Chapter 4
STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

The Indian Police System has three distinct features. Firstly the police are organised, maintained and directed by the several States of the Indian Union. The Central Government has some police agencies under its authority. Secondly the Indian Police System is horizontally stratified. Thirdly the police in each state are divided into armed and unarmed branches. This is a fundamental division. From these basic characteristics we know how a member of other ancillary features of the police administration, which make the state police organisation diverse and varied which their personnel, paramilitaristic and non specialization. The historical legacies of the colonial police can legitimately be held responsible for these characteristics, which have emerged and hardened with the passage of time and exigencies of situations.

The Police organisation in Indian States is primarily governed by the Police Act of 1861, which was based on the recommendations of the Police Commission of 1860. The Police Act of 1861 envisages two-tier system of State and district police, and the State police as an executive arm of the State, operationally under the command of the Director-General of Police and District Superintendent of Police in the State, but otherwise functioning under the overall supervision, direction and control of the State Government and the Civilian District Magistrates and Collectors in the field.

The latest structure and organisation of Indian Police was reorganised in 1950 when the Constitution of India started functioning. Police and other services allied to police fall under the jurisdictional control of Home Ministry headed by the Minister of Cabinet Rank.

The VII Schedule List II of the Constitution of India places police as a State subject. However, the VII Schedule List I imposes on the Union Government several
responsibilities with regard to policing which have a bearing on the State Police also. These are seen in maintenance of the Intelligence Bureau, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Recruitment and Management of IPS, Central Institutions for Police Training, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and Forensic Science. Police cannot be an isolated problem since there are sometimes problems which have inter-state ramifications which implies a coordinating role for Union in view of the Quasi Federal nature of the Constitution.

Article 355 Part XVIII of the Constitution spells out "It shall be the duty of Union to protect every state against external aggression and internal disturbances and to ensure that the Government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution". In actual practice while it is essentially the State's responsibility to maintain law and order, the Union Government generally steps in by providing forces i.e., Para Military and Armed Forces, Border Security Forces (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and Assam Rifles etc.

Apart from this, the Centre is also providing monetary assistance to the States whether as grant or loan for modernising their police force. Broadly speaking, as summoned up by the National Police Commission (NPC). The Union Government performs the following duties in the sphere of police which have direct or indirect bearing on State Police functioning.

I. Recruiting and managing the Indian Police Services;
II. Operating the Intelligence, the Central Bureau of Investigation and other Central Police Organisations;
III. Maintaining Armed Police Units and Para-Military Forces in the Centre which among other things, assist the civil power;
IV. Maintaining a Directorate Police Wireless to provide the State Police Organisations an independent channel of Communication;
V. Maintaining of Police Computers to ensure the modernisation of State Police Organisations with the application of Computer Technology;

VI. Providing institutions and organisations for research, training and rendering of scientific aids to investigation;

VII. Enacting laws to ensure a uniform Criminal Justice System in the country;

VIII. Coordinating the activities of various State Police Organisations;

IX. Rendering advice and assistance to the States to maintain internal peace by the Centre;

X. Providing financial assistance to the State Police Organisations and monitoring its utilisation.

I. STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION OF POLICE IN ANDHRA PRADESH

The historical background of the Andhra Pradesh Police may be traced to antiquity and tradition. The Administrative setup to which the police is accountable, deserves to be mentioned in brief so that the succeeding study on the role and functions of the various police units can be appreciated in the proper perspective.

II. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The Andhra Pradesh State Administration, headed by an elected Council of Ministers, is under the overall control of the Chief Minister. Elections are generally held once in five years in the State. The last General Elections were held in 1994, the Congress party was defeated, and the Telugu Desam Party captured power. Sri. N.T.Rama Rao took office on 12th December, 1994 as Chief Minister of the State. In August 1995, this Ministry has fallen down, causing a political chaos within Telugu Desam Party. Mr.Nara Chandrababu Naidu became Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

The Police and other services under the Government of Andhra Pradesh fall under the jurisdictional control of Home Ministry. It is decided by the Ministers of the Cabinet
rank who generally No. 2 in precedence of the Chief Minister if there is Deputy Chief Minister. The Ministry of Home Affairs mainly deal with matters relating to maintenance of peace and public tranquillity, law and order and the manning and administration of public service operate within the State. But the Chief Minister continued to retain hold over the subjects dealing with ‘Services’ (dealing with IAS & IPS) and ‘Law and Order’.

The Chief Minister and his Cabinet run the administration of the State through the Secretariat, although they are accountable to the people through the elected body of the Legislative Assembly. Laws are enacted only by the Legislature and all administrative expenditure has to be voted and dealt by them. The Secretariat comprising of career bureaucrats and clerical staff, translate Legislative decisions and policy into administrative action.

The Secretariat is headed by the Chief Secretary to the Government, who is generally the seniormost I.A.S. Officer of the State, though in the recent past, this principle has not been strictly adhered to. He is the controlling authority over the functioning of all departments, and is also the cadre controlling authority for the I.P.S. Officers allotted to the State. He has a major say in the matter of transfers and promotions of I.P.S. Officers and the proposals of the Director-General of Police are routed through him to the Chief Minister in this matter.

The Police subject itself is dealt with by the Home Department. The practice is to have one I.A.S. Officer and one IPS officer in this department. Earlier, there used to be an I.A.S. Secretary and an I.P.S. Special or Joint Secretary. Home, currently, a senior I.P.S. Officer of the rank of Director-General of Police, is the Principal Secretary and an I.A.S. Officer is the Joint Secretary of Home. There are two other Deputy Secretaries. The Home Department deals with other breaches like Fire Services, Prisons, Printing and Stationery apart from the Police.
The Police System is a part of the wider criminal justice system; but, at the same time, it is also treated as a department under the State Government and the subject to all the restrictions and limitations which any Government Department is subjected to. It has been felt, however, by many that the police is not a department but a force and that the Head of that force should be given wider powers than given to him at present instead of treating him merely as a Head of Department, however big it may be. As it stands, the Police Department is answerable to the Law but has to depend upon both the Home and Finance Departments for the various financial and administrative sanctions needed for more effective functioning. An anomalous situation prevails whereby important decisions affecting the modernisation or strengthening of the police force are not taken by the Head of the Force but by the other agencies who cannot be expected to have perception and appreciation of the needs of the situation that the Head of the Force can have.

The Police Department is the biggest department of the State Government by virtue of its strength. There are over 71,000 officers and men (Total strength of Civil, Armed and Andhra Pradesh Special Police (APSP) is given in Annexure-II). The State is divided into 24 police districts. The police districts are further divided into 139 subdivisions and then divided into 363 circles spread over 1479 police stations and 114 outposts in Andhra Pradesh (See Annexure-III).

III. ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP OF POLICE IN ANDHRA PRADESH :

The Police Department in Andhra Pradesh is under the general control of the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police (DG & IGP) appointed by the State Government. He is assisted by Additional Director-Generals of Police (Addl. DGP), Inspector-Generals of Police (IGP) and Deputy Inspector-Generals of Police (Dy. IGP). The State has been divided into eight ranges each under Deputy Inspector-General of Police. The twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad (Hyderabad City Range) are under the Commissioner of Police. Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam cities are also under the Commissioner of Police. The Director-General and Inspector-General of Police are
assisted by Directors (Communications, State Crime Research Bureau and Prosecution). Organisational Chart of Police Department is given in Annexure IV.

