

**Speech by Mr. S N Pradhan, IPS, DIG- Provision & Modernization Police Headquarters, Ranchi**

At the onset I must thank Mr. Ajai Chowdhry and HCL on two accounts, first for this unique initiative where the Indian mind is given the center stage and we all try to understand what is so special about Indian and everybody wants to understand it and second in light way because every body talked about why he was invited here of course Swami ji is the man who delves into the mind. But I am sure everybody agree and already are thinking, how can a Police man a cop has anything to do with mind because there seem to be contradiction in terms having served in the national police academy and trained about nearly 550 army officers, I was always drilled and I always heard my ustads in the PT ground & the parade ground telling the trainees, IPS trainees, some of them next IITians and IIMs, some of them having worked in multinationals, that "saab apni kitab bhool jayiye budhi bhool jayiye, dimag ab dheere dheere apke neeche ajayega, kyun ki aap jab paer patkenge, to dimag neeche aata jayega, apko drill seekhna hai sochna nahi hai kaam karna hai."

"Mind" and "Cops" seem to be a contradiction in terms and I feel that Mr. Choudhry took a great risk inviting a cop but I suspect it was a calculated risk because dinner is lined up after this so in case you do not want me here you can always simply raise your hands and I will stop so that you can have your dinner. To come back to mind and cops, you must have heard about Police doing mindless acts, in the square at Sujata Chowk in Ranchi, you would have seen traffic cops almost out of their minds and you may think that they are not good enough because they do not mind well required to take care of the situation well and we have got used to becoming the center of jokes and if there are any sardars here please excuse me we are also in the same category sardar, police, politicians. So I was not surprised when friend of mine only yesterday, who works for a multinational like HCL, he works for Satyam and he smsed a joke to me on Police officer and it said there was a confluence of Police all over the world and there were four countries represented finalists, India obviously had to be there, so UK, USA, France and India, now the agenda was to find out the best among them and so it was decided that they were taken to a nearby jungle, they were told that there are lions in the jungle and the clock starts now, who gets lion first, the Americans were back in two minutes and said we got the lion, lion was released back, UK did that in 10 mins, the French did that in 15 mins and Indians never came back, judges were aghast they waited almost indomitably and then they went inside Indian cops were beating up the tied bear and they were shouting at the bear "jaldi se bol tu sher hai" Sometime my trainees used to wonder why I laugh at myself, laughing police I said that is the first step, to do something about it, to do something about yourself, I am sure anybody else will laugh but that's where the story ends by. My theory is that there is an inverse proportion between mental growth of the society and the number of policemen that bite. If there are more policemen on the street, if they are minding your every step every turn of your steering wheel, if the traffic policemen is at his best trying to mind you and your movements, there is something wrong of course with the traffic policemen's training may be, may be with the set up of the police there but may be if you really look deep inside, something wrong with your mental make up, something wrong that needs to be corrected.

That reminds me of a speech made by very illustrious guest of our academy, he came to the podium and he said, gentleman be prepared, all of you are the scavengers of the society and every trainee was taken aback scavenger is not the kind word they were wondering and then he unfolded and when he completed I think every trainee including me believed that he was right because but for the scavengers of the society the society would not be a cleaner place, it would not be a more hygienic place, the police men is the scavenger of the society, and it is then to clean up act to try to keep the society its movement, its mind on track but it is not our sole arbiter, its there only as a bank of the river, I will tell you later a story and anecdote about Japanese police and what it does more of that later now back to the issue of Mindia. Maxmuller say "If I ask under what sky the human mind has most fully developed, the choice he gives has most deeply pondered on the greatest problems of life I should point to India." in the same stream Volta has observed, I am convinced that everything has come down to us from the banks of the Ganges,

