Organisation, function & duties of West Bengal Police

Aims and Objectives of the Organisation: The aims and objectives of West Bengal Police is to apply the law fairly and firmly in order to prevent and detect crime, and bring to justice those who break the law. The West Bengal Police strives to keep the State peaceful to help, to protect people through active cooperation of the community.

2) Mission /Vision: The mission of West Bengal Police is to enforce the law and to bring the attitudinal change for greater Police Public harmony and thereby achieve greater efficiency in its primary objective of prevention of crime and detection of crime. Police must be compassionate, courteous and patient, acting without fear or favour or prejudice to rights of others.

3) Brief History and Background: Modern Policing began in India with the attempt of changing Feudal system of policing in vogue during the Mughal period by Warren Hastings in 1774. However, under the East India Company the scope of policing was limited because their right to collect revenue was not corresponded by the obligation to provide safety and security to the people. Lord Cornwallis tried to remedy this shortcoming by abolishing the old Fouzdary system and concentrate the powers of maintaining law and order in the hands of the company’s servants by the Regulation XXII of 1793. This regulation provided that each district was to be divided into ‘thanas’ under the charge of a ‘Daroga’ who would be appointed by the Magistrate of the district. The powers of arrest were bestowed upon the Darogas. This system of policing was however improved by Lord Moira on the recommendations of the Select Committee appointed by the House of Commons in 1808. recommendations of Frederick Holiday, (1854-89), Torture Commission Report, 1855 and Sepoy Mutiny in 1857 forced the British Govt. to appoint a Commission to reorganize the Police force. On the recommendations of the commission, Legislative Council enacted Act V of 1861. This formed the basis of the modern policing in Bengal and in India. The framework provided by Act still remains the main platform on which Police administration of West Bengal stands.

4) Structure of the department: The headquarters of the West Bengal Police is located at “Bhawani Bhavan” Alipore, Kolkata and “Nabanna” Mandirtala, Howrah. The West Bengal Police is headed by the Director General and Inspector General of Police, who is an IPS officer. There are 10 (Ten) other officers of the rank of Director General and Inspector General of Police, 27 officers of the rank of Addl. Director General & Inspector General of Police, 35 officers of the rank of Inspector General of Police, and 22 officers of the rank of Dy. Inspector General of Police, 106 officers of the rank of Superintendent of Police, 53 officers of the rank of Addl. Superintendent of Police and a very large number of other Police officers / men including women police.

5) Jurisdiction: West Bengal Police has been spread over 27 districts including 4 Govt. Railway Police Unit. This apart, there are 6(Sixs) Police Commissionerates under West Bengal Police. There are 8 Ranges and 3 Zones for the purpose of supervision of Police service throughout the state. The region is headed by an officer of the rank of Addl. Director General / Inspector General of Police; the range by an officer of the rank of Inspector General / Dy. Inspector General of Police. The Commissionerates are headed by an officer of the rank of Inspector General / Dy. Inspector General of Police.

I) (a) Districts: There are 27 districts including Rly. Police districts in the State of West Bengal. Overall supervision of Police Stations / Police force in the district rests on the respective Superintendents of Police. Prevention and detection of crime and also maintenance of law and order are important functions of the Police. The officer in-charge of the Police station has the duty to supervise the functioning of the Police station that is prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of law and order within the jurisdiction of the Police station. The Superintendents of Police of the districts supervises the functions of sub divisional Police officers, Circle Inspectors and officer-in charge of the Police Stations and Armed Police force under his control.
(b) Commissionerate: There are 6(Six) Commissionerate under West Bengal Police namely Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate, Barrackpore Police Commissionerate, Howrah Police Commissionerate, Siliguri Police Commissionerate, Asansol-Durgapur Police Commissionerate and Chandannagar Police Commissionerate. The Commissioner of Police exercises all powers of an Executive Magistrate in relation to that metropolitan area. The overall supervision of Police Stations / Police force in the Commissionerate rests on the respective Commissioner of Police. The officer in-charge of the Police station has the duty to supervise the functioning of the Police station including prevention and detection of crime, maintenance of law and order, traffic management etc within the jurisdiction of the Police station. Commissioner of Police of the Commissionerate supervises the functions of its Divisional Police officers, Circle Inspectors and officer-in-charge of the Police Stations and Police force under his control.

