

Organization:

Department profile: West Bengal Police (WBP) is the police force of the state of West Bengal in India. It was reorganized under provisions of the Police Act 1861 during the British Raj. Today, it is headed by an officer designated as the Director General and Inspector General of Police who reports to the State Government through the Home (Police) Department. Shri Naparajit Mukherjee IPS took over as the Director General & Inspector General of Police (DG & IGP) of West Bengal Police on August 31, 2010. West Bengal Police has jurisdiction concurrent with the eighteen revenue districts of the State (excluding the metropolitan city of Kolkata) and one police district. This comprises one of the two General Police Districts (GPD) of West Bengal as under the Police Act 1861. The other General Police District consists of the major portion of the metropolitan area of Kolkata, and has a separate police force (Kolkata Police) constituted and administered under the Calcutta Police Act 1866 & Calcutta (Suburban Police) Act 1866. This arrangement, unique in India, was conceived during colonial times when Calcutta was the capital of British India. The city police have been kept independent of the state police force.

Historical context: In 1792, Lord Cornwallis, the then Governor General of India took police administration from the hands of '*Zamindars*', and established a police force responsible to the agents of the British East India Company. The Districts were divided into several parts and over each part a police officer known as '*Daroga*' was placed, which is now equivalent to a '*Thana*' or '*Police Station*' being headed by an Officer-in-Charge. Earlier the '*Daroga*' was accountable to the District Judge, but in 1808, the post of Superintendent of Police was created, which is still prevalent. At present, there are 23 districts including 18 Revenue Districts, the Police District of *Jhargram*, 4 Government Railway Police (GRP) Districts, 4 Police Commissionerates (Howrah Town, Barrackpore, Bidhannagar and Asansol-Durgapur), 8 Ranges (Each headed by an officer of the rank of Deputy Inspector General of Police) and 4 Zones (Each headed by an officer of the rank of Inspector General of Police) in West Bengal.

Core responsibilities: The basic duty of a police officer is to protect the citizens and prevent crime. In order to do that, Police implements and enforces laws of the land. It also has a solemn duty to initiate the process of criminal justice when offenders/perpetrators of crime take the law in their own hands.

Organizational chart: The headquarters of West Bengal Police (WBP) is located at Writers' Buildings, Kolkata. Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG & IGP) is the head of the organization. WBP is divided into a number of units: the Armed Battalions consisting of State Armed Police (SAP), Eastern Frontier Rifles (EFR)

and India Reserve Battalions (IRBs), Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Enforcement Branch (EB), Intelligence Branch (IB), Traffic Branch, Police Telecommunications, Training Branch, Railway Police (GRP), and State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB). An elite force named 'STRACO' and a separate unit named Counter Insurgency Force (CIF) have been created to combat insurgency & terrorism. The Police Manual of West Bengal Police was compiled and issued during British Raj and is known as the Police Regulations of Bengal (PRB), 1943. With subsequent modifications and corrections, it is the guiding source of internal Police Organization and Administration. Details of the Organization are given in **Appendix-I**.

Partners: In the arena of the Criminal Justice System, Police have the Legislature, the Judiciary, the Prosecution and the Correctional Services Department as its partners. Also, the organizations like State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL), Finger Print Bureau (FPB), the oldest Finger Print Bureau in the World, Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL), Government Examiner of Questioned Documents (GEQD), State Drugs Control and Research Laboratory (SDCRL) help in dispensing justice to people by providing scientific aids to investigation.

Services: The services offered by West Bengal Police can be classified as follows:

1. **District Police**, especially from Police Stations: To maintain Law and Order and to prevent/ detect crime.
2. **Traffic Police:** Striving to regulate traffic under constraints of manpower and logistics.
3. **VVIP Protection:** To ensure safety and security of those 'who matter a lot'.
4. **100 Dial:** A direct and dedicated delivery service. Just Dial...
5. **Community Service:** To serve beyond the call of duty by involving ourselves in the life of the community.

This list is indicative and not exhaustive.

Crime statistics: Please Refer to **Appendix II**