IV. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE AND HIS OFFICE:

The office of the Director-General of Police (called Chief Office by the Policemen) is the apex unit of the force. As laid down in the Police Act IV the head of the force is called Inspector-General of Police. There has been a change in the rank making him DGP but for legal requirements he is still being designated DG & IGP.5

The DGP is responsible for the overall control and command of his force and his duties and responsibilities have been spelt out both by the Police Act and by the Andhra Pradesh Police Manual (APPM) in detail. It goes into greater depth in this regard as it is a statutory manual for the Police Officers in their day to day working. Order No.32 of this Manual deals at length on the duties of the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police.6

For the discharge of multifarious duties, it is essential that the Director-General of Police has an adequate number of staff of officers and ministerial assistants. The Director General & Inspector-General of Police has, on date, five, Addl. DGPs and nineteen Special IGPs and twenty four Deputy Inspectors of Police to assist him. Each one of these officers deals with several sections of ministerial staff relating to their subjects. The purpose of the large office is two fold: (I) to assist the Director & Inspector General of Police in his role of advisor to the Government relating to the administration of the force. (II) to monitor the needs of the districts and other units regarding budget allotments, clothing, equipment, transport, communication etc., and to process these needs into a set of consolidated proposals and obtain Government sanctions, subject to budgetary limitations and priorities.
The DGP is the head of the force and in that capacity he is the advisor to the Government on all matters concerning the force. His responsibility of command and leadership, have already been spelt out earlier. The degree of accountability of the Police Force through the DGP to various agencies in the Government needs to be seen at this stage. In an elected form of Government, the people through their representatives, are the masters and any administrative action has to be accounted for to them through their representatives in State Legislative Assembly. However, in actual practice, the accountability of the DGP is not directly to the representatives of the people. It is the ruling party through its Home or Chief Minister which is accountable to the House on Police matters. On any matters relating to the Police coming up in the House, the Government obtains a detailed report or a note from the Director-General of Police and based on any problem, the concerned Minister replies to the questions raised in the House regarding any issue on the Police Force. The Police in thus accountable to the Government and through it only to the representatives of the people.

However, this accountability of the Director-General of Police, to the Government, represented by the Chief Minister and his Cabinet, is also partly direct and partly indirect. As the advisor on the Police Administration the Director-General of Police briefs the Chief Minister almost everyday. The Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Intelligence also briefs the Chief Minister sometimes directly or sometimes through the DGP on matters relating to Law and Order. Similarly, the Superintendents of Police of Districts or the Deputy Inspector-Generals of Police of Ranges also brief the Chief Minister or the Home Minister, whenever specially asked for. Otherwise they are accountable to the DGP only. This interaction is constant and continuous, as well as direct: but when it comes to a question of obtaining of reports, the Director-General of Police has to follow certain established procedural conventions. The normal views and reports from the Police are sent to the Home Department or the Chief Secretary to Government and it is “processed” in the Secretariat before being forwarded to the concerned Minister. As a matter of fact, whenever anything of importance occurs in any part of the State, such as, serious rioting, breach of peace, natural calamities, sensational
murders and so on, the Chief Minister, the Home Minister, if there is one, and the Chief Secretary are kept informed through wireless messages sent through the Police Communications Branch. Subsequently the Director-General of Police is required to follow it up with detailed reports to the Government (through what is officially called proper channel).

He is also accountable to the Finance Department. The DGP has to initiate all proposals relating to increase in manpower purchases of equipment, motor vehicles and so on for financial clearance.

The normal impression is that the Director-General of Police is a powerful officer but a study of the administrative system and the Police system dilutes this impression. It is true that the Director-General of Police appears to take decisions but when these are analysed it is seen that these are not decisions but general recommendations. For instance, the DGP decides that the strength in some Police Stations has to be increased; or that a new Police Station has to be created at some place; or that the Traffic Police should be given more vehicles. It is true that these are decisions to some extent, in the sense that the DGP decides that these things are necessary.

But when it comes to implementation it will be seen that these are not decisions because the Director-General of Police has no administrative or financial authority to order any of them. If the DGP has no power even in such small matters, it is obvious that he cannot decide on major issues like creation of new Police Stations, or increase in the strength of personnel and so on. All that the DGP can do is to decide that something is necessary or required for his force but whether that something can be sanctioned or is considered to be required is, in the final analysis, in the hands of the Home and Finance Secretaries. Thus, it would appear that, on matters relating to major areas of administration the DGP is really not a decision making authority.
If this is the case, the question would crop up whether, at least in his own field viz., prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of Law and Order, the DGP is the decision making authority. It is relevant to look at the legal provision relating to this matter, which reads: Police Officer’s power to investigate cognizable case:-(1) Any Officer-in-charge (OIC) of a Police Station may, without the order of a Magistrate, investigate any cognizable case which a Court having jurisdiction over the local area within the limits of such station would have power to inquire into or try under the provisions of Chapter XIII. (2) No proceeding of a Police Officer in any such case shall at any stage be called in question on the ground that the case was one which such officer was not empowered under this Section to investigate.  

Thus under the Law, it is seen that the functionary who is to decide on registering an offense and issue the First Information Officer is the Station House Officer (SHO). The DGP cannot legally make the SI of police to register a case, although, in practice, it may be that because the Director-General of Police has authority over the SI of Police he can do it. The discretion of setting in motion the process of law is entirely in the hands of the SHO. He is the Officer who issues the First Information Report (FIR) and he is the Officer who is to decide whether there is adequate evidence to prosecute the offender or not. As already mentioned the police is a sub-system of the criminal justice system; therefore it is accountable only to the law and not to the elected or appointed administrators. This is the position as far as crime control aspect of Police work is concerned. 

In matters relating to Law and Order the Director-General of Police certainly has some initiative to take decisions but even in such matters, where time is of the essence, it is again the functionary on the spot who generally decides what is to be done. Where advance intelligence is available this functionary, whether he is the Sub-Inspector of Police or the Superintendent of Police of a District, can assess what he needs by way of manpower or communication or mobility and tries to meet his needs from other units if necessary. At this stage, the Director-General of Police is the decision maker because he
decides on the assessment made by the field officer as well as on the intelligence reports received by the Director General himself as to what is the quantum of force or equipment required to be stationed in any particular area, in advance or otherwise, to bring the situation under control; but having made this decision the Director-General of Police will have to depend on his subordinate officers on the field for decisions and action on the spot to bring the situation under control.