The Commissioners / Superintendents of Police are also responsible for the following functions:-

a) Registration of FIR and investigation of cases, arrest of accused, recovery of stolen property, submission of report in the final form.
b) Depositing unclaimed property
c) Recording report regarding missing persons / children and tracing them
d) Granting permission for loud-speakers, rallies and functions
e) Providing security to Banks and other important facilities
f) Supervising serious cases taking initiative to develop better Police Public relation and encourage community oriented policing
g) Organising meeting with associations, hearing personal grievances of public and taking remedial action, organizing meeting at the Police Station level and also at the district level specially during the festival and occasion where public cooperation is needed.
h) Coordination with other Government departments and also with the NGOs:

II) Criminal Investigation Department : CID unit of West Bengal Police functions with its headquarters at Bhawani Bhavan, Alipore, Kolkata under the supervision of an IPS officer of the rank of Addl Director General & Inspector General of Police. CID deals with specialized crimes of the following categories :

A) General crime
   i) Anti-Robbery / Burglary & Theft Cell
   ii) Anti Cheating & Fraud Cell
   iii) Anti Motor theft Squad
   iv) Homicide Cell
   v) Narcotic Cell
   vi) Railway / Highway Crime Cell
   vii) Bomb-disposal Squad
   viii) Missing Person Bureau
   ix) Naxalite Cell
   x) Womens’ grievance Cell
   xi) SC/ST Cell

B) Economic Offence Wing :
   a) Fraud, cheating Cell

Apart from the above specialized cells, CID also has the following specialized units:
   i) Finger Print Bureau
   ii) Questioned Document Examination Bureau
   iii) Photo Section
   iv) Computer Section
III) Traffic Police: The full-fledged State Traffic Police has been set up vide G.O. No. 1484/PL/PB dated 15.03.2000. The Traffic Police Wing of West Bengal Police headed by an officer of the rank of Addl. Director General & Inspector General of Police oversees the traffic policing throughout the state. The wing is mainly tasked with planning and implementation of traffic system throughout the state through the district superintendents of Police. The Headquarters of Traffic Police is located at Bhawani Bhavan, Alipore, Kolkata.

IV) Intelligence Branch: Intelligence Branch of West Bengal Police has its office at 13 Lord Sinha Road, Kolkata. It is responsible for the following assignments:

- Collection, collation and dissemination of Intelligence
- Verification of character and antecedents
- Registration of Bangladesh Nationals and FRRO through its various officers at the district (DIBs)
- Passport verification through the various district offices (DIBs)

V) West Bengal Armed Police:

The West Bengal Police is comprised of 12 battalions of Armed Police, 2 Indian Reserve Battalions, 3 battalions of Eastern Frontier Rifles. The battalions are headed by an officer of the rank of Superintendent of Police / Commandant. Armed Police Battalions provide the armed contingents to assist the district Police as and when required. The Armed Police personnel are also trained to combat terrorism. There are 3 companies of Rapid Action Force specially trained to combat and tackle the law and order problems as and when it arises. Recently Government has sanctioned 3 Commando Coys for LWE areas and Special Striking force battalion. Besides, Police Bands are available in Battalions to perform during ceremonial occasions & as and when their services are required.

VI) Enforcement Branch: The West Bengal Police Enforcement Branch is having its headquarter at Bhawani Bhavan, Alipore, Kolkata and is headed by an officer of the rank of Director General & Inspector General of Police. There are District Enforcement Branches in all Districts, including Railway Districts. They act as subordinate offices of the Enforcement Branch, West Bengal under the supervisory control of the district S.P. This branch of West Bengal Police looks after the matter of Enforcement of various controlling order and basically linked with supervision over activities of trade and commerce.

