

## Jnana Prabodhini Competitive Examinations Centre, Pune.

**Celebrating journey of its alumnus  
on account of  
Tridashakpurti Varsha 2025-26  
(30 years of establishment)**

### **Shri. Gajanan Tompe**

- Currently working as Dy. Superintendent of Police, Lonavala Sub-Division, Pune. (2026)
- Dy. S.P - MPSC Batch of 2012
- Bachelors in Hotel Management, Osmania University, Hyderabad - Batch of 2005
- MBA (Finance), SPPU, Pune - Batch of 2009
- JPCEC Batch of 2009
- Previously worked across Gadchiroli, Raigad, Pune Rural, Pune City under various responsibilities.



Gajanan Balasaheb Tompe is a decorated police officer in the Maharashtra Police, selected through the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) in 2012 for the post of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP). He is currently posted as the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) for the Lonavala Sub-Division in Pune district.

### **Early Life and Unconventional Path to Service**

Gajanan Balasaheb Tompe's educational and career journey reflects a path shaped more by circumstance and influence than by early planning.

He completed his schooling up to the 12th standard in his native Parbhani. For higher education, he moved to Hyderabad, where he pursued a degree in Hotel Management from Osmania University. This choice was not driven by a specific passion but rather by practical advice suggesting that Hotel Management offered good employment opportunities.

Discussions within his family, particularly inputs received by his father, played a key role in this decision, highlighting a phase marked by limited career guidance.

Following his graduation in Hotel Management in 2005, Gajanan faced a brief period of uncertainty. Despite an opportunity to go abroad, his family, given that he was an only child, expressed reservations about him leaving the country, leading him to forego that path. This period was followed by a two-year hiatus, from 2005 onwards, during which Gajanan admitted to having done "literally nothing," a gap that further underscored the absence of a clear career direction. Subsequently, he enrolled in an MBA program at Pune University, spanning between 2007 and 2009, specializing in Marketing, still without a clear inclination toward competitive examinations.

The pivotal shift in Gajanan's career trajectory occurred serendipitously through an encounter with his roommate, Balaji Munde, in Pune. Balaji was actively preparing for the UPSC examinations at Jnana Prabodhini Competitive Examinations Centre. While Gajanan's hometown of Parbhani, home to an Agricultural University, had some ambient awareness of MPSC (Maharashtra Public Service Commission) examinations in earlier times, his own engagement with competitive exams had been superficial, limited to filling out forms during his two-year gap without any serious preparation. Balaji's influence proved to be the catalyst. He strongly encouraged Gajanan to join Jnana Prabodhini Competitive Examination Centre (JPCEC), emphasizing the institution's distinctiveness and the significant benefits it offered. The persuasion was so profound that even after having taken a PSI (Police Sub-Inspector) exam and being on his way home from Pune for his sister's wedding in 2009, Gajanan was convinced by Balaji to return from the bus stop. Balaji's compelling argument—that returning home for another extended period after an initial two-year gap would likely result in permanent stagnation—resonated with Gajanan. Heeding his roommate's earnest insistence, Gajanan decided to give Jnana Prabodhini and himself a chance. Upon his return, he underwent an interview with Vivek Sir and Savita Tai, the esteemed mentors at the institution, and secured admission. Gajanan vividly describes this moment as a "360-degree turn" in his life, acknowledging that he arrived at the institution "accidentally," yet it profoundly shaped his future.

## **The Transformative Years at Jnana Prabodhini**

Gajanan's association with Jnana Prabodhini marked a profound intellectual and personal transformation, a period he vividly recalls with deep emotional reverence, stating that even merely being asked about it gives him goosebumps. Before joining the institution, Gajanan humbly admits he had not achieved anything "outstanding". His academic demeanour, even during his MBA, was characterized by a "backbencher" approach, with little to suggest any exceptional aptitude or future potential. Indeed, his family's aspirations for him were modest, content with him securing a monthly salary of around Rs 20,000-30,000, simply hoping he would establish himself and not return home without a job. At that age, Gajanan himself lacked foresight, and without proper guidance, he never contemplated a grander future.