Therefore from a broad analysis of the system as it exists today, inspite of his rank and position in the hierarchy, the DGP would appear to be only an officer who on the one side advises the Government on Police matters and on the otherside guides his own subordinates in the discharge of their functions. Barring these two areas real decision making appears to be in the hands of others; but it is left to the DGP to answer to the administration, to the law and to the people through the Assembly for the commissions and omissions of his men. This places the DGP in very clumsy situation because while he is answerable for many situations or incidents, others who have the powers on decision making are not called upon to account for any situation in the field although they might have rejected the DGP’s proposal for additional manpower or Police Stations in that area. The focus is rightly or wrongly, only on the DGP and his Officers. The administrative system never comes into picture. The Police particularly the leaders of the force in the recent past have been heard blaming the administration openly for the inherent defects in the system. Considering all this, it is time that a total re-appraisal of the whole system of functioning of the hierarchy as far as the Police Force is concerned is made. If an Officer of the rank of the Director-General of Police cannot be given powers to take decisions on matters concerning his own force, within the funds allotted to him, then any discussion regarding effective police functioning will only be academic.

However, despite all this, for a variety of other reasons, the office of the Director-General of Police is still a very powerful institution. Possibly, not even the Police Act of 1861 when it was enacted envisaged this. The DGP has considerable power over the vast force under his command. These powers affect the very day to day life of not only the
policemen but their families. It is within the powers of the DGP to transfer any officer under his command from one place to another. It is within the Director-General’s powers to reward or punish or dismiss from service most officers under his command. These are all areas where the personal life or career of an individual officer can be affected and it is because of these powers inherent in the Director-General of Police that he is still looked upon as a very powerful authority. To a large extent these powers are delegated to other functionaries under the Director-General of Police. For instance, all powers relating to appeals against the punishment orders are delegated to the special IGP Administration and DIG of Police and Superintendents of Police of Districts. Similarly, financial powers have also been delegated to various officers under the Director-General of Police. Powers of transfers are also similarly delegated. Thus, whatever aura of authority sorrows the DGP also surrounds other officers in the department at the Range and District levels. However, the ultimate source of all the powers of DIG of Police and the Superintendents of Police is the DGP as far as administrative decisions are concerned. Even in matters relating to investigations of crime, legally the Station House Officer need not follow anyone’s guidance, advice or orders regarding registering a case and investigating into it. However, in view of the powers described above, of the Superintendent of Police/DIG of Police or DGP which can affect his family’s well being, children’s education and career prospects, to mention a few important areas, the Station House Officer is amenable to instructions from above on matters relating to crime control also.

Thus it will be seen that the Police Administration and the DGP are passing through a phase where there is no clear definition of their decision making powers; even need for ranks, designation, subjects handled, workload and other parameters are not adhered to in the creation of new posts or placements of officers.

V. OTHER UNITS AT THE HEADQUARTERS:

Apart from the Chief Office, the DGP is assisted by several other branch offices in Hyderabad. The most of them are the Crime Branch and the Special Branch. These two
branches are headed by senior I.P.S. Officers of the rank of DIG of Police or above and each branch has several other officers of the rank of Superintendent of Police.

While the investigation and prosecution of offenses is mainly the concern of the Police Station in the State, the Crime Branch functions as an advisory body and also as a statistical research body. Each District Superintendent of Police sends a monthly return on Crime to the Crime Branch which is consolidated in the Police Research Centre, a sub unit of the Crime Branch, and from this the State Government, and the Government of India through the Bureau of Police Research and Development, and fed with statistics of crime. The monthly returns of crime situation in each district are reviewed by the Head of Crime Branch and then by the DGP who gives guidance and instructions to the Superintendents of Police, on handling of the Crime situation in their areas.

While normally only Police Stations register offenses and investigate cases, the Crime Branch takes up any case in the State for investigation by its staff under orders of the DGP. Generally such cases are confined to serious fractional riots and murders, cheating cases, spread over several districts, sensational cases which attract public attention and cases where the local police are unable to make any headway or where their bonfires are suspected due to some allegations. For this purpose, the Crime Branch has a large number of Deputy Superintendents of Police, Inspectors of Police and Sub-Inspectors of Police and it is assisted by a Legal Officer called 'Legal Advisor'.

In recent years keeping in tune with changing technology and scientific advancement, a Computer Centre for the Police has also been established in the State Capital. Apart from storing data of crime and criminals it is also attending to codification of finger prints of criminals and linking them up with the master file on crime and criminals. Officers investigating offenses can get information on a variety of parameters from the Computer Centre within a very short time to assist them in their investigation.
Another branch which assists investigation, is the Forensic Laboratory which has acquired several sophisticated items of equipment and is capable of helping the investigating staff in a number of cases on matters involving toxicology, serology, counterfeiting, ballistics etc. The Finger Print Bureau which is also a part of the Crime Branch has on store a large number of finger prints of criminals and compares chance finger prints found at the scene of the crime with the prints available in the files to determine the identity of criminals.

The Special Branch is another unit. When the State of Andhra Pradesh was formed, the Special Branch and Crime Branch were part of the same unit under one Senior Officer. The main task of the Special Branch at that time was to advise the Inspector-General of Police on various sensitive issues which could affect the breach of peace in the State. It was also the responsibility of the Special Branch to verify the antecedents of applicants for jobs, passports and so on. For instance, it is not only collected on parties which are banned, but also on all parties opposed to the Government in power. Over and above this political intelligence is also collected on all dissident politicians even if they belong to the party in power. Thus, over the course of time, the importance of the Special Branch has increased and therefore instead of being a component unit of the Criminal Investigation Department it has become a separate unit of own and from merely advising the Inspector-General of Police, now directly advises and briefs the Chief Minister almost every day on a variety of matters not contemplated at any time.

VI. RAILWAY POLICE :

The State of Andhra Pradesh has an extensive network of Railway lines. The Railway offenses occur on moving trains. Hence separate Railway Police districts have been there from the inception of the State. There are three Railway Police Districts in Andhra Pradesh, with the headquarters of Secunderabad, Vijayawada and Guntakal, each under Superintendent of Police who is assisted by one or Assistant or Deputy Superintendents, each incharge of a Railway Police Sub-division. There are six Railway
sub-divisions, 13 circles, 43 Police Stations and 35 out posts in the State. The Railway Police and sub-divisions are divided and sub-divided into circles under Inspectors and police stations under Sub-Inspectors, Head-Constables and Constables, and where necessary Assistant Sub-Inspectors to assist them.

VII. A. P. SPECIAL POLICE BATALLIONS :

There are 11 Andhra Pradesh Special Police (APSP) Battalions in Hyderabad, Kurnool, East Godavari, Warangal, Vizayanagaram, Guntur, Nizamabad, Ranga Reddy, Nellore, Mahboobnagar and Cuddapah Districts, each under a Commandant assisted by a Additional Commandant and Assistant Commandants. (Annexure-V shows the organisation of APSP Battalions). Each battalion is divided into 10 active companies and a headquarter company incharge of Reserve Inspector. All the APSP battalions are under the control of the Additional Inspector-General of Police (APSP Battalions). The movements and dispositions of these battalions are subject to the orders of the DGP. The Administrative staff is under the Police Transport Officer. A force, called the Special Armed Reserve under a Commandant assisted by Additional Commandant and Assistant Commandants - with the complement of Reserve Inspectors, Reserve Sub-Inspectors, Assistant Reserve Sub-Inspectors, Head-Constables and Constables is stationed at Amberpet, Hyderabad. This force is intended as a standby in emergencies and provide escorts to prisoners. It is under the administrative control of the Deputy-Inspector General, Hyderabad Range. On its proper organisation and functioning depends to a large extent the discipline and morale of the entire police force.

