

Session 1B: Addressing Challenges of Modern Policing



Saturday, 20 Feb 2021
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM



Smt. Aruna Bahuguna

Former Director, SVP National Police Academy

(Chair)



Shri M. Mahender Reddy

*Director General of Police,
Telangana*



Dr. Gandhi P.C. Kaza

Founder Chairman, Truth Labs



Dr. Vipul Mudgal

Director, Common Cause



Shri Mohit Rao

Independent Journalist

- The session will begin with a 5 minute presentation from FDR.
- The Chair for the session will first present his views for 10-12 minutes.
- The Chair will then call upon each speaker, who will also have 10-12 minutes to share their insights.
- Post that, the Chair may open the session for a panel discussion.
- The last 30-45 minutes will be dedicated to taking questions from the audience.
- We request the participants to keep the questions brief and lucid and also mention the panelist that they would like the question to be directed to.

Modern policing is difficult



- Overstretched police and multifarious duties
- Insufficient training to handle evolving crimes and citizen's expectations
- Burden on the police force is compounded as governance problems morph into law and order challenges
 - In a democracy, that the law enforcement agencies cannot resort to arbitrary use of brute force is non negotiable
 - Respecting the right of legitimate protest is vital too
 - The police bear the brunt of the public outrage in light of most governance failures
 - Our crowd control methods are obsolete

Inadequate support system affects police efficiency



- Ill-equipped to efficiently discharge duties
 - Mobility
 - Communications
 - Forensics

Status of Policing in India report 2019 -

- 240 police stations across the selected states do not have access to a single vehicle
- 70 police stations do not have the basic communication infrastructure of wireless devices
- 224 police stations have no telephone
- Some police stations do not have wireless and telephones

Inadequate support system affects police efficiency



Poor state of forensic infrastructure in the country

- India has **7** central forensic laboratories that are well-equipped and **30** state Forensic Science Laboratories with indifferent infrastructure.
- Of the 37 labs, only about **10** have the capability of handling DNA and test about **20,000** DNA samples annually.
- An average of 6 samples are tested for any given case, this translates to DNA testing in **4000** cases per year.
- There were **11,313** violent crimes in Delhi alone in 2019.

Figure 1: Forensic Infrastructure in India and the USA

Country	Number of Forensic Labs	Number of DNA Samples Tested in a Year
India	37*	20,000 (2019)
USA	409	1,200,000 (2014)

** 7 well-equipped Central Labs, 30 state labs with indifferent infrastructure*

Sources: Indian Forensic expert, GTH-GA estimates for India, Bureau of Justice Statistics US

Inadequate support system affects police efficiency



- In such circumstances, the police are under tremendous pressure to produce short term results by hook or crook!
 - Coercion and confessions
 - Extra-judicial alternatives to render justice
- Haryana Police claimed to have solved the Ryan school murder case within minutes, charging bus conductor Ashok Kumar as the killer of a 7-year-old. However, the CBI later found that Kumar was falsely accused in the case.
- In 2019, the Disha rape and murder case sparked outrage across India. Four suspects were arrested and were shot dead in an alleged encounter with the police. **While it is important to extend appropriate punishment to the perpetrators of the crime, this must not circumvent the due process of law! Due process is achievable only if the support system is adequately equipped.**

Proposed forensic infrastructure for the country



	LEVEL	INFRASTRUCTURE	CAPABILITY
↓	State	Forensic Headquarters	All divisions with full fledged DNA, narcotics, documents
	Urban Major Centre	Regional Forensic Lab	5-7 Sections, with toxicology, Serology, DNA
	District	District Forensic Lab	2-3 sections, Post Moterm division
	SDPO	Subdivisional Lab	Mobile Labs with crime scene processing
	Police Circle	Evidence Collection Kit	Crime scene processing

Money is not a constraint!



- The proposed model should be set up in addition to the existing 7 Central Forensic Labs
- The capital cost of the proposed model is around Rs. 5000 crore
- Annual recurring cost of the set-up can be presumed to be at 50% of the capital cost
- A country that spends Rs. 12000 crore daily, spending this sum to ensure a fair and efficient justice is not too much to ask for!