Editorial

The natural question is, why this compendium? Four reasons, broadly. First, to make better sense of the phenomena we witness daily in our professional lives. Because, we policemen have become so tactical in our approach, that our understanding of events is shaped merely by what is momentarily seen and experienced on the streets. But at times, we need to actually stand on the balcony and analyse such events. We need to understand the underpinning factors which drive these impulses. This will give us a deeper understanding of events and aid in holistic problem solving. Second, good practices need to be chronicled and disseminated. We need to share professional knowledge with each other to foster a culture of excellence. Third, in any hierarchical organization, the cross-currents of opinions and views, especially the contrary ones, are essential to lift us out of the 'dreary desert sands of dead habit'. Finally, and most importantly, no one else will tell our story. And, there are some good stories to be told. The bad stories are always in the media, anyway!

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A Young Police Officer’s Impressions of the System

"O Thou who seest all things below
Grant that Thy servants may go slow,
That they may study to comply
With regulations till they die.
Teach us, O Lord to reverence
Committees more than common sense;
To train our minds to make no plan
And pass the baby when we can.
So when the tempter seeks to give
Us feelings of initiative,
Or when alone we go too far,
Chastise us with a circular.
Mid war and tumult, fire and storms,
Give strength O Lord, to deal out forms.
Thus may Thy servants ever be
A flock of perfect sheep for Thee.

- Hymn of a Civil Servant, Anonymous

Satires apart, the impression of the system most of us inculcate during our formative and student years have to be remoulded as an insider once we enter into one of the most coveted services the country has to offer. We have on our young shoulders huge responsibilities, dynamic profiles, immense recognition and, at the risk of sounding clichéd, the power to make real difference in lives of people. However, how receptive is our own system to progressive reforms, how equipped to face revolutionary changes, is an important aspect which needs constructive criticism and positive introspection.

* The writer is ASP Dehradun, Uttarakhand
We are living in times transformational, and perhaps we might realize only in retrospect the revolutionary changes sweeping swiftly past us. The digital revolution which led to the onset of information age gave way to information revolution and there is a complex dynamics of human behavior and aspirations accompanying these historical shifts which we happen to witness. As police officers, there are emerging crimes and criminals to be equipped for; non-conventional, young and brainy, swift and smart. Not the petty thieves or fabled dacoits in knowledge of the old and rickety village chowkidars, but the college graduates who dupe you of millions and billions in a swipe or a click. Not the locally hired goons and pehelwans but anonymous facebook accounts used to threaten, blackmail, extort. Not the sleeper cells or samitis in forests with loads of revolutionary literature, jhola bearing spectacled leaders but online tutorials for making bombs, gigabytes in a chip. Its no longer the era of hunting down terrorists hidden in fields or ravines, now they are conveniently hidden under fake online identities, radicalizing youth for jihad, providing resources anonymously, paying in bitcoins.

Needless to say there is much expected of the fresh recruits of law enforcement agencies, at every level, to effectively face these challenges and seize the potential opportunities the information era has to offer in respect of crime prevention and detection, law and order management and also as a tool of community outreach.

The road ahead is long, vast and unpredictable but also promising and possibly fulfilling.

*Bliss it was that dawn to be alive*  
*But to be young was very heaven*  

-William Wordsworth, *The French Revolution*

Times have changed drastically since 1861, and policing is trying hard to catch up. Smart phones are now ubiquitous and according to few researches, India has become the second-biggest smartphone market in terms of active unique smartphone users, surpassing the US market. Rising income inequalities, penetration of internet, use of social media for rumor mongering and spreading communally sensitive/derogatory posts, 65% of population being below 35 years, information laden lifestyles with crime tutorials available on TV or internet,
frequent resorting to online identities for stalking duping or blackmailing, increase in online frauds and white collar crimes, increasing economic offences are all but a glimpse of the inflammable mixture we as a society are witnessing as a whole. Breakdown of traditional social systems have only added to the woes. The diminishing importance of local religious leaders, teachers and extended family, is ultimately bringing a rapid change to the way crime, even organised rioting, has been perceived and traditionally prevented. There is a lot we need to learn from Arab spring, London riots, Baltimore crisis, coming closer: Kokrajhar, Bangalore exodus, Kishtwar, Muzaffarnagar, even closer: Ramnagar, Haridwar. All said and done, it is indeed more difficult to arrest a rumor or an idea than a man.

Our focus sadly at the level of cutting edge functionaries is limited to traditional IPC crimes, meeting targets of “teen saala” crime maps and statistical maintainance of system well being, read status quo, registering FIR when compelled to and fulfilling other heads as per the drive/ target/ focus of superiors. Even the crude manner of tackling with these scenarios is heavily biased against the poor and already disadvantaged, and more often than not, fulfilling targets or making drives successful has ended up creating new victims rather than preventing them. There is a combination of unprofessional attitude and lack of effective supervision, sadly two elephants in the room, and therefore despite being well meaning, many of our experiments or targets don’t yield desired results. There is a grossly unscientific stereotyping of crime and criminal, even victims in many cases and anybody not fitting the set notions is brushed aside as false or habitual complainant. There have been many empirical studies on social profiling of the charge sheeted and convicted but let’s not dwell too deep into it. The conventional definition and vision of crime and criminal is widely accepted to be too narrow, with only certain sections fitting into it easily, surely not the convent educated, well-bred and sophisticated.

I once candidly brought to notice of my subordinates that every time I ask you to look for suspicious late night movements you turn up with the first dark complexioned malnourished poor fellow you come across and there was a sheepish smile confirming the observation. There is definitely a racial bias, gender bias, communal bias, caste bias and even geographical bias existent in different
proportions across society and police is not untouched by it, although the ramifications, the consequences of such biases are dangerous when they infect the criminal justice system at any stage. Of course we often encounter exaggerated accounts of crime and yes many legislations have a history of being misused by one section of the society or the other but it should not mean that all cases are painted with the same brush. Justice may or may not be tempered with mercy, but at no cost shall justice be delayed or denied to a victim due to gross insensitivity and irrelevant assumptions.

Rape survivors are expected to be well dressed, docile and submissive as a litmus test of their character, dowry and domestic violence allegations are always taken with too much of salt, caste based atrocity allegations are first investigated with angle of any previous animosity and motive, and sadly many such 'Standard Operating Procedures' are prevalent at thana-chowki level which repel common citizenry from approaching them and instead people prefer the route of senior officers, lawyers, politicians or judiciary. These 'SOPs' include territorial jurisdiction of thana, case being of civil nature and thus no need of police intervention, case being too old or too exaggerated, possibility of settlement between parties without formal registration, station officer being on leave and what not. We as leaders must devise counter SOPs for delivering a citizen oriented service, promoting zero FIR, online registration of FIR, strengthening CCTNS, ZIPNET, separating law and order from investigation, thrust on behavioral training can be few such steps to strengthen the system. Also the addition of new infrastructure and modern methods of manpower management will go a long way in ensuring systemic health.

Coming back to the central idea, that of the impression of this system as a young member... system is an amorphous amoebic whole, we can perceive it the way we want to, frequently according to our convenience and moral vantage point. After entry into these prestigious galleries it is but suddenly that one realizes being a part of the same “system” one has been fond of condemning as an intellectual ritual. As an outsider, the events and behaviours perceived to be anti democratic, brutal, unjust, biased are frequently witnessed as an insider nonchalantly, as
just a matter of fact duty. The most prominent example being the dispersal of crowds assembled for (antigovernment) demonstration when they cross the fine line of being peaceful. There are a host of ironies in store for the new entrant into the police system to witness, most frequent being the criticism we face for use of excessive force, the reluctance of our subordinates to use even legitimate force and insistence of applicants at thana level to use force on an individual and arm twist into a certain behavior but not lodge a formal FIR. The latter is frequently true of victims of domestic abuse, drunkard husband/parents, victims of fraud involving low amounts, ill-treated parents and also the elites wanting a short cut to justice without the frills associated with the procedure established by law.

Uttarakhand particularly has had a fertile culture of protests and student mobilizations which will only flourish in the times to come considering the general trend of youth across country to be more vocal about socio-economic and cultural issues. We are a young country and it comes with no surprise that most of our deviant groups also belong to this age bracket, but the good news is that so are our police personnel. Uttarakhand police specially is bestowed with young, fit and energetic members who have times and again proved their mettle in various disaster rescue operations, displayed immense dedication in duties as challenging as Maha Kumbh: one of the greatest aggregation of pilgrims globally, displayed exemplary courage in nabbing various interstate criminals and also have raised our flag high in field of sports. We are held nationally in high esteem for our professional attitude and respect for the common citizenry.

A great need of the hour in police is the effective management of this human capital through use of IT systems/softwares on lines of corporate offices and PSUs for multiple benefits and far reaching impact in terms of employee satisfaction, transparent functioning and equitable distribution of manpower. For one, it would lead to minimization of the monopoly of clerks in matters of payroll, benefit, claims settlement, funds, loans etc and eliminate altogether the shrouds of mystery and allegations of bribery in matter related to employee accounts. It would also drastically reduce discontent and speculations about mismanagement of legitimate dues, arrear payments, pay disparity confusions and employee
benefits. It is also essential to effectively manage our huge human resource which is at present left for munshis at thana and police line level to allocate duties, wherein majority spends days and nights in drudgery while few are invisible for regular duties showing deployment for years at end in heads which require no more than 2-3 hours of work per day, at right locations. At state level, some are perpetually forgotten by the “system” because they don’t approach, don’t complain, don’t remind the system of their presence, and although everybody is deemed to be equal, some are more equal than others.

It is this disparity, discontent and discretionary window at district and state levels that we need to narrow down if not eliminate and try to bring an equitable distribution, a fair day's wage for a fair day's work, a timely circulation between different districts and profiles. There are of course some employees more suitable for certain jobs due to their skills or temperament, but their database must also be in place and deployment must be as systematic as possible within constraints of our ecosystem. SAP is one alternative for automation of HR services that has been quite successful and there are many others with options of tailoring according to organizational needs. In my humble observation and very brief experience, I felt we are many a times squandering our most precious resource to mismanagement, mostly inadvertently since it is the way system has always been functioning. Need of the hour is to tap our greatest asset, our human capital, more effectively and efficiently, using a combination of skill set, result orientation, special needs and consistency of performance.

