

## DGP's Message

In a thriving democratic set up, Police acts as a preserver of peace, law and order. It is trained not only to protect life, but to take life, and to give its own. Its vocation is people's life and death, both collectively and individually. We can only have good government if its individuals first govern themselves well, follow the script of citizenry. Good government is thus mirror to good self-government. This brings good citizenship for all. And to be that citizen is to understand the value of self-discipline. The professional freedom of action, integrity, and a strong commitment to adhere to the law of the land without any fear or favour, are the hallmarks of a superior police force.

Policing essentially is a public service and in a democratic set up, it affects large sections of society more seriously than any other agency of the government. Any malpractice or violations of human rights by the police comes into critical public gaze in the media and by human rights groups. The individual liberty and freedom guaranteed under the constitution and other criminal laws limit the powers and functions of the police officers in discharge of their duties. Police and public must communicate with each other and work in partnership to maintain trust between themselves. The principle of accountability is linked to responsibility that is exercised through legally enforceable rules. This accountability is at three levels – accountability to the people, accountability to law and accountability to the Police Organization.

The role of the police has changed from the lathi-wielding, khaki-wearing individual. The police force requires an altogether new orientation; must don a new role as partners in the development process, and are expected to be sensitive to human rights and gender issues. The ethos of police organization should be transformed from enforcement to enablement. Use of force must be based on the principles of necessity and proportionality. Force should be applied only to the extent required for the legitimate ends of law enforcement and maintaining public order. The prime duty of police is to prevent crime and disorder, and the police must recognize that the test of their efficiency is the absence of both and not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them. The police must also realize that the efficient performance of their duties will be dependent on the extent of cooperation that they receive from the public. This, in turn, will depend on their ability to secure public approval of their conduct and actions and to earn and retain public respect and confidence. Integrity of the highest order is the fundamental basis of the prestige of the police. Recognizing this, Police must keep their private lives scrupulously clean, develop self-restraint and be truthful and honest in their thought and deed, so that public may regard them as exemplary citizens.