astronomy, astrology, meta psychosis etc. It does not behoove us who were only savages and barbarians, and he is talking about his own civilization "It does not behoove us who were only savages and barbarians when these Indian and Chinese people were civilized and learnt, despite the antiquity. Ladies and gentleman I would like to talk about this antiquity and I like to speak from the point of view of policemen, the scavenger, I believe that I or policemen have an inside view of what is happening in society, to its mind, what is the society thinking, how is it regulating itself. Very recently, there was I believe a landmark book on the idea of being Indian, written by the Indian professor in the US, the book is titled "The Idea of India" or the Idea of being Indians, I recommend any one of us interested to read that, it is a birds eye view yet an inside view of what India stands for, it talks about basically three parts of what is Indian being, Indianess means the first is or let me rephrase it talks about three parts of Indianess three types of Indianess and three competing stories about Indianess that go on inside India. And each is jostling full space and it has an impact about what we are talking about today, the first is the inclusiveness, the theory that all of us should be one, that diversities are immaterial that they should be so to say rejected, set aside we should be treated as one in one umbrella, and even to the extent that it was advocated that some of our diversities must be ruled out in the sense that laws be made to rule out those diversities, laws be made to counter those that say that there is exclusive way of saying it to emphasize my being a Bengali, Orria, a Hindu or a Muslim and not talk about my Indianess that much, you will realize that both these kinds of thinking patterns have impact on politics and parties have survived on these points, we are talking about regional parties, we are talking about national parties and then there is the open India the plural India that accepts everything that does not have any reservations that does not have any conditions of acceptance, it is that India that allows me talk in one language in my home, talk in another language in my office and maybe correspond in another language in my email, it is this plurality that represents India and I must say that all our philosophies, every body who came here on this podium and I have read all the transcripts of Mindia conclave earlier they all talk about this plurality. This was India, nothing else means India, in fact great philosopher Radhakrishnan, kept on insisting that in spite of some principles of his views that Hindu is truly Indian is a geographical construct, its an open space a field of the mind where every body come and every body is submerged, identity remain but identity is also merged there is no competition, there is only an acceptance, this is the true spirit of Indian ness that accepts everything and even the contradictions are accepted as part of the whole, so nothing is out of, everything is part of the same universe, I will quote Will Darrell, he says " In the history of civilization, no one man over the period or how well informed can come in one lifetime to such a fullness understanding as to safely judge or dismiss the customs or institutions of the society, for these are the wisdom of generations after century of experiment in the laboratory of history. Perhaps I can take as a starting point of understanding of India and its mind better and this is what Darrell said on this " Perhaps in return for conquest, arrogance, spoliation India will teach us tolerance and gentleness of the mature mind, the quite content of the un acquisitive soul the calm of the understanding spirit and unifying and pacifying normal love for all living things, India was the motherland of our race and Sanskrit the mother of bureau of languages, she was the mother of our philosophy, mother through the Arabs of much of our mathematics, mother through the Budhha for idols embodied in Christianity, mother of village community for self government and democracy, mother India in many ways, mother of us all and this was written in western philosophy and to come back to the cornucopia that accepts everything without denial without dissonance as flowing river disappears in the sea loosing their name and form that's a wise man freed from name and form goes to divine person who is beyond home such a theory of life and dearth will not please the western man whose religion is as permeated with individualism as our is political and economical institution but it has satisfied the philosophical Indian mind with astonishing continuity. For this audience in the background of this the plurality and the universality the cosmic universality of India, which believes that everything is Brahma, that everything is one that I am reflected in every body else and vice versa. With this background I will like to present something, which is very contrary something that is not in the same path that other dignitaries speakers here have taken it is not pessimistic but it is I believe the point for us to introspect as a great country with the great mind is it going wrong somewhere are we on the right track? Is all the knowledge, is all the software and all the medicine and all the scientific prowess is giving us what it was intended to give and that's why I would like to present