Reflections on the prevalent system cannot comfortably dwell in rhetoric of grand reforms, need of lesser political interferences, autonomy, accountability and stability of tenure, while simultaneously ignoring the doable little improvements at ground level. Of course it needs more than good intentions to bring to reality the slow and arduous process of reforms initiated for a post independence democratic society but not fruitfully realised despite Supreme Court directives in the milestone Prakash Singh v/s UOI case, 2006. However, we can still bring many differences which are within our reach and which can go a long way in making our police force more professional, less stressed and dignified.
Construction of ladies toilets and female hawalats in thanas can be one for a beginning, even where they exist they are more often than not converted into store, malkhana, record room and even computer room in some instances. Procuring adequate mobile toilets in every district for long deployments, critical VIP/VVIP duties and law and order scenarios can be another such step. Separation of law and order from investigation, devising 8-10hr shift system, provision of weekly off, monitoring court system and conviction rates are improvements which can stem from within. Sooner or later we will also need to institutionalize a professional counseling system with various wings; for example one for victims of drug abuse to persuade them to recover rather than booking every petty consumer, counselling for victims of trafficking and heinous sexual offences, psycho analysis and profiling of perpetrators of crimes within family which victims dont want to register at first instance but which nonetheless are a threat to society, most importantly such professional care is needed for the stressed police personnel with alarming rise in rate of suicides pan india across police ranks.

As a young officer one can have the luxury of affording naïve utopian ideas of change and dreamy caricatures of future, but a reality check quickly reinforces what Machiavelli wrote 500 years ago:

“...it must be remembered that there is nothing more difficult to plan, more doubtful of success nor more dangerous to manage than the creation of a new system. For the initiator has the enmity of all who profit by the preservation of old institution and merely lukewarm defenders in those who would gain by the new one.”

But since an audacity of hope must not cease to be the trait of youth, I do sincerely hope and wish to see an evolution, if not metamorphosis, of the police system holistically, infrastructure as well as culture, in the right direction in times to come.
India is one of the youngest countries in the World today. It is expected that by the year 2020, the median age in India will be 29 years. At present, nearly two-thirds of India’s population is below the age of 35 and half the population is below the age of 25. There is no definitive research on how this youth bulge is impacting upon India’s internal security.

It is estimated that between the years 2010 to 2040, 300 million people will join India’s workforce, which means that around 10 million new jobs will have to be created every year. The IMF projects that India’s demographic dividend has the potential to increase the GDP growth rate each year by 2% during the next 20 years. In an era of declining working populations across the world, India’s young population will confer competitive advantage to the country in many sectors.

However, this demographic dividend has the potential to become a demographic problem, if we fail to suitably empower and channelize our young population. It is estimated that in eight major sectors of the economy, 1.35 lac jobs in 2015, 4.21 lac jobs in 2014 and 4.19 lac jobs in 2013 were created respectively. There are clear indications that employment generation is falling well short of the population growth. Also, it is estimated that only 4.69% of India’s population has undergone formal skill training.

The Central government is aware of the potential benefits and pitfalls of the demographic profile of India. The National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015, is a measure to address this issue. The policy estimates that around 109.73 million additional skilled manpower will be required across 24 sectors by 2022. Further, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Kaushalya Yojana aims to skill around 10 million people between 2016-2020. Also, projects like Make in India, Start-up India, Digital India etc are all aimed at

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employment generation. But, according to projections, the unemployment rate in
India has consistently ranged between 4.6% to 5% in recent years, with the
projection for 2020 being around 4.6%. The youth unemployment rate is
significantly higher than this figure. In addition, underemployment in the rural
sector also magnifies the problem.

The burden of my argument is that over the short and the medium
term, even with the best intervention of the government, a substantial number of
young people will be waiting for optimum economic opportunities. This strata will
include the very well-educated, the educated, the skilled, the unskilled as well as
semi-literate sections of the society. The common thread which runs through this
entire segment is high level of personnel aspirations. Hence, it is likely that each
of this strata will impact upon internal security and public order in different ways.
In addition, their social composition will also manifest in different ways.

In this regard, a combination of empirical and anecdotal evidence
indicates a higher degree of volatility in the streets at present, especially in the
urban centers, which are witnessing continuous migration from rural areas.
This migration is also diluting the relatively more ‘cosmopolitan’ outlook of the
Urban centres. Hence ‘parochial’ issues quickly assume law and order
dimensions. Another noticeable trend is flash mobs resorting to violence and
arson and damaging public property over trivial matters. Such mobs at times
even organize themselves quickly for this purpose through the social media
platforms like whatsapp etc. Further, the younger generation in general are
irreverent and have much less regard for institutions and symbols of authority
and governance, which makes it more difficult for law enforcement authorities to
control a given situation. A section of the young people also seem to be influenced
by religious radicalization, often taking extreme positions on local religious or
community issues, leading to law and order problems. This phenomenon cuts
across religions.

One more discernable development is the spurt in economic offences,
especially financial, employment and cyber frauds being perpetrated by tech
savvy young people, out to make a quick buck. Crime against women is visibly and
worryingly on the rise, which in addition, could also be due to the skewed gender
India’s Demographic Dividend: The Policing Challenges

Ratio in many parts of India. In recent times, substance abuse seems to be on the upswing and young people resorting to petty crime to finance purchase of drugs has become fairly common. The latest NCRB data shows that the maximum number of arrests in India under the IPC and the Special laws are in the age group 18 to 30. There appears to be a clear causal link between the demographic profile of India and the resultant crime/law & order manifestations.

As to how the youth bulge is impacting upon internal security, it is highly probable that the stone pelting phenomenon in J & K is a partial manifestation of youth bulge, along with religious radicalization. Across India, in theatres with sub-national tendencies, there is a possibility of more youth joining such movements. The ISIS phenomenon may also attract more followers, (not actual recruits) especially from the educated class. The emergence of a new Jihadi terror outfit can not be ruled out, although it can not be solely attributed to youth bulge. The membership of fringe groups may also rise. However, it appears unlikely that the Left Wing extremist movement will get fresh impetus since the Maoist ideology seems to be out of sync with the aspirational matrix of young India.

The question is how to address these policing challenges. The first requirement is police outreach towards the youth. This is almost non-existent at present since in most police stations and districts, the peace committees, the mohalla committees and the target groups of outreach during law and order problems are the elderly and the traditional community/political leaders, who have little or no control over the youth. Hence, the first requirement is for the police to include representatives of youth in such committees and outreach initiatives. The District level police officers visiting local colleges and universities and addressing students on subjects related to law enforcement, career counselling etc is also necessary. The Police should also organize sports and cultural activities to reach out to the youth. In a nutshell, it is important for the police at the police station level to be in touch with the youth in ‘normal’ times and a methodology of outreach should be evolved based on local conditions.

On the law and order front, the police have to devise standard operating procedures to deal with sudden bursts of mob violence occurring without prior intelligence. Inspite of manpower constraints, every district needs to have
sufficient reserve strength of policemen in constant readiness, equipped with anti-riot gear and means of transportation to quickly deal with a sudden situation, failing which, the problem will get aggravated. Periodic mock-drills are necessary. It is also important to properly investigate and prosecute riot cases expeditiously. Every district should have a social media monitoring cell to generate real time intelligence on law and order issues.

On the crime front, it is necessary for the police to strictly enforce the law against commission of offences under the Motor Vehicles Act, liquor consumption in public places, eve-teasing, minor assaults and rioting etc. to prevent young people from graduating into more serious crimes. Another area which needs serious attention of the police is drug trafficking and consumption. This problem is assuming very serious proportions even in small cities and towns and appears to be understated across the country. The Police need to crack down on the source of drug supply and devise community policing initiatives to reach out and educate young people on the perils of drug consumption. There is a need to improve cyber crime detection and investigation capability in all districts.

The internal security theatres require a much more broad-based approach in addition to policing measures. Over and above the national employment generation programmes, specific job-generation schemes needs to target youth in these problem areas. There is a need for a well-devised and sophisticated political communication strategy targeting the youth in theatres with sub-national or ethnic aspirations. There is a need to conduct special recruitment drives for the Army, CAPFs and the police from these areas. Every district needs a well-devised counter-radicalization programme in the context of religious extremism afflicting the youth.

The process of demographic transition in the country will not be painless and its dimensions have to be recognized by the police forces and the policy makers alike. The common factor between the stone-pelters in J & K, the Jat agitation in Haryana, the self-proclaimed vigilantes of various hues, the ISIS sympathizers, agitators for reservations and the student unrest in the universities etc, is that, the actors are all mostly young people. The moot question is, would many of them behave differently, if they see adequate opportunities for self-
actualization in their respective stations of life.

The police have the onerous task of professionally dealing with these challenges and doing a good holding job. There can be no justification for the police for failure to anticipate and perform these basic policing functions efficiently. But simultaneously, there is a need for a national policy on youth development, integrating all government initiatives under one umbrella, with the Central and State governments cooperating seamlessly to fully realize the potential of demographic dividend in India. In the meanwhile, it is also important to provide police forces with sufficient resources to deal with these emerging challenges.

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(5) Census, 2011 India.
Good Policing and Economic Growth: The Uttarakhand Example

Anil K. Raturi *

The ultimate objective of all state activity is to uplift the quality of life of its citizens. Jeremy Bentham said that the economy should strive to bring maximum happiness to the maximum people. Therefore, creation of wealth and the consequent increase in the size of the cake is a necessary prerequisite for prosperity, without which, there cannot be any improvement in the quality of life of citizens. No wonder, all nations are pursuing economic growth. Even Deng Xiaoping is said to have famously remarked "To get rich is glorious" when he put China on the path of unprecedented economic reform & growth. Post 1991, India too has improved its rate of economic growth breaking the jinx of the so called "Hindu rate of growth".

