

TIMES POLICE COMMEMORATION DAY SPECIAL

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Vadodra Police Commissioner salutes bravery of his personnel and support from Barodians on Police Commemoration Day

October 21 is being celebrated as Police Commemoration Day to as a mark of respect to the martyrs who make supreme sacrifices in the line of police duty. The State Police Forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) are responsible for the maintenance of internal security. They are faced with the challenges of dealing with militancy, insurgency, Left Wing Extremism (LWE), agitations, violent incidents and other law enforcement issues. A large number of Police Officers die and suffer serious injuries during law enforcement activities across the country.

The country has made remarkable progress in the field of infrastructure, industry and science & technology leading to overall growth and prosperity in the last few years. The State Police Forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) have played a critical role in creating a safe and secure environment for rapid economic development. Vadodra City Police is working for the prevention, detection and investigation of criminal cases and maintenance of public order. We have given priority for the prevention of crime, detection of reported cases, capacity building for Cybercrime investigation, anti-narcotic drug smuggling, women and child safety and community policing.



Narasimha Komar, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Vadodra City, Gujarat

Our efforts to monitor the activities of known criminals under the 'Mentor Program' has resulted in prevention and detection of property offences. The community outreach activities under the 'Suraksha Setu Community Policing Program' and 'Tran Mai Tamara, Tran Amara' has helped in countering criminal activities in the neighborhood with active participation of community members. The members of the force have worked hard for the maintenance of law & order during major festivals such as Ram Navami, Sri Jagannath Rath Yatra, Muharram, Eid-ul-Milad, Ganesh Chaturthi, and Navratri in coordination with other stakeholders and members of the community. The police had played a critical role during the unprecedented floods in Vadodra City in August, 2024. A large number of people were rescued and moved to safety by police officers risking their lives.

It is the sacred duty of the society to honour the Police Officers who have made supreme sacrifices for the safety and security of the citizens. The National Police Memorial was inaugurated by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon. Prime Minister of India on 21st October 2018 in Chanakya Puri, New Delhi to commemorate the sacrifices of 34844 Police Officers from the Central and State Police Forces in India who have died in the line of duty since Independence. A police museum showcasing 200 years of policing in the region. We have a police memorial at Police Headquarters, Pratapnagar, Vadodra to commemorate the sacrifices made by the member of Vadodra City Police since its inception.

We salute the martyrs and draw immense inspiration from their gallant acts and supreme sacrifices and resolve to work with commitment and dedication for the safety and security of people of Vadodra City. **Narasimha Komar, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Vadodra City, Gujarat**

School Bus Safety Program

Vadodra City is an education hub and has a large number of Universities, Colleges and Schools. The student community is dependent on School Buses, School Vans and Auto Rickshaws for their transportation. There are episodes of road accidents involving students leading to their injury and death in some cases. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board (GSEB) have issued advisories regarding the safety of School Buses. However, non-compliance of the advisories often leads to road accidents compromising safety of students. Therefore, Vadodra City Traffic Police initiated School Bus Safety Program mandating security features such as GPS Tracking System, Panic Button System, Speed Regulator, deployment of skilled drivers, yellow colour painting on exterior, printing of contact number of the School Management in the rear ect. The School Vans and Auto Rickshaws were told not to transport students in excess of the permissible limits. A series of meetings were held with the Principals, Management, Transport Agencies, Van/ Auto Rickshaws Drivers, Road Transport Officer (RTO), District Education Officer (DEO) and Parents to create safety awareness and compliance of instructions. The Vadodra City Traffic Police organized a special drive targeting over 800 vehicles violating the above safety protocols. The above efforts have created awareness among the stakeholders and improved the safety of student community.

Mentor Program

A large number of criminals involved in theft, house breaking, robbery, dacoity and other property offences are repeat offenders. It is necessary to know their present whereabouts and monitor their activities to prevent them from committing offences again. Therefore, present whereabouts and activities of 385-known criminals and history-shooters residing in various Police Station jurisdictions is being monitored under the 'Mentor Program'. The concerned Police Officers stay in touch with the persons, entice them to dialogue, advise them to refrain from indulging in criminal activities and persuade them to engage themselves in productive economic activities. The program has resulted in tracing of a large number of local, inter-district, inter-state criminals, reduction in criminal activities and detection of a large number of property offences giving big relief to citizens. The continued effort is expected to help in weaning away people with criminal history from unlawful activities and integrating them with main stream society.



Vyasank Mukti Vadodra City Program

Vadodra City with the presence of huge student community industrial labourers and youth is vulnerable to drug abuse. Therefore, Special Operations Group (SOG), a specialized wing to deal with terror, drug abuse, counter Indian currency notes, arms smuggling etc. has launched Vyasank Mukti Vadodra City Program to curb drug abuse among the city's youth. They have adopted multi-pronged strategy including monitoring criminals with previous history, surveillance over drug traffickers, disruption of transportation-sale-usage and rehabilitation of drug addicts. They have setup City Narcotic Coordination Committee headed by Commissioner of Police, Vadodra City having representatives of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Central Excise, Chief District Health Officer, Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and Non Government Organizations (NGOs). The coordination committee prepares action plan and the implementation is reviewed periodically.

