



The West Bengal

Vol. II Issue I 2017



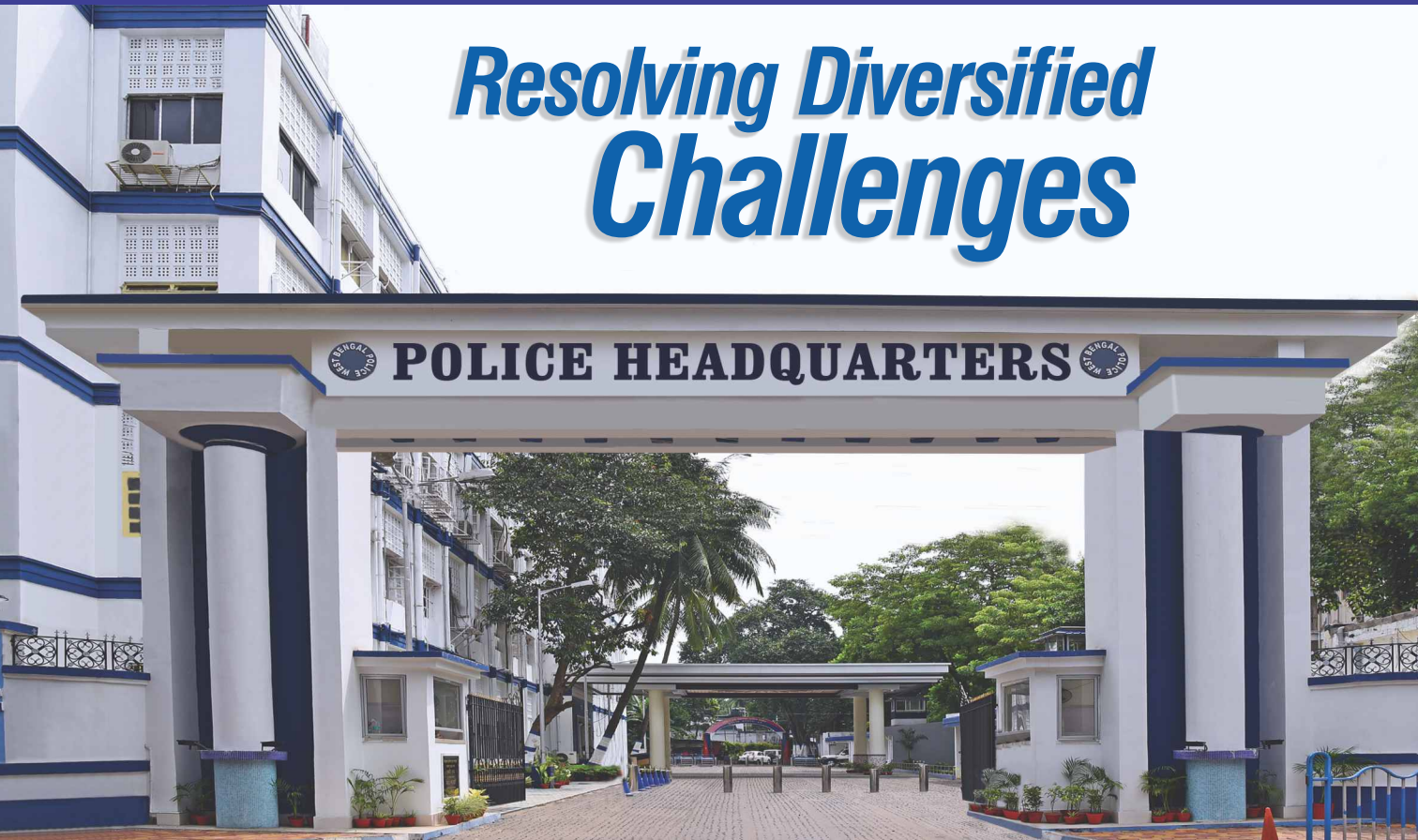
PROTECTOR

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A Magazine for the West Bengal Police

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Resolving Diversified Challenges



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প্রাকৃতিক সূত্র থেকে প্রাপ্ত ভিটামিনস, মিনারেলস, প্রোটিন এবং ওমেগা 3 ফ্যাটি অ্যাসিডের শ্রেষ্ঠতা

