CHAPTER 3
KOLKATA POLICE: FROM COLONIAL TO THE PRESENT ERA

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Chapter 3
Kolkata Police: From Colonial to the Present Era

3.1. PRELUDE

Kolkata, a conurbation of dreams and aspirations, love and warmth, distress and dejection, paucity and squalor, affluence and splendor, is sparkling; always full of life and tradition- a colorful assortment of moods, styles, cultures, politics, industry and commerce. It may be noted in this context that the term Kolkata Police has been used throughout this chapter in view of its present name though originally it was known as ‘Calcutta Police’. From inception to the present time, Kolkata as it is now called has survived several ups and downs and is rightfully called the cultural capital of India. In the year 2006 the Kolkata Police celebrated 150 years of its existence as a separate commissionerate and made several plans for making it more modernized, technologically updated with a people friendly attitude. Information Technology (IT) are catching on all over the world and Kolkata cannot keep itself secluded from it. The government has undertaken the policy of e governance and the police have also been incorporated within its fold. The focus of this chapter is to highlight the multi-faceted transitions Kolkata police have undergone from its inception, i.e. from the colonial rule to the present day. It also deserves mention that the technologies that have been incorporated in police work from time to time have been as an impact of societal needs. From the stick in the colonial period to the computers in recent times, technologies are shaped and constructed according to the social environment to ensure greater application and utility. This chapter is divided in the following subthemes:

a) analysis and evaluation of history of Kolkata Police from its inception to the year 1855 before it became a commissionerate;

b) growth of the Kolkata Police Commissionerate (1856) to the year of Independence (1947) and

c) the Kolkata Police since independence.
3.2. THE HISTORY OF KOLKATA POLICE: PRE REGULATORY STAGE (1690-1855)

The Genesis

The history of the Kolkata Police would be incomplete without the history of Kolkata, the city, which it has to care for. Both Kolkata and the Kolkata Police are the creation of the English East India Company and they still bear a lot of reminiscences of the past mentor. According to Cotton, Kolkata for a century and a half she has been the central seat of the English Government. Circumstances have made her the pivot of the administration, and it cannot be denied that she is nobly symbolical of her high position. Kolkata happened to be the capital of India during the British rule till 1911. It was also an important seat of the nationalist movement and was bubbling with revolutionary ideas of freedom, liberty and equality. The supremacy of the enlightened intelligentsia and their vivid influence in the lives of not only the Kolkatans but also the whole of India cautioned the British of the impending danger and forced them to shift the capital to New Delhi. (Cotton 1909: 195)

In the year 1679 a British Ship named the "Phakon" sailed up the river Hooghly and anchored off the area later known as Garden Reach. Captain Stafford, the commander of the vessel, sent out messages to the Bengali merchants in the area to develop trade contacts. It was a washerman named Ratan, who had some acquaintance with the English language, came to the aid of the Englishmen. The first "Kuthi"(Office) of the East India Company was subsequently erected at Garh Govindpore (South –West Calcutta) in the year 1680 (Roy 1982:14-5). An Englishman, Job Charnock of Lancashire, Chief of British Factory of East India Company, founded Calcutta, now known as Kolkata, on 24th August 1690. Azim uz Shaan, the grandson of Aurangzeb gave the British the right to purchase 3 villages in Bengal. Thus the Chaudhury’s the then zamindars of the area, handed over 3 villages namely Sutanuti, Gobindapur and Kolikata to the British, which later formed a nucleus of a fortified military settlement and a prime location for the East India Company’s operation in Bengal (Chatterjee 1960:1-18). The previous two kuthis erected at Suttanutty had withered away and Charnock renewed the settlement of the English in 1690 and for the first time they thought of having a permanent trading post as well as a settlement of their own. They started constructing 'pucca' brick buildings
instead of mud huts and to have a protected place – a fort of their own (Roy 1982: 20).

**Prevention and detection of Crime: Mechanism during Mughal Period**

The Mughal government was responsible through the zamindar for the prevention and detection of crime. In Mughal system of administration, the nizam, fauzdar, kotwal, daroga-I-adalat-alia, diwan, daroga-I-adalat-diwani, muhtasib, mufti and kanungo pertained more to the general administration than to the administration of justice. The fauzdar being the police officer entrusted with the maintenance of public peace was not vested with any judicial functions. The kotwal or the peace officer of the night was also not entrusted with any judicial functions. The adalat alia, the adalat diwani and the qazi dealt with only civil cases. However in Bengal in the latter part of Aurangzeb’s rule, zamindars reigned supreme and were the dispensers of civil and criminal justice (Griffith 1972:7-17).

On the 6th **February 1704**, after at a meeting at Fort William the officers of John Company decided to set up a watch and ward unit to combat robbers, dacoits and thagi. It consisted of a head-peon, 45 peons, 2 chobdars (sceptre bearers) and 20 goalas or milkmen who were expert lathiwalks. With their appointment was laid the foundation of Kolkata police. Within a span of a year the head peon was designated as the kotwal and the peons were renamed as paiks. They were armed with spears and staffs (Roy 1994:2). However in **1706**, when this unit failed to check crime, 31 more paiks were given the assignment to protect the life and property of the people. Night Patrolling started in 1710. The Fire Brigade was established during this period and the Kolkata Police also ensured to maintain the cleanliness of the city (Gupta: 2002:12).

In 1720 the company officially appointed the zamindar of Calcutta as in charge of civil and criminal administration. Mr. Freke, the first zamindar of Calcutta, was to be assisted in the discharge of his functions by an Indian functionary known as the “black deputy”. They drew only a very modest official salary, but the authority and influence that they exercised, brought many opportunities in their way, to augment their income by illicit levies on the people. They did not have an entirely free hand in this regard, as certain rules stated that the fines realized from natives in town area for criminal offences were to be used for such civic purposes as filling potholes and developing areas in and around the town (Roy 1982: 26). This paved the way for the development of municipalities.
From 1720 –1756 Babu Gobindaram Mitra held the post of ‘black deputy’. It was during his regime that Kolkata was divided into thanas under thanadars subordinate to whom were paiks, naiks and naibs. Moreover there were burkandazes, peyadas, peons and harkaras under the zamindars. Burkandazaes were the strong arm of the rural government; peyadas were used as labour force, peons for miscellaneous work and harkaras were responsible for distributing letters and dispatches (Chattopadhyaya 1982:21). The burkandazes were armed with rifles, the chowkidars carried staffs, and the night guards had swords while the harkaras were equipped with spears. There was a small River Police to provide security to riverine trade (Gupta: 2002:13). It was formed mainly because "between the years 1700-1790 trade expanded rapidly and industries began to develop. The buildings constructed by the Europeans for residential and business purposes were located chiefly in Suttanutty on the Eastern bank of the river and ran roughly in the shape of an arc, starting from Chitpore and Hatkhola in the north and ending in the vicinity of the present site of Fort William in the South" (Roy 1982:32). Babu Gobindaram Mitra also created 3 posts of naib diwans with the following three assignments: (1) to maintain roads and ponds as well as cleanliness and sanitation in the township; (2) to look after the collection of ground rents and the supply of food, and (3) in charge of the police including the river police and the excise department. The fall of Calcutta in 1756 and its recapture followed by the battle of Plassey had its impact on the development of township. The policing of township had to improve with the collection and collation of intelligence in addition to the maintenance of watch on criminals. During the siege of Calcutta by Siraj ud daulah the Nawab of Bengal, the town guards stood well by their leader, but the over all performance of the police force was not satisfactory. The main problem of the police force in Calcutta was the shortage of manpower (Biswas 1992: 246).

