

**OPENING REMARKS OF SELVI J JAYALALITHAA,**  
**HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU AT THE**  
**CONFERENCE OF POLICE OFFICERS HELD ON 13.12.2013**

Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Chief Secretary,  
Principal Secretary, Home,  
Director General of Police,  
Senior Police Officers,  
District Superintendents of Police and  
Delegates attending this Conference,

During the Joint Session we had elaborate and fruitful discussions on law and order maintenance which draws upon the co-ordinated efforts of District Collectors and Police Officers. Though important in itself, law and order is only a portion of Police responsibilities. Policing encompasses a wide variety of other tasks like crime prevention, crime detection, traffic regulation, security of VIPs, security of vital installations, disaster management, and enforcement of social legislation of different kinds.

The Policeman / Policewoman has to play three major roles. As a guardian of Society, he/she is the sentry at the gates protecting the community against dangerous criminals. Secondly, as an instrument of the law, he / she, is an umpire required to apply impersonally a set of rules to make possible orderly social transactions in the community. Thirdly, as a public servant, he / she is a friend-in-need who performs duties which are not part of law enforcement such as finding lost children or pushing stranded cars.

No wonder, a learned person said, "The citizen expects Police Officers to have the wisdom of Solomon; the strength of Samson; the patience of Job; the leadership of Moses; the kindness of the Good Samaritan," and so on and so forth.

Such lofty and sometimes unrealistic expectations place a heavy burden on the shoulders of the Police. But, the Tamil Nadu Police endowed with professional freedom under my Government have always risen to the challenges. The recent arrest of Fakruddin followed

by the operation at Puthur in which two of his associates were arrested without any loss of life was a noteworthy achievement. I have personally congratulated 260 personnel giving away cash rewards ranging from 1 lakh rupees to 15 lakh rupees, apart from the grant of Accelerated Promotion to 20 Police personnel.

While such sensational operations grab headlines there are also numerous instances where your hard toil is taken for granted by the public for example, during the visits of dignitaries facing high levels of threat or anniversary functions of caste leaders or major temple festivals. But, I am aware of the elaborate preparations made and the efforts put in by the Police to make these events go off peacefully. I know the hardships faced by Police personnel. This is why my Government has been particular in taking care of the well being of individual Policemen, welfare of the Force as a whole and the wellness of the Police as a Department.

I also take this opportunity to share some of my priorities with you. When you arrest nine lakh people, an odd death in custody here and there may appear to be statistically negligible. But a dead man is not a mere statistic for his loved ones. Instances are reported of suspects dying after suddenly developing illness while in a Police station or committing suicide while in custody. When the Police are expected to protect the lives of citizens in their homes, work places and in public, it would be a travesty of justice if a citizen dies within the precincts of a Police Station.

Ease of mobility and communication no doubt changes the character of crime. While once the Police were concerned about inter-district criminals, today inter-State and even inter-national criminals, tend to take centre stage. New forms of crime keep surfacing. It is not enough that offenders in heinous crimes are arrested. It must be ensured that bail applications are strongly opposed, cases charge-sheeted quickly and expeditious trial ensured.

I hope today's discussions will bring to the fore not only the problems but also effective and lasting solutions.

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