

Now, city cops to get biometric IDs

Entire Force Will Be Provided With New Smart Cards Before 2010 CWG

Dwalpayan Ghosh | TNN

New Delhi: In what could be termed as the first initiative to ensure security for its own staff, the Delhi Police's 77,000-strong force might well get a world-class, nanotechnology-based, non-cloneable identity card before the commencement of Commonwealth Games 2010.

According to a senior official, the new I-cards — that will be known as smart cards — would be issued to all personnel in the next three months. The decision to furnish such digital cards to the

policemen was taken keeping in mind the seriousness of the Commonwealth Games and the fact that criminals have been forging the officers' existing ID cards and misusing them.

Joint commissioner of police (Northern Range) Karnal Singh, who is personally monitoring the project, said the new biometric cards will be based on modern technology. "These ID cards are non-forgeable and non-cloneable. The pilot project is in progress and will most probably come into effect before the Commonwealth Games.

"We are working on the project and taking suggestions from technical experts," said JCP Singh. He added that the proposed card with nano-tags cannot be duplicated. Asked if the proposed cards will be given only to senior officials, Singh said the cards will be provided to all Delhi Police officials.

Explaining the requirement of a smart ID card, a senior police officer — who is an expert in cyber crime — said, "In many of the cases it was learnt that crim-

inals committed the crime posing as Delhi Police officers. Last month, several fake ID cards of police officers were recovered from a few of the arrested criminals. Those criminals had targeted innocent people on the roads and robbed them of their belongings claiming to be policemen. To prevent such incidents, Delhi Police decided to have non-forgeable ID cards."

The official added that the proposed cards will contain all details about its holder right from his/her profile to information about the belt number, designation and year

of joining besides a photograph. The proposed card will be smaller than the existing cards and will be digitally designed, he added.

According to the official, after having the digital cards, chances of security breach during the approaching Commonwealth Games will be minimized. It will help curb crime in the city. Delhi Police has engaged a private agency for issuing the smart digital cards to its officials. The agency will be mandated to provide a fully-protected and non-forgeable ID cards.

dwalpayan.ghosh@timesgroup.com

SECURITY FOR THE GAMES

▶ All Delhi Police personnel — around 77,000 — who will be on Games duty will carry a smart ID card

▶ The card will not store any information about its bearer. Instead, it will have a random

pattern etched on it using nanotechnology

▶ Any change or modification in the etched pattern will render the card useless

▶ Delhi Police hopes to have cards ready by February 2010



HOW IT WILL WORK

▶ Police personnel carrying cards will have to show it to senior security officers to access sensitive zones during the Games

▶ The security officer will put the card into a

card reader, which will be connected to a centralized server which matches the photo to other information about the card bearer

▶ If the nano-technology pattern is in

order, central server will send information about the card bearer to security officer through SMS

▶ Police say this will provide real-time check on any unauthorized access