Emergent of Policing during East India Company Rule at Calcutta

The capture of Calcutta by Siraj ud Daulah had left wide marks in the growth of Calcutta. After its recapture by Clive and Watson, the East India Company had to take a lot of initiative to get it back to its earliest form, if possible in a better form. According to Cotton “when Clive and Watson retook Calcutta in 1757 seven months after the sack, they found most of the best houses of the English demolished or damaged by fire. The greater part of the merchandise belonging to the Company, which was stored up in the Fort, was found untouched, for this part of the plunder had

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been reserved for the Nabob. Immediately after the receipt of the 'restitution-money', a Committee of the most respectable inhabitants was appointed to distribute it. They executed the office with much minuteness, if not also with discretion and equity. Commerce revived; the destroyed houses were re-built; in fact, we may date modern Calcutta from 1757" (Cotton 1909: 60).

In 1765 when the East India Company acquired the diwani of Bengal, zamindars had the responsibility of maintaining law and order in their jurisdiction on behalf of the provincial government. Lord Cornwallis was the first governor general to place the responsibility of policing the country on the government. The policing system improved when Warren Hastings became the Governor (1772 - 1774). The Governor General in Council passed in 1778 a law providing for the appointment of a Superintendent and not fewer than 700 paiks under the supervision of 31 thanadars and 34 naibs. In 1780 the Commissioners were appointed from town, called commissioners of police, who were to look after the watch and ward of the town and were empowered to levy 2 annas per shop and one anna per house. The fund thus raised was meant for the cleanliness and improvement of the town. But this does not pose a problem for the maintenance of the police (Chattopadhyay 1982: 35). Calcutta was divided into two worlds: the southern or European and northern or native. There were vast differences between the European town and the 'black town". The houses in the European town were well-furnished, airy, well built and some of them equal to palaces. The black town was congested with people living in badly built unimpressive houses with a few exceptions (Mukherjee 1977:4). On the 9th June 1785 a notice issued in the Calcutta Gazette by the Commissioner in charge of policing, divided Kolkata into thirty-one thanas each under a thanadar. Four constables were allotted for each thana in the English town while the two constables were appointed in each thana in the 'black' town. In case of grievance the inhabitants were exhorted to apply to the officers of the concerned thana and if they showed inability or neglect, they were to move the Superintendent of Police. In 1791 the city witnessed the appointment of two deputy superintendents to discharge the police functions. The district magistrate appointed Stipendiary thanadars or police station officers for each police station (Biswa: 1992: 246).

**Impact of Great Famine in Reorganising Calcutta Police**

The developments that took place in police administration in the later half of the period between 1750 to 1800 was mainly as a result of the Great Famine
(Chhiattarer Manvantar) of 1770. About one third of the population of Bengal died and it caused immense unrest in the region. The discontent of the people due to the ruthless expropriation and exploitation of the British also led to Fakir (1771-`1800), Chuar (1795-1800 ) and the Sanyyasi (1855), rebellions in Bengal (Chattopadhyay 2000: 2-15). The famine carried off, according to Cotton,"no less than 76,000 souls in the town of Calcutta between 15th July and the 10th September. The very streets of Calcutta were blocked by the dying and the dead and the mortality among the Europeans alone was returned at 1500" (Cotton 1909: 67). The unabated and reckless raising of land revenue by the East India Company in rural Bengal forced many impoverished men walk down the streets of Calcutta. The company’s drive for extensive urbanization uprooted many residents of the three villages from their hearth and home. A large number of the city’s unorganized poor precariously scraped a livelihood by means that were often ignoble and furtive, murderous and barbaric, creating an underworld of innovative tricks and plots, and ingenious devices of robberies and murders (Banerjee 2006:10-11). According to Chattopadhyay, "the period following the famine was marked by a high rate of violence and a overall decline in the law and order in Bengal. ... the unprecedented violence of the period was triggered off, in the main, by the simultaneous operation of two factors: ruthless expropriation of available social surplus characteristic of the predatory phase of the colonial rule in Bengal and the disappearance of the Mughal System, which had by and large successfully maintained the social equilibrium. While the first factor helps us to identify the new forces unleashed on the economy, the second prompts us to revise the rather simplistic suggestion that the traditional mechanism of police control broke down under the weight of corruption and inefficiency" (2000: 22).

**Appointment of Justice of Peace under Regulation Act**

In 1800 Lord Wellesley had appointed a committee to consider the policing of Calcutta and the result was the Regulation of 1806. The regulation provided for the constitution of Justices of the Peace as Magistrates within a radius of 20 miles from Calcutta. Justices were empowered to arrest persons suspected of committing offences in the city. The town guards recruited from the artillery formed an armed reserve and dealt efficiently with riotous sailors and deserters. The river police consisted of nine departments, eighteen peons and ninety two boatmen with bholio or covered boat for the magistrates and 9 chowki boats to patrol the river. The condition of the prison houses was satisfactory. The Chief magistrate looked after the repair of roads, the
lighting of streets, the watering of roads, fire fighting, abatement of nuisance and prevention of encroachments on streets and markets (Biswas 1992: 252-53).

Between the years 1821 and 1837 the population of the city of Calcutta increased rapidly owing to the migration of people in search of jobs. This process continued till the middle of the 19th century and is symbolic of the growth of urbanization that had then started in Kolkata (Mukherjee 1977:6-7). Calcutta came to be divided into two classes. “There was the abhijat bhadrolok, the big zamindars, merchants and top administrators, who were the owners of land and capital (although as a capitalist class they were subservient to the British.) Then there were the dockers, the builders, the workers, the domestics, the palankin bearers and other wage earners—a large migrant labour force, some of whom came from Orissa and the north, who formed the class of producers. The relationship between these two classes was contractual and economic and was not determined by caste or custom." (Ibid.: 26) In 1829, the Magistrates of Justice were administering the Kolkata Police department. The Magistracy was divided into 4 departments: the Report, Felony (common law system for very serious crimes), Misdemeanor (common law system for less serious crimes), and Conservancy (a court or commission with jurisdiction over a river, port area of countryside etc.). The Report department constituted thanadari police, boundary Police and town guard departments. It was the forerunner of the present day office of the Commissioner of Police. The town guards acted as the reserve force and were subordinates to the town Major and sergeants who were recruited from the Company’s artillery department. Calcutta was divided into forty thanas each having a thanadar, with a naib to act as his substitute and twenty to thirty chaukidars. There was also a patrol force in each thana divided into three parties each with two naibs and chaukidars. There was also a River Police and Boundary Police which were well armed and appointed from upcountry (Chatterjee 1973:36). In 1845 a committee under J.H.Patton, which thereby brought vital changes, emulated the police organization on the London Metropolitan Police. The deficiencies of the police organization were brought to light and the necessity of promotions from the rank of burkandez to the rank of daroga was pointed out. A commissioner of police was appointed with powers of Justice of Peace, to preserve law and order and to detect crime and detain offenders (Roy 1994:12).
Police in 19th Century Calcutta