Upon entering Jnana Prabodhini, Gajanan encountered a highly disciplined and value-driven environment shaped by the strict yet deeply respected mentorship of Vivek Sir and Savita Tai. A cornerstone of his experience was the weekly "Upasana," a Saturday gathering that Gajanan considers the most impactful aspect of his life. During these sessions, Sir and Tai would engage with students personally, elaborating on a specific topic or theme each week, fostering intellectual and personal growth. Gajanan also highlights the personal counseling provided by Savita Tai, where she would discuss individual strengths and weaknesses, a level of personalized monitoring he had never experienced before. He initially perceived Jnana Prabodhini as just another coaching class, but he soon realized the depth of their commitment to individual development. His fortune was further enhanced by gaining access to the "Vishwas Abhyasika," a study area that intensified his mentorship experience. He draws an analogy to the Gurukul's discipline portrayed in Amitabh Bachchan's movie, describing Vivek Sir as embodying that level of strictness, fostering a "respectful fear" that motivated him to dedicate himself more to his studies. The collective guidance of mentors like Bhushan Patil Sir, IP Sir, Vivek Sir, and Savita Tai created a strong and supportive academic ecosystem.

A distinctive feature of Jnana Prabodhini, as he observes, is its selective admission process. Unlike many coaching institutes that prioritize volume, the centre emphasizes discipline, commitment, and the potential of applicants—even if it means leaving seats unfilled. This approach contributes to a unique learning environment where financial considerations are secondary; the fees, as Gajanan recalls, were remarkably low during his time, around Rs

10,000, underscoring the institution's non-commercial ethos. The carefully selected group of students fostered a cohesive and mutually supportive environment.

Gajanan candidly describes his pre-Prabodhini self as "raw" and unconcerned with sophisticated social conduct. However, the institutional culture instilled discipline and a profound sense of introspection within him. The *Upasana* sessions provided space for quiet introspection, while interactions with distinguished speakers and senior students exposed him to perspectives he had never encountered before. Senior students—many of whom had cleared Mains examinations or interviews—demonstrated a level of maturity and purpose that deeply influenced him.

It was here that the idea of contributing meaningfully to society, particularly to Maharashtra, took firm root. The senior students at Jnana Prabodhini, many of whom had already cleared Mains or interviews, were highly cultured, and their influence further shaped Gajanan's perspective, making him realize the profound meaning behind a purposeful life. It was at Jnana Prabodhini that the deeply ingrained idea of contributing and serving Maharashtra first took root within him. He vividly recalls listening to lectures by esteemed individuals such as IAS Shrikar Pardeshi Sir and other UPSC/MPSC officers, which opened his eyes to a "different world" and instilled a powerful sense of purpose. This exposure ignited a "passion" for study within him, driven by the realization that if such remarkable individuals existed, he too could achieve something meaningful. Gajanan unreservedly credits Jnana Prabodhini, along with Vivek Sir and Savita Tai, as the sole contributors to his career success. He emphasizes their unparalleled guidance, especially during moments of doubt or indecision. Even though he was physically at Prabodhini for only about a year (joining in late 2009 and marrying in late 2011 after clearing his first UPSC Mains), the influence was profound. He notes that Sir and Tai possessed a complete understanding of each student's background and temperament, enabling them to offer "neutral" and "rational" advice, which he considers invaluable and unmatched in any other coaching institution. This consistent, deeply personal monitoring, driven by genuine care rather than professional obligation, formed the bedrock of his development. Gajanan concludes that his 3-4 years at Prabodhini taught him fundamental skills like reading, thinking, and observing. The friendships he forged there remain his "asset" and "base," cementing his belief that he "received everything" from Jnana Prabodhini. He is confident that other students at Prabodhini must be sharing similar experiences of forming lifelong connections and being profoundly shaped by the institution.

## **Navigating Competitive Examinations and Choosing Police Service**

Gajanan's journey through competitive examinations began earnestly after joining Jnana Prabodhini in 2009. He immediately began preparing for the UPSC Prelims, following the institution's schedule of Mains batch until December, then shifting focus to Prelims preparation. He successfully appeared for both the UPSC Prelims and Mains in 2010. However, a significant personal and professional decision followed. In January 2011, after completing his 2010 Mains examination, Gajanan got married. Given that, as a general category candidate, he was entitled to four UPSC attempts, he decided to take a gap year in 2011. During this year, he shifted his focus to the MPSC (Maharashtra Public Service Commission) examinations, but unfortunately, he was unable to clear the MPSC Prelims, making that year unproductive in terms of cracking any competitive exam.