The preamble to the Constitution of India says that the nation will strive to ensure "Justice, social, economic and political" for its citizens. On ninth November 2000, the State of Uttarakhand came into being within the Indian Union. In the integrated Uttar Pradesh, the 13 Districts of what is now Uttarakhand, were relatively marginalized because of various socio-political reasons. On its creation, many perceived Uttarakhand and its resources as unsustainable for the future survival of the State. Many officials were tentative about joining on being seconded to Uttarakhand. They had doubts regarding the new State’s ability to even pay the salary of its employees. However, the small new State belied all dire prophecies and in the last sixteen years has achieved commendable economic growth. The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) (at current prices 31-10-2014) for the financial year 2013-14 of the State was Rs.

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122433 crores.\(^2\) This was more than that of Himachal Pradesh (HP) and Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), even though both the other comparable hill States had a higher GSDP than that of Uttarakhand in 2001-02.\(^3\) The average growth rate of GSDP for the Industry Sector for the period 2005-06 to 2013-14 for Uttarakhand has been 15.57 compared to J&K's 3.74 and HP's 7.75.\(^4\) The only State which had a better growth rate in this sector compared to Uttarakhand was Sikkim with 31.32.\(^5\)

The Per Capita Net State Domestic Product of Uttarakhand (at current prices 31-10-14) for the financial year 2013-14 increased to Rs. 103349 from to Rs. 16232 in 2001-02.\(^6\) This too has been better than that of J&K and HP.\(^7\) The State has also recorded an installed capacity of 1386.3 Megawatts of power in 2010-11 as against nil in 2000-01.\(^8\) A reasonable financial rectitude has also been successfully maintained by containing the fiscal deficit of the State at 2.89% of the GSDP (2013-14).\(^9\)

The following tables show data for some relevant States -\(^10\)

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<th>State</th>
<th>GSDP Current Prices 31.10.14</th>
<th>Growth Rate GSDP Industry Sector Average 2005-06 to 2013-14</th>
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<th>State</th>
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Apart from the industrial growth that resulted from the creation of State Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited (SIDCUL), the State also has made good progress in the tourism and power (Hydro electric) sectors. The economic growth achieved has been due to efficient management of resources and good governance by successive State governments.

However, this could not have been achieved without peace and harmony. The State list (list-II) of the 7th schedule of the Constitution mentions Public Order and Police as State subjects. Therefore it was incumbent on the Police force of the newly created State to facilitate an environment of peace necessary for economic growth.

In the year 2000, when the State was created, Uttarakhand Police had a humble sanctioned strength of 16146 personnel in all ranks. The State's population in 2001 census was 11 million. Over and above this, it is estimated that at least 30 million people visit Uttarakhand annually. To meet the Policing challenges of a new State, the Police leadership built an effective Police force in the course of the last 16 years. Peace and harmony in the State during this period has been maintained to a great extent due to the professional Policing by the State Police. This in turn has facilitated impressive economic growth of the State.

In 2001, an appropriate "Mission" for the State Police was conceived; alongwith, the "Core Values" that needed to be preserved. This is available on the official website "uttarakhandpolice.uk.gov.in". Due credit must also be given to the successive State Governments for giving a stable tenures to the State DGPs. By and large most of the DGPs till date have had at least a two year tenure. This stability of the top leadership facilitated a systematic building of the organization. The State Police consequently embarked upon the path of public service enshrined in its motto "नित्यत सेवा सुरक्षा". In 2007 the State Police got its own Police Act which has incorporated most of the Honourable Supreme Court's directions given in the Prakash Singh Vs. Union of India case relating to Police reforms.

In the last 16 years, the State Police has been strengthened by adding more manpower as well as by creating new infrastructure. The sanctioned strength of personnel has gone up to 27578 in all ranks. The number of Police Stations and Out Posts have gone up from 95 to 155 and from 42 to 233 respectively. In the same period, the number of vehicles available with the force has increased from...
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414 to 1551. The figure for residential accommodation available for the personnel has increased from 1909 to 4462 houses. A modern Cyber Police Station, a well-equipped Special Task Force (STF), an Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) of trained commandos with modern weaponry, State and Regional Forensic Science Laboratories (FSLs), modern well-equipped & trained City Patrol Units (CPUs) for traffic enforcement as well as crime patrol have been established in line with modern SMART Policing principles. Two new India Reserve Battalions have been added to the existing 3 Armed Police Battalions of the State. A unique Battalion of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) has also been raised and trained to cater to the special disaster requirements of the hill State. The State Special Branch has been strengthened by almost doubling its strength; as well as by creating a dedicated intelligence cadre of directly recruited Sub Inspectors. A Police Training College and an Armed Training College have also been established in the State.

In the last 16 years the State Police has relentlessly endeavored to transform itself into a modern, professional and humane Police force. Some of the noteworthy successes of the State Police are worth mentioning.

The data from the time of the creation of new State till 2015-16 gives an indication about the efficient management of law and order by the State Police. In this period the Police registered 5731 cases of riots and arrested 2467 people. Apart from this, whenever agitators disrupted traffic by sitting on protest on the roads, cases against them were registered under sections 147 and 341 IPC and legal action was taken. During this period 404 such cases were registered in the State and 2005 people were arrested. This discouraged protestors from sitting in protest on roads and enabled smooth flow of traffic, ushering a much needed sense of order to the State's roads. Economic activity in the State generally and more specifically in the industrial belt of SIDCUL as well as in the large hydroelectric projects in the mountains received a fillip due to effective Police action. Special emphasis was given to monitoring of kidnapping for ransom cases, as such crimes affected the economy. In the last 16 years the Police registered 78 kidnapping for ransom cases and arrested 256 criminals, while recovering 79 kidnapped people. The effective Police action brought down the number of such cases drastically. One of the best indicators of crime and law & order in any society is the number of murders that are committed. In Uttarakhand the number of murders has come down from 254 in 2000 (pre-state) to 182 in 2015, which is a
substantial decline.

The Police has also been successful in maintaining communal harmony in the State. This has been despite the fact that three major districts of the State have a common border with some of the most communally sensitive districts of Western UP. The State also has many vital installations of national repute and a constant terrorist threat, yet till date, the State Police has successfully maintained a secure environment in the State.

In 2005 the State Police faced a challenge when LWE activities surfaced in some districts. It is known that the LWE movement has national and international connections. The two other States formed along with Uttarakhand; Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh faced a serious LWE problem. Therefore, this was a very formidable threat to the peace and harmony of the new State. The Police leadership recognizing the nature of the threat, created Special Cells in the Special Branch as well as in the affected districts to monitor LWE activities. In 2005 itself a training camp of LWE was successfully busted in district Nainital. Subsequently 30 Indian and Nepalese LWE cadres were arrested by the Police. The heightened vigil of the Police and Intelligence resulted in the apprehension of a top LWE ideologue in 2007. This arrest as well as, other related Police action nipped the LWE designs in the State in the bud at the very inception of the movement. The awareness in the Police about the nature of the threat, coupled with prompt Police action resulted in successful containment of LWE activities. This crucial success of Uttarakhand Police contributed immensely towards creation of an environment of peace and harmony so necessary for economic growth of the State.

An indication of the effort made by the State Police to remain civil and humane can be gauged from the fact that in 2002, 433 complaints against the Police had been received from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), where as, in 2015 this number declined to only 111 and till August 2016 such complaints have came down to only 17. The State Police has given a high priority to redressal of public grievances. In the period 2009 to 2016, 51506 public complaints were received, of which 50753 were promptly disposed of. To ensure discipline in the force and bring in accountability, 286 personnel were removed.
from service after disciplinary proceedings in the period 2000-2016. Prompt and timely action against delinquent personnel, effective redressal of public grievances and a healthy respect for human rights has slowly but surely improved the image of the State Police. From 2002 to 2015; 140 female direct recruit Sub Inspectors and 1154 female Constables have been recruited in the force. This has improved the gender ratio of the force on one hand and on the other hand, it has brought a much needed humane and compassionate face of the force to the fore. The NCRB data for the year 2015 indicates that Uttarakhand has one of the least crime rates of 97.2 for cognizable offences. The same NCRB data also shows Uttarakhand as one of the safest States for senior citizens. It also shows that the percentage of stolen property recovered by Uttarakhand Police in 2015 was 47.8% compared to the national average of 16.4%. This achievement should not be underestimated keeping in mind, the fact, that Uttarakhand shares its border with some of the most sensitive districts of Western UP, from the point of view of crime.

The State Police has efficiently managed mammoth crowds in the two Ardh Kumbhs and one Poorn Kumbh; apart from the challenging young crowds of annual Kanwar Melas in Haridwar. The traffic and crowds of the Chardhaam Yatra every season have also been handled more and more professionally with each passing year.

The State Police is relentlessly pursuing the professional path while preserving its "core values" of discharging its "duties with a sense of service, impartiality, fearlessness and integrity." The future is challenging. The impressive economic growth that the State has registered in the last sixteen years needs to be more inclusive with respect to the equitable distribution of the gains amongst the various classes of people in society. The regional imbalances also need to be corrected. The Gini coefficient of distribution of consumption which is an indicator of economic equality or otherwise, indicates that the figure for Uttarakhand was 0.361 (urban) and 0.263 (rural) for 2009-10. This situation is far from perfect and can be a source of future conflict in society; which can have law and order implications. The State Police will need to continuously anticipate future challenges in order to update and keep itself abreast with the rapid changes.
Good Policing and Economic Growth: The Uttarakhand Example

that society is undergoing in the present day. Uttarakhand Police has already taken the first step and evolved a healthy professional ethos. It has a long journey ahead - but as they say a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step!

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- 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 - Data collected from the official website of Planning Commission of India (planningcommission.gov.in). In order to compare data for relevant States a neutral source i.e. Planning Commission of India's data was taken. State's own data compilation would not be a fair method for comparison. Planning Commission data is only available upto 2013-14.

- 11 - NCRB" Crime in India" 2015. Rate of crime means crimes registered per one lakh population.

- 12 - Uttarakhand Police "Mission".

- 13 - Source Planning Commission of India official website.

\[ \text{(Gini Coefficient - 2009-10 uniform reference period)} \]

- Data for Police personnel and infrastructure has been compiled from Uttarakhand Police "official data."
Community Policing: The Uttarakhand Experiment

Sir Robert Peel, former British prime minister, highlighted the relationship between the community and the police at the time of the setting up of the London Metropolitan Police in 1929. He said: “Police, at all times, should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence.”