According to Mukherjee, "Calcutta in the 19th century was a peaceful city. It was then not plagued by the periodic riots, mob-violence, and political murders, as it has been in the 20th century. This does not mean that there was no violence in the city during the 19th century: in fact newspapers are full of reports of violent crimes, murders and armed robberies. But these were committed by individuals or groups of gangsters, which did not threaten the stability of social order" (1977:62). There have been instances recorded in historical anecdotes, which expose the inefficiency of the Kolkata Police in the 18th and 19th centuries. Le Grandpe in *A Voyage in the Indian Ocean and to Bengal* has stated: “So considerable town ought to possess a vigilant police, but in this respect it is very defective. Those who disturb the public tranquility are indeed apprehended but the condition of the town is disgustingly unclean. I have seen an instance of this, where the body has remained two days without being taken away by the police”(Nair 1984:231-32) Dacoity was common in the outskirts of Calcutta. In 1780 in a Calcutta paper it is stated “a few nights ago four armed men entered in house of Moorman near Chouringhi and carried off his daughter”(Long 1974:132). Again Huggins pointed out: “The police establishment of Calcutta is greatly complained of, and is very defective, both as regards surveillance and efficient useful regulations. The Magistrates are not civilians, possessing permanent appointments, but persons who receive their situation from and hold them at the pleasure of the government. The police magistrates are personally acquainted with the most respectable inhabitants, and will undoubtedly favour their friends. In Calcutta the police regulations common to great towns are unknown. There is no registry of vehicles or conveyances for public accommodations such as hackries, palanquins, boats upon the river, which should be all under proper regulations. Police interference is confined solely to keeping peace and the removal of nuisances and in other respects it is not known” (Quoted in Nair 1989:421-23).

3.3. KOLKATA POLICE: AS A COMMISSIONERATE (1856 - 1947)

In modern India the process of urbanization was bound up with the growth of colonial administration and market economy. Calcutta was conditioned by the social mores of rural Bengal and there was no dichotomy between modernity and
tradition in Calcutta but each influenced the other. Calcutta, the second largest city in the Empire and the capital of the British India, had close ties with its rural setting and simultaneously showed profound influence of the British capitalist system (Mukherjee 1977: 87-9). It gained immense prominence as the British Raj gained greater foothold on the Indian soil and greater developmental activities were carried out to make it the London of the East. The middle decades of the 19th century observed a greater systematization and institutionalization of policing in Kolkata. Policemen openly carried swords during this time and were prohibited from carrying anything other than batons (Chattopadhyayay 1982:68). The recommendations of the Patton Committee resulted in the formulation of the Act XIII of 1856 which for the first time recognized the Calcutta Police as a separate organization under the government and S.Wauchope, the then Chief Magistrate of Kolkata, was appointed the first Commissioner of police. He handled the police during the Sepoy Mutiny, the First War of National Independence (1857). Every police officer, European or Indian, carried a regulatory staff and chowkidars carried light truncheons, thirty-three inches in length, which came handy during mob outbreaks and upsurges (Ibid.:76). "The sepoy rebellion of 1857 did not touch Kolkata nearly, but the city shared, nevertheless, in all feelings of alarm and suspense which were the common lot of Englishmen in India during that terrible year. There were ominous threatenings of trouble in the winter of 1856 at Barrackpore sixteen miles from Calcutta, which was the headquarters of the Presidency Division of the Bengal army, and included four regiments of native infantry among its garrison" (Cotton 1909:156). As a result, the mutiny took the police organization off the rails. Even in Calcutta, Lord Canning (1856-1862) had to agree to the replacement of his native guards with European soldiers. The government machinery was dislocated during 1857 and part of 1858 (Biswas 1992:259).

Era of Criminal Legislation

During the tenure of V.H.Scalch, the Calcutta Police Act and the Calcutta Suburban Police Act were enacted in 1866. The Calcutta Police Act vested the administration of the police to the commissioner independent of the Inspector General of Police of the state. The Calcutta Suburban Police Act also entrusted the Commissioner of Police with the control of the suburbs (Chatterjee 1973:13). In November 1868, Sir Stuart Hogg, the Commissioner of Police and the Chairman of Calcutta Municipal Corporation, first set up the Detective Department in Kolkata Police. A.Youan was appointed the Head of the Department, which during M.B.
Eliss's superintendentship, came to be known as Criminal Investigation Department (Ibid: 47). In 1890, Lord Lansdowne’s government established the provincial training school at Barrackpore, which dealt with arming the police and training them in the use of firearms. In the same year the Port Police Force was made subjected to the provisions of the Calcutta Police Act of 1866 (See www.kolkatapolice.org/servingkolkata/html, visited on 12.12.07)

According to Misra, the subjugation of the people was the first priority of the police and this was evident in the Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code enacted in 1860-1861 (Das & Verma 2003: 138). The Indian Police Act which was put into force in the year 1861 talked about police reorganization in India which differed from the policing systems which were being established in other colonies like Australia and Canada. It was primarily a mechanism to subjugate the people, and the traditional cooperation of the community was lost sight of the concerns for law and order. The imperative need was to develop a sense of fear of authority in the entire population, and it was achieved through this system of ruler's police. The police were to be shaped as an instrument of the Raj, one where men were disciplined, armed and without hesitation would follow British officer's orders. It was this police that would baton charge Gandhi's peaceful followers or shoot to death young people raising Indian flags (Ibid.: 138). Thus the police in the second half of the 19th century was mainly a weapon of the colonial rulers to oppress the common people and to crush rising feeling of nationalism in the minds of the people.

Calcutta Police in Combating Nationalist Movement

The anti partition movement gave fillip to the freedom struggle. To cope with this certain measures were taken by the Government. Classes on unarmed combat were started on August 1908, where constables were chosen for the course. The revolver shooting was stressed. Secondly a surveillance scheme was prepared. In 1920 a special cell called the Goonda Department was created (Biswas 1992:265). This showed that the Kolkata Police underwent rapid upgradation from the second half of the 19th century mainly to combat and counterfeit the rising nationalist movement. Sir Fredrick Halliday who was appointed the commissioner of police in 1906 is regarded as the father of Calcutta Police. He had a sense of history and tackled the problems of the swadeshi movement. He had to face terrorist organizations like Anushilan Samity and revolutionaries like Aurobindo Ghosh, Bagha Jatin, M.N.Roy and the like. In January 1908, Bandemataram was proscribed
He initiated several changes in the administration of Calcutta Police including the system of running a Control Room and creating a Special Branch in 1909 to access prompt information about the revolutionaries. Traffic motorcycle patrolling was prevalent during this period. Calcutta Police was divided into 3 town divisions and 2 suburban divisions during his tenure. It was as a result of his prolonged effort that the Training School of the Kolkata Police was established on October 1st, 1914 in the Dullanda Building (at present opposite the Race Course). Sir Charles Augustus Tegart, on whose report the special Branch of Kolkata Police was created, is another official whose name deserves mention. Both Detective Department and the Special branch were under Tegart who in 1923 was the first Indian Police officer to become the Commissioner of Police. He was notorious for his highhanded methods to suppress the freedom struggle. He reorganized the city police force and made it efficient (Roy 1994:16).