According to Gajanan his wife, Shripada, has been one of the strongest pillars of support in his journey. She herself holds a doctorate and worked as a professor for four years, during which she provided the initial financial support required for the newly married couple.

He often acknowledges that at the time of their marriage, he had not yet secured any position and was unemployed. Despite this uncertainty, she chose to marry him, placing her faith in his potential and standing by him during a crucial phase of his life. He frequently describes this as the greatest compliment he has ever received—a profound gesture of trust and belief that became a constant source of strength and motivation throughout his journey.

A strategic recalibration of his career goals occurred in 2012. The Maharashtra State Service Examination transitioned to an objective format that year, which influenced Gajanan's decision. He reflected on his UPSC Mains experience, particularly with Pali Literature, where he did not achieve his expected scores, leading him to believe that subjective examinations were less predictable. With his recent marriage, job security became a paramount priority for him. Consequently, he appeared for the MPSC State Service Examination in 2012, was selected in the same year, and the final results were declared in 2013. After this success, he decided not to pursue any further UPSC attempts.

Regarding his choice of police service, Gajanan confirms that he harboured a distinct "craze" for uniform services from a young age. His time at Jnana Prabodhini further refined this understanding and conviction. Although he initially listed Deputy Collector as his first

preference and DYSP (Deputy Superintendent of Police) as his second, he deeply felt that the police service was more aligned with his personality. This strong intuition about his suitability for the role became a guiding factor in his post-selection choices.

### **Entry into Police Service: Training and Field Realities**

Gajanan's formal entry into the police service began with his training at the Nashik Academy, where he was stationed from August 2014 until the **successful completion of his training** in 2015. Interestingly, he admits that during the training phase itself, he did not initially feel that he was in the "right place". The true realization and affirmation of his career choice came only after he was deployed to the field. Once in active duty, he recognized that his inherent personality traits, particularly his inclination towards speaking with people and engaging in dialogue, were perfectly suited for the police profession. Police work, by its very nature, demands daily interaction with the public, regardless of one's personal preference. Gajanan found immense interest in listening to the diverse and often unique stories of people, understanding their sorrows and challenges. After a decade in service, this intrinsic interest in connecting with people and comprehending their issues remains undiminished, a clear indicator that he found his true calling.

### **Field Experiences: Gadchiroli – A Benchmark for Service**

Gajanan Tompe's first posting as SDPO (Sub-Divisional Police Officer) at Aheri in Gadchiroli, a challenging Naxal-affected district, from 2016 to 2018. His initial reaction to the posting was one of dismay; he candidly states he "cried both while going and coming". This sentiment highlights his initial apprehension about being sent to Gadchiroli, especially as he was one of only two officers from his batch of 35 to be posted there. The early days in Gadchiroli were challenging, requiring time to adjust to the local environment and work culture.

However, what began with apprehension transformed into a profoundly rewarding experience. Gajanan found immense satisfaction and mental peace in his work there, so much so that his time in Gadchiroli became a benchmark against which he continues to measure all

his subsequent work. He recounts the exceptional dedication and selflessness of his staff, particularly during operations. He describes how a subordinate would voluntarily move ahead, putting their own life at risk, despite having families and dependents, to protect their senior officer. This willingness to sacrifice for colleagues deeply moved Gajanan, making him realize the extraordinary nature of the people and staff in Gadchiroli. He considers it his privilege and good fortune to have worked with such a dedicated team.

The profound connection Gajanan developed with Gadchiroli is further illustrated by a personal detail: his younger daughter was born there, and he named her Pranhita, after the confluence of the Wardha and Wainganga rivers which forms the Pranhita River within the jurisdiction of his area near the Chaprala Sanctuary. His emotional attachment to the place is so strong that he considers it an unforgettable place and would willingly return to work there if given the opportunity.

