Police Safety tips

Police officials play a central role in the law enforcement system. They monitor criminal activity, take part in community patrols, respond to emergency calls, make arrests, investigate crimes and testify in court as needed.

However, as important as their role is, we have seen many instances where they are attacked while performing their duties, and this has seen many of our men and women in blue losing their lives, leaving behind orphaned children and widowed wives.

Police officers put their lives on the line for our safety, but the recent bloodshed has a feel of menace and deliberate ambush. This is not simply being killed in the line of duty but more of a deliberate willingness to do harm to those in uniform. We have witnessed 19 police killings between January and May this year.

Below is a set of precautionary measures (tips) that could be taken into consideration, on the basis of incidents we have recently witnessed. This, however, does not necessarily offer solutions to the challenges faced, but could put police officers in a better position to avoid attacks;

- **Watch people's hands:** This can be said again and again, and it is often ignored. The odds of a suspect hurting you with their hands are many times higher than with their feet.
- **Passenger side approach:** Violator contacts are safer when you appear in their passenger side window. Also, you'll see some pretty cool stuff from your new perspective. If you haven't tried it, watching the violator from staring at their rear view gives you a much better vantage point.
- **Wear your vest:** Wearing a vest is likely to save a life
- **Work in groups:** Working in groups (buddy-buddy system) increases safety levels since there would be more eyes to back you up from any attack.