3.4. THE KOLKATA POLICE SINCE INDEPENDENCE

The Kolkata Police establishment was housed at different buildings from time to time since 1720 in the Lalbazaar area. It was only in November 1918 that the new police office was completed. It being the headquarter, comprises the office of the Commissioner of Police, Additional Commissioner of Police, Joint Commissioners of Police, Deputy Commissioners of Police, Detective Department and the residences of the Deputy Commissioners of Headquarter and Detective Department of the Kolkata Police (Ibid.: 6). The Calcutta Police Directorate and the West Bengal Police Directorate operate under the State Home Department. To avoid squabbles between the Police Commissioner and the Inspector General of Police (which took place as their status was undefined), an amalgamation was administered in 1952 by the West Bengal Police Act. Transfer is possible between the West Bengal Police and the Kolkata Police. Joint training of both the forces was introduced in 1955 and the pay scale of the subordinate ranks of both the forces have been made the same (Chatterjee 1973:45).

Superintendence over the police force in the state is exercised by the State Government. The head of the police force in the state is the Director General of Police who is responsible to the state government for the administration of the police force in the state and for advising the government on police matters. States are subdivided into
districts where the district police force is headed by a Superintendent of Police. Every district is divided into sub-divisions under the charge of a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP). Every subdivision is further divided into a number of police stations. Under the Criminal Procedure Code all crime be reported at the police station and all preventive, investigative and, law and order work is done from there. A police station is divided into a number of beats, which are assigned to constables for patrolling, surveillance, collection of intelligence etc. The officer in charge of a police station is called an Inspector of Police, particularly in cities and metropolitan areas. During the British rule dual control at the local level was introduced – one under the head of the police force in the district and the other under the chief executive of the district ie. the district magistrate. The commissionerate system of policing was introduced in certain metropolitan areas like Calcutta (Kolkata), Bombay (Mumbai), Madras (Chennai) and Hyderabad. Under this system the responsibility for policing the city area is vested in the Commissioner of Police (Police Organization in India, 2008; New Delhi; CHRI: 9-22)

Table 3.1. shows a comparison of police organization of West Bengal to some other states of India. The states have been selected on the basis of their geographical location ie. Delhi in the north, Gujarat in the west, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh in South, and Bihar in the east. It reveals that West Bengal is lagging behind with regard to infrastructure, manpower, training, monetary grant form all these states. Since West Bengal is a densely populated state the scenario portrayed hereof is not a satisfactory one.

**Table 3.1. The Police Organization of West Bengal in comparison to some other states**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>West Bengal</th>
<th>Andhra Pradesh</th>
<th>Bihar</th>
<th>Maharashtra</th>
<th>Gujarat</th>
<th>Delhi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population per policeman</td>
<td>1243</td>
<td>921</td>
<td>1790</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area in sq.km per policeman</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>1.81</td>
<td>2.02</td>
<td>2.69</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport facility per 100 policeman</td>
<td>5.49</td>
<td>15.22</td>
<td>8.47</td>
<td>7.20</td>
<td>7.36</td>
<td>4.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of urban police stations</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The total police expenditure for West Bengal has increased from the year 2002 – 2003 to 2003 – 2004 by 2.49 crores. For Maharashtra it has increased by 264.27 crores, Delhi 174.79 crores, Tamil Nadu 57.89 crores. The expenditure for police training has increased by 0.22 crores for West Bengal, 0.56 crores for Maharashtra, 2.82 crores for Andhra Pradesh and 0.71 crores for Rajasthan. In the year 2002 - 2003, West Bengal police force received a grant of 67.8 crores from Central Government and 11.48 crores from the State for modernization. However the total amount utilized for modernization is 9.62 crores. On the other hand states like Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jammu & Kashmir, and Tamil Nadu utilized the full amount

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>West Bengal</th>
<th>Andhra Pradesh</th>
<th>Bihar</th>
<th>Maharashtra</th>
<th>Gujarat</th>
<th>Delhi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of rural police stations</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>1116</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed battalions</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women police stations</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total police strength (as on 1.1.2007)</td>
<td>70,370</td>
<td>88,807</td>
<td>52,075</td>
<td>1,51,999</td>
<td>72,838</td>
<td>79,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women Police</td>
<td>1177</td>
<td>1719</td>
<td>882</td>
<td>9105</td>
<td>2474</td>
<td>3220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-service training to constables in 2007</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>2049</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>1467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-service training to IPS officers</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount (in crores) received as modernization grant from central government</td>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>82.89</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>16.42</td>
<td>20.87</td>
<td>8.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile forensic science vans</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of computers available</td>
<td>911</td>
<td>2859</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>1624</td>
<td>2904</td>
<td>1383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor transport</td>
<td>3861</td>
<td>13518</td>
<td>4409</td>
<td>10950</td>
<td>5359</td>
<td>3928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sniffer/Tracker Dog</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data on Police Organization in India, BPR&D:2008) NR: Data not received
it received for modernization. (BPR&D, 2005:38). In the year 2003-04 West Bengal received a grant of Rs 29.15 crores for modernization of the police force from the Central government however it received no such aid from the state machinery (BPR&D, 2006:40).

Table 3.2. Number of Personal Computers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of states</th>
<th>As on 1.1.04</th>
<th>As on 1.1.05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>611</td>
<td>611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>2610</td>
<td>3891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>1136</td>
<td>1136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>891</td>
<td>1356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>1027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>1420</td>
<td>2390</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: (BPR&D, June 2006:70)

Table 3.2. shows that the number of personal computers used by the police of West Bengal did not show any increase in the year 2005. West Bengal stands among only a few states like Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Lakshwadeep, Chhatisgarh, Goa, and Arunachal Pradesh which did not incorporate an addition of personal computers in the year 2005 to what it had in 2004. This makes it quite evident that West Bengal lacks far behind most of the other states in so far as technological modernization of the police force is concerned.

Guidelines to the Kolkata Police

The Police act of 1861 laid down the following duties for the police officer:

i) Obey and execute all orders and warrants lawfully issued by any competent authority.

ii) Collect and communicate intelligence affecting the public peace.

iii) Prevent Commission of offences and public nuisance.
iv) Detect and bring offenders to justice.

v) Apprehend all persons whom he is legally authorized to apprehend and for whose apprehension sufficient ground exists.