In Gadchiroli, Gajanan also observed excellent inter-agency coordination. The Police Department held an "upper hand," effectively coordinating with almost all other departments to assist the local populace. They often took the initiative to facilitate services for villagers, acting as a single window for various needs such as electricity, bridges (even arranging for an NGO to build a small bridge over a river), land partition documents, or PESA certificates. This proactive approach by the police, coupled with their regular foot patrolling and direct dialogue with villagers, meant that problems were easily communicated and addressed. Other departments, including Panchayat Samiti, Gram Panchayat, and Revenue officials, were highly cooperative during community camps initiated by the police. The coordination between the SP (Superintendent of Police) and Collector, along with the Zilla Parishad, was described as "excellent," indicating a highly functional collaborative environment. Furthermore, the rapport with inter-state border agencies, such as those in Telangana and Chhattisgarh, was also very strong, driven by the necessity of the region.

### **Pune Rural: Urbanization and Diverse Challenges**

Following his tenure in Gadchiroli, Gajanan was transferred to Pune Rural as SDPO Khed Rajgurunagar, where he served from 2018 to 2020. The challenges in Pune Rural were distinctly different from those in Gadchiroli. Gajanan highlights the significant urbanization of the area; despite being rural, places like Narayangaon and Manchar have developed to a

level comparable to or even surpassing some towns or cities in other regions like Marathwada. This rapid urbanization has led to inflated land prices, particularly due to the burgeoning industrial belt in areas like Chakan, Ranjangaon, and Talegaon. Consequently, the nature of crimes in Pune Rural is also unique, often linked to this industrialization and land disputes.

The sheer geographical expanse of Pune Rural district presents its own set of challenges, including significant travel time due to traffic. Gajanan notes that each sub-district within Pune Rural has its own distinct issues: Khed deals with industrial concerns, Shirur and Shikrapur have different problems, Junnar faces unique challenges, Lonavala is influenced by tourism, and Maval and Mulshi also have their specific issues. This necessitates a varied approach to policing, as crime patterns differ significantly across these areas.

One significant experience during his posting in Pune Rural was managing the security arrangements for the Koregaon Bhima gathering in January 2019. This event was particularly sensitive, as riots had occurred there the previous year. Gajanan was specifically involved in the security operations by then-IGP Kolhapur, Vishwas Nangare Patil Sir, and SP Pune, Sandeep Patil Sir, which allowed him to learn extensively about managing a massive public gathering. SP Patil, whom he considers a great mentor, also entrusted Gajanan with the charge of the Daund subdivision for a few days.

He vividly recalls the traffic issues that Bhimashankar—a holy site and popular tourist destination near Pune—faces during peak season. Under SP Patil's guidance, he gained invaluable insights into crowd management, traffic and parking management, maintaining law and order, and providing facilities for a large number of devotees. This included addressing challenges posed by cold weather and ensuring amenities such as charging points, warm water, and timely meals for security personnel. Gajanan considers this experience a major learning curve, as it provided him with significant practical insights and learning.

### **Principles of Law Enforcement Deployment and Crime Management**

When it comes to planning and deploying Security Management for public events, Gajanan outlines a systematic approach that prioritizes safety and order. The initial step involves a thorough assessment of the topography of the area and estimating the anticipated crowd size,

considering the density of the population. For instance, a spontaneous gathering on a busy city road like FC Road in Pune can materialize quickly, unlike in a rural area. Based on this assessment, detailed preparations are made, including the deployment of barricades, planning road diversions, setting up temporary shelters, and implementing necessary safety measures.

Gajanan emphasizes that each type of event requires a tailored Law Enforcement Plan. The approach for a program featuring popular artists or celebrities, a Dahi Handi celebration, a Ganesh procession, or the annual Wari pilgrimage, is distinct. The Wari, for example, involves a largely self-disciplined crowd of pilgrims, requiring a different security approach compared to the Ganesh मंडळ (groups organizing Ganesh festivals). Gajanan recalls walking with the Rath (chariot) during the Wari when it passed through Pune Rural's jurisdiction, from Diveghat to Neera. He stresses the importance of understanding the "psychology" of each festive or celebratory occasion and deploying security accordingly.

