

## **e-Criminal Intelligence Gazette**

### **An innovative use of Information Technology for efficient and proactive policing**

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The British introduced the system of publication of *criminal intelligence gazette* for dissemination of criminal intelligence collected, collated and analysed by the CID Hqrs of a State with all the Police Stations within the State and other CIDs in the country. The Gazette is published weekly in Tamilnadu and Gujarat, fortnightly in Andhra Pradesh, monthly in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Goa and bi-monthly in Orissa. While there are some common features namely, missing persons, unidentified dead bodies, wanted persons in CIG published by different States, some States have included many additional features like arms and ammunition lost, military deserters, notices regarding foreigners, strangers, preachers and mendicants, information pertaining to criminal wandering gangs, crime committed by crime syndicates, crimes having bearing on National Security / VIP Security, active criminals, fake currency, etc. Interestingly, in some CIGs the formats evolved during British period continue to remain unchanged, notwithstanding the fact that the crime patterns have changed radically in the past half a century. Due to these reasons, coupled with the fact that the gazette publication and dispatches consume much time, the information received by the field officers and CID of other States is inordinately delayed and therefore, it loses its significance. Moreover, the gazettes are classified as confidential, whereas the information published in them regarding missing persons, wanted persons, unidentified dead bodies, unclaimed property lying in Police Stations needs to be widely publicized for seeking public cooperation.

In the age of Information Technology when the information can be sent from one corner of the globe to the another in a fraction of a second, the present system of CIG is time consuming, is an anachronism To overcome the problem of delay in disseminating information to the field officers and its inaccessibility to the people, the information technology in the form of internet provides a dynamic tool to the police. The system of e-CIG launched by the AP CID has significant advantages over the age old CIG published by the CIDs in the country.

**e-CIG: Main functional entities:**

Information pertaining to missing persons, unidentified dead bodies, active criminals, wanted persons in heinous crimes, persons arrested who may be wanted elsewhere, loss of arms and ammunition, wandering criminal gangs property lost, stolen and recovered is an integral part of the most CIGs. However, unless people's cooperation is sought for seeking information about the wanted criminals and unidentified dead bodies, etc, mere publication in a gazette, which has restricted circulation only among the police officers, hardly serves the slated purpose. Keeping this basic premise in view e-CIG has been launched by AP CID with the following contents (The URL of the website is <http://www.cidap.gov.in>. The web page can be seen on the back cover):

- Wanted Criminals
- Missing persons / Kidnapped children
- Unidentified dead bodies
- Recovered but unclaimed properties lying in the Police Stations
- Active Criminals
- Jail Release information regarding dacoits, robbers, etc.
- Online crime alerts in emergency situations

**Benefits for the people:**

E-CIG ensures transparency in police functioning and affords greater accessibility to common man. It will foster public participation in tracking down wanted criminals, tracing missing persons, kidnapped children, identification of unidentified dead bodies and crime prevention in general.

Presently, thousands of motor vehicles and firearms recovered by police are lying unclaimed in the Police Stations all over the country. Since the vehicles are prone to quick damage and theft of their parts, these are of little value after a few

months. E-CIG will provide instant information about the recovered and unclaimed vehicles in the Police Stations to the Police.

The crime alerts about organized crime syndicates, white-collar criminals, fly-by-night operators, rogue financial companies will prevent people becoming victims of organised crime.

### **e-CIG Advantages over the age old CIG:**

e-CIG has host of advantages over the age old CIG – both for the police and the people, namely:

#### **Benefits for the Police:**

**Firstly**, unlike traditional CIG, which provides information about crime and criminals, after a time lag of 2-3 months due to a variety of reasons, e-CIG provides instant actionable information on crime and criminals.

**Second**, Any Police Station in the State can access e-CIG on the Internet. Hence, there would be substantial reduction in paper work as there would be no need to send CIG to each Police Station in the State. This would result in huge savings in manpower, stationary etc.

**Third**, on account of its global reach, e-CIG provides inter-district, inter-state and international coordination for prevention and detection of crime.

**Fourth**, Electronic data transfer from district Police Hqrs. would be instantaneous as the district SsP are also be permitted to put data on crime and criminals on the CIG from their end.

**Fifth**, the most significant benefit that the police will have is people's participation in crime prevention and detection. Hitherto, there is no means by which people have access to information regarding crime and criminals.

**Sixth**, Transparency that is the hallmark of a responsible government will be ensured by e-CIG in the functioning of many key areas of Police Department.

**Seventh,** The details of motor vehicles and firearms recovered in a police station limit pertaining to other police station limit can be made available on the e-CIG. This would improve crime detection.

**Eighth,** The list of rogue financial companies, white collar criminals, the various modus operandi adopted by criminals can be put on the web site as a preventive measure.

**Ninth,** Photographs of organised criminals, dacoit gangs, white-collar criminals on the websites will help field investigators to show them to the victims of crime on the crime scene itself. This would immensely help the police in crime detection especially when the crime is committed by the criminals with past history.

Lastly, the CID would be able to alert the field officers and the people about active criminal gangs like that of dacoits, robbers professional kidnappers or economic offenders.

#### **e-CIG and Crime Investigation:**

The application of e-CIG in the following two situations will clearly demonstrate its potential in crime investigation:

**Scenario No.1:** Five dacoits raid a bank in broad day light, shoot down a few bank employees, plunder Rs.5 crores of cash and make good their escape in an unknown vehicle.

**Standard Police Response:** On receipt of information, Police rushes to the scene of offence, takes a complaint, records evidence of witnesses, flashes messages on VHF/HF etc. about the descriptive particulars of the criminals. Available photo albums are shown/portrait parley system is used. Several days are lost.

**Enter e-CIG:** While the above continues, the e-CIG cop takes his laptop to the scene of offence, clicks on the entire list of active/wanted criminals/including those from the Archives and shows them to the witnesses. Once the criminals are identified, the e-CIG cop sends electronic alerts to all contiguous police stations, GRP units, Patrolling parties on highways / bus stations, checking parties and senior police officers, etc. The criminals are tracked down 70 km away in a getaway vehicle by a

police checking party, which was dispatched from PS after observing their photographs on e-CIG.

**Scenario No.2 A** wealthy person's child is kidnapped by professional kidnappers for ransom in Hyderabad while he is returning from School. The kidnapper takes the child to Bombay and keeps him in his apartment in Andheri East.

**Standard Police Response:** On receipt of information, the Police register a case and examine the witnesses. The photographs of the child are sent to DCRB who sends them to SCRB where they are printed in CIG and circulated to all Police Stations. The entire process takes around a month.

**Enter e-CIG:** The e-CIG cop, on visiting the house of the parents takes the photograph of the missing child and puts it on e-CIG, which has global reach as it is available on internet. The missing child is observed by the other residents of the apartment in Andheri East, including those who are Internet savvy. They see the child's photograph on e-CIG and inform it by a simple e-mail that is self-addressed. The child is recovered by police and restored to his parents.

**Conclusion:** There is need to stay ahead of crime and criminals transcending barriers of districts and states. This is possible only when cutting edge information technology is harnessed in collection, collation and dissemination of criminal intelligence. The e-CIG of AP Police is one such attempt that while taking advantage of Information Technology seeks people's participation in policing. The State police forces in the country will benefit immensely if this modern innovative tool is used for proactive and efficient policing. The Union Government may standardise features of Criminal Intelligence Gazette and launch a national e-CIG for the benefit of the State Police forces in tackling the various facets of crimes and criminals efficiently with the people's cooperation.