The charter prescribed by the Model Police Act of 2006, goes far beyond the 1861 charter, taking into account not only the changes which have occurred within the organization during this period, but also those in the socio-political environment in which the organization functions. The Model Police Act 2006 prescribes the following duties to the police officer:

a) To uphold and enforce the law impartially, and to protect life, liberty, property, human rights, and dignity of the members of the public;

b) To promote and preserve public order;

c) To protect internal security, to prevent and control terrorist activities, breaches of communal harmony, militant activities and other situations affecting internal security;

d) To protect public properties including roads, railways, bridges, vital installations and establishments etc. against acts of vandalism, violence or any kind of attack;

e) To prevent crimes, and to reduce the opportunities for the commission of crimes through their own preventive action and measures as well as by aiding and cooperating with other relevant agencies in implementing due measures for prevention of crimes;

f) to accurately register all complaints brought to them by a complainant or his representative, in person or received by post, email or other means, and take prompt follow up action thereon, after duly acknowledging the receipt of the complainant;

g) to register and investigate all cognizable offences coming to their notice through such complaints or otherwise, duly supplying a copy of the First Information Report to the complaint, and where appropriate, to apprehend offenders, and extend requisite assistance in the prosecution of offenders;

h) to create and maintain a feeling of security in the community and as far as possible prevent conflicts and promote amity;

i) to provide, as far responders, all possible help to people in situations arising out of natural or man-made disasters, and to provide active assistance to other agencies in relief and rehabilitation measures;
j) to aid individual, who are in danger of physical harm to their person or property, and to provide necessary help and afford relief to people in distress situation;
k) to facilitate orderly movement of people and vehicles, and to control and regulate traffic on roads and highways;
l) to collect intelligence relating to matters affecting public peace, and all kinds of crimes including social offences, communalism, extremism, terrorism and other matters relating to national security, and disseminate the same to all concerned agencies, besides acting, as appropriate on it themselves and
m) to take charge, as a police officer on duty, of all unclaimed property and take action for their safe custody and disposal in accordance with the procedure prescribed.

Social responsibilities of the Police are follows:

Every police officer shall:
a) behave with the members of the public with due courtesy and decorum, particularly so on dealing with senior citizens, women and children;
b) guide and assist members of the public, particularly senior citizens, women and children, the poor and indigent and the physically or mentally challenged individuals, who are found in helpless condition on the streets or other public places or otherwise need help and protection;
c) provide all requisite assistance to victims of crime and of road accidents, and in particular ensure that they are given prompt medical aid, irrespective of medico-legal formalities, and facilitate their other compensation and other legal claims;
d) ensure that in all situations, especially during conflict between communities, classes, castes and political groups, the conduct of the police is always governed by the principles of impartiality and human rights norms, with special attention of protection of weaker sections including minorities;
e) prevent harassment of women and children in public places and public transport, including stalking, making objectionable gestures, signs, remarks or harassment caused in any way;
f) render all requisite assistance to the members of the public, particularly women, children and the poor and indigent persons, against criminal exploitation by any persons against criminal exploitation by any person or organised group; and

g) arrange for legally permissible sustenance and shelter to every person in custody and making known to all such persons provisions of legal aid schemes available from the Government and also inform the authorities concerned in this regard (Model Police Act,2006 Chapter VI, Sections 57,58).

The recommendations of the National Police Commission regarding the code of conduct for the Inspectors General of Police which is accepted by the Government of India and circulated to all state governments is as follows:

1. the police must bear faithful allegiance to the Constitution of India and respect and uphold the rights of the citizens as guaranteed by it;

2. the police should not question the propriety of necessity of any law duly enacted. They should enforce the law firmly and impartially without fear, or favour, malice or vindictiveness;

3. the police should recognize and respect the limitation of their powers and functions. They should not usurp or even seem to usurp the functions of the judiciary and sit in judgement on cases to avenge individuals and punish the guilty;

4. in securing the observance of law or in maintaining order, the police should as far as practicable, use the methods of persuasion, advice and warning. When the application of force becomes inevitable only the irreducible minimum of force required in the circumstances should be used;

5. the prime duty of the police is to prevent crime and disorder and the police must recognize that the test of their efficiency is the absence of both and not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them;

6. the police must recognize that they are members of the public, with the only difference that in the interest of the society and on its behalf they are employed to give full time attention to duties which are normally incumbent on every citizen to perform;

7. the police should realize that the efficient performance of their duties will be dependent on the extent of ready cooperation that they receive from the public.
This, in turn, will depend on their ability to secure public approval of their conduct and actions and to earn and retain public respect and confidence;

8. the police should always keep the welfare of people in mind and be sympathetic and considerate towards them. They should always be ready to offer individual service and friendship and render necessary assistance to all without regard to their wealth and/or social standing;

9. the police should always place duty before self, should maintain calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule and should be ready to sacrifice their lives in protecting those of others;

10. the police should always be courteous and well mannered; they should be dependable and impartial; they should possess dignity and courage; and should cultivate character and the trust of the people;

11. integrity of the highest order is the basis of the prestige of the police. Recognising this, the police must keep their private lives scrupulously clean, develop self-restraint and be truthful and honest in thought and deed, in both personal and official life, so that the public may regard them as exemplary citizens;

12. the police should recognize that their full utility to the State is best ensured only by maintaining a high standard of discipline, faithful performance of duties in accordance with law and implicit obedience to the lawful directions of commanding ranks and absolute loyalty to the force and by keeping themselves in the state of constant training;

13. as members of a secular, democratic state the police should strive continually to rise above personal prejudices and promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood among all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women and disadvantaged sections of the society.

(Police Organization in India, CHRI,2008:26-28)

**Kolkata Police in recent times**

The Kolkata Police has set for itself a mission that it seeks to achieve. The aims of the Kolkata Police as shown in its website are as follows: First, obedience to the Constitution of India; second, respect for the dignity of all those they protect; third, compassion; fourth, fairness and sixth uncompromising personal and
institutional integrity. The day-to-day policing of Kolkata is the responsibility of 48 local police stations, each under the supervision of one of the 5 units into which Kolkata is divided. The Kolkata Police has strength of about 26000 personnel and covers a territorial jurisdiction of about 89.55 sq.km. and 34.55 sq.km.water. In addition there are specialized units like the Detective Department, Head Quarter Force, Special Branch, Enforcement Branch, Traffic Police, Reserve Force, Wireless Branch, Security Control, Armed Police, North and South Suburban Division, South and South Suburban Division, East and East Suburban Division, Central Division and Port Division which support the local police stations in their endeavors to fight crime (See www.kolkatapolice.org/Departments.asp visited on 20.6.10). It operates through 48 Police Stations which are under five divisions namely: 1. North and north Suburban Division: Shyampukur, Jorabagan, Port, Burttolla, Amherst Street, Cossipore, Chitpore, Tala, Sinthi; 2. Central Division: Burrabazaar, Posta, Jorasanko, Hare Street, Boubazaar, Girish Park, Muchipara, Taltalla, New Market; 3. Eastern Suburban Division: Manicktalla, Ultadanga, Beliaghata, Phoolbagan, Narkeldanga, Entally, Tangra, Beniapukur, Topsy; 4. South and South Suburban Division: Park Street, Shakespeare Sarani, Hastings, Maidan, Ballygunje, Gariahat, Bhowanipur, Kalighat, Tollygunje, Lake, Charu Market, Alipore, New Alipore, Karaya, Chetla; 5. Port Division: North South Port, West Port, Garden reach, Watgunje, Taratolla, Ekbalpur.

