The CBI Training Academy, Ghaziabad exudes an aura of honour and respectability. The people frequenting this place have anything but crooks and criminals on their mind.

But then you might just step into a room that is so different from the everyday world. A cursory glance brushes past fingerprints of Abraham Lincoln, the contents of the case filed by the British against Bhagat Singh, the FIR of the Mahatma Gandhi assassination case, forged signatures of former president of India Giani Zail Singh and late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, fake copies of currencies ranging from rupees one thousand to rupee one, a gun shaped like a walking stick – all part of the topsy-turvy world of cops and criminals. And thus one begins a tour of the National Police Museum, dedicated to the Indian Police and Forensic Science.

It also highlights the modus-operandi of the criminals, the scientific-aids employed in investigation and detection of crime, the latest techniques adopted by the Central and State Fingerprint Bureau and so on. The exhibits have been acquired from different states and central police organisations and world over through INTERPOL and are both of Indian and Foreign origin.

With the opening of the National Police Museum by the Central Bureau of Investigation, a new chapter has been added to the museum movement in India. This is the first attempt, and a commendable one, to dedicate a museum to the Indian Police.

The National Police Museum was formally inaugurated by Shri Raja Vijay Karan, the then Director CBI. Earlier called the CBI museum, the DGPs/IGPs Conference held in the year 1984, decided to upgrade this museum into a National Police Museum. There is no admission fee. The museum is closed on Saturdays and Sundays and other holidays. Photography is allowed with prior permission.

The philosophy behind the Museum is to contribute its mite towards a better understanding of the science of criminology. On display are the methods used by both the law-breakers and law keepers. So, while there are forged cheques on display along with ultra-violet lamps that can detect forged entries, also on display are rare paintings and their facsimiles which have been replicated with much ingenuity and can sometimes even compete with the real work.

The museum tries to answer some very pertinent questions: Why do crimes take place and how? Who are the criminals and how are they born? How can these crimes be prevented?

The National Police Museum consists of various exhibits on a variety of subjects. There are brass medallion of the Japan (Metropolitan Police Tokyo), Silver medallion of Mexico, and plaques of the National Police Academy, Kenya Police, the Hague, Denmark, Saudi Arabia and Hong Kong Police.

A whole section has been devoted to a sizeable collection of caps, badges, shoulder and lapel insignia – all from different state police forces in India and abroad. Besides, there is an array of...
cap and shoulder badges from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the ICPO.

The international Police flags include representations of Chilean, Korean, Finnish, Austrian, Indonesian and US Police forces as well as the ICPO/INTERPOL badges. Then there are the uniforms – formal attires of police officers of different ranks of Central and State police organisations, and from Kenyan, Ugandan, German and Cyprus police forces and Nigeria Police.

The most interesting, however, is the Arms (Weaponry) section. There are ancient guns and pistols, axes, bows, bulletproof vests, helmets, bullets of different calibre used by security forces in India. There are arms of the Mughal period and Medieval period such as ‘Gupti’, ‘Kataruun’ a weapon used by the tribals, pen type pistol, watch-type revolver (country made), .303” country made gun and other pistol/revolvers of different bores and calibres, country made improvised pistol, hand made improvised long SBBL gun, country made 2” mortar gun muzzle loading, pump type pistol, etc. The replica of a hand grenade which was used in a plot to kill VIPs in 1970 is also worth mentioning.

The modern equipment on display include two-way mirrors, portable folding road barriers, beam light burglar alarms, security shock rods and the latest crowd control instrument which gives mild shocks and emits blinding light to temporarily control infuriated mobs.

In the Counterfeit Currency Notes and Coin section, there are forged currency notes from Rs 100 to Rs 1 and genuine notes of higher denominations of Rs. 10,000, Rs. 5,000, besides Rs. 1 to Rs. 100 and counterfeit coins of different denominations. There are also counterfeit foreign currency exhibits including British Postal Order and U.S. Dollars. One rupee coins with King George VI picture, one rupee coin with Queen Victoria pictures, eight anna coins, four anna and two annas coins are also exhibited. Specimens of genuine notes (without number) of different denominations are made available by the Reserve Bank of India.

In the Counterfeiting Equipment Section, there are sturck dies with iron frames for counterfeiting one rupee coins, metal block for forging ten rupee, five rupee and one rupee notes, moulds for manufacturing one rupee counterfeit coins, crucible for melting metals for counterfeiting coins, rexel numbering machine made in England used for numbering forged currency notes and such other equipments for counterfeiting notes and coins of different denominations. Such methods are now outdated because of the quality of the genuine currency notes and
The national police museum dedicated to the indian police is located in the CBI training academy, Kamla Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad (UP). Mr Kailash Nath Gupta is Supdt. of Police, CBI (Retd.) and Sr. Supdt. of Police (Retd.), National Human Rights Commission. He is also a President of India Awardee. Address: D1A/115, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058; Email: kailashnathgupta@gmail.com