Reserve Inspector :

The Reserve Police lines is directly under the charge of Reserve Inspector, who is responsible for the discipline, training and turn-out of the men in the lines. A Reserve Inspector must be a strict disciplinarian.
Reserve Sub-Inspector:
The Reserve Inspector is assisted by one or more Reserve Sub-Inspectors (RSI).

Assistant Reserve Sub-Inspector:
He assists the Reserve Sub-Inspector in the maintenance of discipline, the running of messes and other functions.

Head Constable:
He controls the Constables who possess control of his guard.

Constable:
The Constable is the lowest functionary in the Armed Police.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS:

With Police Stations spread over a vast area the Andhra Pradesh Police requires an extensive network of Communications. This technical work is looked after by the Police Communications Branch. Men and Officers of this Branch are technically skilled personnel and form a separate category. They wear uniform corresponding the Police ranks but are not Policemen within the meaning of that term as envisaged in the Police Act of 1861. The State Police has a network of high frequency wireless sets connecting all the Circle Headquarters with the District Headquarters and in turn all the District headquarters with the State Capital. In the last few years another network has been installed connecting all Police Stations with each other and with the State Headquarters by using very high frequency equipment. This has been made possible with the modernisation grants from Government of India. In addition to this a large number of vehicles have also been fitted with very High Frequency sets for patrolling in the City of Hyderabad and in the Urban Districts of Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada.
IX. TRANSPORT:

Apart from Wireless Communications a large fleet of vehicles is also necessary for quick mobility of the force. This branch is called the Police Transport Organisation and has its own complement of officers and men who are again technical staff although they also wear uniform. All purchases of vehicles is centralised and is done by the Director Police Transport who is responsible to the DGP through the Special Inspector General (Headquarters.)

The DGP, as could be seen from the above, has a vast administrative setup, in order to effectively supervise and administer the functioning of a very large Police Force in the State. However, despite this hierarchy at the State Capital it will not be possible for him to supervise the District Police effectively unless he has senior officers to assist him in the field. This is the rationale for the functionary called the Range Deputy Inspector-General of Police.

X. THE RANGES:

The Police Act does not devote much space of words for the institution called the Range Deputy Inspector-General of Police except to briefly say under Section IV. The Range is a unit of administration as evolved over a course of time in the British administration keeping in view geographical contiguity mainly. When the State of Andhra was formed in 1953 there were only 2 Ranges, namely Waltair and Kurnool. When the State of Andhra Pradesh was formed in 1956 there were 4 Ranges. The State now has 8 Ranges (excluding Hyderabad City Range). The rationale of dividing the State into 8 Ranges needs to be gone into, but it is necessary before that to have an idea of the 8 Ranges today. Visakhapatnam Range consists of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts. Recently a new district has been formed consisting of only Visakhapatnam Urban Area called Visakhapatnam Urban district. Thus this Range has now 4 districts in it. Similarly, Eluru Range which had 3 districts viz., East Godavari.
West Godavari and Krishna has one more district, the Vijayawada Urban District added. (These new districts do not envisage any change in the work load on the Range DIG of Police since the new districts are part of his original jurisdiction). The Guntur Range has Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore districts. While the Hyderabad Range has now become the biggest Range in the State with as many as 5 districts in it viz., Mahboobnagar, Nalgonda, Ranga Reddy Districts (successor to the old Hyderabad Rural District), Medak and Nizamabad. There are as many as 4 Ranges in the State which have only 2 Districts each: Anantapur has only Anantapur and Chittoor Districts while Kurnool has Kurnool and Cuddapah Districts. Similarly, Warangal Range which once upon a time had 5 Districts in it now consists of Warangal and Khammam Districts and the new Range of Karimnagar consists of Karimnagar and Adilabad Districts. (See Annexure-VI and A.P. Map showing Ranges is given in Annexure-VII).

Before going into the institution of the Range DIG of Police and his duties, it would be relevant to discuss the Police Zones in Andhra Pradesh. The State was divided into Six Zones viz., Visakhapatnam, Eluru, Kurnool, Guntur, Warangal and Hyderabad, Zone 7 being the City of Hyderabad.

The DIG of Police is the rank created to assist the Director-General of Police in his work as well as to provide for promotion avenues for the Superintendents of Police. As already mentioned, the duties of the Range DIG have not been spelt out in the Police Act of 1861. However, the Madras Police Standing Orders and the Andhra Pradesh Police Manual which is based on the Madras Police Standing Orders have spelt it out in great detail. The relevant provision in the Andhra Pradesh Police Manual is contained in Chapter III. This order deals with the duties of the Range Deputy-Inspector General regarding inspections, administrative powers, crime control and his authority over the Superintendent of Police as well as his advisory role over the Superintendents of Police's functions. The Range DIG is also expected to call on the Collector of the District whenever he visits his Headquarters and discuss matters pertaining to Law and Order with
him, since the Collector, in his capacity as District Magistrate has, his own rule to play in police administration as envisaged in Section IV of the Police Act of 1861.

Of course, social conditions and the environment of that time was far more peaceful and sedate compared to the turbulence of the present period. Therefore, the Range DIG could make his tours in a leisurely manner, plan and complete all his inspections in time and by and large be more relaxed of mind. There is also feeling amongst some senior Police Officers that at that period of time the Superintendents of Police were Officers with greater calibre and therefore took a lot of responsibility on their shoulders leaving the Range DIG of Police free from many worries. This may or may not be correct but what is true is that the political administration at that period of time was far more responsive to administrative needs and had an objective view of broad policy matters, but not so much involved with minor partisan and politicised subjective issues as they are today. Any small matter today is magnified by either the ruling party politicians or the opposition parties politicians depending on their angles of perception. Any allegation against a subordinate Police Officer is generally made over to the Range DIG of Police for personal enquiry; no thought, on the other hand, has been spared as to how much this erodes the morale of the district administration. The thinking is that the more senior the officer, the better will be his contribution to administrative problems in a district, since the public have lost much of their faith in the lower ranks of the hierarchy, particularly the police hierarchy.

The Range DIG of Police has not much of a role in their day to day administration of a district, such as the way in which the District Police Office is run, or matters relating to registration of crime and how it is investigated into, since all these are the primary functions of the Superintendent of Police of a District; but in the present environment, the Range DIG of Police is called upon to do more and more of what is essentially the Superintendent of Police's work and is also held answerable to the Government although the authority for implementation is vested in the Superintendent of Police.
Each Range consists of two or more districts. The police structure in a district, any District in Andhra Pradesh is the same. A Superintendent of Police is incharge of each district and he is assisted by an Additional Superintendent of Police, one or more Assistanty Superintendents of Police (ASP) or Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSP) commonly designated Sub-Divisional Police Officer, each incharge of a sub-division. In some districts, there are also personal assistants to Superintendents of Police. A sub-division is further divided into circles, each incharge of Circle Inspector (CI). A Circle is divided into station areas, each under an Inspector or Sub-Inspector with Head-Constables (HC) and Police Constables (PC) and if necessary Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) to assist him. Some Police Stations have Out Posts attached to them, each of which is manned by a Head Constable or Station House Officer who is assisted by some Constables. They are located, where necessary for the prevention and reporting of crime. (Annexure-VIII shows the structure and organisation of District Police).