Unlike Kolkata, cities like Hyderabad has 80, Bangalore 88, Chennai 89, and Mumbai 83 police stations. The total strength of the Civil Police in Kolkata is 15987, Chennai 8834, Hyderabad 9003, Bangalore 44579, and Mumbai 38340. The strength of the armed police in Kolkata is 7132, Bangalore14359, Hyderabad 2281. The ratio of officers to constables( DG to ASI: Head constable and constable) that is teeth to tail ratio in Kolkata is 1:4, while for Bangalore it is 1:8, Chennai 1:9, Hyderabad 1:7, Mumbai 1:4 and in Vishakhapatnem it is 1:10. 41. (Ibid.: 35-37) Again the sanctioned strength of Civil police for Kolkata is 15829 personnel, which for Bangalore is 44579 and for Mumbai is 38340. (BPR&D, 2006:35).

The administration of the Kolkata police is carried out through the following personnel: 1 Commissioner; 4 Additional Commissioners; 3 Joint Commissioners; 19 Deputy Commissioners; 65 Assistant Commissioners; 391 Inspectors; 2518 Sub Inspectors; 2633 Assistant Sub Inspectors; 13 Head
Constables; and 13659 Constables (BPR&D 2008:69). The Mounted Police of the Kolkata Police was formed in 1803 and in its earliest form it had only two horses. The Calcutta Mounted Police can proudly claim to be the most ancient in the world. Now it has a sanctioned number of 98 horses. It was set up to carry messages but now it performs a diverse array of functions ranging from controlling sporting crowd, maintaining order in the Kolkata Maidan and giving proud performances in parades. Recently the government has allotted an area of 75000 sq.ft in the Maidan for the training of these horses. Moreover the Kolkata Police also has a dog squad, which was set up in the year 1971. The government has sanctioned Rs.1, 80,000 for improved training and food of the dogs in the squad in the year 2003. There are 16 dogs in the squad (Sengupta 2006: 69-71).

Posts like Head Constables and Naiks cease to exist and were straight promoted to the Assistant sub Inspector’s rank. Only Naiks will have to clear a test before getting promoted. Again the ASIs posted in outposts can register FIRs and start preliminary investigations. There is also a Women Police Force, headed by an Assistant Commissioner of Police. The main functions of this section are to assist the arrest of women accused and executing search warrants for rescue of kidnapped and abducted women and children; to assist in the enforcement of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act; to escort women and juvenile offenders; to guard female prisoners in hospitals and police lock-ups; to investigate cases relating to crime against women; to assist control of demonstration in which women participate and other law & order duties. All the police stations in Kolkata Police has been provided with women police personnel.

The Kolkata Police and Community Policing:

Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee in his tenure as the Home Minister of West Bengal introduced the concept of community policing in Kolkata Police. He wanted to improve the public image of the police to curb crime and maintain law and order. Though all the police stations were asked to form a coordination committee comprising of senior and respectable citizens of the area over the last couple of years the local police stations have failed to call a meeting of the committee. The Kolkata police have initiated quite a few programmes like Anti Drugs Day, Friendship Cup, Inter School Football, Nabadisha (for street children), Prabaha (blood donation camp), Bravery and Honesty Awards, Counseling Centres, Claude Martin Fund (for the
release and relief of prisoners) and Poor Box, Traffic Awareness Programmes, Helplines for the elderly, medical helplines etc. to uphold the values of Community Policing. The police officers in the city of Kolkata are providing help when a) people lose their way, b) medical assistance sought by people in their helplines, c) senior citizen's helpline, d) relaying or transferring messages to the right department. The Kolkata police also keeps a check on the public activities during festivities like Durga Puja, English New Year, Holi, Diwali and Christmas with complete élan. The Kolkata Police have selected five young men for a visit to the prestigious football clubs in England after their participation in the Kolkata Police Friendship cup. They have also been provided with warm clothes for their trip to England. Community policing by people friendly officers, the new trend set by Kolkata Police, is found at its best at the Amherst Police Station where locals can find the best gymnasiums of the city located on its premises. It is also the best-maintained police station in the city.

The Kolkata Police and ICTs

The Kolkata Police has made a smooth transition from a low technology police force to a high tech one. In recent years New Technologies have been introduced as an aid to police work in Kolkata. The West Bengal State Wide Area Network (WBSWAN), inaugurated on 17th August 2001, has been envisaged as the Information Highway as the backbone through which e-governance activities of the government will be undertaken. G.D.Gautama, Principal Secretary of the Department of Information Technology, Government of West Bengal, stated that “the West Bengal Police is using IT as an effective tool for administration. More than 400 police stations are connected across the state.” The Kolkata Traffic Police is distributed in eleven Traffic Guards. Each guard is headed by two Inspectors who regulate traffic with the help of Sergeants, JCOs, Head Constables, Constables and Home Guards. The Traffic Guards are in direct liaison with the Traffic Control Rooms. The Traffic Computer Cell digitizes all traffic related data for analysis and action. All pending cases need to be checked by the computer cell before releasing a traffic case. It also gives information regarding all transport vehicles outside Kolkata. The Software Traffic Information and Infrastructure System maintain records of jurisdiction of traffic guards, traffic beats, traffic restriction, prosecution, collection of revenue, road condition, position of manhole and actions taken against encroachment
by hawkers. Eleven close circuit televisions (CCTV) have been installed at major
crossroads controlled by automatic / Manual Signalling Systems. Count Down Timers
with signals have been installed at various crossing for better control and road
management. Solar studs are used as road dividers to prevent accidents and collision

The city police has undertaken comprehensive traffic management project through
sophisticated gadgets to ensure easy flow of traffic and nab offenders who violate
traffic rules. The project would be undertaken in two phases. The state has allotted 2.5
crores for the first phase and a sum of 5 crores would be raised from corporate houses
for the second phase. On 18.10.2007, after taking over as Police Commissioner, Mr.
Gautam Mohan Chakrabarti promised to improve Kolkata’s traffic system.
Accordingly the traffic signal network will be monitored on the basis of a
computerized calculation of vehicles passing through the intersection. Cameras and
road censors will be installed at forty two selected crossings. Moreover there will be a
CCTV based detection system for those who flout traffic rules. The registration
number of vehicles will be recorded and flashed. A GIS based vehicle navigation,
distress management system and area traffic management system are in the anvil to be
introduced since January 2008. Mr. K Harirajan, Additional Commissioner of Police
III remarked that coordination will improve with the introduction of signal monitoring
based on real time data from the sensors. Hidden cameras would be positioned and
vigil would be intensified at intersections like Sinthee, Shyambazaar 5 point crossing,
Park Circus 7 point crossing, AJC Bose Road and D L. Khan crossing and Rashbehari
Avenue crossing. The drive when carried out on an experimental basis found that the
number of people who flout traffic rules at night was amazingly high. The Kolkata
police has also introduced simputers which have a multiple applications ranging from
data collection to micro banking and even printing. Their use will in likelihood
revolutionize traffic management. According to Manoj Verma, DC Traffic, “this will
revolutionize the time taken to manually record offences by 50% and issue receipts
against seizure of licences. Besides, this system will track down official offenders.”
The Traffic Police at Kolkata has introduced a system of SMS service, developed by
Kolkata based SMS Infosy’s. This system allows users to send in their SMS at the
police head-quarter based servers. The Kolkata police has launched an SMS service
with the help of which harassed citizens can lodge complaints about errant taxi
drivers. In addition the citizens can also avail information about traffic congestion at
important roads if they SMS: TRF to 75756. The city police also hopes to receive other complaints through SMS in the future if this service proves to be a success. The traffic Police is also trying to introduce solar power traffic signals and display boards to check emission of greenhouse gases.\textsuperscript{14}

