

Crime Records System- Need for a Modern Approach

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The present system of crime records has fallen into disrepair mainly due to the fact that the present investigator does not find it of much use because they are neither current nor accurate. All crime records essentially spring from the records maintained at the PS level. The SHO does not find it possible to maintain an accurate and current record and whatever he does, he does mostly for the satisfaction of visiting/inspecting officers.

In the present era of connectivity and computerisation it is not a difficult task to computerise crime and criminal data.

A police officer should be able to check whether a person apprehended by him is wanted elsewhere, a patrolling jeep should be able to communicate the number of a speeding vehicle to find out whether it has been reported stolen or an investigator should be able to find out whether there were any similar offences in the past in other areas.

State level and National level crime and criminal **databases** have to be created with qualified database managers and administrators. This has to be **synergised** with the national level computerisation efforts like the CCIS project and State level initiatives like e-Cops. At present computerized data bases in the SCRBs at the state level and NCRB at the national level are utilized primarily to compile, store and publish periodic crime reports. If

we expect the officers at the field level to adopt an intelligence-led approach to targeting serious and prolific criminals especially in big cities and deploy the limited resources accordingly, the databases need to be available on **real time basis**. The databases also do not permit generation of daily **MIS** reports for planning for the next day by the officers at different levels. The database relating to crime and criminals need to be made available on real time basis by providing access on **need to know** basis to the different officers. **Access** to the data base of related agencies_like RTA, land records, GIS data of the civic bodies, basic telephone service providers becomes important while handling hit and run cases, surprise check of vehicles while on the look out for suspects. This facility needs to be extended to the police. Appropriate protocols need to be worked out in this regard. Analysis of crime data by trained analysts located at the district/city and state level will enable us to identify clusters and trends, particularly in high-volume crime, and will enable us to tackle them effectively.

For this we need to recognize '**crime analysis**' as a tool and work toward developing suitable analytical structures with trained analysts at the district and state levels. **Exchange of intelligence** relating to criminals who operate across the different states on a real time basis need to be studied afresh and a more effective strategy needs to be evolved. The modalities of exchange, facilities needed, training requirements etc. need to be worked out. **e-CIG** if implemented by all the state CID, will solve this problem to some extent.

Sharing the database of Finger Prints: At present whenever finger prints are lifted from a scene of offence in any part of the state, they are being compared with the data base available with the districts and if it does not

match with any of the criminals on record, they are sent to the FPB located in the state headquarters and if in case it does not match with any criminals record available with the state FPB, then the matter gets closed. It becomes very difficult in cases where a habitual offender in one state commits an offence in another state where no record of his finger prints are available and as a result he goes scot free committing many more offences till such time he is caught. If we can share the database available with the state FPB's on a day-to-day basis by suitable networking, it will improve the performance in crime detection.