interrogated and subjected to Polygraph, Brain mapping and Narco analysis. The MLA was declared

innocent after the polygraph test. His son Karunakaran was eliminated after the Brain mapping test. Ranganathan, Raja and Balasubramanian exhibited deception during the polygraph test and hence were further subjected to Narco analysis at FSL, Bangalore. The test results were indicative of their involvement. However, sustained investigation ruled out their complicity in the affair.

Witnesses

The reckless attitude of certain witnesses who were considered reliable at the outset only managed to misdirect the investigation and in fact caused irreparable damage to the initial investigation, which took a long time to be reversed. The statement of a 12-year-old school girl was rather unbelievable and unpardonable. She claimed to have seen the teacher en route on her way home standing with her TVS 50 on the fateful day and refused offer of any help. Her version went unchallenged. Similarly, a 75-year-old farmer reported that he had seen the teacher boarding a vehicle near the spot mentioned by the child. While the old man did a topsy-turvy before the magistrate, the child embellished her version with imaginary leads implicating two more villagers in the alleged abduction. Investigation proved it otherwise and the girl had intentionally attempted to wreak vengeance on those two individuals on ground of personal family enmity. Such were the hardships and hiccups encountered by the investigating agency and the mystery remained unsolved and without any lead whatsoever.

All the efforts of the investigating team to trace the missing woman ended in a wild goose chase. Whichever lead the team pursued, they were back to square one. In spite of being pulled up harshly by the High Court and unduly criticised by the media, the CB CID team did not stop their relentless pursuit

of truth. Having lost patience, the High Court ordered transfer of the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation during the last week of March 2006, a good eighteen months after the disappearance of the teacher. However, reposing confidence in Crime Branch CID, the State Government filed a SLP in the Apex Court and got the orders stayed enabling CB CID to continue the probe.

Mystery Unfolds

I assumed charge of the investigation of the case on 20.06.2006. After reviewing the investigation carried out till then and deciding on a new plan of action, we spread our tentacles far and wide. Meanwhile, a skeleton was found protruding out of the earth in a banana grove on 26.06.2006 at Rajendram Village, seven Kms from Panikampatti. With excitement mounting, the body was exhumed and a quick inquest performed over the skeleton. A case was also registered in Kulithalai PS Cr. 201/2006 u/s 176 CrPC. Jothiramalingam, the husband and others identified the green saree, anklets, metti and inner garment found on the skeleton as those of Meenakshi. Investigation revealed that the skeleton belonged to Meenakshi. While the remains of Meenakshi had been found, the culprits were still at large. Pressure was mounting on the team to zero in on the culprits. As elopement and hiding were now ruled out, the police set up informants to trace the murderers.

Finally, Rajan, Inspector of Police and his team with the help of their contacts and informants in the villages surrounding the scene of occurrence zeroed in on two possible suspects. Enquiry had revealed that the suspects were given to drinking and womanising and had been living luxuriously for more than a year. Both of them at one time or the other had worked in the banana grove where the body was exhumed. In fact one of them had worked for long periods in the banana

groves around the area. Both seemed to be conversant with the topography of the area and had something to do with Maruthur village which was close to the scene of occurrence. The dastardly perpetrators—Shanmugavelu A-36 of Kulithalai and Kumar A-32 of Maruthur village close to Rajendram—were finally picked up.

After sustained interrogation, they confessed to having committed the heinous crime. Taken in by her beauty and her daily riding of her two wheeler to school all alone, they started watching her movements for over a week with an intention to rob her jewels. It was raining on the evening of 19th October, 2004. With the weather coming in handy, the duo thought it fit to carry out their dastardly plan. The village road was deserted and the innocent young woman, who had no inkling of the disaster that was to befall her, rode her TVS-50 alone towards home crossing first the fertilizer shop and then the plantain groves. She had only the railway crossing to cross to well on her way home to her waiting husband and child. The drizzle persisted. The culprits who had stationed themselves on the deserted stretch of the road suddenly threw a casuarina pole across the road. Meenakhsi caught by surprise lost her balance and fell to the ground along with her two wheeler and was dazed at the sudden turn of events. They then pounced on her and forcibly dragged her into the nearby banana grove. Recovering from her daze, Meenakshi protested violently and put up a fierce physical struggle. Her protests, screams and pleas for mercy that she had a small child made no impact on the cold blooded determined criminals. They managed to drag her well into the banana grove for a distance of about half a km, away from the road in spite of her stubborn resistance and threw her down on the ground.

She was assaulted, gagged and in the struggle she passed out. She was both robbed and raped. Shanmugavel robbed her

of her jewels and Kumar mercilessly committed rape on the unconscious woman. Later, they killed her in cold blood by slicing her neck and buried her in another part of the grove. Her forlorn TVS 50 was carried and thrown into nearby channel, completely submersing it from view. In a matter of minutes it was all over, rape, robbery and a cold blooded murder. A young and beautiful working woman, mother and teacher all rolled into one ceased to exist.

Evidence

Despite the discovery of the skeleton, jewels, dress and also the capture of the culprits, the team had the unenviable task of collecting evidence to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt before the Court of Law. Identification of a saree, two anklets, metti and inner garment by the husband and relatives was not enough to convince the court. DNA test and super imposition were further resorted to establish beyond doubt that the skeleton was that of Meenakshi. These two tests were quickly got done.

Then arose the question of linking the accused with the crime which was not easy. The accused were made to demonstrate the commission of crime step by step and were video graphed in the presence of official witnesses. On their confession the TVS-50 used by the deceased was recovered and this was a good piece of evidence. They had dropped the TVS-50 into a pit along the river channel abutting the banana fields after committing the crime. Over a period of time, mud completely buried the TVS-50 a few feet under the river channel. The area identified by the accused was dug out with an earth remover. The TVS-50 was taken out in the presence of official witnesses. Clinching evidence came from the husband of the deceased who identified the peculiar number plate of the TVS-50 still hanging to the vehicle as his own with reference to the painter who had drawn the number plate.

The link factor was still weak. It was decided to check out all the pawn brokers in the nearby villages and Kulithalai town. The accused had disposed of the victim's jewels, either by pledging or selling with various Pawn brokers. All the jewels, most of them intact, were a good piece of evidence. The investigating team did a fantastic job by identifying the Pawn broker in whose shop A2 Kumar had pledged the victim's jewel on the day of murder at Kulithalai just a few hours after the commission of crime. The Pawn broker and the documents clearly vouched for the fact. The signature by the accused in the Pawn broker shop receipt was authenticated by the expert as that of the accused. This evidence linked the accused with the commission of crime without any doubt whatsoever and here the onus of proof shifted on the accused to explain his possession of jewels of the deceased and pledging the same just a few hours after the commission of the crime. More over, all the jewels recovered were clearly identified by Jothiramalingam with reference to certain unique features and the shop from which they had been purchased from.

Important witnesses tendered statements under 164 CrPC before the Magistrate. Meenakshi, who disappeared on 19.06.2004, was traced dead on 26.06.2006. Accused were arrested on 03.07.2006 and case charge sheeted on 18.09.2006. It had taken a torturous 27 months for the case to be detected and charge sheeted. The local police and the CB CID investigating team had faced many hardships in the form of a hostile and scurrilous press, unhelpful but gossip mongering public, unnecessary political slant to the case and the constant public and media glare on the investigation. They were taken to task by the High Court on each and every hearing and rightly so. Even the complainant and his relatives started accusing the IOs of torture and expressing no confidence. Media attributed motives to CB CID. In spite of all such harsh and undue criticism, the Crime Branch CID succeeded in its arduous efforts.

I finally laid charge sheet against the accused u/s 341, 366, 394, 376, 302 r/w 120(b), 201 & 109 IPC on 18.09.2006 in the court of Judicial Magistrate-II. Sessions Judge, Karur on committal, tried the accused from 07.02.2007. Prosecution examined 71 Witnesses and marked 78 Exhibits and 24 material objects. As the prosecution could prove the case beyond reasonable doubt, the judge convicted both the accused on 23.03.2007 and sentenced them to life imprisonment and Rs.1,000/- each for offence of murder u/s. 302 IPC., 7 years R.I. and fine of Rs. 500/- on 3 counts for conspiracy, abduction and robbery u/s. 120-B, 366 and 394 IPC, and another 2 years R.I. and fine of Rs. 200/- u/s. 201 IPC, fine of Rs. 200/-u/s. 341 IPC, A2 C. Kumar was sentenced to undergo another 7 years R.I. and pay a fine of Rs. 1,000/- u/s/ 376 IPC. The accused would suffer the sentences concurrently. When the accused filed criminal appeal petition against the life conviction ordered by the Sessions court, Karur, the Hon'ble High Court, Madurai Bench confirmed the judgement of the lower Court and gave life conviction to both the accused.

Lessons

This is a good case for beginners in the police force with a few lessons to be learnt.

- Merely keeping an anonymous letter unattended to and inadvertently producing the CD file before the court with irrelevant documents enabled the High Court to reproach the police of inaction and inattentiveness besides being partial. The contents of the anonymous letter though they may appear irrelevant need proper verification.
- Similarly, the Investigating Officers should take extra care before submitting records and representing facts

before the court. Reckless representation and improper records will cost them dear.

- Polygraph, brain mapping and narco analysis are all only tools to investigation. On the basis of polygraph and narco analysis Ranganathan, Raja and Balasubramaniam could be branded as accused while in reality they were not.
- The mass media and public gossip should not be allowed to affect investigation.
- Cases of missing persons came to be taken up very seriously after this case. In more ways than one, it was a watershed case.

Kudos

Intelligent work put in by Inspectors Rajan, Thangavel and Sukumar and their men, leadership and guidance provided by Addl. Director General of Police (CB CID), Anoop Jaiswal, IPS, Inspector General of Police (Crime) K. Thukkaiandi, IPS, and Deputy Inspector General of Police (CB CID) A.M.S. Gunaseelan, IPS and also the service of DSP Chandra Basu, paved the way for detecting this case.



CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

What We Have Learned About Policing

WILLIAM J. BRATTON, WILLIAM ANDREWS*

Everyone knows about New York's spectacular crime turnaround, with murder down 68 per cent and overall felonies down 50 per cent in the five years since 1993. But how we accomplished that turnaround—and what we've learned about how to police New York—isn't widely known or fully understood. It should be, because the New York story adds up to a textbook on how to police any big city.

Our success rested on two major changes. First, we had to remake the NYPD into an effective, focused organisation. Second, we had to use this instrument actually to police the city by developing strategies and tactics that would prevent and uproot crime rather than just react to it. In practice, of course, these were parallel, often overlapping efforts. The re-engineering was more challenging than the strategizing; and if we hadn't changed the way the department did business, it wouldn't have mattered what field strategies we chose, because we wouldn't have been able to translate them into practice.

Professors of business administration and organisational management would have caught on to what we were doing

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right away, since it was no different from the restructuring and re-engineering that had transformed American business in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Like the corporate CEOs of that year, we began with a large, unfocused, inward-looking, bureaucratic organisation, poor at internal communication or cooperation and chronically unresponsive to intelligence from the outer world. We reduced layers of management, drove responsibility down to the operating units, improved communication and data processing, tightened accountability, and rewarded results. In short order, we had the NYPD's bureaus and divisions competing with criminals, not with one another.

Police work is by nature decentralised and discretionary. The cop in the field, the front-line supervisor, the precinct commander—these are the real decision makers in day-to-day police work. The only way you can control a police department from headquarters is if your aim is to prevent police from doing anything, rather than to have them function effectively—and for many years that was precisely the aim of the NYPD. The organisation didn't want high performance; it wanted to stay out of trouble, to avoid corruption scandals and conflicts in the community. For years, therefore, the key to career success in the NYPD, as in many bureaucratic leviathans, was to shun risk and avoid failure. Accordingly, cops became more cautious as they rose in rank, right up to the highest levels.

One anecdote that a deputy chief likes to tell, perfectly captures how risk-averse the department had become. One weekend in the late eighties, when he was serving as duty captain in upper Manhattan, he arrived at a crime scene where cops had arrested two drug dealers, one of whom had tried to flee to an apartment. The deputy chief helped the cops secure search warrants for the apartment and a safe they found inside it—which contained drugs, cash, and weapons. The next day, the borough commander—apoplectic with rage, the deputy chief recalls—called him in to yell at him for seeking a warrant.

“It’s people like you who cause problems in the department,” the commander roared. If something like that happens again, the commander ordered, “you will walk away”. Sums up the deputy chief, “I, as a captain, was not supposed to encourage these officers to do police work. My job was to stop them from doing police work.” After all, something could go wrong.

As for its management philosophy, the NYPD combined the worst of both worlds: it was a micromanaged organisation that was strategically adrift. “Cops felt,” as one prosecutor remembers it, “as if the brass were checking up on them, not backing them up.” Management consisted of sending sergeants around to make sure that patrolmen were at their assigned posts. Woe to the cop who wasn’t there—even for good reasons—when the sergeant came at regular intervals to sign his memo book. The message: ‘just sit there and get your ticket punched’.

We had to change the department’s methods and mind-set. The first step, when author Bratton became commissioner in 1994, was to draw as many people as possible into the planning process, especially the precinct and unit commanders, who corresponded to a corporation’s middle managers, and the sergeants and lieutenants, who were, in effect, the front-line supervisors. “Bratton ran an organisation that was open to talent,” says Jack Maple, a former NYPD deputy commissioner for crime-control strategies. “It was an organisation of inclusion, where people weren’t afraid to come up with the wildest ideas.” Maple himself was a prime case in point. When only a Transit Police lieutenant, he caught Bratton’s attention with an idea-crammed memo on how to control robberies in the subway, and he rose rapidly thereafter.

We brought almost 500 people into the planning process, serving on 12 re-engineering teams that questioned everything in heated debate that sometimes escalated to a free-for-all. “An organization as big and as venerable as the NYPD accumulates

a lot of bad habits,” points out John Timoney, who was chief of department in 1994 and first deputy commissioner in 1995 and is now Philadelphia’s police commissioner. “We did things a certain way because we had always done them that way. We had to banish the phrase, ‘We have always’ from our vocabularies. We had to start asking, ‘How should we do it?’ and ‘How can we do it better?’”

Ideas and innovations bubbled up. The commissioner did not originate most of the ideas that ended up transforming the way we did business; instead—and crucially—he created the atmosphere in which paradigm-breaking ideas could flourish. A December 1994 plan of action listed more than 600 recommendations, of which we adopted more than 400. We raised recruiting standards and improved training for the real world of police patrol. We redesigned the uniform with input from the officers who wear it, and, with the advice of the police unions, we revamped the archaic discipline system to make it swifter. We retooled our job-performance evaluation system. We even changed out super-secret internal-affairs process, bringing precinct commanders into internal investigations, which strengthened our capacity to prevent and detect police corruption and abuse. Formerly, only a half-dozen internal-affairs official attempted to control misconduct in a 38,000-person department.

But the most important reform we made was decentralising the department, devolving power to the precinct commanders and creating a career path for them to ascend. In the old NYPD, precinct commanders had little genuine authority. They could not conduct an anti-prostitution operation or use plainclothes officers in anti-drug operations; they could not secure warrants and conduct searches. These constraints reflected a deep mistrust of the precincts, a fear that something could go terribly wrong out there that would embarrass the command staff. But as Robert Johnson, head of the private

First Security Services and a member of Bratton's kitchen cabinet, puts it: "A management team that concentrates on preventing failure usually forecloses success. When you do not trust your basic resource, it's hard to perform your basic business."

The precincts are the primary unit of policing, and the precinct commanders are policing's equivalent of corporate line managers. It was not right to limit their options. Worse, the precinct commander's job was all downside risk in 1993, just before we arrived; there was no real way to succeed and a dozen ways to fail. An outstanding precinct commander's performance against crime would have gone largely unnoticed—nobody was monitoring that kind of success—but a corruption scandal or a mishandled community incident could set a career back years. No wonder that captains tried to hurry through their precinct commands and move on to less career-threatening assignments in the bureaucracy at 1 Police Plaza.

We gave precinct commanders—typically people with 15 years' experience, a college education, and a sophisticated knowledge of the city and the department—the authority to run what amounted to miniature police departments. John Timoney devised a new career ladder for these commanders, ascending from one of the 35 "C" precinct houses with moderate workloads to one of 31 higher-pressure "B" houses and ultimately to one of the 10 extremely busy "A" houses. As a commander rose through these steps, he could advance from a captain to a deputy inspector to inspector without ever leaving the precincts. A few battlefield promotions made it clear that precinct command was the place to shine in the NYPD.

The good commanders reveled in their new authority, and their precincts became natural arenas for team building. Their cops were energised. Cops like to do police work: stinging a drug dealer with a buy-and-bust operation, executing a

search warrant at the apartment of a gun dealer, even catching someone blasting a car radio with a decibel meter—these are interesting jobs compared with regular patrol. They are also team activities that give the workers a shared sense of purpose and a renewed sense of energy.

Accountability goes hand in hand with decentralisation; one can not give all that power away without a means of maintaining strategic oversight. The NYPD does that through its now-famous Compstat process, which uses computerised crime statistics, electronic crime maps, and intensive crime-control management meetings to guide and monitor the department's anti-crime strategies.

From the start, Jack Maple had insisted on timely weekly data about crime in the precincts, an approach completely foreign to the NYPD, where crime data typically lagged events by up to three months. Because NYPD could not live with flying blind, not knowing what was actually happening precinct by precinct and week by week, Maple, Chief Louis Anemone, and Anemone's staff developed the basic format for the weekly report that the department has been using ever since. It showed weekly felony crime and arrest data for every precinct, comparing it with the totals for the previous week, the month and year-to-date totals. Compstat was the computer-file name of this report, a contraction of 'comparison statistics'. Maple and Anemone began going over the new data at meetings with precinct personnel, quizzing commanders about crime in their precincts and what they were doing about it. Soon they were using pin maps and acetate overlays to display the patterns of criminal activity. They began calling in special unit commanders and narcotics commanders. The Compstat process was off and running.

As Compstat grew more sophisticated, we began computer mapping the crime patterns and displaying the maps on large overhead screens. We could identify local crime increases

almost immediately and respond to them rapidly with effective measures before they could add up to a big, citywide crime spike. You could see the clusters of shootings, robberies, burglaries, and car thefts. We mapped arrest and patrol activity and compared crime incidents with police response. If the two did not match up, you knew you were doing something wrong. We compared our department patterns with time-of-day graphs that showed when crime spikes were occurring. Compstat's maps helped make sure that we were putting our resources where the problems were, and when they were happening. We could quickly assess whether new strategies and tactics worked or failed.

Compstat enforced cooperation among the department's many bureaus and units. Every week, a different group of commanders from a particular part of the city stands up at the podium to get grilled about crime and prevention in their precincts, but every other relevant special unit and task force commander for that area of the city is also present and must be prepared to respond. Just having them all in one room instantly cut the bureaucratic Gordian knot. Chief Anemone and Deputy Commissioner Maple could broker solutions to current problems on the spot. Was drug dealing causing an increase in shootings? Narcotics enforcement could be called in swiftly. Were burglaries on the rise in a community? The warrant division could search for wanted burglars in the area. Were auto thieves following a certain route to a nearby highway? Highway units could set up a checkpoint.