RATIONALE:

The basic premise of community policing is that the police and the public should work together to prevent, suppress and eliminate crime in society. This is an extension of the realisation that crime and public order are not just police issues or indicators of police effectiveness but also community problems created by societal issues and failures. Police effectiveness and public order cannot be greatly enhanced unless the people can be persuaded to do more for themselves.

Attempts are being made the world over to rope in community resources in policing activities. The need to enhance public involvement and responsibility is consistent with the need for the police to expand beyond its traditional areas, in the face of a changing operating environment. By leveraging on the involvement and sense of ownership of individuals living within the community, the resources available to address such issues are also far greater than if the various stakeholders attempted to solve them on their own.

OBJECTIVES: ANTI DRUG CAMPAIGN, DEHRADUN

Community Policing consists of two mutually dependent and complimentary components – a dynamic partnership between the police and the citizens and problem solving through participative policing. To meet these two aims, Uttarakhand Police has identified certain key areas which require police officers to reach out to the public and redirect efforts towards specific issues concerning different districts.

* The writer is I.G. (Law & Order), Uttarakhand
While the primary target for Dehradun is curbing drug abuse, the focus for Haridwar is on the pilgrims thronging the various ghat and temples. In Udham Singh Nagar, the community policing initiative revolves around migrant labourers whereas in Nainital, the effort has been to rope in various stakeholders in the tourism sector. For the hill districts of Pauri, Tehri, Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Champawat, Almora, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh, emphasis has been laid on disaster preparedness and disaster management.

**KEY FEATURES:**

**Dehradun: Combating the growing drug menace**
- Targeting the large student community
- Reaching out to the parents and teachers
- Garnering media support for generating awareness
- Working with NGOs for supporting and treating victims of substance abuse
- Sustained drive against drug trafficking

**Haridwar: Facilitating the pilgrims**
- Focus on women, children and elderly persons
- Close coordination with various religious groups, social organizations, private hotels and shop-owners
- Dissemination of information to pilgrims
- Effective crowd management
- Relief and rescue during emergencies

**Udhamsingh Nagar: Reaching out to the migrant labour community**
- Organization of Medical camps and sporting activities
- Generating awareness regarding labour laws and regulations
- Provision of legal assistance
- Registration and verification

**Nainital: Working together with stakeholders in the tourism sector**
- Coordination with hotel associations, taxi unions, schools and colleges
- Focus on tourist-friendly policing
- Traffic Management
- Cleanliness drives around the lakes in the district
Hill Districts: Capacity building for effective response to natural disasters

- Awareness campaigns in disaster prone areas
- Training for relief and rescue operations
- Mock drills in schools, market places and primary health centres

FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEMES

Within this broad framework, the district police chiefs were asked to formulate detailed action plans for the implementation of the schemes specific to their jurisdiction. This would include identification of stake holders, drawing up a roadmap and charting out a calendar of activities and programs. The rationale behind this was that instead of a top-down approach, the models would be developed with the full involvement of the field-level officers, thus encouraging them to take ownership of the schemes in their respective areas.

The schemes were formally launched in July, 2016. The SSsP and SsP were asked to carry out detailed tasking of subordinate officers and review the progress on a weekly basis. The range officers would evaluate the progress every fortnight while a monthly review would be carried out at PHQ.

EVALUATION:

This initiative by Uttarakhand police marks a key shift from community based policing to community-focussed policing.

Community-based policing is essentially concerned with how the community can help the police do its job better. In the new model, the focus is entirely on the community, as the police reaches out to them to provide solutions for their safety and security. This is a crucial stage in the development of policing in Uttarakhand, as it builds on the public trust and goodwill the police have secured over the years.

In the three months since the campaign was launched, over 150 public contact programs have been carried out in the districts, involving almost 6000 members of the community. The police teams working on this campaign are gradually learning to deliver customised solutions tailored to meet the specific needs of different areas. For sustained results, these systems will have to be institutionalized and driven at the police station level, with constructive supervision and direction from the district level officers.
Managing Large Crowds –
The Uttarakhand Model

Challenges to public peace and order arise whenever a large number of people congregate at a particular place for a specific purpose. Unattended crowds have the potential of turning into mobs, the result of which may eventually be a stampede or a riot. Understanding of crowds and their psychology, therefore, is a crucial aspect of policing and has to be carried out with great tact and foresight.

REGULATING MOVING CROWDS AT MELAS

Religious processions, fairs and melas are an integral part of the social and cultural landscape of Uttarakhand. During the Kumbh Mela, massive crowds of pilgrims congregate to bathe on particular auspicious days, which necessitates elaborate arrangements to regulate their movement and ensure foolproof security.

The Kanvad yatra is an annual pilgrimage of devotees of Lord Shiva, known as kanvariyas, to fetch the holy waters from the river Ganga in Haridwar, which is later offered at their local Shiva temples. The Kanwad mela presents a unique challenge in terms of crowd control as the kanwariyas are generally from the younger age group (25 to 30 years), with a fair sprinkling of anti-social elements. Heightened emotions prevail during the yatra and even the slightest provocation can trigger off large scale violence and arson.

STRATEGY:

With numerous festivals dotting the religious calendar, the mela area in Haridwar witnesses an uninterrupted flow of devotees throughout the year. Considering the volume and pressure of such a large floating population during

* The writer is I.G. (HQ), Uttarakhand
the peak days of these *snans*, proper planning is essential for effective crowd management. This includes:

- Drawing up a layout plan for the *mela* area and identifying sites for setting up various facilities.
- Plan for bathing ghats and circulation areas.
- Plan for drinking water, waste disposal, health and sanitation, food and civil supplies, electricity and lighting, temporary and permanent bridges and roads.
- Plan for Road Transport and Railways.
- Contingency Plan, Emergency schemes, Fire prevention and response plans.
- Media handling and Publicity

It is extremely important for the police to be actively involved in the planning exercise as the level of functioning of the other departments has a huge impact on the efficacy of police arrangements.

Some of the **key principles** of managing large crowds that have evolved over the years may be highlighted as follows:

a) **Security arrangement:**

In view of the upsurge in terrorist activities and threats from fundamentalist groups, securing the *mela* area acquires the highest priority. This is ensured through the following steps:

- Division of the *mela* area into zones and sectors.
- Setting up of temporary police stations and outposts
- Extensive verification drive around the *mela* area
- Putting up highly visible security checks
- Regular sanitization of sensitive locations
Managing Large Crowds – The Uttarakhand Model

- Video surveillance
- Deployment of Bomb disposal teams, Anti-Terrorist Squads and Quick Reaction teams
- Motor boat patrols, stationed at crucial points along the river

b) **Crowd Regulation**

The basic principle involved here is to stagger the crowd in time and space. The flow of people must be maintained at all times while various diversion schemes are applied to ease the pressure at vulnerable points.

- The incoming crowds are controlled right at the entry points on the outskirts of the town and brought into the *mela* area in a phased manner through specially assigned barricaded routes.
- Hold-ups and diversion schemes are put in place along the entire route. In case a hold-up occurs en route or at any *ghat*, the crowd is diverted and taken by a circuitous route till the hold-up is cleared. This is done to ensure continuous movement of pilgrims.
- To ensure uninterrupted access for the administrative machinery, special barricaded lanes are provided leading to the *ghats*.
- One-way traffic plan is enforced for all incoming and outgoing vehicles in the *mela* area.

c) **Collection and sharing of Intelligence:**

Accurate, complete and timely intelligence facilitates effective placement of manpower, resources and equipment. Good intelligence works like a force multiplier and helps to assess the situation correctly and maximize police effectiveness for handling the large crowds thronging the *mela* area.

d) **Communication:**

The entire area is divided into grids which are connected through repeaters. VHF and HF communication is utilized for passing
instructions and receiving information. An elaborate system of watch towers and static surveillance points is set up along the entire route, monitored directly from the Mela control room. Loudspeakers and LED screens are installed for guiding the crowds. The movement and pace of the crowd is watched closely through CCTVs.

e) **Training:**
To ensure proper execution of the security and crowd control schemes, induction training is organized where the personnel deployed are familiarized with the event and mock-drills conducted. Detailed briefing is also carried out regarding crowd psychology, handling of the old and infirm and responding effectively during emergencies.

f) **Contingency Plans:**
This constitutes the backbone of any strategy of managing large crowds. Things may go wrong despite the most elaborate of arrangements. So nothing should be left to chance and contingency plans should be worked out to deal with emergencies like accidents, fire incidents, rain and high velocity winds, sudden surge in the number of vehicles, sudden arrival of a large number of pilgrims at railway stations or bus stations or an altercation between different akharas or sects.

Planned regulation of crowds cuts down the risk of stampedes, which can result in hundreds of people being crushed to death. Over the years, Uttarakhand Police has utilized this strategy effectively to handle the security and movement of large crowds during melas. Greater use of technology like Satellite imagery, Flow pattern videos, Face Recognition systems and Automatic number-plate reader systems is being brought in to equip the police personnel for future challenges in regulating and managing large crowds.

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Wildlife Crime in Uttarakhand: The Emerging Trends

Uttarakhand has rich biodiversity because of its topographic, climatic and altitudinal variations. All the 13 districts of the state have good forest cover of different types. The vertebrate diversity of Uttarakhand comprising mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and pisces constitute 28.2% of the states faunal diversity. There are a total number of 35 faunal endemic species in the state, which includes 11 vertebrates and 24 invertebrates.

The International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has identified 96 animal species from Uttarakhand under the Red Data List which assess the risk to the species. A total number of 84 animal species of Uttarakhand are listed in the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild Flora and Fauna) category, which is an international agreement to ensure that the trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

The state of Uttarakhand is known internationally for its iconic Corbet Tiger Reserve. The Tiger is the King of this landscape. However, Uttarakhand has 37 forest types which belong to 8 forest type groups, which range from Tropical Moist deciduous to Dry Alpine Scrub which is an indication of the states wildlife diversity and richness. Each eco-system has its own faunal characteristics. The rich forests of Uttarakhand have always been the target of wildlife poachers.