Before going into the institution of the District Superintendent of Police and his duties, it would be relevant to discuss the rationale behind the formation of Districts at this stage.

After the formation of Andhra Pradesh in 1957 there were 21 districts in the State, in 1987, 30 years later, there are 23 districts in the State. In the course of the last 30 years, only Two Districts have been created. In 1957, there were two districts called Vizag North with Headquarters at Vizianagaram and Vizag South with Headquarters at Visakhapatnam. For a very long time there was no change in these two districts. Only recently, in the year 1979 these two districts were reorganised to constitute Srikakulam. Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts. Another district created was Prakasam district in the year 1971, taking some taluks from Kurnool, Nellore and Guntur Districts with Headquarters at Ongole. On the other hand in the year 1963, the two Police Districts of Kurnool East and Kurnool West (which had two Superintendents of Police but
one Collector) were merged to form a single Kurnool District. Barring these changes, there has been no reorganisation of districts in Andhra Pradesh, so far. All the districts are evolved from British administration and the present administration is content to leave them as they are. No thought has been given as to what should be the size of a district, particularly for Police Administration. Even their National Police Commission has not touched on this subject although they have recommended a yardstick for the strength of Police Stations based upon area, population, crime incidence and so on.¹¹ No study has been conducted as to the optimum work load which the District Superintendent can take. Over the course of several years, after interaction with a large number of Superintendents of Police, it has been found that almost all of them consider that the districts in Andhra Pradesh are unwieldy both in terms of area as well as population and crime. There is a very strong case to have a proper study conducted to arrive at what should be the optimum size of a district. It is rather strange that when some districts in the Northern States have 10 to 15 Police Stations only. The smallest district in Andhra Pradesh has as many as 40 Police Stations in Vizianagaram while the biggest district has as many as 79 Police Stations in Chittoor. If the Superintendent of Police of this district has to visit all the Police Stations, at least once in a year, he should visit on an average 5 Police Stations in a month. Considering the fact that the duties of the Superintendent of Police are so complex and multifarious today, visiting the Police Stations is very low in the Superintendents of Police’s order of priority. The personal rapport and interaction between Police Station staff and the Superintendent of Police in such a context can well be imagined. It is a very anomalous situation that for administrative reasons, the ranges have been made small with just two districts in each range, but no corresponding thought has been given to rationalise the structure of a district. This is an area where urgent administrative action is called for.

Although the Police Administration has been recommending it for several years, only recently in 1983, the Government have created 2 Urban Police Districts at Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam. With these 2 districts the total number of districts as on date in the State are 24.¹²
Superintendent of Police:

It would be pertinent to study that exactly is the role of Superintendent of Police in a district. The Police Act of 1861 had laid down in Section IV that "The administration of the Police throughout the local jurisdiction of the Magistrate of the district shall, under the general control and direction of such Magistrate, be vested in a District Superintendent of Police and such assistant District Superintendents of Police as the State Government shall consider necessary". On this has been built up the entire edifice of the Police structure in a district. The Andhra Pradesh Police Manual in its Order 35, 37 and 39 has laid down in great detail the duties of the Superintendents of Police in a District.

While recognising that the work of the Superintendent of Police is of a multifarious nature, the Manual has laid down the essential requirements as guidelines for him in his carrying out his responsibilities. These are:

a) to keep the district peaceful and the public satisfied with the security afforded to persons and property;
b) to keep the force in good discipline and contended;
c) to maintain cordial relations with the magistracy and other officials and non-officials;
d) to see that the transport, arms and ammunition, stores and buildings belonging to the department are maintained in good condition;
e) to promote good Police-Public relations;
f) to organise good intelligence arrangements;
g) to acquire full and detailed knowledge of the district and its current problems from the police point of view;
h) to participate, to the extent possible and permissible, in welfare activities sponsored by official and non-official agencies; and
i) to gain the confidence and loyalty of subordinates by personal integrity, impartiality, devotion to duty, and a high sense of justice.
Over and above these directions is a vast gray area where nothing much has been laid down but where the Superintendent of Police has to use his own initiative and carry out his functions. This area is in the fields of gathering of intelligence both political and criminal, coordination with the District Magistrate and other departmental officials in the district, looking after the welfare and morale of his large force and by and large leading his force to fulfill the aspirations of the newly conscious public.

It has been recognised by all that the most important Police functionaries are the DG & IGP, the Superintendent of Police and the SI of Police. We have already seen how effective the Director-General can be within the existing constraints. In the course of the subsequent paragraphs, we shall also analyse the role of a SI of Police. At this stage, bearing in the mind of the directives of the Andhra Pradesh Police Manual, the work of the Superintendent of Police will be analysed.

The Superintendent of Police is almost always an IPS Officer. For a early long time, lasting almost two decades, after the formation of the State, the Superintendent of a District was generally an experienced officer, even when he was a directly recruited IPS Officer, by the time he became a Superintendent of Police he had already spent above 3 to 4 years in independent charge of Sub-Divisions giving him the necessary foundation and appreciation of the functions of the Police at the field or cutting edge level. The position today is that a large majority of the Superintendents of Police are officers who have just completed the minimum service required for getting into the senior scale of IPS. Experienced officers are generally in demand to fill positions in specialised units like Crime Branch, Intelligence Branch, Anti-Corruption Bureau, City Police and so on with the result that a qualitative change has come over the administration of a district. By and large, the inexperience of the Superintendent of Police is generally compensated by posting a senior Addl. SP who is generally from the State Service and who is very experienced. Of late even this convention has not been followed, the main reason being that senior State Police Officers who have put in long service have either become IPS officers, or, are in other units in view of their experience, or have been retired in the
revised superannuation rules after the Government took over in the State. This has resulted in a situation where the Superintendent of Police, particularly the directly recruited IPS Officer, does not have dependable experienced Additional Superintendent of Police to assist him.

A recent example would illustrate, clearly, the consequence of this. In a particular district, the SP and the Addl. SP happened to be the directly recruited IPS Officers without much experience in Sub-Divisions. A BUNDH was called for in the district and "RASTHA ROKHO" (blockading of roads) was organised by villagers near the headquarters town of the district. The Addl. SP was physically present at the spot and he also had "Magisterial guidance" in the form of Tahsildar by his side. The situation deteriorated, eventually resulting in mob violence, (as has happened in any similar agitation anywhere in the country; the interaction between the Police and Public will be dealt with in greater detail in a another chapter but this situation is being discussed here to highlight a specific point). The Police were, as usual, at the receiving end and were being stoned because they had gone to remove the road blocks. Under the instructions of the magistrate present, the police resorted to force to disperse the violent mob. As a last resort police opened fire resulting in the death of one person.