Above all, as John Timoney puts it, "Compstat is the greatest accountability tool ever." It is an instrument for holding precinct commanders responsible for crime in their areas, rewarding them if they push crime down and removing them if they don't come up with plans to do so. In addition, it gets the whole department, top brass included,

involved in thinking about how to push back crime, and it lets precinct commanders know, on a weekly basis, that their bosses support their efforts. Eventually, we used Compstat to manage everything from civilian complaints to overtime to police auto accidents.

It is not too strong a statement to say that we reinvented police strategy in 1994. Before then, the prevailing criminological wisdom held that the police could not do much about crime and that police strategies and tactics did not really matter. In that spirit, the NYPD and most other police departments spent almost no time thinking about anti-crime strategies. Police brass lurched from emergency to emergency, with no one looking at the overall picture.

Strategy is a way of seeing things whole, of focusing on the entire system of crime and how it operates. Since 1994, the NYPD has not just been solving crimes; it has been dismantling criminal enterprises and support systems. It has been taking away the things that criminals need to function: their guns, fences, chop shops and auto exporters, drug-buying and prostitution customers, buildings and apartments, cars, and the un-policed sectors of the city where crime used to thrive.

In early 1994, the department developed strategies on guns, drugs, youth crime, domestic violence, and quality of life. Though much has been made of quality-of-life enforcement as key to the overall New York strategy, it was hardly the whole story. To say that 'zero tolerance' policing turned New York around, as if driving away squeegee men and panhandlers could by itself cut the robbery and burglary rates, is a gross oversimplification. To succeed, we had to employ the quality-of-life strategy in concert with a range of strategies targeting felony crime.

But quality-of-life enforcement is important for three reasons. First, most neighbourhoods are usually more concerned about prostitution, low-level drug dealing, excessive

noise, underage drinking, and other minor offenses than major crimes. Citizens want the police to do something about these highly visible disturbances. Second, as George Kelling has persuasively argued in the pages of *City Journal*, disorderly environments breed both crime and fear. Third, criminals who commit serious crimes frequently commit minor violations as well; quality-of-life enforcement lets cops intervene with this population and sometimes prevent serious crimes before they happen.

In 1994, we took quality-of-life enforcement to the streets. Author Bratton had pioneered this style of policing in Boston in the 1970s. He imported it to New York when he became chief of the Transit Police in 1990, and it had transformed the subway from a place where young thugs thought they could get away with anything into a place where they felt they could get away with nothing, with a steep drop in crime as a result. So, with the city as a whole: as Kelling has observed, New York City had ‘depoliced’ its streets in the quarter-century prior to 1994. Police officers were walking by disorderly conditions and letting them fester. They were openly giving freedom of the streets to the drug dealers, gangs, prostitutes, drinkers, and radio blasters. A sense of fear and anarchy pervaded many neighbourhoods. The traditional order-keeping forces, the responsible adults in these communities, played less of a role as their own fear and uncertainty grew. They, along with the wrongdoers, had gotten the message that even the cops did not care, and they were understandably hesitant to put themselves on the line.

The newly empowered precinct commanders targeted prostitution, public drinking, underage drinking, street drug dealing, and excessive noise. They instructed patrol officers to intervene in street disorder and to try to restore a sense of civility and safety to neighbourhoods. “We had always been telling the cops what not to do in street situations,” says

Michael Julian, formerly chief of personnel and now a private security executive. “They needed training in what they could do.”

As part of the quality-of-life initiative, the police checked identification of people stopped for minor offences. When the checks turned up a wanted person, a parole violator, or a repeat offender, cops arrested and searched him, instead of letting him off with a relatively toothless desk-appearance ticket, as is usual with minor offenders.

This intensified police presence had an almost immediate impact on illegal guns. We fooled shooting hot spots, identified through the Compstat maps, with both uniformed and plainclothes enforcement teams. People carrying illegal guns quickly realized that they risked gun charges after being arrested for minor crimes. After rising briefly in 1994, gun apprehensions then began to fall; the gunslingers were leaving their weapons at home. With far fewer guns on the street, far fewer people were shot and far fewer were killed. In month-to-month comparisons from 1993 to 1994, homicide was down 32 per cent in September 1994, 46 per cent in October, 28 per cent in November, and 34 per cent in December.

At the same time, we brought the department’s detectives more forcefully into play. We told them to make shootings a priority and to investigate every one as if it were a murder. “There was no good reason why the detective response to a killing was always so much greater than to a shooting,” says John Timoney. “An aggravated-assault victim is just a lucky homicide victim whose assailant missed.” To keep on top of the issue, Jack Maple had the operations center beep him every time a shooting occurred. In 1994, he got beeped nearly 4,500 times, day and night.

We enlisted detectives in an anti-gun offensive, instructing them to grill anyone arrested in a shooting or on gun charges

about how and where he had acquired his weapon. The murderer who fired on Jewish students in a van on the approach ramp to the Brooklyn Bridge, killing one boy, was in custody within a few days; within a week, so was the gun dealer from whom he had purchased his weapon. By the end of 1994, the NYPD had arrested more than 200 gun dealers and confiscated their supply of weapons. Between 1993 and the end of 1994, handgun homicides declined by 40 per cent, and shootings declined by more than 2,000 cases.

We fed information about gun trafficking from the precinct interrogations to the NYPD's joint task force with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, which in turn used this intelligence to make arrests for illegal gun trafficking in the main states that supply weapons to New York City. The task force also began closely scrutinising applicants for federal firearms-dealing licenses, in the belief that some dealers would use the right to buy guns in quantity to sell them illegally to unlicensed New Yorkers. In the first years of the program, 92 percent of applicants for new licenses and for license renewals either failed to win approval or—once they knew the police were watching them—withdrew their applications.

Precincts detective squads adopted a new intelligence—gathering strategy. They began to question all arrestees not only about crimes that they might have committed themselves but also about any other crimes that they knew anything about. Detectives asked arrestees about open homicides, about robbery and burglary patterns, and about where drugs or firearms were for sale. Some talked in return for a promise of more lenient treatment, but many were willing to talk gratis, swelling the NYPD's supply of criminal intelligence and case leads. A car thief turned in a fence, who turned in a father-and-son gun-dealing team. A gun-crime debriefing in the 46th Precinct in the Bronx led to several arrests in a

year-old murder case and to arrests for a recent stabbing and a carjacking in the neighbouring 43rd Precinct.

Detectives began using the department's improved intelligence to identify robbery patterns more quickly and to apprehend the robbers on the second or third crime of the pattern rather than the ninth or tenth. Identifying a pattern early, staking out the locale, and catching the guy can prevent 20, 30, or even 50 robberies a year. We also told detectives to pursue all accomplices in any robbery, instead of playing the old detective game of building clearance rates by closing cases with just one arrest. Our goal was preventing crime, not closing cases. Robbery fell by more than 26,000 incidents, or 31 per cent, in 1994 and 1995. By 1998, it was down 55 per cent from its 1993 level.

The Detective Bureau also placed a new emphasis on warrants and on finding wanted fugitives, since warrant absconders who fail to show up for their court appearances are frequently recidivists who will continue to commit crimes for as long as they are free. We expanded the warrant division and doubled warrant apprehensions between 1993 and 1995. Detective Bureau arrests of all kinds, including warrant apprehensions, are up about 138 per cent since 1993.

To control burglaries and thefts of car radios, we went after fences who traffic in stolen goods, another thing that they NYPD had never bothered to do. Early on, police used sting operations to nail two major fences in Brooklyn, recovering enough stolen merchandise to fill a warehouse. Eventually, the fences helped identify a who's who of Brooklyn burglars; one fence even had security videotape showing many of the burglar's faces. Even when it does not lead directly to mass burglary arrests, as this operation did, shutting down local fences can have a dramatic impact on neighbourhood burglary rates. It may take burglars a while to find another outlet for their stolen goods, and they can

not go back to work until they can move the hot merchandise. Burglary was down 25,000 incidents in 1994 and 1995, or 25 per cent. By 1998, it was down to 53 per cent.

When we arrived, New York City, and especially the borough of Queens, looked like the car-theft capital of the world, with more than 112,000 cars, worth about \$400 million, stolen in 1993. Organised-crime groups stole and estimated 70 per cent of them, for parts and for export. Using the same logic that we had applied to burglary, we went after chop shops and auto exporters. In 1995, we set up more than 30 phony fencing operations to catch car thieves, and we conducted more than 60 operations in which undercover officers offered supposedly stolen parts to dealers. We also used stings to make cases against exporters of stolen cars to Russia, the Dominican Republic, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, and Colombia. We requested district attorneys in Queens and Brooklyn to prosecute auto thieves routinely and send them to jail. Car theft plummeted by more than 40,000 cases in 1994 and 1995, or 36 per cent. By 1998, it was down 61 per cent.

We knew, as Michael Julian puts it, that “drugs were causing probably half of the crime and a lot of the fights and gunplay.” There was no way to reduce crime without going after narcotics. But the department had long been combating drugs in the wrong way, arresting street dealers and seizing drugs—commodities that were expendable, and almost infinitely renewable, as far the drug gangs were concerned. We believed that we had to concentrate on the local drug gangs and dismantle them. These are the critical middlemen between the street dealers and the international drug importers.

Narcotics Division commander Pat Harnett developed a new strategy in 1995 and 1996; he established turf-based drug units that would concentrate on reclaiming individual neighbourhoods, investigating and dismantling the drug

gangs operating in an area, however long it took. They made drug buys, infiltrated organisations, cultivated informants, planted wiretaps, investigated bank accounts, and built solid cases against all the participants in a gang or group of gangs. When a case was ready, they would roll up 20 or 30 members of a gang in a single day. The department supplemented these investigations with civil actions and eviction proceedings against drug dealers' buildings and apartments. It also sent out uniformed patrolmen in force, to hold the gains and discourage drug buyers from reentering the neighbourhood. Everywhere the drug initiatives have gone, they have driven down murders, shootings, and street crime.