The problem of poaching cuts across the regions. While most areas have the problem of animals/birds being killed for the pot, the more worrying trend is the organized poaching by professional gangs of iconic and endangered species, in and around the states national parks. The police department has been alive to this problem for some time now and the Uttarakhand Special Task Force (STF) since its inception, has focused on combating wildlife crime. The STF has constituted a special wing, which specializes in tackling wildlife crime. The police personnel manning this wing have a good idea of the vulnerable hot-spots of the state prone to professional poaching and have developed a good information system.

* The writer is SSP, STF, Uttarakhand
network in such areas. They are also well-trained in the provisions of the wildlife Act and the investigation of such offences. During the last 5 years (2011 to 2016) the following recoveries made by the STF provide an interesting insight to the nature of wildlife poaching in the state:

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tiger Skins</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tiger Bones</td>
<td>Around 170 kgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Leopard Skins</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ivory</td>
<td>67 kgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bear Gall bladder</td>
<td>02 instances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pangolin Scales</td>
<td>21 kgs</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Musk deer</td>
<td>02 instances</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tortoise</td>
<td>25 Specimen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Antlers</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Civet Cat Skin/Skull</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The point which becomes immediately apparent from the above chart is the sheer diversity of poached items. It is quite possible that the poaching of lesser wildlife species or exotic species could have slipped under the radar of the STF. Further, the police have no access to large parts of the interior and remote areas of

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**TIGER SKIN SEIZED BY STF**

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the state due to a variety of reasons. It also needs to be remembered that as a thumb-rule, the enforcement agencies usually recover not more than 30% of any contraband. Hence, the problem is fairly serious.

Recently, in March 2016, the STF recovered 5 Tiger Skins and around 125 kgs of Tiger bones in an operation in Shyampur Forest Range of Haridwar District. A total number of 3 professional poachers have been arrested in this case and they belong to the Bawaria tribe and hail from Bhatinda, Punjab. Out of the 5 Tiger Skins recovered, 4 have been identified as Corbet tigers, based on camera-trap records of Wildlife Institute of India. The tigers were caught in metal traps and speared to death. The Skins and body parts were to be sold to a middleman, who unfortunately has not been apprehended till now. However, the worrying aspect of this matter is the assistance and intelligence provided by the Van Gujjars to the poachers. A large number of Van Gujjars live in various forests of Uttarakhnad, who hitherto, were not considered directly destructive to wildlife. However intelligence with the STF indicates that there are instances of poisoning of cattle kills by Gujjars, in which tigers have been killed, especially the young tigers dispersing from breeding areas.

The STF Uttarakhand has worked closely with the Forest department of Uttarakhand and the wildlife Institute of India and acquired a fair degree of domain knowledge on wildlife. The STF also has a good database of wildlife criminals and their modus operandi. However, we need more partnerships with other wildlife enforcement units of states as well as wildlife NGOs to crack down on the trade networks of wildlife items, which is our next short-term goal.
The Kedarnath shrine is located at a height of 11,755 ft above the sea level near Chorabari Glacier in the Garhwal Himalayas in Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand. It is one of the holiest shrines for Hindus and is part of the Chardham Yatra circuit of Uttarakhand. During the winters, due to heavy snowfall, the temple is closed and there is no habitation in Kedarnath. From November to April, the Palki with the Utsava Murthi of Lord Kedarnath, is transferred to a place called Ukhimath. The residents of Kedarnath, including the Tirth purohits shift their settlement to nearby villages.

The Kedarnath Police outpost looks after the security of the temple. Also, during the yatra season, the I/C O.P. Kedarnath supervises the police arrangements with regard to crowd management, crime control and smooth flow of pilgrims. It is a major challenge to manage the flow of pilgrims in a confined space. However, the police have evolved efficient SOPs to manage this and there have been no mishaps in this regard. The Police Outpost is usually seasonal and closes down after the yatra season is over.

Kedarnath witnessed a major natural disaster on 16th June, 2013 when a massive landslide occurred due to cloudburst near the temple, followed by huge flood of water from Gandhi Tal, which washed away everything in its wake. Thousands of people were killed in this disaster and thousands more went missing in the mudslide. A large number of people were airlifted to safety in the rescue operations. Miraculously, the temple survived in the dham complex.

It was in this background that Shri Bipin Chandra Pathak was appointed as Chowki-incharge Kedarnath in the aftermath of the disaster on 13-08-2013 and continues to serve there till date. It is not often that one witnesses a government servant going way beyond his/her call of duty and make a difference

*The writer is S.P. Rudraprayag
in their place of posting. It is even more rare for a public servant to experiment with new ideas beyond his professional mandate. This story is about an unusual police officer whose service needs to be recognized by senior officers. Shri Bipin Chandra Pathak was recruited as SI in 2002. His first posting was in Rudraprayag District from 2004 to 2011. It was during this posting that Shri Pathak familiarised himself with the tough Himalayan terrain of Rudraprayag district including the Kedarnath topography. He also learnt the nuances of Kedarnath yatra arrangements. Interestingly he also undertook a All-India Motorcycle expedition till Kanyakumari for 30 days during this period, which is an unusual activity for a Police Sub-Inspector.

After the natural disaster of 2013, he was posted again to Rudraprayag and became the I/C O.P. Kedarnath in view of his past experience. The Police were required to painstakingly document the records of dead and missing persons for compensation claims and other purposes. The common view after the disaster was that it would take years for the yatra to recommence in view of the devastation and the accumulated debris etc. The State government took it up as a challenge and started road building activity between Rambada to Kedarnath, which was supervised by a senior police officer. Shri Pathak played a crucial role in this operation because of his intimate knowledge of the terrain, which was of immense help in re-laying the road to Kedarnath.

It was due to the relaying of the road against all odds that the yatra could commence in 2014 itself, although only around 50,000 persons performed the yatra because of the psychological scars of the disaster. In 2014, Shri Pathak remained at Kedarnath during the off-season in sub-zero temperatures to demonstrate to local people that Kedarnath is safe. He was widely recognized for his dedication to duty.
appreciated for his personal involvement in managing the welfare of the yatris, sometimes even organizing food and shelter for poor yatris by raising local resources. During the yatra in 2014 and subsequent years, Pathak and his team, who are also trained in basic disaster relief techniques, rescued a large number of pilgrims, who sometimes get stuck due to inclement weather conditions along the yatra route.

During the year 2015 and 2016, Pathak and his team organized "Vasu-Poly Drive" during which, garbage and polythene amounting to hundreds of kilos was cleared along the Kedarnath-Vasukital trekking route, which was sent for recycling. Some of this plastic was over 15 years old, as evidenced by the dates in the plastic sachets etc. In another unique initiative, he has established a "Brahm Vatika" at Kedarnath, where Brahm Kamal is being grown, which is generally found at much higher altitude and is now a centre of attraction for pilgrims. He has also taken up horticulture at Kedarnath and has started growing potato, radish, spinach etc, which was considered inconceivable by the locals. Resultantly, Shri Pathak and his team members are well respected by the local people, the Tirth purohits as well as the pilgrims. He has also created a volleyball and Badminton court out of his own resources.

Shri Bipin Chandra Pathak is an unusual and dedicated Officer and is an example to both senior and junior police officers. In the year 2016, over 3 lac pilgrims have visited Kedarnath till now, and most of them have carried a positive imprint of the good work done by Pathak and his team.

He was awarded with "Utkrista Sewa Samman Chin" in 2016 for his commendable and exemplary devotion to duty.
Social Media Platforms and the Police: Benefits and Vulnerabilities

In the post modern world, Social media, being the gateway of communication between citizens, is an important instrument for the police forces for prevention and detection of crime and public outreach. The use of mobile technologies on smartphones and tablet computers create highly interactive platforms through which individuals, communities and organizations can share, co-create, discuss, and modify user-generated content posted online. It introduces substantial and pervasive changes in communication between businesses, organizations, communities, and individuals. In this context, the Uttarakhand Police personnel are today not only using these apps to fulfill their social/personal needs, but utilize them for professional use via popular platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Whatsapp, Google Plus, etc.

The major advantage of Social Media over the older conventional media forms is the ability to create an interactive multi-way dialogue through words, pictures, video, etc. where many people can express their views or opinions on a common platform simultaneously. For police personnel, it is an effective tool for information sharing within the force, discussing ideas, tracking news and sharing links directly for real time distribution of information, available on the internet. Apart from the obvious merits, the social media indeed presents an opportunity to the police personnel to widen contacts within the force and also among the citizens, which directly translates into a better and much more connected policing system.

The Uttarkhand Police has many a times used social media platforms to not only prevent and investigate crimes, but also to develop dialogue with the public. Police personnel have joined online groups, critical information from which, helps in anticipating public gatherings and protests and also serves as feeder for Social Media Monitoring Labs set up at the Intelligence Headquarters, Special Task Force Office and also at the District Levels. Recently, in one such case, a communal situation was preempted because of prompt interception of the information.

* The writer is I.G.(Intelligence/Security), Uttarakhand
dissiminated by one of the victims. The participation of police personnel in Facebook and WhatsApp groups among the public has also helped in developing criminal intelligence in many cases, as well as provided information on potential law and order problems.

The Social Media has helped police solve crimes faster because it has opened up new avenues in the field of crime detection wherein cell phone tracking and Facebook check-ins have helped linking one suspect to the other and it also makes collection of evidence in the form of posts, photos, etc. simpler. The Social Media helps police notify the public with urgent, real-time information and ask them to be on the lookout for criminal suspects and other identifying details. The Social media platforms are also used to alert the public about emergencies, to build positive community relations and also to communicate about traffic issues.

One of the important innovations of Uttarakhand Police Department on social media has been the direct connect of the people to the police through a customised Mobile App. The Mobile application developed by the Uttarakhand police has paved the way for positive interface with the public by providing them services at the click of a button. It has features like Tenant verification, Servant verification, Crime reporting, Lost and Found, Trace alert etc. Features like Emergency Broadcast facility wherein the press of a button sends the message I AM IN PROBLEM along with the current location via GPS to the police, makes it possible for the police to reach the user in distress. The app has a rating of 4.4 on Google Play Store and has already been downloaded by 24,601 people till date since its inception on 31.10.2015.