So far the scenario is what could have happened anywhere in the country but at this stage there was a different development. The State Assembly being in session, the Chief Minister apparently decided that his personal visit to the village would improve the situation. According to press reports, he is also heckled when he goes there. The outcome of the episode is that the ordered a judicial enquiry into the incident and, in addition, ordered the transfer of both the Superintendent of Police and Addl. Superintendent of Police from the district.

Apart from the merits of the issue, which is under judicial enquiry, the effect of the order on the morale of the officers concerned, the district police, and the police force as a whole can well be imagined. This study is only to highlight the issue of proper placement
of officers. If the Additional Superintendent of Police had been an experienced officer who had faced similar situations in the course of his career, his reaction to this particular incident could have been quite different. There are several similar incidence which happen almost every day which do not necessitate opening of fire by the Police, mainly due to the tactful handling based on the personal experience and human relations of the officer concerned. Whatever it may be, the fact that is to be highlighted here is that the Superintendent of Police of a district is no longer expected only to carry out his duties as laid down but also as is desired by the Administration and also, as is euphemistically described, "in a tactful manner". What this tact is, is not part of the syllabus of either the National Police Academy or the State Police Training College. Presumably the Officer is expected to use his own initiative and imagination and develop this indefinable quality over the course of years of experience.

The SP of a district is accountable to the District Magistrate for Law and Order as envisaged in the Police Act of 1861. He is also accountable to his own range DIG of Police, IGP for Law and Order, and DGP for Law and Order in his district. He is also accountable to the range DIG of Police and the DGP for prevention and detection of crime in his district. He is directly accountable to his range DIG of Police and the DGP for all matters relating to his district administration, personnel management, transfers, postings, promotions, clothing, equipment, welfare of his men and so on. In addition to this, his physical presence is required on all VIP visits to his district, ranging from senior Police Officers to the Prime Minister and President of India. Saddled with so much work and being himself in-experienced, it is no wonder that the standard of administration of many Superintendents of Police is qualitatively coming down.

The Sub-Division And Circle :

After the Superintendent of Police, the most important functionary in the Police is, the SHO. There are two intermediary stages between the SP and SI of Police, but this is only for administrative convenience. District is divided into several sub-divisions. The
Sub-division again are divided into several circles and each circle has several Police Stations under it. The Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) is called DSP, if he belongs to State Police Service viz., Andhra Pradesh Police Service (APPS) or an ASP, if he is an IPS Officer. The duties of SDPO have been laid down in order 41 and 43 of Andhra Pradesh Police Manual.

The role of the Inspector of Police is more or less the same as that of the SDPO within his limited area. Order No.118 of APPM however, specifically says that “Circle Inspector’s supervision will in no way relieve the Sub-Inspector of Police’s responsibility for the Police Administration within his station area”. Order No.119 to 136 of Andhra Pradesh Police Manual go into a great detail about the duties of Cl of Police within his charge. It is not necessary to go into more detail in this regard since the SDPO as well as the Circle Inspector of Police are both essentially supervisory officers. The relevance of either of these two functionaries, is a matter of debate and there are options, and arguments to support the opinions, that one of those functionaries should be abolished as well as the opinion that both are necessary.

The SDPO is a Gazetted Officer. This post was generally filled by a Deputy Superintendent of Police in the British Administration. Direct recruitment to the rank of DSP was rare and the Policy of the British Administration was to fill the posts of DSP of Police by promoting from the ranks “Loyal Native Police Officers”. The DSP was a very senior experienced Police Officer who had generally risen from the ranks of SI of Police or Constables to become an Inspector and then was promoted as DSP. Thus, the post of DSP as well as Cl of Police were meant essentially as promotional avenues for supporting ranks.

As far as the question of Inspectors is concerned, there is no direct recruitment to this rank and it is essentially meant to provide promotional avenues to the lowest ranks in the force. This post was generally the highest a non-gazetted officer could rise to. The post has been made a Gazetted Post in 1979. 13 Although Orders 118 to 136 of APPM
have laid down at great length the powers and duties of the Inspectors of Police, in practice he performs more or less the same functions of the SDPO, with a more limited jurisdiction. The Inspector considers himself essentially a supervisory officer and this notion has been further strengthened since the rank has been gazetted. Order (1)(a) of APPM specifies that the Inspector will personally investigate into all grave crimes, while Order No. 43 and 46 specify what are grave crimes and special grave crimes. The difference between the SDPO and the Inspectors with regard to these crimes is that the SDPO visits the scene of occurrence and writes a grave crime report, while the Inspector writes a case diary after visiting the scene of occurrence. The grave crime report is not part of the documentation of the case in the Court whereas the case diary is. The Inspector’s personal investigation starts and generally ends with only one Case Diary and his supervision over the investigation of the case runs more or less on parallel lines along that of the SDPO.

The SDPO has to inspect all the Police Stations under his charge once in a year. The Inspector also inspects all the Police Stations under his charge once a year. The SDPO is expected to visit the Police Stations by surprise apart from the inspections whereas the Inspector has to make monthly visits to all the Police Stations in the Circle and submit visiting notes. There are some more scriptory functions given to the Inspector of Police in Andhra Pradesh Police Manual orders referred to above which are not with the SDPO. Case Diaries of SI of Police are however pursued both by the Inspector and SDPO.

It will be seen that there is a large area of functioning which is common to both the ranks of Inspector and SDPO. This only justifies the opinion mentioned earlier that one of these two posts should be abolished. Arguments in support of this are that functionally both these ranks discharge almost the same duties; having both of them amounts to only duplication of work and it creates a feeling of being supervised too much in the minds of Station House Officers. The argument for retention of both the rank is based on the assumption that the rank of DSP is necessary to provide career prospects as well as acting
as a motivating factor for junior ranks like Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors. The Inspector’s jurisdiction has been kept small only to qualitatively improve the nature of supervision exercised by him, whereas the SDPO’s jurisdiction is larger and the rank itself is meant to assist the Superintendent of police in his duties rather than to be only a field officer. In support, Section IV of the Police Act of 1861 is cited where the rank of Assistant SP is mentioned and to support this further is cited in the APPM Order 42 which says that the departmental status of the Deputy Superintendent is equivalent to that of the Assistant Superintendent of Police.

After a quarter century of interaction with officers belonging to both these ranks as well as the IPS, one would like to say that no useful purpose is served by retaining both the ranks in the department. The argument that the SDPO assists the Superintendent of Police is fallacious. The SDPO has no staff under him nor have any powers been delegated by the SP to him. Only recently, in an amendment to the rules the SDPO has been empowered to impose minor punishments on his subordinates upto the rank of Sub-Inspectors. Before the order, the SDPO was only empowered to impose minor punishments over Constables and Head Constables. Again, in theory, the SDPO can transfer constables within his sub-division but it is generally never done because transfer of men is a matter of discretion of the SP and only at that level can a proper appreciation be made for the necessity for transfers and placements of personnel. The ideal set up would be to have Circle Officers which would combine individual duties and responsibilities of both the existing Circle Inspectors and Sub-Divisional Police Officers and who would directly be answerable and accountable to the Superintendent of Police without any other intermediary functionary. The IPS Officer of the rank of ASP should also be a Circle Officers. Recruitment could be made to the Circle Officers rank directly in the ratio of 50:50 of direct recruits and promotes and the existing rules regarding promotion into the IPS for the State Service could be maintained as it is. This will not only make Circle Officers jurisdiction viable but with a higher rank and greater appreciation of their role and responsibilities a qualitative difference in their functioning can be expected.
The rank of Inspector of Police can be continued but on the pattern of Police Stations in Hyderabad City, the Inspectors should be incharge of a Police Station with a minimum of 3 Sub-Inspectors under them. Again the impact of a fairly high level Officer manning the Police Station can certainly be expected to be beneficial to the public at large as well as to the image of the Police Force itself.