All these strategies—and a host of other ones targeting youth crime or family violence, for example, or using civil lawsuits to hamstring criminal enterprises—send one clear message to the criminal population of New York: “It’s not your street,” as one cop put it. “This street belongs to the people of New York. We are going to take it back.”

Many criminologists, as you would expect, are sticking to their guns and insisting that nothing we have done had the slightest effect on New York’s crime drop. Crime fell not just in New York but nationwide, they say, proving that some impersonal force much bigger than the NYPD has come to bear on all of urban America. In truth, however, in 1994 and 1995, the drop in New York crime accounted for more than half of the crime decline in the entire country: we were not part of the national trend; we drove the trend.

But what reasons do the experts proffer to explain the drop in crime? The crime-prone youth population shrank, they argue, and employment expanded. In New York, however, the teenage population was stable in the early 1990s, not declining, and the minority teenage population was actually on the rise. Between 1990 and 1994, New York City public

high school enrollments were up 12 per cent. Throughout the period of steep crime decline, moreover, New York had an unemployment rate of between 8 and 10 per cent, just about double the national rate. According to the demographic and economic theories, crime should have been raging out of control instead of falling off the charts.

“The experts will never forgive Bratton and Giuliani for proving them wrong,” says Tom Repetto of the Citizens’ Crime Commission. “They want to believe that crime can only be reduced by sweeping social change. But they do have a fallback position: if the police did reduce crime, they did it by illegitimate means.”

The claim of ‘illegitimate means’ is growing more insistent, accompanied by accusations that the NYPD routinely uses unconstitutional searches and ‘Gestapo tactics.’ Policing in New York, critics charge, has been ‘militarized,’ as if SWAT teams were roving around the city on search-and-destroy missions. The tragic shooting of Amadou Diallo in February and the outrageous abuse of Abner Louima in 1996 have fanned this talk significantly. Many who claim to speak for minority communities say that they now fear the police more than they fear the criminals.

The fear may be understandable, but the problem has been overdrawn. The NYPD is not a racist or brutal department. It won its gains against crime not by abusing citizens but by strategically managing and focusing its resources. Its problem is a problem of attitude: cops need to be more respectful in their encounters with the public. With crime under control, we have the breathing space to provide much better training in the human side of policing and to build trusting relationships in every neighbourhood in the city. The NYPD rose to the challenge of crime in the mid-1990s; it certainly can rise to this challenge now.

Though the department can do much more to win the confidence of minority communities, it has already done the most important thing: today, those communities receive the level of police protection and service they deserve. They are not written off as unimportant and unpolicable. The Compstat revolution had the effect of allocating resources to the neighbourhoods that needed the help most. “All the dots representing crime on Compstat maps are the same size, whether the victim is Leonardo DiCaprio or Fred Merz,” says Jack Maple. “The resources go where the problems are.” As a result, minority neighbourhoods like East New York and Washington Heights have seen huge crime drops. Kids can play on the street again; they don’t go to bed to the sound of gunfire anymore.

What we learned above all from the New York experience is that police can control and manage virtually every type of crime in virtually every neighbourhood. No place is unpolicable; no crime is immune to better enforcement efforts. Though underachieving in the past, American police departments can take the lead in restoring safety and order to communities all over the country. After a generation of police executives who were convinced that cops could not cut crime, a new group of leaders is following the New York example and sending the message that police can make a difference. These leaders are junking the old reactive model, in which police responded to crimes and filed reports, in favour of a new strategic policing that gets criminals on the runs and keeps them running. American police departments are beginning to live up to the boast posted by an anonymous officer in the NYPD Command Center in 1995: “We’re not report takers,” it read. “We’re the police.”



A Sceptic Looks at Scientific and Psychic Aids to Investigation

*I*f you have degrees in Physics, Mathematics, Biomedical Engineering, Medicine and Surgery, what occupation should you choose? Dr Karl S. Kruszelnicki, who has degrees in each of these specializations, answered this conundrum by choosing to be a cab driver, labourer, TV weatherman, roadie for rock 'n roll bands and film maker, apart from being a medical doctor, biomedical engineer, author and radio science presenter. In 2002, he won the Ig Nobel Prize for a thesis on a less than sublime subject. No wonder the Australian Sceptics Society honoured this maverick with the Australia Sceptic of the Year 2007 prize. Dr Kruszelnicki's scepticism has extended to some subjects of interest to the police—like truth serum, gunshot residues and use of psychic sleuths.

Truth Serum

Sir James Stephens once remarked that “it is far pleasanter to sit comfortably in the shade rubbing red pepper into some poor devil's eyes than to go about in the sun hunting for evidence.” Red pepper might have been an appropriate scientific aid to investigation in the 1830s when this observation was made but most people would agree that scientific advances as well as courts and human rights commissions have rendered this tool obsolete in the current scenario. Truth serum is portrayed in some quarters as a suitable substitute for red pepper in the

eyes. Many formulations have been tried out as truth serums over the years—wine (Pliny the Elder wrote way back in AD 77 : *In vino, veritas* meaning ‘In wine, there is truth’), Scopolamine (first tried by obstetricians to induce relaxation during childbirth), barbiturates like sodium pentathol or sodium amytal, and hallucinogenics like LSD or psilocybin.

The Australian Sceptic of the Year 2007 is of the view that ‘the trouble with all the truth serums was that a subject’s delusions, fears, and fantasies could not be distinguished from reality.’ He goes on to say that people would even confess to crimes that they clearly did not commit, perhaps the murder of a non-existent stepmother.

According to Kruszelnicki, the CIA studied behaviour modification through a 25-year-long research called the MK-ULTRA Project and concluded that the best that a truth serum could do is to induce a belief in the suspect that, while under the influence of the drug, he has revealed more than he actually did and this could trick him into later revealing the truth.

Dr Kruszelnicki concludes that ‘all that a truth serum will do is probably loosen a person’s tongue but there is absolutely no guarantee of the truth.’ He also points out that the loosening of the tongue is only for short duration and so many injections may be required over a period of two to ten hours.

Gunshot residues

The primer in a cartridge consists of three chemicals—lead styphnate (initiator), antimony sulphide (fuel) and barium nitrate (oxidizer). When a gun is fired, the very high temperature and pressure generated convert lead, antimony and barium into gaseous particles which settle down as gunshot residue (GSR) in the form of microscopic spheres.

Presence of gunshot residue on the hands of a suspect is often taken to be conclusive proof that he has fired a gun. The Sceptic questions this theory on four grounds.

First, it takes the GSR particles anywhere from 90 seconds to eight minutes to descend from the air and land. If the shooter flees from the place immediately, he may have no GSR on him. On the other hand, if an innocent person comes into the scene within eight minutes, a lot of GSR may land on him.

Secondly, GSR is like talcum powder and can be easily shaken off or washed off. Even sweat is enough to wash it off.

The third problem is cross-contamination. GSR is said to be found in most police cars and police stations and it is quite easy for a person to come in contact with a contaminated surface and test positive for GSR.

Finally, GSR-like particles are produced even by fireworks. According to Kruszelnicki, even brake pads in cars can produce these chemicals and car mechanics often carry some of this material on their clothing, though the shape of the particles emitted by brake pads are different from those resulting from gunshots.

The upshot is that an investigator should not depend only on GSR to presume the guilt of a suspect.

Psychic detectives

TV programmes like Medium and the Dead Zone show psychics helping the police to solve crimes. Apparently, some cops occasionally use psychic sleuths. 'Doubting Thomas' Kruszelnicki regards psychics as conmen or conwomen and lists out a few tricks they may be using. First, they make vague predictions: if a person is missing and is suspected to have been murdered, they ask you to look for 'a shallow grave in a

forest'. Kruszelnicki asks, would a killer ever dig a deep grave for his victim in an open field or near a highway? Second, they make vague claims which they interpret as specific, after the capture of the criminal, in essence, fitting the evidence to their prediction. Thirdly, they may use the shotgun technique (confident, of course, that GSR cannot fix them) 'where they spray out a huge amount of information, some of which must hit the mark'.

Are psychic detectives useless then? Not necessarily, says Kruszelnicki. Cops may drop hints of using psychics when they want to cover up the real sources of information, or when they want to unnerve superstitious suspects.



Profile of Recruit Constables

Seven-month long institutional training for a batch of Recruit Constables who are undergoing training in 16 Recruit Schools (including 14 temporary Recruit Schools) is due to be completed on 30th September 2008. The following profile emerges from the biodata submitted by 3674 recruits who reported for training:

- One-fourth of the recruits are women.
- 76 per cent of the recruits are from rural background.
- The father's occupation is agriculture for 31 per cent and labourer for 25 per cent. About 13% hail from police families.
- 7 per cent are married. About 5 per cent have one or more children. There were five widows among the recruits.
- While 99 per cent have Tamil as mother tongue, there are 20 with Telugu, 15 with Urdu and 1 with Kannada as mother tongue.
- Less than half claim they can speak English. A sizeable number can read/write/speak Telugu, Malayalam or Hindi. There are a few who know Urdu and Kannada. There is at least one who can speak Marathi, Saurashtra, Bengali, Sanskrit, French or Malay.
- Five Southern districts viz. Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Kanyakumari, Madurai and Dindigul account for 37 per cent of the total recruits. The number of recruits from Coimbatore, Erode and Nilgiris is disproportionately low. Together, these three western

districts account for less than 40 per cent of the contribution from any one of the five southern districts mentioned above.

