

## Kerala

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[Kerala - Kochi](#)



### City Police to get new devices to report traffic offences visually

Anand Haridas

*Visual records will make denial of violations hard*

KOCHI: The City Police is making another first in the history of the State Police by providing the personnel on field with the facility to report accidents and traffic violations visually.

The City Police have started using on an experimental basis the technological platform created by a group of young entrepreneurs for sending multimedia messages (MMS) from mobile phones.

Titled Mobile Crime and Accident Reporting (MCARP), the project is funded by the Union Department of Science and Technology under the Technopreneur Promotion Programme (TePP) and developed by MobME Wireless, a team of graduates from the College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram.

#### First phase

"Fourteen of the personnel on the field are given the facility on the first phase. The response has been good and we will soon extend this to remaining personnel," said Manoj Abraham, City Police Commissioner.

The platform will allow the police personnel to take photos of an offence, like accident or traffic violation, in a high-end camera phone and send it to the Control Room as MMS.

"These phones will be given email IDs to the platform. For the convenience of the user, four folders—traffic violation, accident, drunken driving and miscellaneous—are formed. The personnel can send the picture to the ID corresponding to the nature of offence, which will thus be sorted out automatically," said Aswin Ramachandran, co-founder and Chief Marketing Officer of MobME.

Images can be uploaded to these folders only from numbers that have been "white-listed" and can be accessed only by authorised officers, in this case the City Police Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner, Control Room.

"The visuals come handy in case of accidents and offences like jumping the red light. This will put on record the offence, which the accused cannot deny after the scene is cleared," said Mr. Abraham.

The images uploaded to the website will have details like time it was taken and when it was sent and the number from which it was sent. "Authorised officers will get a summary report about the images uploaded as text message on their mobile phones and a PDF file as email at the end of the day," said Mr. Ramachandran.

#### Citizen journalists

The City Police also have the option of opening out this platform to citizen journalists, who would like to report traffic violations. "More filters and constant monitoring should be in place before this could be taken to public domain. That can be done only in the later stages," said Mr. Ramachandran.

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- Krishna Iyer to open metro forum
- Honoured
- City Police to get new devices to report traffic offences visually
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- Workshop to assess health parameters
- In Kochi Today

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