In addressing the broader landscape of crime, Gajanan differentiates between "organized crime" and "unorganized crime". Organized crime is characterized by known modus operandi and identified individuals, making it relatively more predictable for law enforcement. However, unorganized crimes, such as road rage incidents or the emergence of "Koyta gangs" (gangs using sickles), pose a different challenge, as information about them often becomes available only after the incident has occurred. The police response to such unpredictable events involves vigilant monitoring by local police stations, crime branches, and intelligence units. They particularly focus on young individuals aged 16-18 who might be at risk of developing criminal tendencies or addictions. Prevention programs, such as de-addiction initiatives and efforts fraudsters constantly devise new schemes, preying on people's greed or needs. Often, victims approach the police only after they have already been defrauded, making prevention in the initial stages difficult. Gajanan acknowledges that this is a major challenge for the police in the coming years and highlights the need for specialized expertise. Maharashtra Police have established dedicated Cyber Departments and Cyber Police Stations staffed with trained personnel. While Gajanan considers himself a "layman" in technical matters, he underlines the necessity of training police staff through various courses to develop expert human resources in the cyber domain. He reiterates that the proliferation of small-scale, new cyber schemes by unorganized perpetrators makes this an increasingly complex area, demanding greater expertise from law enforcement.

## **Pune City: Professionalism and Quick Response**

In 2020, Gajanan transitioned to policing in Pune City, serving as ACP (Assistant Commissioner of Police) Kothrud, and also holding positions in the Crime Branch and Deccan, collectively serving for about three years until 2023. His tenure in Pune City notably coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic. He recalls that when the pandemic first began, he was still in Pune Rural for a few days before his transfer to Pune City in October 2020, by which time the first wave had somewhat receded, and life, albeit with masks, was slowly resuming. The second wave, around March-April 2021, was particularly intense, leading to a significant number of casualties despite the routines continuing.

Policing in Pune City presented a different dynamic compared to Gadchiroli, where crime was less prevalent, or Pune Rural, with its distinct challenges. Pune City policing is characterized by the expectation of "quick service" and a "quick response" time following incidents. The city benefits from well-trained staff and robust infrastructure. Furthermore, the citizens of Pune are highly aware of their rights and expect efficient and professional service, often actively following up on their complaints. Gajanan affirms that Pune Police are highly professional in meeting these expectations.

## **The Human Face of Policing: Positive Covid Experiences**

The COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the initial strict lockdown phase, provided a unique opportunity for the police force to redefine its public image and demonstrate its commitment to service beyond traditional law enforcement. Gajanan notes that while police work is always ongoing, the pandemic brought police visibly to the forefront, as they were consistently on the streets. Although all departments were involved, the police, identifiable by their uniforms, became the most visible symbols of assistance. This visibility offered a significant opportunity for the police to improve their image, which they effectively leveraged. Gajanan recalls instances where the public showed appreciation, even showering police personnel with flowers.

Despite often having to take strict actions, such as preventing migrant workers from traveling without passes during the lockdown (which sometimes involved emotionally difficult moments as people pleaded to go home), the police also engaged in extensive humanitarian

efforts. Gajanan recounts the dire situation of migrant workers, particularly those from the industrial belts of Chakan and Ranjangaon, who began walking back to their villages without food. This presented a dilemma: where to house them if stopped, or how to allow them to proceed safely. In response, many philanthropists and organizations, including the police, rallied to provide ration kits, food, and medical supplies. Gajanan received calls from friends and colleagues, including Tahsildars and Deputy Collectors in other districts, requesting assistance for migrant workers from their villages stuck in Pune. He and his team were able to provide substantial aid, including food, medical kits, and later, facilitating access to hospital beds and injections as the pandemic worsened. The gratitude expressed by those they helped, sometimes years later, remains a source of immense satisfaction for Gajanan, marking the Covid period as a "lifelong satisfying experience" that went beyond regular policing.

In the city, particularly in densely populated slum areas, the needs of the local population presented a different set of challenges. Providing all necessary supplies and support in such dense environments was complex. While rural areas had scattered populations, making disease spread somewhat containable, the high density in city slums meant that a single incident could rapidly spread. However, by the time Gajanan arrived in the city, restrictions were slowly easing, movement had resumed, and public awareness about precautions like mask-wearing had increased, even though patient numbers remained high.