Also, Uttarakhand being the land of pilgrims, is host to the Char Dham Yatra, which can prove to be complicated for the visitors in terms of finding hotels, transport etc. at the peak time. So, an SMS service has been started, which includes information of hotels, petrol pumps, dhabas, tour operators, and has been linked with FM Radio stations to provide real-time information on accidents, traffic movement, diversions in place, landslides etc., so that pilgrims can plan their Yatra well by getting all such info via this service. Till date, 18 lakh visitors have benefitted from this service which shows its high popularity and immense utility.

Uttarakhand is among the few states in the country with a dedicated Cyber Crime Police Station. By the end of November, the State police will also get a Cyber Forensic and Digital Analytic Centre, established with the help of C-DAC, which
will train police personnel in Cyber Forensics and Analytics.

However, like all other tools, Social media too has its own flip side. The platforms do not have a well defined boundary pertaining to the content, which enhances misuse like watching/sharing of pornographic material or salacious jokes, or sending incriminating instant messages, or defaming others, without understanding its ramifications. These activities prove to be waste of time and resources and therefore counter productive for the department.

The online platforms have at times brought negative comments from some police personnel about departmental issues, which tarnish the image of the force. In one instance some Police personnel misused the social media to press for their demand to get arrears, which posed a serious concern in the form of insubordination. It resulted in punitive action against the ringleaders which had a salutary effect on the perpetrators, who engineered this process. This is definitely the negative side of social media, wherein personnel can collectively advocate an issue in the comfort of their relative anonymity. This has serious ramifications for all uniformed forces since such collective expressions can cross the this line of incitement to disaffection. In this regard, the Police Headquarters has recently issued a circular on the dos and don’ts of the use of social media by the police personnel, highlighting the fact that departmental Conduct Rules equally apply to communication on the Social Media platforms. Another negative side of the social media applications is its usage by police personnel during duty hours, which affects their productivity. It also leads to distraction during sensitive tasks, which can impact on professional output. Hence, it is important to prohibit recourse to social media during police work.

However, the most important aspect of social media is the culture and mindset it imperceptibly ushers into organizations. Social media is a platform of equals and its impact on hierarchical organizations can be confusing. One to One communication between the highest and the lowest rungs, which the social media enables, will make hierarchical organizations ‘flatter’. A failure to understand this and adapt suitably, within the perview of overall organizational goals, can create dissonance in police forces.

Hence, Police leaders need to lay-down clear cut standard operating procedures for use of Social media by the personnel and ensure compliance.
City Patrol Unit Uttarakhand: Smart Policing Experiment

On 1st April, 2014, the City Patrol Unit (CPU) was launched as an innovative pilot project in Dehradun with the aim of preventing road-related crimes and its fallouts as well as bringing down the incidence of violation of traffic rules. Its success in the capital city led to the project being replicated in Haridwar (2014), Haldwani (District Nainital 2015) and recently in Rudrapur (District Udham Singh Nagar). It is proposed to extend this project Roorkee (District Haridwar) in the near future.

The need for a SMART force

The idea behind the creation of this force was to efficiently utilise the manpower that goes into managing traffic related issues and street crime and simultaneously focus on offenders. Another thought behind the creation of this force was the fact that there was a tremendous increase in the number of vehicles on the road. According to the data available with the Uttarakhand Transport Department, the number of registered vehicles were just 58,533 in 2001, which in 2014-15 went up to 2,01,199. Apart from this, Uttarakhand being endowed with nature’s bounty, lakhs of tourists and pilgrims travel to the state, increasing the pressure on traffic. The worsening traffic congestion and deteriorating road safety conditions have steadily led to an increase in travel time as well as accidents.

Most of these accidents occurred due to negligence of drivers, overspeeding and violation of traffic rules on the narrow roads of the state. Hence it was felt that a well-trained, well-equipped, responsive and techno-savvy force was required to manage traffic-related issues, a force that would not be accused of misconduct and instead strives to improve relation with the community so as to leave an indelible imprint on the traffic situation. The CPU’s overall mandate was to provide protection to the citizens; prevent the occurrence of street crimes through preventive patrol; respond rapidly to all requests for emergency law enforcement service; reduce traffic congestion and accident hazards through systematic

* The writer is SSP, Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand
enforcement of traffic laws and rules; respond to motor vehicle accidents; aid victims of accidents; and improve law enforcement/community relations by increasing the quality and quantity of contacts between citizens and law enforcement.

**Putting together a team of 60**

The rollout process began with only candidates with the right qualifications being called for the interview. The ones selected were subsequently put through a training programme of 90 days. It included training in soft skills, familiarisation with the stipulations of the Motor Vehicles Act, IPC, CrPC, the Central and State Motor Vehicle Rules, arrest procedures and court guidelines on arrests. The trainees were also taught how to handle weapons, wield the baton and use pepper spray if things aggravated beyond a point. A wide array of technological aids and domain specialists were marshalled: simulators for riding a bike before graduating to Royal Enfield bullet, professional photographers for the finer nuances of photography and recording, experts from the Synergy and Max hospitals for first aid training, psychologists for soft skills, and legal experts. Technology being a critical resource, trainees were also imparted computer skills, wireless communication and navigation using Google Maps on the smartphone. The soft skill training focused on behavioural change — enhancing interpersonal and social skills so that police officers interact with the public in a firm yet polite manner. An officer would always begin with a genial “Good morning/Afternoon Sir/Ma’am depending on the time of the day and the gender of the person and inform him/her of the rule broken and follow the procedure. Field exposure being a critical component since patrol officers must be well versed with the topography of the area under their jurisdiction (vacant lots, parking places, streets, diversions, dead ends) as well as the current street crime trends therein, 30 out of the 90 days were set aside for outdoor or practical training in which the trainees were attached to various police stations and with serving traffic police personnel.
Having built the trainees' capacity, capability, productivity and performance, they were made to sit for an examination at the end of the 90-day programme; only those who passed with more than 50 percent marks in both the indoor and outdoor subjects were confirmed.

**Ready for the Dehradun roads**

It was only after such rigorous training that the CPU, comprising 30 Sub Inspectors and 30 constables working in 'buddy pairs', started policing the streets of Uttarakhand: two personnel each on a total of 12 motorcycles, of which 10 are deployed in city roads for 16 hours. They work for four hours at a stretch with a break of four hours in between for completing paperwork. Each buddy pair is equipped with on-body camera, flashlight, handset, pepper spray, handcuffs, alcometer, revolver, baton and a tactical utility belt to carry the equipments for hassle-free riding. The Royal Enfield motorcycles are equipped with siren, hooter, PA system as well as a Bluetooth-enabled helmet for calling out to the vehicle owners to pull them aside. Their uniform has been designed keeping in mind comfort and practicality, customised to accommodate challan booklets and safety gear. The unit also has a back-up the team comprising an SI and two constables on a continuous eight-hour shift, their vehicle equipped with breath analyser, speedometer, first-aid box, static wireless set, reflectors/triangle cones, video camera, search light, rope, forensic investigation kit, baton, body protector and helmet.

The City Patrol Unit officers do not indulge in routine checking of vehicle papers but if someone is caught violating traffic rules such as drunken driving, rash driving etc. then the mandate is to check all documents (driving
licences/registration certificate/insurance papers). The unit’s performance has not been linked to number of challans it issues since the primary aim per se is to control traffic violations and to act as first responders if a crime — such as chain-snatching, eve-teasing, motorcycle theft — occurs, either by self-cognisance or on being alerted by the control room.

Adhering to strict guidelines that all activities of the unit be filmed, officers begin recording with the on-body camera as soon as a vehicle is pulled aside for traffic violation. The recording is synced with the computer and the files are kept in hidden mode to protect privacy and can be accessed only after permission from Circle Officer; the SP (Traffic) reviews the recording once a week.

The CPU’s modus operandi - Laying down a Standard Operating Procedure

The unit’s movements are logged with the control room and whenever a chase starts in case of any violation or street crime, it is mandatory for the officer to inform the control room about the vehicle being chased, its number, make, colour and description of driver/rider and the direction in which it is headed. If the vehicle has a local registration number, the officer needs to ensure that the vehicle number plate is recorded and then stops the chase; a notice under Section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act is subsequently sent through the CO office to the violator. If the driver misbehaves and causes hindrance, it is notified to the control room which sends additional support; depending on the gravity of the situation, pepper spray can be used.

The unit also serves as first responder in the event of traffic accidents. Upon arrival at an accident scene, officers first park the vehicle so as to protect the scene and allow movement of traffic. They then administer first aid and inform the control room to flash important details regarding the accident. Driving licence and proof of insurance is obtained from all parties involved in the accident. Witnesses are questioned for names, addresses or any other valuable information and allowed to depart as quickly as possible. If the driver and passengers of any vehicle involved in the accident were transported from the scene because of injuries, the officer follows up obtaining all the information necessary to pass it over to the local police station. Where injuries are minor and all of the needed information has been obtained at the scene, it is not normally necessary for the officer to conduct a follow-up. In case of accidents involving fatality or serious injury, the officer receiving the initial call parks at the end of the scene and not in the accident area;
City Patrol Unit Uttarakhand : Smart Policing Experiment

the first officer on the scene apprises the local station in-charge through the control room of the situation and a person from the local police station takes charge of the situation and decide the future course of action.

The vantage position these enforcement officers are in to offer assistance and first aid during the 'golden hour' — much before the 108 ambulance service arrives at the scene — has not only enabled many lives to be saved but often prompted victims to cooperate enthusiastically with the police and help in investigation as well as prosecution.

Since it is the duty of each officer to carry out arrests, procedures have been laid out to minimise the opportunity for an escape. By adhering to the procedures, an officer reduces the potential for injury to the suspect, himself/herself and citizens. Any person arrested is told by the officer of the officer's status, the reasons for an arrest and are advised of his/her rights. If the CPU arrests a person, it tells him/her that “they have the right to remain silent and whatever they say can go against them, and they can call their lawyers for legal help” at the police station to which they are being taken. An officer making a lawful arrest has the right to use whatever minimum force is necessary to accomplish the arrest.

