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## **Bid to give fillip to research in policing**

Staff Reporter

*10 universities agree to undertake a preliminary survey of "the state of registration of FIRs"*

NEW DELHI: In a bid to give a fillip to research in policing-related subjects, the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) and representatives of more than 10 universities across the country on Wednesday agreed to undertake a preliminary survey on "the state of registration of FIRs".

The meeting, held at the BPRD headquarters here, decided that the preliminary study would be carried out as per a commonly agreed methodology and its findings would be brought out in early May.

Jawaharlal Nehru University, Guru Nanak Dev University, Punjab University, University of Rajasthan, North-East Hill University, Aligarh Muslim University, University of Lucknow, West Bengal University of Juridical Sciences, Sagar University, Banaras Hindu University and **Tata Institute of Social Sciences -- a deemed university** -- participated in the meeting.

### **MoU with varsities**

BPRD Director-General Kiran Bedi said the Bureau would sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with each of the universities to encourage the study on topics related to "police and correctional administration". The BPRD has already signed MoUs with Madras University, Delhi University and Jamia Millia Islamia. The draft MoU was also discussed and finalised at the meeting.

Ms. Bedi said opening up the police to research and scrutiny would not only help in identifying problems with policing but also help raise a healthy debate on what kind of police people want.

"The Supreme Court has asked the States to introduce police reforms and the Sorabjee Committee has drafted a model Police Act. If we fail to create awareness about this topic now, then we would have only ourselves to blame for the bad police," she added.

Guru Nanak Dev University Registrar R. S. Bawa said research in policing was one area which researchers wanted to explore but they neither had access to the data nor were

welcome in police stations or prisons.

"But this kind of agreement would definitely find many takers," added Prof. Bawa.

Ms. Bedi said the MoUs would help researchers overcome these problems as the BPRD would play the role of a facilitator on research in mutually agreed upon areas.

Most of the universities agreed that there was no financial resource crunch. Tata Institute of Social Sciences Registrar Sandeep Chatterjee, however, said there was a need to carefully choose the methods of approaching research to overcome resource crunch, if any. "These studies also need to be dovetailed with similar initiatives being taken up by other agencies," he added.

Asked whether students could be "lured" to research in policing by making it lucrative in terms of job prospects, A. K. Sengupta, Head of the Department (Economics) at Lucknow University, said there could be many avenues where the experience of such studies would be useful for gainful employment.

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