**Police Station** :

The most important unit of Policing is the Police Station. The control of crime achieved through a Police Station incharge of Inspector or Sub-Inspector. Police Stations are the basic and primary unit of Police Administration, and have existed in almost every part of the country even before modern concepts of Policing developed.

The State of Andhra Pradesh had total number of 1436 (excluding Railway Police Stations) Police Stations spread over 24 Districts and the City of Hyderabad. The average area of a Police Station in the State is 191.5 Sq. kms., and average population served by the Police Station 49,979 (Population taken from projection for 1995) (Annexure-IX shows the projected population of Andhra Pradesh).

In contrast the recommendations of the working group of the Administrative Reforms Commission 1967, has suggested that the jurisdiction of a Police Station should be manageable and compact; they have suggested additional staff in the area of Police Station exceed 75 Sq. miles and population exceeds 50,000. They have also recommended a review once in 5 years of the Police Station strength. The National Police Commission 1977 in its VII Report has also gone into this issue and they have recommended that an area of 150 Sq. Kms. should be the optimum limit for any Police Station. Further they have also made recommendations that not only area but also the total number of cases in addition to the population should be taken into account when workload of a Police Station is considered. Thus, according to them, if there are more
than 700 cases annually in a Police Station or if the population exceeds 60,000 new Police Stations should be created.

A new administrative system, called the Mandal system introduced by Telugu Desam Government in 1986 has now come into force. This has abolished the traditional form of Administration. With this in view, a Police Station in each Mandal has been sanctioned. Thus, the Government have sanctioned creation of as many as 321 new Police Stations and have also upgraded 69 Out Posts into Police Stations. Thus, the recommendations of the National Police Commission and One Man Police Commission have been implemented as far as additional Police Stations are concerned.

As far as strength of Police Station is concerned the new Mandal Police Stations will have only a strength of 1 SI, 1 HC and 8 PCs.

In the final analysis the image of the Police Force rests on the performance of the Police Station. The senior ranks in the force by and large have a fairly good image, but the whole force suffers balance of the poor image created at the Police Station level.

Station House Officer:

The National Police Commission recommended that there should be 3 categories of Police Stations under Station House Officer: Category (1) Constituting Police Stations in Cities with over 900 cases, having 3 Inspectors, 15 Sub-Inspectors and an ASP or DSP as a Station House Officer: Category (2) In large towns and rural areas with over 300 cases with an Inspector a Station House Officer: Category (3) In smaller Police Stations with Sub-Inspector as Station House Officer.

The Police Act of 1861 has not much to say as far as the functions of the Station House Officer of the Police Station, the Andhra Pradesh Police Manual has devoted
several chapters for laying down instructions in great detail for the functioning of Police Station.¹⁶

For all practical purposes, the Station House Officer is the hub of the Police Administration. Senior Officers are there to guide and supervise his work and the constabulary assists him. A successful Station House Officer should cultivate the following things.

i. Win the confidence of the people;
ii. Ensure correct registration of crimes;
iii. Cultivate courteous behaviour to the public;
iv. Maintain law and order and prevent crime;
v. Personally supervise each investigation;
vi. Practice absolute integrity;
vii. Maintain good turnout and ensure the name for his staff;
viii. Ensure prompt service;
ix. Improve the performance of beat constables;
x. Develop good crime records and ensure their proper maintenance by monthly inspections.

The Station House Officer must be active and supervise best day in and day out.

Sub-Inspector:

The Sub-Inspector of Police is an important link in the Police Administration. He enters the department either as direct recruit or on promotion from the ranks. The average Sub-Inspector of Police in Andhra Pradesh today is a man who has risen from the rank of Constable. A large number of Police Stations are manned by SIs who were originally recruited as Constables and most of them have had a basic education only up to Matriculation or even less. Their formative years as Constables and Head Constables have given them a totally different orientation to police work which they are not able to change when they become Sub-Inspectors. The rank promoted Sub-Inspector carries with him
the basic perceptions of policing imbibed by him as a Constable and is not able to change it even in a higher rank. A directly recruited Sub-Inspector on the other hand is trained to be a Sub-Inspector and has a different attitude to work altogether, while directly recruited Sub-Inspectors to some extent, resist extraneous pressures on their legal responsibilities, the promotes, to a large extent, are unable to do so and thereby give rise to image problems of the force. This is a general view held by several Police Officers.

Broadly the functions of the Sub-Inspector can be divided into 3 areas viz., (1) Prevention and detection of Crime (II) Maintenance of Law and Order and (III) Other administrative work. As far as prevention and detection of crime is concerned, there are clear-cut legal guidelines and directives for the Sub-Inspector to follow. The Law on registration of a case, interrogation of witnesses and recording their statements and prosecution of cases in the Court has no room for ambiguity. On the prevention side the Sub-Inspector can made preventive arrests apart from serving of beats and patrols. Serving of beats is based on certain guidelines given in Chapter 33 of Andhra Pradesh Police Manual.

A Sub-Inspector has to register and investigate into offenses having a bearing on Law and Order. These are offenses which come under the Sections mentioned in Chapter VIII of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) relating to offenses against public tranquillity, Chapter XV of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) relating to religion and Chapter XVI of the IPC relating to offenses affecting human body in which are categorised crimes like murder, hurt, assault, wrong restraint, wrongful confinement, kidnapping and rape. A large number of offenses in almost all Police Stations are registered under Murder, Rioting and Grievous hurt. The large number of factious offenses, particularly in Rayalaseema region of the State as well as the Naxalite offenses, particularly in Telangana region all fall under this category. The discretion of the Sub-Inspector in these cases being quite wide a lot of influence and pressure, both local and political, is brought to bear on him for including or leaving out in the list of accused, some person or persons prevention is the other side of the Law and Order work of the Sub-Inspector. He has to visit villages, keep
himself informed of what is happening, interact with leaders of villages and factious
interact with organised labour unions and management and gather required intelligence
which will help him to prevent law and order situations such as organised Bandhs which
could turn into breach of the peace and factious feeling which could result in open resort
to violence, any communal situation developing and so on. If there is a sizable town or
village in which his Police Station is located or if there are State or National Highways
running through his jurisdiction, the Sub-Inspector has to look after the maintenance of
traffic flow also and take action against traffic offenders under IPC Section 337, 338 and
304(A).