All persons taken into custody are searched. This includes a full and careful pat-down of the suspect for weapons, contraband and evidence of the crime for which the arrest is made. The search also includes the area within the suspect's immediate reach at the time of arrest. Guidelines have also been issued about the method to be used while handcuffing along with the restrictions. Minute details such as the transporting of those arrested, the impounded vehicle, frisking and checking of suspicious persons and inspection of vehicles have also been mentioned in the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

The SOP also lays down basic rules of safe vehicle operation for routine patrolling and pursuits. The day-to-day condition of the vehicle is to be checked for safe operation, with the final responsibility resting on the officer operating the vehicle. A check list has been laid down for inspecting the vehicle prior to use. Similarly, reasons for initiating the pursuit, responsibilities of the rider, that of the pillion rider, control room and the procedure for discontinuation of pursuit have been outlined.

In fact, the control room has been set up in such a manner as to afford ample office space besides ensuring that the record room and communication
room are safe and secure. Restrooms have been provided for both male and female constables keeping in mind basic amenities such as toilets and cupboards with coolers, TV and filtered drinking water as well.

**Looking back, looking ahead**

Two-plus years after the CPU was piloted in Dehradun, its impact on Dehradun streets is palpable. The roads are distinctly safer, both traffic- and crime-wise. Apart from bringing down the number of traffic violations, the CPU has effectively curbed chain-snatching, vehicle theft, vehicle robbery and eve-teasing: Chain-snatching cases declined by 35% in Dehradun for the period from 1st April, 2014 to 31st December, 2015; vehicle robbery dropped by 66%; and eve-teasing cases witnessed a drop of as much as 20% as compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

It is a matter of great pride for Uttarakhand Police that a team of the Bangalore Traffic Police, came to Dehradun to study the success story of the CPU. B. Guru Rajarao, a human behaviour specialist and an advisor to the Bangalore police, appreciated the working of the CPU saying its personnel “amazed” the visiting team with their patient conduct during high-stress situations.

Thus, what started as an experiment is now all set to bring about a radical change in policing. The CPU has shaped up as a unit that enforces the law of the land even as its interface with the public remains humane and courteous. Transparency and accountability have been the major gains in this exercise: The unit is perhaps the first in India to use on-body cameras, the use of which has freed the police force from illegitimate interference and insulated it from external pressures besides curbing misbehaviour both on the part of the public and the police. The use of technology has extended to using platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp for community outreach initiatives, thereby disseminating information about the good work being done.
Introduction

Uttarakhand which is also known as 'Devbhoomi' is bestowed with diverse geographical features ranging from the foot hills in the south to the snow-clad peaks of the Himadri making up the Indo-Tibetan boundary. The great Himalayan region supports a large number of glaciers, lakes, rivers, flora and fauna due to its variable climate. It has a profound effect on the climate of the subcontinent. Uttarakhand, the hill state, by virtue of its geographical setting is vulnerable to different types of natural calamities like earthquakes, landslide, cloudbursts, flash floods, avalanches, forest fires etc, which strikes at regular frequency, causing a great deal of damage to life and property in the state. Natural calamities are common in Uttarakhand, which lies in the fragile mountain belt of the Himalayas and has experienced tectonic turmoil several times in the past. There has been an increase in the frequency of natural disasters in this region. Major disasters in the recent past include earthquakes of 1991 and 1999 in Uttarkashi and Chamoli respectively, landslides at Okhimath and Malpa in 1998 and cloudbursts and flash floods during the monsoon at Khetgaon and Budakedar in 2002, Uttarkashi in 2003, Amparav, Lambagar, Agastmuni in 2004 and 2005, Kedarnath in 2013, Bastari in Pithoragarh & Ghat area in Chamoli in 2016 and many more. Apart from natural disasters, road mishaps also result in loss of human lives.

For a small state like Uttarakhand, such disasters, directly or indirectly affect the population of the state, and also the Gross Domestic Productivity, which in turn hampers the growth prospects as a whole. Analysing at the history of natural disasters in the state, some of them of unprecedented scale, called for an integrated and effective disaster management mechanism to combat both natural and man-made disaster.

Earlier, disaster management machinery across the country had a more reactive approach towards disasters, hence, focused more on relief, rescue, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction, which all are post-disaster activities.

* The writer is I.G. SDRF, Uttarakhand.
However, a paradigm shift was brought about in the disaster management philosophy with the setting of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at national level, as mandated under the Disaster Management Act 2005. The State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) and District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) were constituted at state and district levels respectively in order to establish institutional mechanism for integrated approach. The cornerstone of the new approach includes disaster mitigation, preparedness, community awareness, capacity building. The new policy also emanates from the belief that investments in mitigation are much more cost effective than expenditure on relief and rehabilitation.

The state of Uttarakhand was one of the few states in the country to set up SDMA. In the year 2013, the state witnessed one of the deadliest natural disasters in the history of Uttarakhand in the form of Kedarnath flash floods which took more than 6000 lives. This unprecedented natural disaster triggered the need for a dedicated, highly trained, technologically advanced at the same time as a humanitarian force which can reach the disaster hit location as early as possible and actuate the relief and rescue operations at the earliest.

On October 9, 2013, an in-principle approval was given for constituting State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and DIG Rank Officer from police department was given the responsibility to establish the premier force keeping in view the challenges faced by the state by virtue of its vulnerability towards disasters. Significantly, the SDRF in Uttarakhand was established after carrying out a detailed study of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and existing SDRF’s in states like Bihar, Meghalaya, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Odisha. The officials created the Uttarakhand SDRF after carefully examining the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s), effectiveness, usefulness, matrices and comparatives and best practices followed in other states.

The SDRF has now emerged as a major attraction for the police personnel working in other wings of the department and there is a healthy competition among the rank and file to join this force. The primary reasons behind this “charm” of joining SDRF is the location of SDRF battalion in Dehradun where the kith and kin of the personnel have access to better health, education and housing facilities. Moreover, an additional 30% risk allowance is being given to SDRF workforce. The personnel working with the elite disaster response force were inducted on the basis of merit and imparted training at country’s best disaster training institutions.
Policeman working in different wings of police department—civil police, armed police, provincial armed constabulary (PAC), India Reserve Battalion (IRB), fire service and wireless—were given opportunity to work in SDRF on deputation for a maximum period of 5-years. The deputation stint with SDRF will enable the personnel to work as a first responder and will also increase the overall capability of police department in disaster management.

The force has been equipped with all required equipment's with each member of SDRF company, being provided with an individual disaster kit in order to take control of any emergency situation. At present SDRF consists of 6 companies with 18 teams (36 sub-teams) with self-contained and specialized search and rescue

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SDRF Personnel &amp; Individual Kit</th>
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<td><strong>Individual Kit</strong></td>
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personnel, including structural engineers, technicians, dog squads, medic/paramedics, apart from specialized search and rescue team for deep under-water and high altitude mountain area.

Even though the approved strength of SDRF is 1072, the present head count in the force including senior officers stands at 455, and the process of setting up additional two companies is in process.

Despite it being a new force, the professional and daring relief and rescue operations carried out by SDRF personnel, even in the far-flung areas, have been appreciated by public. The SDRF is being pre-positioned at disaster prone places in Uttarakhand, especially during the monsoon season, to ensure maximum relief in minimum possible time during an emergency situation. The SDRF has shown professional expertise in its operations and emerged as an indispensable and impactful disaster response force.

Prepositioning of SDRF teams in the state before rainy season based on the vulnerability profile and to cut down the response time for any emergency
The state government had provided 5-acre land for setting up SDRF battalion and its temporary office was established in porta-cabins in record time of 3-months. Later, additional 23 acres of land was allotted to SDRF by the central government and the boundary wall around the premises is under construction. The process of building a state-of-the-art SDRF headquarters at an estimated cost of Rs 200 crore is already underway. The facility will become an important centre for disaster preparedness, mitigation, risk minimization and in future will be used for capacity building exercises for entire police force, fire personnel and other government/private agencies including other stake holders. The process of land allotement for coy hqs of SDRF are being carried out at different locations such as Kedarnath, Lencholi, Gaurikund, Sonprayag, Govindghat, Kapkot, Rudrapur, Joshimath, Almora, Uttarkashi, Askot, etc.

**Equipments**

Post Kedarnath deluge, various departments of the state government were given financial assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation work under the World Bank funded Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project (UDRP). For increasing the capability of the force, SDRF was allotted money under the UDRP project and equipment's for Collapse Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR), Medical First Responder (MFR),
The Uttarakhand State Disaster Response Force (SDRF): March Towards Excellence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Name Package</th>
<th>Phase I</th>
<th>Phase II</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CSSR</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MFR</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mountain &amp; Rope Rescue</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Water &amp; Flood Rescue</td>
<td>1838485.00</td>
<td>8759279.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Individual Items</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Radio Communication</td>
<td>8848800.00</td>
<td>181,66,111.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fire Fighting Equipments</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>43922500.00</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>61717557.45</strong></td>
<td><strong>141567920.00</strong></td>
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High Mountain and Rope Rescue, Water and Food rescue worth Rs 20 crore have already been procured and additional hi-tech gadgets to tune of Rs 9 crore are in pipeline under Phase III.

Training

The personnel deputed for the Uttarakhand SDRF were provided training by the NDRF on Medical First Responder (MRF), Collapse Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR), Rope rescue, Flood rescue and Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN). Apart from this, the SDRF teams equipped with Dog squads were also trained in relief, search and rescue techniques aimed at conducting operations in earthquake affected and damaged buildings using effective and scientific methods.

Keeping in view the geographic and topographical features of the state, the SDRF constituted a High Mountain Search and Rescue team, the members of this team have successfully scaled peaks such
as Mount Everest (8848 m), KalindiKhal (6100 m), Comet (7755 m), Abhigamin (7355 m), Satopanth (7075 m), Devban (6855 m) and Bhagirathi 2 (6512 m). This team is fully competent to respond to emergency situations which may be faced by any hiker, trekker and mountaineer. This team is fully equipped and geared with state-of-the-art and modern equipment’s to take on difficult rescue and relief work in mountainous terrain.

The Kumaon and Garhwal region of the state is gifted with many lakes, water bodies and rivers, and there is always a need to have a water search and rescue team in such areas.