The Kolkata Police has a Wireless Branch headed by a Deputy Commissioner of Police and is actively trying to keep a check on the activities of the local police stations as well as law and order violation in the area through the Radio Flying Squad (RFS). The number of RFS vans has been increased to 40 in the year 2005-2006. The Wireless Department does mention that, “its primary function is to ensure rapid transmission of information on all matters in the city and its suburbs to headquarters for immediate actions. A fleet of Radio Flying Squad Vehicles patrol the streets of Kolkata round the clock for this purpose.”\textsuperscript{URL40} The Kolkata Police official website also provides email id of all police officials from Police Commissioner to the local police stations to receive feedback from the people. Crimes can also be reported through the Internet as long as urgent response is not required. For immediate response phone calls can be made to the Control Room.\textsuperscript{URL41}

Due to threats of terrorist attacks, the Kolkata Police plan to ban mobile phones at the Lalbazaar police headquarters and create a separate entry for visitors to ensure fool proof security.\textsuperscript{15} Kolkata Police also plans to install 'face recognition system' (FRS) as part of its long-term preparedness against organized and terrorist activities. Top Kolkata Police officials feel that the system would not only prevent crime, but will also help in detecting complicated cases. The face recognition system captures faces of individuals at random from different angles. What follows is biometrics: digital analysis using cameras or scanners of biological characteristics such as facial structure, fingerprints and iris patterns to match profiles in databases of people.\textsuperscript{16} The Central Detective Training School has decided to impart scientific training to police officers of 11 states including those of West Bengal and Delhi. As an alternative of third degree torture in police custody police officials will be given special scientific training to extract required information from the arrested persons by use of brain mapping and narco analysis test which are the part of ‘Advanced Course of Scientific Information’ designed by the teachers of the school. The process of conducting interrogation in police custody will also change. Seven officers from Kolkata Police and nine from West Bengal Police have been selected for receiving
training from experts from the school. Sleuths will also be imparted explosive related training. A special course will also developed on terrorist crime and post blast investigation for the first time in West Bengal. Special lessons would be imparted on economic crime and human rights.\textsuperscript{17}

**The Kolkata Police and Crime Structure in Kolkata**

In the last two years the highest incidence of crime is in the Karaya Police Station area where the Chief Minister lives. Karaya P.S recorded 16 and 11 cases of burglary in 2004 and 2005 respectively.\textsuperscript{18} A study by the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health suggests that incidence of domestic violence has risen almost 20\% over the last five years in the city. Contrary to the belief that domestic violence is limited to the lower classes, the phenomenon has struck firm roots among the city's affluent sections.\textsuperscript{19} Again incidences of sex related crimes committed by male minors have increased sharply over the last year and 80\% of under trial male minors, recently brought for trial to the Juvenile Justice Board in Salt Lake are convicted with rape or attempt to rape. A large number of cases are reported to the board where the victim and the offender are both minors.\textsuperscript{20} Kidnapping and abductions have alarmingly risen in the past five years in Kolkata suburbs and beyond. The State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB) records show that 1133 abduction and kidnapping cases were registered across 18 districts of the state barring Kolkata in the year 2005 which shows a rise by 52 since 2004.\textsuperscript{21} The state recorded 1673 cases of rape in 2006 which is the second highest in the country after Madhya Pradesh.\textsuperscript{22} A recent survey (2006) of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS III) found that among the metros Kolkata stands second to Chennai as a city of wife beaters with 26.7\% of women in the city being subjected to physical and sexual torture by their husbands. 40.3\%of women in the state of west Bengal are subjected to domestic abuse.\textsuperscript{23} A survey (2006) sponsored by the state social welfare department and UNICEF revealed that crime against women in the state of West Bengal has witnessed a record 69\% increase in the past years while the country saw only 10\% increase.\textsuperscript{24} Apart from that the Annual report of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Crime in India 2006 mentioned that there has been an increase of 15.6\% in the number of reported crime in the state of West Bengal numbering from 1164 in the year 2005 to 1346 in the year 2006.\textsuperscript{25}

However the steps taken by the Kolkata Police in recent years for the preservation of the natural environment deserves mention. The Kolkata Police is taking steps to
check fuel emission from automobiles to reduce greenhouse effect. It has also prohibited the use of plastic bags in public places to prevent soil pollution. It has provided a helping hand to the West Bengal Pollution control Board in all its endeavors. It enforces the rules and regulations of the WBPCB regarding animal slaughter and the noise levels of loudspeakers and firecrackers. “The Handbook of Social and environmental Laws for Police Officer” published by the Kolkata police in 1998 brings to light the plans and programmes of the Kolkata Police for creating sustainable communities. City cops are also being given training to deal offences which fall under violation of Wildlife Protection Act. Since skins and ivory from the Sunderbans and Jaldapara are smuggled through the city, the officers are always in communication with the chief wildlife warden, state forest departments and NGOs. An increase in the number of pirate attacks on the rivers of South 24 Parganas has prompted police to set up a dedicated task force to tackle the problem.

What is no less important is that the Kolkata Police maintains a specific web page on Computer and Internet Related Crime, which contains a variety of information about dos and donts and tips on cyber crime for the general public and those affected. There is also a Computer and Cyber Crime Cell to handle cases arising out of the abuse of cyberspace. The officers of the city's cyber crime cell think international collaboration would help crack internet based crimes. They have complained that their efforts to solve cyber crimes are being thwarted by lack of response from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) outside India. Kolkata's cyber cops, all new in handling criminals in the virtual world, complain that inter country treaties or collaboration are required so that domain providers outside India can be formally approached to trace experienced cyber criminals. The cyber crime cell of the Kolkata police is not computerized and is run by two officers. Nasscom has come forward to offer its expertise to effectively police cyber crimes and other white collar offences involving the IT sector. Mr. Gyanwant Singh, DC/DD, said if not in collaboration with Nasscom, Kolkata police would set up a laboratory with state government funding. Cops of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) will also be trained policing cyber crimes and other white collar crimes involving the IT sector. The training will involve installation of a cyber crime laboratory to train the CID's cyber cops. A cyber cell has already been set up in CID, which is awaiting the posting of officers for its operation to begin.
The Challenges before the Kolkata Police

