Tech-Driven Policing: Shaping the Future of Law Enforcement

Introduction

The conference focused on the role of technology in modernizing law enforcement to create a safer and smarter Punjab. It brought together experts from various domains, including law enforcement officials, industrialist, and academic leaders, to discuss the role of **artificial intelligence (AI)**, **surveillance systems**, **cybersecurity**, and **data analytics** in shaping the future of policing. The event fostered meaningful discussions on innovative strategies to enhance public safety and operational efficiency, with a focus on integrating technology to address the evolving challenges faced by law enforcement today.
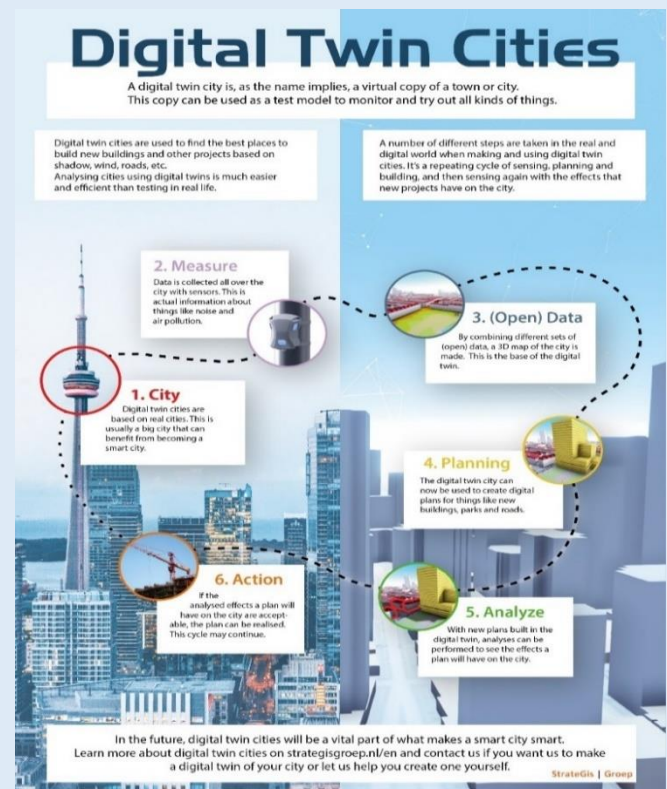
Key Highlights

- Ahsan Younas, Managing Director PSCA, emphasized the pivotal role of technology in revolutionizing modern policing. He highlighted PSCA's ongoing efforts to expand the Punjab Police Integrated Command, Control & Communication (PPIC3) Centers across the province and the development of **Smart Safe Cities in all districts by 2025**. He also detailed the cost-effective approach PSCA has adopted by repurposing existing infrastructure, leveraging **AI-driven technologies** such as weapon detection systems, characteristics-based identification, and traffic violation detection systems to enhance public safety.

- Professor Dr. Mian Awais presented a comprehensive view on how AI can be utilized in safe cities, particularly through **Digital Twins**—digital replicas of physical spaces that allow for real-time monitoring and decision-making. He discussed the importance of integrating data from sources like surveillance cameras and sensors to optimize resource allocation and improve crime prevention strategies.

- Professor Dr. Kamran Malik elaborated on the applications of **NLP** in modern policing, including FIR generation, sentiment analysis, and speech recognition. He stressed how these AI-driven tools can significantly reduce administrative burdens, improve field communication, and help law enforcement better understand public sentiment to preemptively address potential issues.

- Shiraz Hasnat, Bureau Chief at HUM News, emphasized the media's role in shaping public perception and its impact on law enforcement. He discussed the use of AI to

identify crime hotspots and the need for balanced, **public safety journalism** to avoid causing public fear. Mr. Hasnat called for stronger police-media collaboration, positive storytelling, and adherence to UN guidelines on sensitive topics, urging the media to highlight law enforcement achievements alongside challenges.

- Waseem Riaz, AIG Technology, highlighted growing data increases vulnerability to attacks; with advancements in **predictive policing** and increase in digital footprints, the attack surface has increased at a commensurate rate. He emphasized the need for better training, collaboration with the judiciary, and restoring public trust to fully leverage technology in law enforcement.
- Dr. Farah Adeeba from KICS, UET, discussed how Natural Language Processing (NLP) is transforming law enforcement by managing vast unstructured data from emergency calls, reports, and social media. NLP tools like speech recognition, emotion detection, and information extraction enhance investigative capabilities and streamline police operations. Dr. Adeeba also introduced her AI-based software, **Tajziakaar**, which transcribes and analyzes Urdu broadcast content, and **Minutes Master**, an intelligent meeting assistant. These innovations improve data analysis, enhance public safety, and boost operational efficiency in law enforcement.
- Usman Riaz, Assistant Director Cybersecurity, focused on the dual nature of technology—while it offers immense benefits, it also exposes law enforcement to increased cyber threats. He stressed the importance of implementing **cybersecurity frameworks** and warned that **social engineering** attacks pose the most significant threat to modern law enforcement systems.
- Zeeshan Asghar, DIG Investigation, discussed how modern technology has transformed policing, streamlining case tracking and evidence gathering. He emphasized how **Safe City surveillance** has been vital in solving terrorism cases and managing increased workloads. He highlighted the shift in police culture, noting that technology is now a critical asset in modern law enforcement.
- Kamran Hameed, Project Director Smart Cities/ SP Ops-IC3, emphasized the critical role of **cybersecurity in modern policing**, as digital threats grow with the use of surveillance technologies and ICT systems. He