### **Highway Safety Patrol: Prioritizing Life on Roads**

From June 2023 to 2024, Gajanan served with the Highway Safety Patrol (HSP) in Pune, a tenure of approximately 15 months. He acknowledges the common public sentiment regarding speed cameras and challans on expressways. On the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, drivers often find clear stretches of road, leading to unintentional speeding beyond the limit, especially by non-professional drivers who may not pay attention to speed limit boards. While professional drivers are generally more attentive, new or infrequent drivers might exceed the 100 kmph limit unknowingly, even though speed limits vary in ghat sections (40-60 kmph) and tunnels (80 kmph).

Gajanan explains that while challans lead to public dissatisfaction, they are primarily aimed at preventing accidents, which is the HSP's core objective. He emphasizes that a fine is a small price to pay compared to the risk of a fatal accident. Accidents on expressways are

particularly dangerous due to high speeds, leading to higher casualty rates. The HSP's work is measured by the number of accidents they prevent, making accident reduction their paramount goal. Despite the public's occasional displeasure and requests for waivers (which are technically not possible), the HSP remains committed to enforcing rules for safety.

The main mandate of the Highway Safety Patrol is to reduce road accidents and minimize casualties. To achieve this, the HSP identifies "black spots"—locations where accidents occur frequently, such as the Solapur Road which, despite its appearance, has more accidents than the Expressway due to numerous "punctures" (unscientific cuts in road dividers). Once identified, the HSP recommends and implements various measures: installing rumble strips or speed breakers where appropriate, closing illegal punctures, filling potholes that can cause vehicles to flip or tires to burst, and suggesting larger infrastructure projects like flyovers, overbridges, or signals.

The HSP also initiates public awareness programs. Gajanan cites the example of making it compulsory to attach red radium reflective stickers to sugarcane trolleys, a crucial initiative by the HSP to prevent accidents at night when these trolleys are difficult to see. They visit industrial areas like Ranjangaon, Khed Shivapur, Shirol, and Phaltan, enforcing mandatory helmet use for company staff, as a fall on a highway is far more likely to be fatal than in a city due to the high speed of other vehicles. The HSP also ensures rapid response to accidents, coordinating ambulances, trauma care centers, and cranes to clear traffic quickly and transport the injured to medical facilities in time. They also implement initiatives like "Mrutyunjay Doot" (Angels of Death/Life Savers), where volunteers from nearby villages are trained to assist accident victims until official help arrives, often using their own vehicles as makeshift ambulances.

### **Coastal Policing in Raigad: Securing the Maritime Borders**

Post HSP in 2024, Gajanan was posted in Raigad, a district with an extensive coastline. He acknowledges that this coastal stretch, given its porous nature, presents unique challenges, particularly concerning potential threats like drug trafficking, arms smuggling, or even incidents akin to the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, as much of Navi Mumbai's and Mumbai's access often involves Raigad. Coastal security operates on a three-tiered system: the Indian Navy forms the outermost layer, followed by the Indian Coast Guard, and then the State Police.

Within this framework, the State Police, particularly the coastal police, focus intently on monitoring local fishermen who regularly traverse the waters, given the potential for illegal activities to occur through them. Raigad has several dedicated coastal police stations located directly on the beach, including Dighi, Shrivardhan, Mandwa, Alibaug, and Murud-Revdanda. These stations bear the significant responsibility of ensuring maritime security. To achieve this, the Raigad Police utilize their own patrol boats for regular surveillance and conduct random checks on incoming boats, similar to "Naka-bandi" (roadblocks) on land. They also employ intelligence teams to gather information and act proactively. Gajanan affirms that the Maharashtra Police are highly vigilant and proactive in addressing these specific challenges of coastal policing.

After a stint at Raigad, Gajanan has been assigned a task to become Dy. SP of Lonavala Sub-Division within Pune district. Lonavala being one of the famous tourist places of Maharashtra offers unique opportunities as well as challenges for police. Opportunities include safe and secure tourism for the tourists. Challenges include rising issues of traffic, accidents, drugs and liquor consumption. However, the diversity in previous postings and learnings from field experiences helps officers like Gajanan to serve dedicatedly and passionately.

Apart from that, in Lonavala, Gajanan finds himself lucky to work under the guidance of one more dynamic leader, IPS Sandeep Gill Sir, SP Pune Rural. Gajanan admires SP Gill Sir's approach of leading the team, where he expects discipline but at the same time is sensitive towards staff and tries to understand their issues from their perspective showcasing a good quality of empathetic leadership. Gajanan is trying to learn that quality from his SP Gill.