The Enforcement Branch, deals with collection and dissemination of criminal intelligence relating to: Hoarding, Black-Marketing and Smuggling of Food Grains and other Essential Commodities. It also deals with crimes relating to:

- Essential Commodities Act, 1955
- Cinematography Act, 1957
- Indecent Representation of Woman (Prohibition) Act.
- Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947(As amended in 1988)
- The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940
- The Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998
- The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- The India copyright Act’

Cases under the relevant Sections of the I.P.C. relating to Criminal Breach of Trust, Criminal Misappropriation especially of Govt. Funds and Cheating, other economic offences / White-Collar Crimes.

The jurisdiction in respect of these offences will remain with both the Dist. Enforcement Branch as well as Enforcement Branch. In addition to this E.B. / D.E.B. also conduct various enquiries entrusted by the Police Directorate and other Govt. Agencies.
VII) Police Control Room: The West Bengal Police has its nerve centre at the Police Control Room located at the Police Directorate, Nabanna, Howrah. Also a sub-control room functioning at Bhabani Bhavan Alipur. The Police control room functions 24 hours and collects all information from all places of the State of West Bengal. All executive instructions are also transmitted through the Police control room. The Police Control Room is equipped with modern communication equipments including computers which are used for instant transmission of information instructions vide e-mail.

All the District Police Control rooms and the Sub Divisional Control Rooms are equipped with the 100 Dial system for the benefit of public.

VIII) Vigilance: An office of Inspector General of Police has been established to undertake departmental proceedings and enquiry against Police officers indulging in corruption, negligence, and malpractices.

IX) Telecom: The West Bengal Police Telecommunication organization was established on 17.04.1946 under one SP with 51 Wireless stations throughout Bengal. At present it is headed by an IPS Officer of the rank of Additional Director General of Police. This unit maintains connectivity with all police establishments upto PS level through E-mail/VHF.

X) State Crime Records Bureau: The State Crime Records Bureau, West Bengal was set up in the year 1987 with the following aims in view:

a) To supervise and coordinate the activities of the District Crime Records Bureau in districts / commissionerates under WB Police apart from Kolkata Police.
b) Provide training facilities to the Police personnel of the state and Kolkata Police in computer usage.
c) To collect and process crime statistics for the State Police and Kolkata Police.
d) Coordination and maintain liaison with National Crime Records Bureau, New Delhi and other State Crime Record Bureau.
e) To implement the Crime Criminal tracking Network (CCTNS) which is a central scheme of MHA, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
f) Regional Police Computer Training Centre (RPCTC) is situated at SCR, WB. It provides training to Police personnel of Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand, Chattishgarh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Andaman & Nikobal Islands etc. on various computer & IT related courses.

g) SCR, WB has a Gradation Cell which is engaged in preparing gradation list for Police personnel of the rank of Constables to Sub-Inspector of West Bengal Police.

h) SCR, WB maintains Database on crime Statistics for various queries of different agencies.

i) SCR, WB is the State Level implementing agency of the CCTNS Project.

j) SCR, WB prepares the statement of CII (Crime in India) & ADSI (Accidental Death & Suicide in India) for annual publications by NCRB, New Delhi.

k) SCR, WB maintains the State level databases of MVCS (for Stolen / Recovered motor vehicles), TALASH (for missing persons, etc.)

At present, the organization is headed by DG, SCRWB.
XI) Training: The Swami Vivekananda State Police Academy, West Bengal, Barrackpore, previously named as Police Training College, West Bengal, was set up on 11th April 1948 at Barrackpore. Since inception of this institution the Principal of the rank of Superintendent of Police, was the head of the institution but later the post of the Principal was upgraded and an officer in the rank of Deputy Inspector General of Police was posted here as the head of the institution since the year 1966 at present the Academy is headed by Director in the rank of Inspector General of Police. The post of Principal was abolished in the year 2005, vide Govt. Notification No. 158PS Cell/Vig-61/2003 dtd. 28.01.2005. The functions of this institutions are guided by rules framed under Bengal Police Training Manual 1936 and Rule no. 789 of Police Regulation Bengal, 1943.