before you the three, I believe that in terms of the prowess of the mind, India was in its hay days and in its brilliance India was the wisdom inside, its not a knowledge society, it was a wisdom society. Many years later colonialism had sundry experiences, had almost bought it down to its knees and it became a fractured mind, a society that was disintegrating, a mind that was disintegrating and then I accept what others have said, India is fast becoming a knowledge society but then I must quote Benjamin Russel here who said without wisdom increased knowledge would produce more sorrow for man, Shri Aurobindo put it more perceptively, knowledge is so much for the truth seen in the distorted medium, as the mind alliance add by grouping, wisdom is what eye of the divine nation sees in the spirit, what men call knowledge is the reason acceptance of false appearances, wisdom looks behind the veil and sees. The third where its hit India and its mind with inert openness has turned the curve I agree begun the most efficient blotting paper for flowing ink of knowledge in the world & it keeps on blotting more & it is unaffected and it is still an efficient blotting paper, there has been data presented to exemplify this ascendant India and I am aware of that I would like to present before you the same, almost in last five years almost 150 US companies have invested in India in research, design and development and some of them employ more than 3000, the best are there, name it they are here Dupont, GE, Daimler-Chrysler, IBM, GM, Intel 36% of NASA officials are Indian, 44% in Microsoft, 30% in IBM, 52% now of the economy is service based, so the knowledge society has finally arrived in India. Indian are dedicated to world jobs and they becoming Indian citizens, in my jobs many of the officers are distinguished members of the UN even now & they are much sought after as men of intellect. But I believe there has to be a sobering note to all this computer wiz kid who can churn out programs in sleep is certainly a knowledge man but he may not be able to see what the wisdom inherent in tolerance, family values is and respect for elders. The commercialization of life may yet take us in an undesired direction, despite knowledge society having flowered. Why did I say this because as a cop I see the darker side of life, darker side of persons, darker side of human being, I see rape, I see murder, I see lack of discipline every day going on the street, and I wonder, whether this is the society we were looking for, I believe there has been intellectualization of intolerance, we become wiser and if we are in tolerant to all this we have intellectualized we have theories for all that, theories for caste theories for creed theories for religion exclusively, I believe our mind has not yet been economized, there is stain which says we will do if we are forced to do, we are not forced to do we may not do, if there is an option of not doing, I may not do, if the boss goes out at 4, rest of the employees disappear from there, if the traffic policemen is not standing there at the corner, every body will jump the red light.

We were staying in Rochester, there I was doing my LLM, we were staying at the top of a square, which is a highway square, five roads wind at that point and I was always awake till midnight, because you have to work hard to complete your papers and there is not much time left, so I used to sit at the computer near window and absent mindedly I used to look down at the square and find no man sitting down at the red light at the crossing, there is no body to mind it no policemen nobody, its 2 o'clock in the night and that person stands there when there is a red light for him, he may an indisciplined man in some thing he does but there is something in the systems that has told him that others will do this and you have to do this, we must except that this discipline and regulation has not yet come inspite of economy booming, that was just sobering note for that person who believes that this country is a land of possibilities and if we fear we turn the wrong corner we might loose it there. I would like to conclude by coming back to that anecdote I talked about that Japanese example long time back I read a story in times of India , you will be surprised to know that Japanese policemen are effectively unemployed person, in the sense that when we wakes up wears his uniform and goes out to work, he has personal things to do, why you may ask and you may answer it very quickly , because Japan is self regulated society, it does need policemen to catch you by the neck and tell them which way to go and why not to cross that line, so this is the story about the young boy, who was driving on a bicycle on the bicycle lane and there was this lady who was coming out of the department store with a bag in hand and that boy in split second did not realize what was happening and hit the lady, old lady fell, the boy was profusely apologetic, the lady was helped by him to gather back what was fallen from the bag and every thing apparently was alright, except that there was a policemen who was standing there, and this was a major incident that had happened in front of him for a long long time and so he

caught hold of the boy and started shouting at him and asked him to come to the police station , the lady was not very keen, she said he is just a small boy so leave him, its just an accident so let him go, but the policemen who was starved for work took them to police station and wrote the whole episode, the boy said sir whatever happened please do not tell this to my father, so the policemen said I will not just tell this to your father but to your teacher, that broke the boy apart completely he fell on his knees, this is just an anecdote but it speaks a lot about the society. When the cultural, traditional, values are so invaluable that the father above them the Guru and if I do something it will be wrong and unpardonable. This is the system of the society which we must aspire to attain.

Thank You.

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