### **The Core Satisfaction of Police Work and Future Outlook**

Reflecting on his decade-plus of service, Gajanan highlights several deeply satisfying aspects of working in the police force. He points out a common scenario: when someone loses something, be it a child or an object, they first exhaust all other avenues—checking with neighbors, searching elsewhere—and only as a last resort, feeling that only divine intervention can help, do they turn to the police. At this point, the assistance provided by the police is often swifter and more tangible than any other help. While this direct and visible impact can sometimes lead to public dissatisfaction if expectations are not met, the profound gratitude expressed by those who receive help, often conveyed through body language if not

words, is "the best" feeling in the police profession. Gajanan mentions countless instances, often unrecorded, where police intervention, even in matters outside their direct departmental mandate, facilitates positive outcomes for people.

Another source of immense satisfaction for Gajanan is helping those who are genuinely distressed. He notes that people rarely approach the police willingly; they come only when they are in distress. While a small minority might misuse the law, the vast majority of those who approach the police are genuinely suffering. Providing assistance to these "needy people" brings a great sense of fulfillment. Furthermore, working during natural disasters like floods or public health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic offers unique opportunities for service that are not available in other professions, providing immense personal joy and a distinct kind of "fun". Gajanan concludes that the police force offers daily opportunities for satisfaction, where "every one or two days, you feel good that you helped someone".

Looking towards the future of policing and his own continued service, Gajanan offers some insights. He believes that compulsory cyber training should be integrated at every level of the police force, from Constables to IPS officers, as training during the initial phases allows individuals to be more adaptable. Cybercrime is unequivocally the most challenging area for the future. Similarly, anti-drug awareness needs to be significantly enhanced, particularly regarding the supply chain of narcotics. He notes that Maharashtra Police have already established a separate Narcotics Cell and Cyber Department, but the rate at which personnel join these specialized branches needs to increase. These new, technical branches are crucial for modern policing.

As for his personal vision for his remaining 15-20 years of service, Gajanan candidly admits he hasn't formulated a specific, detailed plan. Instead, he expresses a desire to continue policing in the way he currently does: by staying as engaged as possible with the public. He believes his "source of energy" lies in working in areas where there is "more need," "more people," and "more interface" with the public. This desire reflects his deep-seated commitment to grassroots engagement and direct public service.

## **JPCEC in Future**

Finally, Gajanan offers a heartfelt suggestion for Jnana Prabodhini Competitive Examination Centre, especially as the institution celebrates its 30th anniversary. He humbly proposes that the Saturday "Upasana" sessions be made available online via a link, perhaps through platforms like Zoom. He explains that many alumni, like himself, despite their deep respect for Sir and Tai, might not frequently visit the institution, but would eagerly join the online "Upasana" to maintain their connection. He makes it a point to visit Prabodhini every Sunday morning when in Pune, paying respects at the steps and having tea, but an online option would allow for wider participation. He believes this would serve as a vital "connecting point" for everyone. Beyond this, Gajanan expresses profound admiration for Sir and Tai's continuous innovation, citing their recent creation of a feedback form for student experiences and suggestions, deeming their efforts to connect with people "outstanding" and leaving him with no further suggestions for the institution's future direction.

### **Photo Gallery**



Gajanan with wife Shripada and daughters Alankrita and Pranhita.



Gajanan with Dr. Savita Kulkarni during an exhibition at Jnana Prabodhini, Pune.



Gajanan with friends and family spending time with Dr. Vivek and Dr. Savita Kulkarni at JPCEC, Pune.



Felicitation for Koregaon Bhima Law Enforcement by then DG and highly admired, respected officer within Police fraternity - IPS Shri Datta Padsalgikar Sir.



A lighter moment—Gajanan interacting with a young boy during the COVID-19 period.



From the fields of Gadchiroli where patrolling continues irrespective of weather or other conditions.



An old photo of Gajanan along with JP friends from preparation days.



Gajanan in a candid interaction with IPS Sandeep Patil.



Gajanan with SP, Pune Rural - IPS Sandeep Gill.