- Ariyalur, Karur, Krishnagiri, Nagapattinam, Namakkal, Nilgiris, Perambalur and Thiruvavur districts contribute less than 1 per cent each.
- There are 179 Christians, nearly one-third from Kanyakumari district.
- Only about 15 per cent had a mere 10th standard qualification, the minimum required for recruitment. The rest have 12th standard, diploma or degree.
- 31 per cent of the recruits are graduates and 3 per cent post graduates.
- 1 per cent of the recruits hold degrees in computer related subjects and 7 per cent have diplomas.
- About 15 per cent had history, commerce or economics as thier main subject of study.
- There are odd cases of those who have studied subjects like Bio Technology, Catering, Ceramics, Corporate Secretaryship, Fisheries, Geology, Microbiology, Nutrition, Pharmacology, Physical Training, Polymer Science and Tourism.
- Though this group does not include those recruited against the sports quota, about 10 per cent claim to have participated or won laurels in inter-college, inter-University, inter-District or inter-State events in various disciplines of sports or games.
- About 60 (mostly ex-servicemen) were 35 years or older on the date of joining for training. More than 80 per cent were, however, less than 25 years old. One-sixth of the total were less than 21.



‘மெத்தனால்’ – மெத்தனம் வேண்டாம்

R. NATARAJ, இ.கா.ப

காவல் துறை இயக்குநர் (சிறை)

வருடம் 1937 அக்டோபர் 1-ம் தேதி அப்போதைய மதராஸ் மாகாணத்தில் சேலம் மாவட்டத்தில் தான் முழுமையான மதுவிலக்கு அமலுக்கு வந்தது. மதுவிலக்கு சட்டம் 1937 (மதராஸ் சட்டப் பிரிவு – 1937) தனித்தன்மை வாய்ந்த சட்டம். சமுதாய நலச் சட்டங்களில் இந்திய நாட்டிற்கே முன்னோடி. இந்த சட்டம் முழுமையாக முதலில் நடைமுறைப்படுத்தப்பட்ட மாவட்டம் என்ற பெருமைக்குரியது சேலம் மாவட்டம். அப்போதிருந்த மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் திரு. டி.கே. மிகுந்த அக்கறை எடுத்துக் கொண்டு புதிய சட்டத்தை முறையாக அமல்படுத்துவது மட்டுமன்றி பொதுமக்களை ஊக்குவித்து முழுமையாக ஈடுபடச் செய்து மாவட்டத்திற்குட்பட்ட எல்லா அரசுத் துறைகளின் ஒருங்கிணைந்த ஒத்துழைப்போடு இந்த சமுதாய நலச் சட்டத்திற்கு புது வடிவம் கொடுத்தார் என்பது வரலாறு. அப்போது தருமபுரியும், கிருஷ்ணகிரியும் சேலம் மாவட்டத்தோடு இணைந்திருந்தன. அத்தகைய சிறப்பு வாய்ந்த மாவட்டத்திலிருந்து உருவாக்கப்பட்ட கிருஷ்ணகிரியில், சமீபத்தில் விஷச் சாராயம் ஏழைகளின் உயிர்களைப் பலி கொண்டது என்பது வேதனைக்குரியது.

1998-ம் வருடம் தருமபுரி மாவட்டம் சூலகிரியில் விஷச் சாராயத்திற்கு 49 பேர் பலியானார்கள். மெத்தனால் என்ற இரசாயன திரவத்தை ஏற்றி வந்த டேங்கர் லாரி பழுதடைந்து சூலகிரியில் நின்ற போது, டேங்கரில் இருந்து கசிந்த

திரவத்தை எரி சாராயம் என்று நினைத்து மக்கள் எடுத்துச் சென்று குடித்ததால் இந்த விபரீதம் ஏற்பட்டது என்பது விசாரணையில் தெரிய வந்தது. உயிர் பிழைத்தவர்கள் பலர் பார்வையிழந்தனர். உடல் உபாதைகளுக்கு ஆளாகி நடைபிணமாக வாழ்ந்து கொண்டு இருக்கின்றனர்.

விஷச் சாராய நிகழ்வுகளை ஆராய்ந்தால் அதிகமாக மெத்தனால் என்ற கொடிய நச்சுப் பொருளை உட்கொண்டதால் ஏற்பட்டது என்று தெளிவாகிறது. 1991-ல் இருந்து இன்று வரை 60 விஷச் சாராய சம்பவங்களில் 40 நிகழ்வுகளில் மெத்தனால் என்ற திரவத்தை சாராயம் என்று நினைத்து உட்கொண்டதால் திடீர் சாவு ஏற்பட்டுள்ளது. 1976-ல் தான் சென்னை அருகே திருவெற்றியூர் அருகில் நடந்த சம்பத்தில் ஒரே சமயத்தில் 118 நபர்கள் மாண்டனர்.

மெத்தனால் என்பது சாராயம் அல்ல. மெத்தனால் ஒரு விதமான மதுபான வகை என்ற தவறான எண்ணத்தில் அருந்துவதால் பெரும்பாலான சாவுகள் நிகழ்ந்துள்ளன. மெத்தனால் என்பது கார்பன் மற்றும் ஹைடிரஜன் உள்ளடங்கிய பழம் படிம எரி பொருளிலிருந்து தயாரிக்கப்படுகின்ற ஒரு பெட்ரோலிய வகை திரவமாகும். இது மீதைல் ஆல்கஹால் (CH₃OH) எனப்படும். மெத்தனால் ஃபார்மால்டிஹைடுகள், அசிட்டிக் அமிலம் மற்றும் பல்வேறு இரசாயனத் தயாரிப்புகளுக்குப் பயன்படுகிறது. இதனால் தான் மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தின் தடை செய்யப்பட்ட பொருளாக இருந்தது 1984-ல் நீக்கப்பட்டு, பல ஆண்டுகளாக மெத்தனால் தொழிற்சாலைகளை பொருளாக கருதப்பட்டு வந்தது. இரசாயன தொழிற்சாலைகளுக்கு முக்கியமான மூலப் பொருள், ஆயினும் நச்சுப் பொருள் என்பதால் பாய்ஸன் சட்டம் (Poison Act) படி வைத்திருப்பது, உபயோகப்படுத்துவது, எடுத்துச் செல்வதற்கு உரிமம் பெற வேண்டும்.

2001-ம் ஆண்டு கடலூர் மாவட்டம் புதுப்பேட்டையில் நிகழ்ந்த சாராயச் சாவு சம்பவத்தில் 50 பேர் உயிரிழந்தனர்; நூற்றுக்கும் மேற்பட்டோர் பாதிக்கப்பட்டனர். இதன் பிறகு மெத்தனால் மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தின் ஆளுகைக்கு

கொண்டு வரப்பட்டது. உரிமம் இல்லாது இந்த திரவத்தை வைத்தல் மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டப்படி குற்றமாகும் என்று பிப்ரவரி 2002-ல் ஆணையிடப்பட்டது. மெத்தனால் மதுவிலக்கு சட்டத்தின் கீழ் கடுமையாக கண்காணிக்கப்பட்டதால், 2002-ல் மேற்கொண்டு சம்பவம் நிகழவில்லை.

மெத்தனால் திரவத்தின் விஷத்தன்மை பற்றியும் அதை நிர்வகிக்கும் சட்டம் மற்றும் விதிகள் பற்றி பெருவாரியான காவல் துறையினருக்கும் தெரியாத நிலையில் பொது மக்களுக்கு தெரிந்திருக்க வாய்ப்பில்லை. மெத்தனால் என்பது தெளிவான, நிறமில்லாத எளிதில் ஆவியாகித் தீப்பற்றக் கூடிய ஒரு திரவம். விஷத் தன்மை உடையது. எளிதில் தண்ணீரில் கரையக் கூடியது. நச்சுத் தன்மையுள்ளதால் எல்லா உறுப்புகளிலும் விஷம் கலந்து குணப்படுத்த முடியாத நிலைக்கு கொண்டு போய்விடும். மெத்தனால் கண் பார்வையை வெகுவாக பாதிக்கக் கூடியது. மெத்தனால் உட்கொள்வதால் இருதயம், ஈரல், குடல் ஆகிய முக்கிய உறுப்புகள் சேதமடைகின்றன. பட்ட இடத்தில் எரிச்சல் தரக் கூடியது. இதன் நச்சுத் தன்மையை எளிதில் களைய முடியாததால் இது முழுமையான நஞ்சு என்று சொல்லப்படுகிறது. மெத்தனால் ஆபத்தானது. இதனால் தான் 300 லிட்டருக்கு மேல் இருப்பு வைத்திருப்பதற்கு மத்திய அரசின் வெடி மருந்து கட்டுப்பாட்டு அலுவலரிடமிருந்து உரிமம் பெற வேண்டும். இடம் விட்டு இடம் எடுத்துச் செல்லும் போது மெத்தனாலுடன் அதனை உற்பத்தி செய்த விஞ்ஞானக் குழுவின் பரிந்துரையின் முத்திரை காகிதத்துடன் இருக்க வேண்டும். பொருளின் பாதுகாப்புப் புள்ளி விவரப்பட்டியலின் நகல் அதனுடன் இணைக்கப்பட்டிருக்க வேண்டும்.

மெத்தனால் உட்கொண்டதால் பாதிக்கப்பட்டவருக்கு உடனடி முதலுதவி கொடுத்து அருகில் உள்ள மருத்துவமனையில் அனுமதிக்க வேண்டும். பாதிக்கப்பட்டவரின் ஆடைகளை உடனே மாற்ற வேண்டும். உடலில் பட்டிருந்தால் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட பகுதியை ஓடும் தண்ணீரால் சுத்தம் செய்ய வேண்டும். தண்ணீரைக் கொண்டு கொப்பளித்து உமிழ்ச் செய்ய வேண்டும். மருத்துவமனை

அருகில் இல்லா விட்டால் அதிகமாக தண்ணீரைக் குடிக்க செய்து வயிற்றில் உள்ள மெத்தனாலை நீர்த்த நிலைக்கு கொண்டு வந்து, பாதிக்கப்பட்டவரை வாந்தி எடுக்க செய்து கதகதப்பான சூழ்நிலையில் படுக்க வைக்க வேண்டும்.