The Sub-Inspector has also got to ensure that social legislation, particularly
offenses against Harijans and other weaker sections of the society, practice of
untouchability etc., is strictly enforced. Thus, it will be seen that the role of a Sub-
Inspector is the most important aspect of policing dealing with life and liberty of
individuals and protection of property as well as civil rights of individuals.

Sub-Inspector : The Kingpin Of The Force

The Sub-Inspector of Police occupies the most important functional area in the
police hierarchy. He is usually the Officer incharge of the Police Station and the Principal
Investigating Officer. The Criminal Procedure Code (Cr. PC) and other Penal Acts vest in
his many powers - the power to arrest without warrant, release on bond, search and
seizure, carry out inquests, summon witnesses and many other powers. In Law and Order
situations, he has vast powers, and their impact on the citizens fundamental and other
rights is far-reaching. He combines in himself preventive, detective and regulatory control
functions of law enforcement and himself investigates crime and other cases. He is the
Kingpin in the Police Administration. He comes into constant contact with the public. He
occupies a pivotal position, for he is the first level of supervision and leadership in the set-
up over the Constables and Head Constable who are very much visible to the public eye.
Not only his success but the success of the police depends upon his ability to enlist the maximum co-operation and assistance of the staff under his control and on his own professional competence. Professional competence requires the highest standards, and includes knowledge of the latest laws of the land and optimum level of physical efficiency. He must know the techniques of crowd control for which a knowledge of psychology is necessary; regulate activity at fairs and festivals so that social customs and religious beliefs may be honoured and conflicts prevented. He must understand the causes that result in command, agrarian or labour unrest and riots. He is required to be prompt and effective in action, but discreet and tactful, considerate and compassionate, wherever necessary. He should have faith in the preventive aspect of police work as well as in his validity of the Critical Justice System. The performance of all these and other tasks requires constant updating and reorientation.

Head Constable:

There is no direct entry of Head Constables. They are promoted from the ranks of Constables. The Head Constables are either posted incharge of Outposts or as script writers at the Police Station. He is the pivot of Police Station around which the entire administration of the Police System revolves.

Constable:

The Constable is the lowest functionary in the Police but the cornerstone of Nation’s security. He is there to control his beat and maintain law and order. His behaviour, assistance, cooperation, support, code of conduct and discipline leave are indelible impressions on various sections of the people about the Police Administration out its functioning.
Legally the urban Police have the same powers as the rural Police, perform the same duties and enforce the same laws. Functioning as well as in the set up in the Police Station itself there is a lot of difference. Most important and fundamental advantage is that in an urban Police Station, there is always a functional division of duties. Unlike the rural Sub-Inspector who is all in all to carry out Law and Order, Crime, Traffic and Intelligence Collection duties, in an urban Police Station normally there is a Law and Order section, a Crime Section and Traffic Section. In bigger urban Police Stations each one of them are incharge of a different Sub-Inspector. In bigger Urban agglomerations each one of them have got a different Police Station or a different branch itself.

The urban Police also face a lot of handicaps and constraints in their functioning. Any incident or offense in a rural area comes to notice after same delay and unless it is of a really serious and sensational nature of the media, particularly, the press does not highlight it and focus on it with the result that the Sub-Inspector does not have to function in the constant glare of publicity and media criticism. In urban Police Station, the situation is entirely different.

Another aspect to study the typical setup of the Urban Police Organisation is Hyderabad City Police. The twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad form a single unit for Police Administration, the force of which is known as the Hyderabad City Police.

The Hyderabad City Police is under the direct charge of the Commissioner of Police of the rank of IGP with one Additional Commissioner of Police of the rank of DIG of Police. He is assisted by Deputy Commissioner of Police.

The Hyderabad City is divided into four Police Zones each incharge of Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP). (Annexure X shows the Map of Hyderabad City Police Zones). For purpose of law and order, the city is divided into 14 Sub-Divisions, each
incharge of an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP). The Sub-Divisions are further divided into circles each under an Inspector, then circles into police stations each incharge of Station House Officers assisted by ASI, HC’s and PC’s. The overall control of Law and Order of the force vests with the Deputy Commissioner of Police.

The Traffic Branch is under the change of DCP (Traffic) who is assisted by a Addl. Deputy Commissioner of Police. For Traffic control and investigation of traffic offenses the city is divided into three sub-divisions each under Assistant Commissioner of Police under Traffic Inspector. Each circle has a certain number of Traffic Police Station manned by Traffic Sub-Inspectors assisted by Head Constables and Police Constables.

The DCP (Special Branch) incharge of the Special Branch in the City is assisted by three Assistant Commissioners of Police (Special Branch) and they have a complement of Inspectors (Special Branch), Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables and Police Constables (Special Branch).

For the purpose of investigation of crimes each division has a Inspector (crimes) and each important police station has a Sub-Inspector (crimes). The overall control of the crime investigation force vests in the Deputy Commissioner of Police (crimes) assisted by an Additional and Assistant Commissioner of Police (crimes).

The Hyderabad City Police have its own Armed Reserve Police Force and is under the control of the Deputy Commissioner (Headquarters) who is assisted by Commandants and an Assistant Commissioner of Police (Headquarters). The Force consisting of Reserve Inspector and Sub-Inspector (Headquarters).

The non-armed Reserve Police Force consisting of an Commandant (Home Guards) assisted by Commissioner of Police (Home Guards), Reserve Inspectors and Reserve Sub-Inspectors. (Existing Hierarchy of Hyderabad City Police is given under Annexure XI ).
As far as the day to day work of the urban police station is concerned, the relevant rules are to be found in Chapter 34 of the Andhra Pradesh Police Manual in Orders 813 to 852. These orders are applicable to any Urban Police Station, whether it is in small town or in Hyderabad City.

XIII INFERENCE:

Police itself was highly bureaucratized organisation. It is controlled by a civilian and professional bureaucracy. The political top was hoisted at bureaucratic bond-wagon. In spite of different police departments at National, State and District levels, the pattern of organisational structure mode of functioning and problems are almost identical. Police are not alike because of excessive centralisation. The subject for study starting from the Office of the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police, supporting units of the Headquarter the functioning of the Range as unit of administration, District Police Organisation and Police Stations, which is the most important constituting the basis of the structure and foundation of the organisation. The study also covered urban policing in Hyderabad the capital city of Andhra Pradesh.

The District Police Administration has two important functional Wing viz., The District Police Office and the Executive Organisation. Each and every district is divided as SDPOs and further circles consisting two or more police station. The Police Station is the most important constituting the basis of the structure and function of organisation and it is also an important unit which represents the Government visibly. Hence, the Police Station occupies a focal point which files the FIR of the crime. Only after this initial stage the whole police machinery starts functioning. The Sub-Inspector and Constables who come into direct contact with the Police leave behind the image of the Police Administration.
REFERENCES:

4. The Police Act 1861 - Section 4.
6. The Police Act 1861 Sec - 4, 7 & 12.
12. An official statement has been made in the State Legislative Assembly in March 1984 that their two Urban Districts will be made commissionerates with Police Commissioners (with Magisterial powers).
16. Andhra Pradesh Police Manual Chapters 5, 19 to 34.