



**GOVERNANCE
AWARDS
2018**
30-11-2018

**EXCEPTIONAL
CONTRIBUTION AWARD**

Harssh A Poddar, IPS

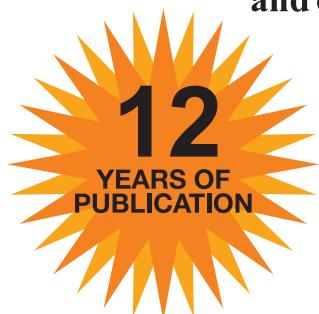
(Deputy Commissioner of Police - Nagpur, Maharashtra)

For evolving community-based policing to achieve impactful results in crime prevention

A 2013-batch IPS officer of the Maharashtra cadre, Shri Harssh Poddar, a winner of the prestigious Chevening Scholarship (a scholarship awarded by the UK government to outstanding students with leadership potential), is a law graduate from National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS), Kolkata, and has a masters in international and constitutional law from Balliol College, University of Oxford. He worked as a corporate lawyer with Clifford Chance in London before returning to India.

As ASP, Malegaon, his unique and tireless effort has spawned 42,000 young leaders against crime and terror in the past three years. According to data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Maharashtra has the second highest number of juveniles in conflict with the law and a large segment has been veering towards violence. A community model was designed and implemented in schools and colleges to foster greater interaction between the police and students by giving the youth a platform to take action against anti-social tendencies. An impact assessment revealed a growing awareness among the students, now acting as crucial agents of awareness for their families and neighbours. The model has been replicated by Maharashtra Police in other districts with encouraging results.

It was because of his thoughtful policing that Malegaon, with a long history of violent strife, bomb blasts and communal disturbances due to its sizeable population of Dalits, Muslims and Hindus, remained peaceful when violence erupted in several cities of Maharashtra over the Bhima-Koregaon issue. Shri Poddar has also been instrumental in streamlining the management of rural police stations and getting them ISO-certified with infrastructure funds from village panchayats. He has also launched an innovative project, Udaan, that provides free coaching for entrance exams and career counselling to local students.



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