விஷச் சாராயத்தால் பாதிப்பு ஏற்பட்டுள்ளது என்ற தகவல் தெரிந்தவுடன் அசம்பாவிதம் நிகழ்ந்து விட்டதே என்று அங்கலாய்க்காமல், காவல்துறையினர் துரிதமாக செயல்பட்டு பாதிக்கப்பட்டவர்களைக் கண்டுபிடித்து எல்லோருக்கும் கட்டாயமாக மருத்துவ சிகிச்சைக்கு ஏற்பாடு செய்ய வேண்டும். இம்மாதிரி நேர்வுகளில் அதன் வீரியத்தைக் குறைத்து மதிப்பிடும் நிலை காவல்துறையினரிடம் உண்டு. அதிகமான மக்கள் பாதிக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் என்றால் பரபரப்பான செய்தியாகி சரக காவல் துறையினரைப் பாதிக்கும் என்பதாலேயே அசம்பாவிதத்தின் உண்மை நிலையை குறைத்திடும் போக்கு இருக்கும். ஆனால் இது மிக ஆபத்தானது.

மெத்தனால் லாரிடேங்கர்களில் எடுத்துச் செல்லும் போது கடைப்பிடிக்க வேண்டிய விதிமுறைகள், ஓட்டுனர்களுக்கு தகுந்த பயிற்சி, அவர்களின் பணியைப் பற்றிய விழிப்புணர்வு ஆகியவை காவல்துறையினரால் நடைமுறைப்படுத்த வேண்டும். அதே போல் மெத்தனால் உபயோகிக்கும் தொழிற்சாலைகள் எங்கு உள்ளன என்பது தெரிவு செய்து அவை உபயோகப்படுத்தப்படும் இடங்களில் கிரமப்படி பாதுகாப்போடு வைக்கப்படுள்ளதா என்பதை தணிக்கை செய்ய வேண்டும். இதில் சிறிதேனும் தவறு நேர்ந்தால் விளைவுகள் விபரீதமாக முடியும். திருவள்ளூர் மாவட்டம் புல்லூர் என்ற இடத்தில் 1998-ம் ஆண்டு நடந்த சம்பவம் — ஒரு தொழிற்சாலையிலிருந்து திருடப்பட்ட மெத்தனால், சாராயம் என்று உட்கொள்ளப்பட்டதால் ஏற்பட்ட விளைவு 12 உயிர்களை பலி கொண்டது. மெத்தனால் உபயோகிக்கும் தொழிற்சாலைகள் தமிழ்நாட்டில் 114 உள்ளன. சிறிய அளவில் உபயோகிக்கும் தொழிற்சாலைகள் சுமார் 100 இருக்கும். சென்னை மற்றும் புறநகர் பகுதிகளில் சுமார் 75 தொழிற்சாலைகள் உள்ளன. மெத்தனால் உபயோகிக்கும்

தொழிற்சாலைகளில் அங்கு வேலை செய்யும் எல்லோருக்கும் விஷத்தன்மையான பொருள் எங்கு வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்பது தெரிந்திருக்க வேண்டும். சம்பந்தப்பட்ட மேலாண்மை அதிகாரிக்கு மெத்தனால் மூலம் விரும்பத்தகாத செயல்கள் நடந்தால் அவர்கள் தான் பொறுப்பு என்று உணர்த்தப்பட வேண்டும்.

மது விலக்கு சட்டத்தில், 1998-ல் பல திருத்தங்கள் கொண்டு வரப்பட்டு தண்டனை கடுமையாக்கப்பட்டது. விஷச் சாராயம் கையாளுதலுக்கு ஆயுள் தண்டனை வரை கொடுக்க வழிவகை செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. மேலும் மதுவிலக்கு சட்டம் பிரிவு 52 உட்பிரிவு (இ)-ல் சொல்லியபடி தொடர்ந்து மதுவிலக்கு குற்றம் புரிதலில் மூன்று முறையும் அதற்கு மேலும் தண்டிக்கப்பட்டிருந்தால் அவர்களது இருப்பிடத்திலிருந்து இரண்டாண்டு வரை விலக்கி வைக்கவும் ஊருக்கு நுழைய முடியாத உத்தரவு கோர்ட் மூலம் பிறப்பிக்க முடியும். இது மிகவும் வலிமை வாய்ந்த தண்டனை. 1999-ல் இருந்து 2001 வரை இரண்டு வருடங்களில் சுமார் 1000 பெருங்குற்றவாளிகள் மீது இந்த நடவடிக்கை மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டதால் மதுவிலக்குக் குற்றங்கள் கணிசமாக கட்டுப்பாட்டுக்குள் வந்தன.

மதுவிலக்குச்சட்டம் ஒரு முக்கியமான சமுதாயநலச்சட்டம். இதை முழு ஈடுபாடுடன் அமல்படுத்துவது காவல்துறையின் தலையாயகடமை. எவ்வாறு, எந்த வகையில், எந்த பிரிவுமூலம் இந்தச் சட்டத்தை அமல்படுத்துவது என்பது ஒவ்வொரு கால கட்டத்திலும் பல மாற்றங்களை கண்டுள்ளது. அமலாக்கக் காவல் பிரிவு, அப்காரி அமலாக்கப் பிரிவு, உள்ளூர் காவலர் சில சமயம் தனிப் பொறுப்புடனும் அல்லது ஒருங்கிணைந்த பொறுப்புடனும் இந்தச் சட்டம் அமல்படுத்தப்பட்டது. மேலே குறிப்பிட்டுள்ள எந்த துறைக்கு பிரதான பொறுப்பு கொடுத்தால் அமலாக்கம் சிறப்பாக இருக்கும் என்பது சர்ச்சைக்குரியது. ஒவ்வொரு செயல்முறையும் குறை-நிறை அடங்கியது. உள்ளூர் போலீஸாருக்கு சட்டம் ஒழுங்கு சம்பந்தப்பட்டப் பிரச்சனைகளில் கவனம் செலுத்த

வேண்டியதைக் கருத்தில் கொண்டு பிரத்யேக அமலாக்கப் பிரிவு உருவாக்கப்பட்டது. ஆனால் சில இடங்களில் உள்ளூர் போலீஸாரின் ஆதரவோடு கள்ளச் சாராயத் தொழில் நடைபெறுகிறது என்ற குற்றச்சாட்டு பரவலாக எழுந்தது. எந்த ஒரு சட்ட விரோத செயலும் உள்ளூர் காவல்துறையினரின் கவனத்தை மீறி நடைபெற முடியாது என்பது எதிர்க்க முடியாததொன்று. இத்தகைய சட்ட மீறல், ஒன்று போலீஸாரின் தயவோடும், ஆதரவோடும் நடைபெறும். அல்லது அவர்களது மெத்தன, அசட்டையான, கடமை தவறுதலால் நிகழும். இரண்டும் கட்டும் கண்டனத்துக்குரியது. மேலும் சாராயம் காய்ச்சுவதற்கு நீர் ஆதாரம் தேவை. ஆற்றுப் படுகை, மலைப் பகுதிகளில் சுணை நீர், ஏரி புறம்போக்கு, காட்டுப் பகுதி போன்ற இடங்களில் மக்கள் நடமாட்டம் அதிகம் இல்லாத சமயங்களில் சாராயம் காய்ச்சும் சட்ட விரோத செயல் நடைபெறும். காவல்துறை, வருவாய்துறை, பொதுப்பணித் துறை, வனத்துறை, ஒருங்கிணைந்து நடவடிக்கை எடுத்தால் தான் இத்தகைய குற்றங்களை களைய முடியும் என்பதால் இந்தத் துறை சார்நிலை அலுவலர்களுக்கு முக்கிய பொறுப்பு என்று அறிவுறுத்தும் அரசாணை 1992-ல் வெளியிடப்பட்டது.

அமலாக்கப் பிரிவின் தற்போதைய ஆணைப்படி கூடுதல் காவல்துறை இயக்குநர் தலைமையில் இயங்குகிறது. ஒவ்வொரு மாவட்டத்திலும், மதுவிலக்கு அமலாக்கப்பிரிவுகள் உண்டு. அமலாக்கப் பிரிவு மற்றும் உள்ளூர் போலீஸார் ஒருங்கிணைந்து மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை அமல்படுத்த வேண்டும். மாவட்டக் காவல்துறை கண்காணிப்பாளருக்கு அமலாக்குவதில் முக்கிய பொறுப்பு இருக்கிறது. மாவட்ட அளவில் ஏனைய துறைகளின் ஒருங்கிணைப்பை மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் உறுதி செய்ய வேண்டும். ஏழ்மை காரணமாக மதுவிலக்குக் குற்றங்களில் சிக்கி திருந்தி வாழ விழைபவர்களுக்கு புனர் வாழ்வு கொடுக்கும் செயலாக்கம் மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் மூலம் நிறைவேற்றப்படுகிறது.

மாநில அளவில் மது விலக்கு குற்றங்கள் நடைபெறும் இடங்களை தெரிவு செய்து பெருமளவில் மதுவிலக்கு

வேட்டை நடத்துவது, மாவட்டங்களிடையே ஒருங்கிணைப்பு நடவடிக்கை உறுதி செய்தல், எரி சாராயம், மெத்தனால் கடத்தப்படுவதை சோதனைச் சாவடிகள் மூலம் கண்காணித்தல், அண்டை மாநிலங்களான கர்நாடகா, ஆந்திரா, கேரளா, பாண்டிச்சேரியில் சம்பந்தப்பட்ட அதிகாரிகளோடு ஆலோசித்து அமலாக்கத்தை மேம்படுத்துதல், மதுவிலக்கு ஆணையாளரோடு இணைந்து நடவடிக்கை எடுத்தல், மதுவிலக்கு சம்பந்தப்பட்ட அரசு ஆணைகள் நல்ல முறையில் செயல்படுத்துவதை உறுதி செய்தல், எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் மேலாக மக்களிடையே “மது உடலைக் கெடுக்கும்—குடியைக் கெடுக்கும்” என்ற விழிப்புணர்ச்சி ஏற்படுத்துதல்—இந்த அனைத்து பொறுப்புக்களையும் நிறைவு செய்ய வேண்டிய கடமை அமலாக்கப் பிரிவின் தலைமைப் பொறுப்பு வகிக்கும் கூடுதல் காவல்துறை இயக்குரைச் சாரும்.

