

**Mahamaheem's Speech for inauguration of 3<sup>rd</sup> Mid Career Training Programme Phase IV at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 at Hyderabad**

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Director of the Sardar Vallabhbhai National Police Academy, Shri Rajiv Mathur, Prof. Lawrence Sherman, Lord Ian Blair, Prof. Raj Kumar, Joint Director of the Academy Shri C. Balasubramanian, Faculty Members of the Academy and from Cambridge University and Officers attending the Mid Career Training Programme Phase-IV. It is really a great pleasure for me to be here to inaugurate this Mid Career Training Programme. The NPA continues to

cast its positive influence on policing in India through the senior police leaders who have passed out from this Academy. After the shifting of the Academy to this present spacious surrounding in Hyderabad in 1975, the Academy has further expanded the training facilities available here. Today I am happy to see that the Academy has attained international standards.

I am told that the 683 IPS officers have been trained in three Phases of Mid Career Training Programme. Another 120 officers are here in the course and yet another 153 directly recruited officers are being trained. In the total IPS strength of 3332 in the country as on 1-1-2009, Thus number of 273 is very significant. We need to make self

assessment at the Academy as to what impact our training is having on the police functioning. The General feeling - both in the society and also amongst the officers - is that policing standards are on a decline. Given the high responsibilities and critical position held by the officers of your seniority in the police pyramid, it is imperative to acquire and continuously upgrade the skills and the knowledge required to effectively discharge your responsibilities. I hope the matrix of training of the Basic Course and the Mid Career Training Programme phases-III, IV and V would equip you with the required level of competency to meet the present and future challenges. My compliments to the Ministry of Home Affairs and National

Police Academy in conceptualizing and implementing these phased training programmes for IPS officers.

I am also very happy to see that a highly competent team from the Cambridge University is collaborating with the Academy in organizing this training programme. I am sure the wide experience of the Academy's Faculty and new ideas from overseas partners would help trainees to greatly improve their policing skills. Two weeks of foreign component of this training programme is an excellent idea to help improve officer's outlook and provide better exposure to police practices in other countries. During my long years of working in USA and UK, I have seen the emphasis the police organizations lay on training and

research. The Police foundation in USA, which is mainly a research body in USA was set up sometime in the seventies in Washington DC and now almost every State Force there have their own Police Research Foundation. For the police forces in India, perhaps, the NPA has to fill this gap and create research capabilities.

India is fortunate to have a growing economy but at the same time it faces formidable challenges on the security front. Cross Border Terrorism, Left Wing Extremism, Insurgency in North Eastern States and Organized Crime are problems that confront all police forces. It is expected of training programmes such as these at the NPA to prepare

our senior officers to effectively respond to these challenges.

Terrorism, without doubt, poses the biggest threat to our national security today. Most departmental training programmes do not prepare our officers to face these challenges.

Our counter-terrorism strategy, therefore, should involve institutional mechanisms for improved information sharing between various central agencies, state governments and international counter-terrorism partners. We should enhance our capability to be pro-active by generating and analyzing intelligence. We must deny

terrorists and their supporters the capacity to plan, organize and carry out logistical and operational support activities.

And yet, mere mechanical policing response to terrorism – treating it a mere law and order issue, may not be enough. The social causes behind the development of discontent leading to violent expressions of that discontent, too, need to be analyzed and suitably addressed.

The issues of good governance and of honesty and transparency in our administrative system have been at the centre of our political discourse for a long time.

We are witness to a churning in the society about the need for transparency and integrity in governance. The intense debates on the Lokpal issue, the Anna Hazareji's

agitation and resultant response of the people at large as well as both Houses of the Parliament are ample proof of this turmoil in society. There is a strong demand that every government functionary, police personnel included, has to maintain professional competence and also highest level of honesty and integrity. Direct or indirect links with criminals may no longer be tolerated by the society. Democracy means will of the people. Therefore, it is about time police devise well defined ways and means to check and if necessary eliminate those who vitiate the very culture of integrity and honesty in this department. The role of senior police officer in this context becomes critical.

I am also aware that our police personnel, right from lower level to higher officers have a difficult job to do. It becomes all the more unenviable since they have not only to maintained the rule of law in his jurisdiction but have also to stand unaffected by corrosive factors such as public distrust, political pressure and physical and financial temptations. (काजल की कोठरी में रहकर भी बेदाग रहना होता है।)

A policeman, as we all know, is the most visible representative of the state. It is a general perception of people that image of government is reflected by the image and working of police. Any wrong decision on the part of police directly buys peoples wrath against the government in power. To build image of police department is not an

individual responsibility but the responsibility of whole police fraternity. All officers and men in the department have to be constantly conscious about their public image.

The image of police generally depends on honest and efficient functioning of officers. The police image is improved by better performance in accordance with the legitimate expectations of people, by timely registration of offences, quick, impartial and transparent investigation and speedy disposal of cases. There are some basic qualities, like high sense of discipline, devotion to duty, desire to serve people, accompanied by professional competence that make a successful police officer. Police should act as a friend and the gap which exists between the public

expectations and police performance should be narrowed down. I am well aware that duties and responsibilities of police officers are both difficult and delicate and they demand considerable tact and courage.

I am sure that collaboration with the Cambridge University is opening to the trainee officers a unique window to the policing practices followed in the advanced countries.

The Police Academy has an inspiring motto - to prepare leaders for the Indian Police. Leaders, who will lead and command the force with courage (physical as well as moral), uprightness (personal and organizational), Dedications and a strong sense of service to the people.

In the end - let me take you to a portion of the Alabama Code of Police Ethics (2006) in USA about police ethics which runs as follows :-

"As a law enforcement officer, my duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression and intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality, and pursuit of happiness.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner which does not bring discredit to me or my agency. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life."

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals of my chosen profession.....Law Enforcement." Perhaps the police in India too need to devise such a code of ethical conduct and strengthen their belief in it.

I would like to thank the organizers for inviting me to the NPA and giving me the opportunity to meet such a large body of our senior police officers and the faculty from the Cambridge University.

Thank You - Namaskar