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<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>TOT Disaster Management (13 days) - College of Military Engineering, Pune.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Basic Special Mountaineering Training (28 days) – Nehru Mountaineering Institute, Uttarkashi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>River Rafting Training (07 days) - Himganga Adventure, Rishikesh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Skiing Course (14days) - Winter sports training center, Joshimath , Auli.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Advance Rafting Course (30 days) - Himganga Adventure, Rishikesh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>TOT Disaster Management (40 days) - North Eastern Police Academy, Umsav, Meghalaya.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Office Management &amp; Advance Communication Technique (07 days) - Sanchar Headquarter, Dehradun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Deep Diving course (40 days) – Sea Explorer Institute, Kolkata.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gender &amp; Disaster Management (05 days) - NDMA, New Delhi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Rock Climbing Course (28 days) - CI&amp;IW School, Gwaldham, Chamoli.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Landslide Mitigation by Disaster Management (03 days) – Uttarakhand Prashasnik Academy,Nainital.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Psychological Care and Disaster Management (05 days) - NDMI, New Delhi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>TOT MFR &amp; CSSR (34 days) - NDRF Academy, Nagpur.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Basic search &amp; rescue (20 days) – Himalayan Institute, Mussooriee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Basic First Responder Course (45 days) - SDRF Battalion, Dehradun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Basic Search &amp; Rescue (20 days) - AGWS, Haldwani.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Mobile Radiation Detection System (15 days) - 5th BN NDRF, Pune.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Achievements

Since its inception SRDF has continued to win the hearts and minds of public by demonstrating its expertise and compassion while handling disaster situation. Due to its exceptional work in last two years, there is a growing demand from the public representatives across the state for the deployment of SDRF in their respective areas. The success achieved by the SDRF force is truly attributed to the high morale and motivation of the SDRF personnel.

The 2013 Kedarnath disaster which took thousands of lives had resulted in a sense of fear and apprehension amongst the devotees, however the deployment of highly trained and well equipped SDRF
personnel along the Char Dham route has greatly helped in restoring the confidence of pilgrims once again. The state witnessed an high footfalls during the 2016 Char Dham Yatra, and the SDRF managed to arrange food and shelter for pilgrims at very short notice when the total number of pilgrims crossed the saturation limit of Kedarnath. The SDRF, which was deployed along the difficult routes of Char Dhamyatra, played an important role in making the yatra more safer and secure.

In addition to its forte of disaster response, the force is playing a vital role in capacity building of the state institutions as well as the citizens with a vision to work towards a disaster resilient state. Community preparedness is an ongoing process of SDRF that equips officials, stakeholders and the community to perform their functions in a better manner during a crisis/disaster. The SDRF is running training capsules on a regular basis in schools, colleges, villages.

The SDRF also proved its mettle during the renowned Nanda Rajjat Yatra known as Himalyan Kumbh by providing food and shelter to thousands of pilgrims at high altitude areas having extreme climatic conditions. The SDRF rose to the occasion when all other organizations were reluctant to make the arrangements for the yatra. Moreover in the history of the Nanda Devi Rajjaat Yatra for the first time, it was successfully completed without a single human casualty.

The services of the SDRF force were also taken during the 2016 ArdhKumbh at Haridwar. About 100 personnel including senior officials and 40 paramedics of SDRF were deployed at various ghats. During the mela the SDRF Paramedics organized free medical camps and distributed free medicines to the sick and needy pilgrims.

Deep diving and flood rescue teams of SDRF are deployed along the river Ganges every year for the safety and wellbeing of the Kanwad during the annual Kanwad yatra. During the 2016 Kanwad the SDRF water & flood rescue teams conducted 12 rescue operations and saved
12 devotees from certain death by drowning in the Ganges.

Soaring temperatures in 2016 summers led to an unprecedented scale of forest fire incidents in Uttarakhand in which thousands of hectares of forest area was gutted. To douse these raging fires, the SDRF personnel worked in tandem round the clock with civil police, fire service and forest department in the most affected districts of Pauri, Tehri, Almora and Nainital.

Recently Uttarakhand has also emerged as one of the favorite destinations for adventure tourism which has also contributed to the ever increasing tourist footfalls in the state. Ensuring their safety during disasters is one of the important responsibilities of the SDRF. Besides successfully summiting the Bhagirathi peak, the elite force has been playing an important role in the conducting of the Hemkund sahib, Kailash Mansarover yatra and support team for different expeditions in the state.

Last but not the least, SDRF Uttarakhand due to its professional approach has emerged as an elite force in a short span of time from its formation. Being a state Government force, SDRF is not confined to the formalities of the SOP's as other central forces are, which has resulted in its unmatched fast response to a disaster call. The SDRF, in a short span of two and half years, has acquired a niche for itself as a highly professional disaster response force with integrated approach. Since its inception, the SDRF has carried out 181 rescue operations across the state and were able to save 2166 disaster affected people and retrieved 202 dead bodies from various mishaps. In doing so, SDRF is undoubtedly setting an example for the other organizations of the state as well as the nation.

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Creating Police Infrastructure in a new state: Challenges and Opportunities

The state of Uttarakhand came into existence on 9th November 2000. The nascent state comprised of 2 ranges and 13 districts. Of the 13 districts, 4 districts viz Bageshwar, Udham singhnagar, Champawat and Rudraprayag did not have an established district headquarters. The Armed police component handed over by the parent state included 3 battalians of PAC, out of which, only one battalion had requisite infrastructure.

The infrastructure required to create a competent policing environment posed a challenge on the eve of the state raising day. The task had to be started from scratch. First and foremost the Police Headquarters and the D.G.P office had to be established to ensure smooth functioning and effective governance over the districts. The very fact that the basic infrastructure in hand was limited, helped the senior management to come up with innovative ideas to design on an empty slate.

The priority was to create the Police Headquarters, Intelligence and Security HQs, CBCID HQs, Communication and Technical services HQ. Moreover basic training facilities were lacking. Realizing the importance of training in any Police organizations success, a road map had to be drawn to establish PTC, PTS and ATC. In addition, the daunting task of setting up 4 new Police Lines and SP

* The writer is ADG (Vigilance), Uttarakhand
office as well as 3 PAC/IRB Battallions was taken up in earnest. A major hurdle was to acquire land in the state as more than half of Uttarakhand is covered by reserve forests. The approach adopted was to acquire land where building was not required immediately and to take over old buildings where offices needed to be set up immediately.

The officers who were at the helm of affairs set out to search for such buildings and acquired buildings for the Police Headquarters as well as the Intelligence Headquarters. Land was also got allotted for the Police officers colony at Kishanpur.

In the meantime, funds allotted under the MPF Scheme was utilized appropriately to improve the existing infrastructure and newly acquired buildings. New challenges throw new opportunities and bigger the challenges, bigger are the opportunities for growth.

Keeping this in mind and the welfare of the subordinate ranks, the focus was also on the Police Station buildings and outposts, which were mostly in dilapidated condition. Since policing in Uttarakhand region was not given priority in the erstwhile UP state, the number of Police Stations, Outposts and Fire Stations were insufficient. Therefore the task at hand also involved setting up new Police Stations and Outposts in newly acquired land. The serious effort put in by the officers can be seen from the fact that as on date there are 155 Police Stations as against 95 in 2001 and 233 Police Outposts as against 42,
most of which used to function from tin sheds or roadside booths. Since many buildings were dilapidated a special drive was undertaken during the 13th finance commission period and the old buildings were renovated and the available space was put to use more efficiently.

It was also felt that instead of traditional designs, the police buildings should keep pace with the changing times and be aesthetically appealing and at the same time fulfill police requirements. Police station Cant and Dalanwala of Dehradun and the Outdoor and the Indoor stadiums in Police Lines Dehradun are living examples of this theory. Considerable attention was paid to how the Police Station and outposts were set up as are were the symbols of Police-public interface. Suitable changes were made to give them better look in terms of providing living area for the constabulary, the office premises and the outer façade of the building. Special attention was paid to landscaping, cleanliness of the area in and around the police station as well as ensuring the comforts of the constabulary. The old barracks were replaced by smaller barracks along the lines of dormitories in the hostels. The Police stations at Mallital and Haldwani now bear a new aesthetic look and are admired by the tourists. An attempt has been made to change the façade of almost every Police Station in the State. The Cyber crime police station building was created keeping in mind the comfort of the public as well as the nature of service seekers.

From 11% satisfaction level of police housing in 2001, it has been brought up close to 20% in last 15 years. During this period the strength of the force has also nearly doubled. It is still far from being satisfactory,
but a perspective plan has been drawn to improve the housing situation. But the withdrawal of MPF Scheme, has delayed the process. However there is no denying the fact that the colonies built for police subordinate ranks in Kandoli, Basant Vihar and Ramnagar IRB have raised the self esteem and morale of the force.

Uttarakhand police buildings are a good example of how challenges can be converted into opportunities. The Police Officers Mess and Colony at Kisanpur have many admirers; many of whom rate the complex as one of the best in the country. It took meticulous planning and an eye for detail to come up with a design pleasing to the eye and in harmony with the natural contours.

Over the period of last 15 years, Uttarakhand police has created a lot of infrastructure. New Police Lines have been established in Tehri, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar, Champan, and Udhamsinghnagar. Nainital and Haridwar Police Lines have been upgraded. The staff colonies present an example of happy and healthy living. Police offices and other important buildings have also come up in the districts. New infrastructure has been built in PAC 46 Battallion. The Police Training College (PTC) has been established at Narendernagar. The CID Headquarters has been built in Basant Vihar while Wireless and PAC Headquarters is at Jakhan. The Police Lines of Dehradun has been given a face lift with a grand entry gate and a modern stadium. The badminton hall at Police lines Dehradun has been the chosen venue for three all India Police level and many other badminton tournaments. The Police Lines Dehradun has a cutting edge Indoor shooting range making Uttarakhand the only state in India equipped with an Indoor shooting range where all weapons except .303 can be fired.

The journey which began on 9th November 2000 with small steps, continues till date. The work of creating new infrastructure and renovating an old ones is an unending process. The State government has also been sensitive and generous in allocating funds for infrastructure, which needs special recognition.

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