கள்ளச்சாராய ஒழிப்பு என்பது தொடர் நடவடிக்கை. பல இடங்களில் கள்ளச்சாராய ஒழிப்பு நடவடிக்கைகள் தீவிரமாக்கப்பட்ட நிலையிலும், சில இடங்களில் இக்குற்றங்கள் தலையெடுத்து சமுதாய சீர்குலைவிற்கு அடித்தளமாகிறது. பல சட்டம் ஒழுங்கு பிரச்சனைகளுக்கு வித்திடுவது கள்ளச்சாராயம். ஒரு காவல் நிலைய சரகத்தில் மதுவிலக்குக் குற்றங்கள் ஒழிக்கப்பட்டால், மற்ற சம்பந்தப்பட்ட பிரச்சனைகள் வெகுவாக குறைந்து காவல் கண்காணிப்பு (Policing) எளிதாகிறது.

கடமை தவறுதல், குற்றவாளிகளுடன் உடந்தை (inaction and connivance) இவ்விரண்டும் கள்ளச்சாராயம் தலைதூக்குவதற்கான அடிப்படைக் காரணங்கள். கள்ளச்சாராயத்தை ஒழிக்க முடியுமா என்ற கேள்விக்கு மாறுபட்ட கருத்துக்கள் இருக்கின்றன. ஆனால் நிச்சயமாக கட்டுப்படுத்த முடியும் - காவல்துறை ஒருங்கிணைந்த நடவடிக்கை மேற்கொண்டால் உதாரணமாக, கள்ளச் சாராய ஒழிப்பை ஒரு சவாலாக ஏற்று 1999-2001 ஆண்டுகளில் மதுவிலக்கு அமலாக்கத் திட்டம் வரையறுக்கப்பட்டது. தமிழகத்தில் உள்ள 12,618 கிராமப் பஞ்சாயத்துக்களில்

அடங்கிய 17,292 தாய் கிராமங்களில் மதுவிலக்குக் குற்றங்கள் அதிகமாக உள்ள 2500 கிராமங்கள் தெரிவு செய்யப்பட்டன. அவற்றில் 700 கிராமங்கள் மதுவிலக்கு கரும்புள்ளி கிராமங்களாக கணக்கெடுத்து, ஒவ்வொரு மாவட்டத்திலிருந்து ஒவ்வொரு மாதமும் ஐந்து கரும்புள்ளி கிராமங்கள், ஒவ்வொரு மாவட்டத்திலும் மதுவிலக்கு குற்றங்களிலிருந்து முற்றிலும் விடுவித்து 'வெண்புள்ளி' கிராமங்களாக மாற்ற நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டது. சராசரி ஒவ்வொரு மாதமும் நூற்றுக்கும் மேற்பட்ட கரும்புள்ளி கிராமங்கள் வெண்புள்ளி கிராமங்களாக மாற்றப்பட்டு, காவல்துறை மக்களின் நன்மதிப்பைப் பெற்றது. மதுரை, தேனி, விருதுநகர், திருநெல்வேலி, தூத்துக்குடி, தஞ்சை, நாகப்பட்டினம், திருவாரூர், திருச்சி போன்ற மாவட்டங்களில் பெருவாரியான வெற்றி ஈட்டப்பட்டது. மதுவிலக்குக் குற்றங்களை ஒழிப்பதற்கு கிராம விழிப்புணர்வு குழுக்கள் அமைத்து அவர்களின் ஒத்துழைப்பு மற்றும் மகளிர் சங்கங்களின் ஒத்துழைப்பு இன்றியமையாதது. எடுக்கப்பட்ட முயற்சிகளை தொய்வின்றி உறுதிப்படுத்துதல் அந்த சரக காவல்துறையினரின் பொறுப்பு.

மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தைப் பாரபட்சமன்றி முறையாக அமல்படுத்துவது காவல்துறையின் முக்கிய பணி. மற்ற அரசுத் துறைகளான, வருவாய்துறை, பொதுப்பணித் துறை, வனத்துறையின் மூலம் தொடர்பு கொண்டு அந்தந்த இடங்களில் மதுவிலக்குக் குற்றங்கள் நடவாமல் தடுப்பு நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க வேண்டும். தன்மானத்தை பணயம் வைக்காது இந்த முக்கிய பணியில் நேர்மையைக் கடைபிடிக்க வேண்டும். கள்ளச்சாராயத்தால், தமிழ்நாட்டு மக்கள் மாண்டு மடிய நேரிடா வண்ணம் தக்கப் பாதுகாப்பு அளிப்போம். கள்ளச்சாராயத்தை ஒழித்தேத் தீருவோம் என்ற சூளுரைக்கு ஏற்ப முழுமையாக சமுதாய நலனை மனதில் கொண்டு காவல்துறையினர் தம்மை அர்ப்பணிக்க வேண்டும்.



PEER PRACTICE

Kansas Police Chief fired for stealing beer

The police chief in the small Kansas town of Wilson is out of work after being convicted of stealing beer from the fire department's refrigerator.

Officials say the two departments share a building, and the door separating the offices usually was unlocked. The police chief Brian Hill was arrested on 1st August after a surveillance tape showed him taking the beer. He was convicted of misdemeanour theft and given probation.

Authorities did not disclose how much beer was stolen or why it was in the fire department fridge.

Convicted for preparing for terrorism

Sohail Qureshi, a dentist from London, was jailed for four-and-a-half years after becoming the first person to be convicted in England under the law covering those caught preparing for terrorism. He had been arrested at Heathrow airport in October 2006 while about to fly to Pakistan and was found carrying £9,000 in cash, most of it strapped to his body, plus a night sight, metal batons and computer material 'for terrorist purposes'.

Qureshi was also in email contact with Samina Malik, the so-called "lyrical terrorist", who wrote poems about martyrdom and beheading unbelievers. Samina Malik is the

first woman convicted in England on a terrorism charge and was given a suspended jail sentence last year after she was found guilty of storing a library of material for terrorism.

Prison Population

As the prison population in England and Wales exceeded 80,000 (four times the number of prisoners in Tamil Nadu which has a population comparable to that of England), the authorities have been on the look-out for measures to tackle overcrowding in prisons. Under Operation Safeguard, convicted prisoners are being held in police cells. Police cells were used 60,953 times in 2007 for this purpose. The average estimated cost of holding a prisoner in a police cell under Operation Safeguard is around £385 per night.

Police Reward Good Drivers With Coffee

Motorists may be in for a surprise if they spot flashing red lights in their rearview mirrors in Rancho Cordova, Calif., a Sacramento suburb during the holiday season. Police are stopping law-abiding motorists and rewarding their good driving with \$5 Starbucks gift cards. A traffic officer came up with the idea to “promote the holiday spirit and enhance goodwill between the traffic unit and the motoring public,” police Sgt. Tim Curran said. Local businesses donated money to buy the gift cards.

UK Police to Use Text Message Tactics to Snare Rape Suspects

Police and prosecutors in rape cases in the UK are set to experiment with controversial techniques designed to make suspects incriminate themselves through phone calls or text messages. Lawyers and detectives believe the approach could be vital in helping to boost the stubbornly low rape conviction rate in England and Wales, where barely 6% of cases reported to police end in conviction. “Police get the victim to send a text saying something like ‘how could you do that to me?’” said a senior Crown Prosecution Service source. “They sometimes

get a text back saying ‘I’m really sorry, I know I was out of order, it won’t happen again’ or something like that.”

The so-called “pretext” phone call, is lawful in some U.S. states. In a California case Enrique Monteya was accused of serious sexual assaults, including rape, against his partner’s underage daughter. She made a pretext call telling him she had run away and was thinking about reporting what he had done to her. Monteya replied: “Why? Don’t do that ... Why you gonna do all that? They’ll put me in jail for the rest of my life. They’ll kill me. You want them to kill me?” He was sentenced to 64 years.

The move is, however, expected to meet resistance from some judges and lawyers on civil liberties grounds.

Careless Driving Vs. Dangerous Driving

Motorists who kill through carelessness in England will face jail sentences for the first time when the new offence of causing death by careless driving comes into force in March or April. Killing through dangerous driving already carries a maximum sentence of 14 years but currently those convicted of the less serious offence of careless driving cannot be jailed even if death results. The usual penalty is a period of disqualification from driving plus a fine.

The new offence was brought in after an outcry over cases such as that of lorry driver William Ishani, who was banned from driving for a year and fined £1,000 in 2004 after killing a family of four—a sentence the trial judge acknowledged would be seen as “derisory”. The Khambaty family from Northampton died when his 38-ton lorry ploughed into the back of their car on the M1. The prosecution claimed Ishani fell asleep at the wheel, which he denied. The jury found him not guilty of dangerous driving but guilty of careless driving.

Drivers charged with causing death by dangerous driving who were using a hand-held mobile phone, which is illegal, or

who read or composed text messages face jail sentences of four to seven years.

Courts will also have to consider a range of aggravating and mitigating factors, such as the number of people killed and the driver's previous driving record.