highlighted incidents like cyberattacks on Pakistan's law enforcement, stressing the need for strong cybersecurity frameworks and the creation of Cybercrime Units in police stations to handle evolving threats. He concluded that policing must now defend both physical spaces and the digital realm.

- Abdul Wahab Ahmed, CEO ABFA Technologies, highlighted the role of technology in shaping smart cities and improving public safety. He commended PSCA's use of advanced tech in urban management and stressed the importance of aligning with Industrial Revolution 5.0 to address environmental and infrastructure challenges. He emphasized integrating CCTV, IoT devices, and **AI for smarter city operations** and expressed confidence in Pakistan's IT industry to develop local solutions. Collaboration with industry bodies, is essential for building safer, more efficient cities.
- Ali Yazddan, Assistant Director of Forensics, emphasized the growing **cybersecurity risks** from interconnected devices like smartphones and IoT gadgets. He stressed that most cyber-attacks (99%) exploit human behavior through social engineering rather than advanced technology, highlighting the need for stronger personal cybersecurity practices. He urged national-level security audits and emphasized prioritizing cybersecurity to protect both personal data and national security in an increasingly digital world.
- Hussain Sajid, Founder of the AI Community of Pakistan (AICP), highlighted how AI, blockchain, and digital systems can revolutionize policing by improving efficiency and community trust. He advocated for predictive policing, **AI chatbots** for legal guidance, and **blockchain** to secure police records. He also emphasized fostering positive public perception through engagement with schools and proposed digitizing police stations to reduce paperwork and streamline operations.

Challenge of Modern Day Policing! How Government, Academia & Industry can provide Tech. Solutions (Panel Discussion)

Moderated by SSP Riffat Bokhari, the discussion focused on the need for collaboration between government, academia, and industry to address policing challenges.

- Dr. Inam Waheed Khan, DIG/Implementation Adviser (Community Protection), Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), emphasized the importance of adopting cyber, surveillance, and AI technologies and called for collaboration to bridge gaps between sectors.
- Ahmed Faraz, Senior Crime Reporter at Geo News, highlighted how PSCA's surveillance deters crime and the role of media in raising public awareness.
- Dr. Umar Suleman (ITU) criticized academia's focus on research over practical solutions, calling for better industry-academia alignment.
- Azeem Akram, CEO of Alpha Squad Technologies, noted that local digitization is growing and predicted a shift in the IT industry towards greater local investment.
- Faisal Usmani, Chief Information Systems at PSCA, urged academia to better align with industry needs to produce graduates capable of solving real-world problems.

The panel agreed on the importance of ongoing dialogue and collaboration to meet the technological demands of modern policing.

Challenges and Opportunities

Several experts acknowledged the challenges facing modern policing, including the integration of **AI** and **surveillance systems** in both urban and rural areas. The conference also emphasized the need for collaboration between **government, academia, and industry** to develop practical solutions for the problems law enforcement faces today.

Future Plans

The PSCA and Punjab Police have laid out an ambitious roadmap for the future of policing in Punjab, including:

- Establishing **Smart Safe Cities** across Punjab by **June 2025**.
- Further development of **AI-driven systems** for crime detection and prevention.
- Awareness of the **Virtual Women Police Station (VWPS) and Child Safety Center (VCCS)** to provide greater access to law enforcement for women and children across the province.
- Strengthening **public-private partnerships** to foster research and innovation in law enforcement technologies.

Closing Remarks by Dr. Usman Anwar, Inspector General of Police Punjab

Dr. Usman Anwar closed the conference by reflecting on the profound impact technology is having on law enforcement. He emphasized that while criminals are rapidly evolving their methods, law enforcement must move faster. He highlighted the importance of using technology like AI-based surveillance to prevent crime, and reiterated the Punjab Police's commitment to developing smart safe cities by June 2025. He also acknowledged the tireless efforts of PSCA's leadership and expressed his hope for continued collaboration to shape the future of law enforcement.

Conclusion

The **Tech-Driven Policing Conference** has provided a crucial platform for knowledge exchange and innovation, setting the step towards safer, smarter Punjab. As Law Enforcement Agencies and technology continue to intersect, the collaboration between government, academia, and industry will be vital to shaping the future of policing in Pakistan.

Together, we are shaping a future where technology and law enforcement work hand-in-hand to ensure the safety and security of all citizens.

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