A total of 13-cases were registered and 26-accused were arrested as part of the anti-drug campaign in Vadodra City during the year 2024. A series of awareness programs were conducted in various schools, colleges, malls, public



spaces, hotels, gardens, tuition centers, sports complexes and madrasas in Vadodra City reaching over 26,800 people. These efforts are targeted at preventing children and young adults from falling prey to drug abuse while raising awareness about its detrimental effects on individuals and society at large.

As part of these awareness programs, posters highlighting the dangers of addiction and tobacco use have been displayed, and students have been shown educational short films illustrating the harmful consequences of drug use. In discussions following these screenings, students were encouraged to commit to leading addiction-free lives and to help their families avoid such habits as well. Additionally, banners featuring the slogan "Say Yes to Life, No to Drugs" have been prominently placed on public roads to further enhance the impact of this campaign. The Vadodra SOG team is working diligently to raise awareness about the global drug problem and the multifaceted challenges it presents. The team's efforts continue to strengthen the city's commitment to tackling this critical issue.



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KYB CONMAT HONOURS VADODRA'S POLICE FORCE ON POLICE COMMEMORATION DAY

On this Police Commemoration Day it is a time to honour and reflect on the tireless dedication of the brave officers who work relentlessly to maintain peace and security in our communities. Premraj Keshyep, Managing Director of KYB Conmat, talks about the invaluable role Vadodra's police force plays in creating a safe and flourishing city.

Vadodra's police force plays a vital role in maintaining law and order in the city. How does KYB Conmat view the impact of Vadodra's police in ensuring a secure environment for businesses like yours?

At KYB Conmat, we are proud to be in Sanskari Nagar, Vadodra. Thanks to our state-of-the-art R&D and manufacturing facilities and our great human resources, we have been able to achieve substantial growth. Starting as a small-scale manufacturer, KYB Conmat is now among the global leaders in the construction equipment industry.

The safe and conducive environment in the city helps us employ and retain some of the best talent from all over India. Our work force comprises of over 800 people from every state and every religion in India. Their language may be different, but they feel at home and wish to stay forever in Vadodra. And without any doubt, the proactive and caring police force in Vadodra has been instrumental in creating this positive environment.

The Vadodra police have played a key role in upholding law enforcement and public services during tough times. What is your perspective on the relationship between a global business like yours, based in Vadodra, and the local police, and how can this partnership be further strengthened?

Being a multinational organisation and having business associations spread around the world, our people keep commuting across the globe and within India. And the role of the police department in upholding law enforcement and public services, especially during tough times, is clearly noticeable. Be it the flood situation during monsoon season or during the COVID-19 onslaught, Vadodra Police has not only proactively supported the law-abiding citizens but also prevented anti-social elements from taking undue advantage of the vulnerable situation. We remember, during COVID 19, the local police helped in organising necessary travel approvals within



Premraj Keshyep

India and also overseas for our employees and business associates. We, as a responsible global organisation, keep supporting various initiatives by Vadodra Police to help citizens and will continue supporting them in the future.

Vadodra is known for its vibrant community life. How do you think the presence and diligence of the city's police force contribute to the overall growth and stability of businesses and residents alike?

In my opinion, Vadodra's image as Sanskar Nagar has grown over the years. While lot of credit can be given to its God fearing, fun loving and culturally strong citizens, certainly the major factor will be its strong Police and city administration, who has maintained and further improved its secure environment, which is the necessary for thriving cultural atmosphere.

How can we cultivate the view of law enforcement officers as allies within our communities instead of being perceived as figures to fear?

During our childhood days, the image of a police was nothing less than of a demon. Mere sight of a policeman was good enough to create ripples in the community. But it has changed over the years. Now, it is more visible that the police work for the support and with the support of local public. We as responsible citizens, need to highlight and promote this fact in our talks, gestures and behavior. This will not only improve the perception of people about the police, but will also encourage the police force to further improve its behavior towards people.

On Police Commemoration Day, as we pay tribute to the sacrifices of police officers, what message would you like to convey to the city's police force in recognition of their continued commitment to upholding peace and security?

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our City Protectors. We enjoy safety and happiness in Vadodra because of your constant vigilance and protection. We celebrate our festivals without fear, knowing that you sacrifice your own celebrations, comforts, and time with your families to keep us secure. We are forever indebted to you and your loved ones. While some of you may be honored with medals, rest assured that every one of you has earned our deepest gratitude, best wishes, and heartfelt blessings.

As Vadodra marks Police Commemoration Day, this conversation with Premraj Keshyep highlights the indispensable role of the city's police force in fostering a secure and prosperous environment for both businesses and residents. Their unwavering dedication continues to support the city's growth.