Ex-police Sue Over Movie Depiction

A group of retired US drug enforcement officers have sued NBC Universal, a production firm, saying the hit film *American Gangster* falsely made them out to be villains. The lawsuit claims it defamed hundreds of Drug Enforcement Agency agents and New York City police officers by claiming at the end that a trafficker's collaboration with prosecutors "led to the convictions of three quarters of New York City's Drug Enforcement Agency." According to the lawsuit, no DEA agents or New York City police officers were ever convicted as a result of tips provided by the trafficker. Three former DEA agents filed the class action suit on behalf of themselves and 400 other agents asking for at least £25million in punitive damages.

10,000 police to get handheld computers in UK

The Home Office has given the go-ahead (May 2008) for a £50m project to equip 10,000 police officers with handheld computers. The scheme will help reduce bureaucracy by allowing officers to file reports and access information on the beat rather than having to return to their station. Tony McNulty, minister for policing, said, "We are investing in new technology to make crimefighting more effective and to save officers' time."

Contingency Plan for a Pandemic

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has developed a National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza outlining preparations for detecting and responding to an influenza pandemic. The avian flu H5N1 virus was first detected when it caused six

deaths in Hong Kong in 1997. Since 2003, more than 100 cases have been reported. Many scientists believe that an influenza pandemic will occur, although the timing and severity cannot be easily predicted. The WHO estimates that an influenza pandemic will affect 30 to 50 per cent of working adults.

A contingency plan for coping with an outbreak of flu pandemic will have to take into account the following:

- Stockpile of medical supplies
- Purchase of personal protective equipment
- Procedure for quarantine which may take the form of isolating individuals in their homes or cordoning off large segments of a community.
- Coping with large absenteeism among employees as many will be caring for others while some will be too sick or even too scared to report to work.

(FBI Bulletin, July 2008: *The Leadership Challenge: Preparing for a Pandemic*—Mike Harden)

Metal Theft is the Second Biggest Threat to the Railways after Terrorism in England

Theft of metal from the railways, church roofs and even war memorial plaques has risen by more than 150 per cent in the last two years. A rise in scrap metal prices, due to soaring demand from emerging economic powerhouses led by China and India, is said to be fuelling the crime. Black market copper can fetch up to £4,000 per tonne, making 2p pieces more value when melted down for scrap.

Three years ago a £3 million bronze statue by sculptor Henry Moore was stolen from the grounds of a museum. The two tonne statue of “a reclining figure” is thought to have been melted down for scrap.



IMPORTANT JUDGMENTS

Summoning production of documents, etc under Sec 91(1) CrPC

2008 CRI. L. J 3167 (Madras High Court)

H.Mohamed Ibrahim Kaleel & Ors. V. State and Anr.

This relates to a case under Sec 498 A IPC and Sec 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act. When the complainant filed a petition invoking Sec 91(1) CrPC and seeking a search warrant against the accused in the case, the Judicial Magistrate had passed an order allowing the petition.

Sec 91(1) CrPC enables any Court or officer in charge of a police station to issue a summons or a written order requiring a person to produce any document or other thing necessary for investigation or trial. In 1965(2) Cri LJ 256 (State of Gujarat V. Shyamlal), the apex court has held that Sec 94 (presently Sec 91(1)) would not apply to the accused as it violates article 20(3) of the Constitution. Under these circumstances, the High Court held that the power enshrined in Sec 91(1) CrPC cannot be invoked against any accused.

Points to be noted

- The power in Sec 91(1) CrPC to summon production of document or other things cannot be invoked against an accused.

Determining age of Juvenile in a continuing offence

2008 CRI L. J 3190 (Supreme Court)

Vimal Chadha V. Vikas Choudhary & Anr.

20-year-old Parkash Chadha was found missing when he went out with his friends on 18.1.03. A missing report was lodged on the same day. Investigation disclosed that the youth had been abducted and killed for ransom.

During trial, a school certificate was produced to show that the accused was born on 20.1.85 and an application was filed to transfer the case to the Juvenile Board on the ground that he was juvenile on the date of the occurrence.

The Supreme Court took note of the fact that according to the charge sheet, calls for payment of ransom were received till 11.3.2003. Citing Sec 472 CrPC on continuing offence, the Court held that although the missing report was filed on 18.1.03, determination of age of the accused with regard to this date was improper since the victim's father continued to get calls for ransom till 11.3.2003. "Giving calls for ransom is an offence. In case of murder coupled with abduction in a given case may be considered to be a continuous offence."

Points to be noted

- If an offence has been a continuing offence, then the age of the juvenile in delinquency should be determined with reference to the date on which the offence is said to have been committed and not merely with reference to the date of the FRI or date of filing of missing report.

Offence committed outside India by a person who is not an Indian citizen

2008 CRI.L.J 3065 (Supreme Court)

Fatma Bibi Ahmed Patel V. State of Gujarat & Anr.

A woman living with her husband in Kuwait filed a complaint before a CJM alleging physical and mental torture by her husband and her mother-in-law. The CJM took cognizance of the offence and issued summons to the mother-in-law.

Sec 4 of IPC says that IPC will be applicable for any offence committed by any Indian citizen outside India and any offence committed by any person on any ship or aircraft registered in India. Sec 188 CrPC contains similar provisions for offences committed outside India but requires sanction of central government for enquiry into or trial of such offences committed outside India.

The Supreme Court held that as the mother-in-law is a citizen of Mauritius and the offence was said to have been committed in Kuwait, she cannot be tried in terms of the provisions of Sec 4 IPC or Sec 188 CrPC.

Search under NDPS Act

2008 CRI.L.J 2060

Ghasita Sahu V. State of MP

The right of an accused to have a search conducted in the presence of the a Magistrate or a Gazetted Officer arises only where the search is of the 'person' of the accused u/s 50 of NDPS Act. This does not arise in case of search of the house of the accused u/s 42 of NDPS Act r/w 51 of the Act and Sec 100 CrPC.

NDPS Act: Quantum of drug in mixture

2008 CRI.L.J 2250

E.Michael Raj V. Intelligence Officer, NCB

Imposition of sentence should be based on content of offending drug in the mixture and not on weight of the mixture as such.

The intention of the legislature under the Amending Act of 2001 was to rationalize the sentence structure so as to ensure that while drug traffickers who traffic in significant quantities of drugs are punished with deterrent sentence, the addicts and those who commit less serious offences are sentenced to less severe punishment. Under the rationalized sentence structure, the punishment would vary depending upon the quantity of offending material. Thus, it cannot be said that the rate of purity is irrelevant ... because the intention of the legislature is to levy punishments based on the content of the offending drug and not on the weight of the mixture as such.

In this case, the accused was in possession of 4.07 kg of contraband. Analysis of two samples revealed an average purity of heroin of 1.5 per cent. The quantity of heroin was calculated to be 60 gm. This is more than small quantity (5 gm) but less than commercial quantity (250 gm) and accused was held punishable u/s 21(b) of the Act (and not under 21(c) which deals with commercial quantity).



PTC - COURSE CALENDAR

April, May and June 2008

Sl. No.	Title	Date
1.	Latest Law Amendment and Case Laws and Civil Laws	01-04-08 to 02-04-08
2.	Drug Law Enforcement	09-04-08 to 11-04-08
3.	Improvement of Investigation Skills	16-04-08 to 17-04-08
4.	Investigation of SC/ST PA (Act) 1989 & Dowry Death Cases	06-05-08 to 07-05-08
5.	Training to MV Inspectors Gr. II Transport Department	12-05-08 & 16-05-08
6.	Trafficking in Human Beings	14-05-08 to 16-05-08
7.	JJ Act (Care & Protection) Act 2000 & Child Rights	27-05-08 to 28-02-08
8.	“Criminal Procedure, Counterfeit Currency, Credit Card Investigation and Electronic Crimes”	30-05-08
9.	Drug Law Enforcement	18-06-08 to 20-06-08
10.	Investigation of Cases Reported Under Arms Act 1981, Explosives Act, 1984 & Explosives Substances Act, 1908	26-06.08 & 27.06.08

WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

Sl. No.	Title	Date
1.	Seminar on Intellectual Property	12-06-08 & 13.06.08

SNAPSHOTS

- Sports and Cultural events were conducted for 208 SI cadets at PTC, Chennai on 02.04.2008 and 03.04.2008. Prizes were distributed by the ADGP and IGP Training
- Inter PTC Quiz Competition was conducted on 03.05.2008 at PTC Chennai in which SI Cadets from Chennai, Tamil Nadu Police Academy and Coimbatore participated. SI Cadets from PTC Chennai emerged victorious.
- SI cadets at PTC Chennai were shifted to the new TNPA in two batches. To begin with, 72 SI cadets (56 Women cadets + 16 Men cadets of Pondicherry) were shifted on 10.05.08 and later, 136 Men SI cadets on 14.06.2008 for further period of training.
- K. Natarajan, IPS, Director General of Police, Director, Vigilance and Anti Corruption was placed in additional charge of Training on 22.05.2008.
- On the recommendation of the BPR & D, New Delhi, a one-day course on “Criminal Procedure, Counterfeit Currency, Credit Card investigation and Electronic Crimes” was conducted on 30.05.2008 at Police Training College, Chennai. 55 Police Officers in the ranks of AdSPs, DSPs and Inspectors from all over Tamil Nadu participated. One Sub Inspector of Police from Andhra Pradesh also participated. Officials from the U.S. State department gave presentations.
- Inter PRSs Quiz Competitions was conducted on 09.06.2008 at PTC, Chennai in which Recruit Police

Constables from 16 Police Recruit Schools participated. Recruits who secured first three places were given prizes by DGP Training. Ulundurpet PRS came first followed by PRS Perurani, Thoothukudi and PRS Thanjavur.

- Preliminary Inter PRSs Sports & Games Competitions (Quarter and Semi-Final) were conducted at PTC, Chennai on 23.06.2008 and 27.06.2008. The Final competitions were held at TNPA on 28.06.2008, followed by Cultural events. Prizes were distributed by DGP Training.