There are some subsidiary Police Training Centres located throughout the state of West Bengal of which two are permanent training centre viz. STC SAP 9th Bn., Sandhya, Krishnanagar, & STC 4th Bn., Kasba, Raigunj, which are entrusted to conduct basic training of Recruit Constables under the academic control of SVSPA, WB, Barrackpore.

Presently SVSPA, WB, Barrackpore is entrusted to conduct the following training courses:

A. Basic Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL No.</th>
<th>Training Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Attachment Training of Proby IPS Officers</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Basic Training of Proby Dy. SPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Basic Training of Cadet SIs (UB) of West Bengal &amp; Kolkata Police</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Basic Training of Cadet SIs (AB) of West Bengal Police</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Basic Training of Cadet Sergeants of Kolkata Police</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Basic Training of Recruit Constables of West Bengal Police (Male &amp; Female)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Basic Training of Junior Recruit Constables of West Bengal Police (Male &amp; Female)</td>
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B. Pre-promotional Training

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<tr>
<th>SL No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Pre-Promotional Training Course of SI (UB) for promotion to the rank of Insp. (UB).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Pre-Promotional Training Course of SI (AB) for promotion to the rank of Insp. (AB).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Pre-Promotional Training Course of ASI (UB) for promotion to the rank of SI (UB).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Pre-Promotional Training Course of ASI (AB) for promotion to the rank of SI (AB).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Pre-Promotional Training Course of Constables for promotion to the rank of ASI (UB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Pre-Promotional Training Course of Constables for promotion to the rank of ASI (AB)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. In-service Training

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<tr>
<th>SL No.</th>
<th>Training Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Police Station Management Course of ICs &amp; OCs</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>BPR&amp;D Sponsored Specialized training courses on Investigation and other professional issues of Homicide/Murder Cases, Economic Crime, Cyber Crime Cases; Advanced Technology in Forensic Science, and Scene of Crime Investigation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>BPR&amp;D Sponsored Specialized training courses on Weapon and Tactics</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Riot Drill</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Seminar &amp; workshop on RTI Act, Juvenile Justice, Community Policing etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Sec. 4(1)(b)(xv) - Regarding Particulars of facilities available to citizens for obtaining information, including hours of a library or reading room, if maintains for public use at SVSPA WB.
Infrastructure for Academic Training:

1. Academic Building for cadet Sub-Inspectors and Sergeants (for 200 trainees)
2. Academic Building for Recruit Constables (for 500 trainees)
3. Academic Class Rooms for In-Service and Pre-Promotional trainees
4. Academic Class Rooms for trainee Dy. S.P. (for 30 trainees)
5. Air-Conditioned Auditorium (332 sitting capacity).
6. Air-Conditioned Seminar Hall (30 sitting capacity).
7. Centre for training on Computer Application.
8. Centre for Forensic studies for theoretical & practical training on Scientific Investigation of Crime,
9. Model Police Station for practical training on PS Management.
11. Library having 13,00 books on various professional and non-professional issues (use of books are restricted only for trainees and faculties).
12. Telecom workshop for training on Tele -Communication.

Infrastructure for Physical Training

1. Parade Ground (Concrete ground 01 & Clay ground 02)
2. Riding School (27 number of horses are being utilized for training on horse riding)
3. Firing Range, Four lane firing simulator & six lane firing simulator.
5. Driving Training Simulator.
6. Artificial climbing wall for training on rock climbing.
7. Tactical training grounds.

Infrastructure for Accommodation of Trainees & Instructors.

1. Senior Officers Mess for Dy. SP & above.
2. Hostel for in-service trainees.
3. Cadets Hostel
4. Old Cadet Mess.
5. Recruit Constables Hostel.
6. Hostel for Lady Trainees.
7. Instructors’ Mess

All the indoor & outdoor training infrastructures are meant for Police training purposes only.

3. Training Affairs; Advisory Board

SVSPA, WB is guided by the authority of Training Branch, West Bengal. headed by DG & IGP, Training, WB. It is located at Araksha Bhavan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata. The policy matters in respect of all level of Police training are decided by the Board Control for Training & Examination, which is constituted by the Police Directorate, West Bengal, Bhabani Bhavan.