The recent upsurge in the rate crimes ranging from the traditional to the modern electronic crimes has thrown a challenge to the police in India. To check the increase in pollution level is another arduous task of the police, which it does in cooperation with the pollution control board. Sophisticated white-collar crimes like misuse of credit cards is another serious offence to cater to. Disaster management is another responsibility of the police. The police is needed to be given scientific training to help the people in needs of crisis during natural catastrophes like floods, earthquakes and cyclones. The Kolkata Police is still lagging behind in respect to its infrastructure. As said before, the Kolkata Police is proudly celebrating 150 years of its service to the city of Kolkata as a separate Commissionerate. On the occasion the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mr.Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee had urged the Kolkata police to give the city a modern traffic management system, complete with proper signal systems at the end of the year long celebrations. He said that the police should prepare themselves to combat terrorism. He advised the Kolkata Police to be corruption free, imbibe professionalism and shun nexus with criminals. The Commissioner of Kolkata Police on the eve of the beginning of 150 years celebrations said that “the time has come to shift gears and we hope to become a competent force in the near future. We should be a technically savvy and transparent force, with a friendly force. My message to my officers is "do your work well and do it well." The Kolkata Police has informed the court that it lacks the infrastructure for checking inflammable articles. The smart card which was meant to plug revenue leakage suffered by the city traffic police remains largely unused due to the absence of simputers. Nothing can be done to stop the offender. The cards are read digitally followed by encrypted punching. The large part of the traffic police's revenue is made up from fine collection. However traffic police officers pocket fines without issuing receipts and turn a blind eye to certain road traffic offences. The Kolkata Police is still not using the Geographic Information System (GIS) while cities like Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Goa, Trivandrum, Chennai and Delhi police forces use customized GIS. The Kolkata Police should also take initiatives like the Sahayata to help family members tide over their differences as an effort to improve police public relations. Unlike Mumbai Police the Kolkata Police has not come forward to implement the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 till date. Former Commissioner of Police, Mr.Prasun
Mukherjee said in a department involving law and order that it was difficult to share at least 70% of the information. He said that 'the basic structure of the police force is something I can share. But I can't share strategy or some other vital information, which is required for investigations'.

Again some of the buildings which house the local thanas are in deplorable conditions. The rooms at the back of the Park Street P.S which incidentally is responsible for maintaining law and order in one of the most upscale parts of the city has been declared dangerous by the state Public Works Department. Similarly certain parts of the second floor which was carved out of the Burrabazaar P.S in 1999 shows water seeping in, during monsoons. At Jorabagan P.S, snakes and insects crawl out of the dilapidated palace. The Commissioner admitted this crisis and remarked that renovation or shifting is problematic as there is a fund crunch at present. The Bengal Amateur Radio Society which works with the city police to trace missing persons during festivals may not do so any more as sleuths are indifferent to it. Before the 'Pujas' they are spoken to but after the festivals are over they are not offered any help.

3.5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

This chapter has attempted to trace the history of Kolkata Police from its origin to the present years. There is no denying the fact that this is an ardent attempt to try to gauge the rich and eventful history of Kolkata police. The Kolkata Police has to take up the challenge of making the city a better abode for its dwellers. The Chief Minister Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee on the occasion of the open session of the Kolkata police Association’s 17th Annual General Meeting at Lalbazaar admitted that “eve teasing and other crime against women are on the rise in Kolkata and this is a cause of concern.” Fortunately, the recent developments undertaken by the Kolkata Police set it a mission to establish itself as an efficient police force. As part of the modernization programme Kuldeip Singh, Joint Commissioner of Police (Administration) said that 27 police stations from all divisions of the force will be provided with five computers, a printer, a scanner and a photocopier each. Complaints will be registered electronically and printouts would be handed to complainants for which four to five officers from each of the thanas would be imparted basic training to handle computers. The authorities are keen to improve the online link between the
headquarters and the police stations for easy flow of orders and quick mobilization of forces. The rising crime graph in South Kolkata has prompted to split the south division into two segments. Four new police stations will set up taking the number to 52. The south east division will have six police stations and a new south east division will supervise New Alipore, Chetla, Charu Market and a portion of Lake police station. Again the Kolkata Police is planning to split Maniktala and Amherst Street police stations. The foundation stone of a police training School has been laid to set up a high tech training centre within a year. This will help the The Kolkata police to modernize its crime development centre to international standards. Moreover the city police brass has started a stress management course for the cops. More than 600 policemen are trained by expert in the ways of reduce stress. They are made to practice yoga and pranayam and physical exercise everyday under the guidance of expert psychologists and physical instructors at the city police’s body guard line in Alipore. The Kolkata Police has set up two Anti – insurgency squads to combat militancy and to deal with the consequences of terror strike. The members of the squads have been trained in handling of sophisticated modern weapons and with the technique to conduct rescue operations during terror strike or natural disasters.

However in comparison to cities like Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad, New Delhi and Bangalore it is meagre. Yet, it would not be wide of the mark to state that the Kolkata Police is trying its best to get modernized. Nevertheless the technological and ideological modernization can only be successful if it fulfills the aim for which it has been brought into action. Therefore it needs to be mentioned that the development and up gradation of the Kolkata Police can and should try to seek the mission it aims to uphold. Police technologies and policies can only prove effective if they bring about efficiency and speed in the functioning of the police force. In this chapter I have sought to trace the history of Kolkata Police, its development over the years and its activities pertaining to community policing, crime, and new technologies. We have thus discussed the challenges that the Kolkata police is facing in recent times. However in the analysis, empirical dimension will show how far this modernization has made the Kolkata Police more people friendly and proactive.
1. **Information Technology (IT)**, as defined by the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA), is "the study, design, development, implementation, support or management of computer-based information systems, particularly software applications and computer hardware." The term *information technology* is sometimes said to have been coined by Jim Domsic of Michigan in November 1981. The Oxford English Dictionary, however, in defining information technology as "the branch of technology concerned with the dissemination, processing, and storage of information, esp. by means of computers".

2. **e-Governance** (short for electronic governance, also known as e-gov, digital government, online government or transformational government) is a diffused neologism used to refer to the use of information and communication technology to provide and improve government services, transactions and interactions with citizens, businesses, and other arms of government. The primary delivery models of e-Government can be divided into: Government-to-Citizen or Government-to-Customer (G2C), Government-to-Business (G2B), Government-to-Government (G2G) and Government-to-Employees (G2E). Within each of these interaction domains, four kinds of activities take place: 1. Pushing information over the Internet, e.g: regulatory services, general holidays, public hearing schedules, issue briefs, notifications, etc. 2. Two-way communications between the agency and the citizen, a business, or another government agency. In this model, users can engage in dialogue with agencies and post problems, comments, or requests to the agency, 3. Conducting transactions, e.g: lodging tax returns, applying for services and grants and 4. Governance, e.g: online polling, voting, and campaigning. (See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/e-governance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/e-governance) visited on 12.12.2010).

3. **Thagis**: An Indian network of secret fraternities who were engaged in murdering and robbing travellers, operating from the 17th century (possibly as early as 13th century) to the 19th century whose members were known as Thugs. Thagi groups practice large-scale robbery and murder of travellers. Their *modus operandi* was to befriend unsuspecting travellers and win their trust; when the travellers allowed the thugs to join them, the group of thugs killed them at a suitable place and time before robbing them. Their method of killing was very often strangulation. Usually two or three thugs were used to strangle one traveller. The thugs hid the corpses, often by burying them or by throwing them into wells. (See Chattopadhyay, 2000)

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