Khul ke Khel

"হেলথ ফিট হো এন্ডার্ট্যাকিং হিট"। তাই আমার জাহেজের জন্যে আমাকে প্রতিদিন ভরপুর আহার, নিয়মিত ব্যায়াম এবং নিউট্রিলাইটের প্রোটিন, ভিটামিনস, মিনারেলস এবং ওমেগা 3- সাহায্য করে। আমি নিউট্রিলাইট অল প্লান্ট প্রোটিন পাউডার খাই। প্রোটিন আমাকে সুস্থ আর স্বতঃস্ফূর্ত রাখতে সাহায্য করে। নিউট্রিলাইট ভেলি প্রতিদিন আমাকে 13 টি ভিটামিনস আর 11 টি মিনারেলস প্রদান করে। নিজের অভিনয়, লেখা, গান আর নির্দেশনার মাধ্যমে আমি আপনাদের সবার হৃদয়ে রাজত্ব করি আর আমার সুস্থ হৃদয়ে প্রতিদিন রাজত্ব করে নিউট্রিলাইট সালমন ওমেগার, ওমেগা 3 ফ্যাটি অ্যাসিডস।


(Farhan Akhtar)



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The West Bengal

PROTECTOR

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Late Shri R.K. Prasad

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Managing Editor: Satya Swaroop
Directors: B.K. Sinha, Kamaljit S.
Sr. Editor: Udaya Tarra Nayar
Executive Editors: Atula Imchen, Suresh Vasudevan

Marketing Services: Veerendra Bhargava
Admin & Finance: Sunil Kumar
Liaison Officer: Vrunda G
Support Executive: Arvinder
Circulation: Jawaharlal, Santosh G, Vijay

Art Director: Santosh Nawar
Sr. Graphic Designer: Hemant Kolambe

Photographer: Mainak Bagchi

For Advertising Contact: 09830043339 / 09051112019
anurag@newmediacomm.biz

BRANCHES:

Kolkata:

Anurag Sinha, Regional Head,
New Media Communication Pvt Ltd.
4, Fairlie Place, HMP House, 2nd Floor,
Room No. 207B, Kolkata 700 001
Mobile: 09830043339 / 09051112019
Tel: 033-40042683/2667.
Email: anurag@newmediacomm.biz

Subhajit Bhattacharya, Roving Editor
Mobile: 09051118843
E-mail: subhajit.bhattacharya11@gmail.com

Arun Kr. Das, Admin & Circulation

Pune:

Jagdish Khaladkar, Regional Director,
Mobile: 098230 38315
Email: pune@newmediacomm.biz
j.khaladkar@gmail.com

Patna:

Rajesh Naraen, Vimmi Prasad
173 - B, 2nd Floor, S.K. Puri, Patna 800001, Bihar
Email: rajeshnaraen@newmediacomm.com
Mobile: 09334390988

Bangalore:

C.V. Shankararayanan
Mobile: +919902216970

Australia Office:

Bandhana Kumari Prasad, 129 Camboon Road,
Noranda, Perth, W.A. 6062 Tel: 0061 892757447
Email: bandhana@newmediacomm.biz

New Media Communication Pvt. Ltd.,

New Media House, 1 Akbar Villa, Marol Maroshi Road,
Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 059
Tel: +91-22-2925 0690. Telefax: +91-22-2925 5279
E-mail: enquiry@newmediacomm.biz
www.newmediacomm.com

West Bengal Police Headquarters

Bhabani Bhaban, 31/A, Bebevedere Road, Alipur,
Kolkata - 700 027, West Bengal, India
EPABX Number: 91(033)-2479-4035/4036/4056/4057

Editor: Anurag Sinha

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Dear Friends,

Small is beautiful as it helps to organize things and take decisions without much problem. Sometimes many issues get complicated because of the varying opinions on sensitive matters which ultimately get delayed. But now is the time when things have to move fast and not delayed.

The state government's decision to carve out a new district- Kalimpong from the hilly district of Darjeeling is an apt step to provide better service to the people of the mountainous region. This was state government's second consecutive decision in North Bengal. Last year it had bifurcated neighbouring Jalpaiguri district and created Alipurduar. Such decisions would actually go a long way in improving the life and security in the region and play an important role in economic upliftment of the people and open up new vista for the prospect of tourism industry in the hilly areas. New jobs would be created as hotel, transport and other related industries would expand their business.

Similarly the state government has also created a new district of Jhargram, which was earlier a bastion of the extremist elements in the backward Jungle Mahal area. Burdwan district has also been bifurcated into two districts – Purba Burdwan and Paschim Burdwan. Creation of the new district would pave the way for economic growth and would provide a fair deal to the people as the administration would come closer to them to a great extent.

The process of decentralization has always been beneficial for all stakeholders. It becomes easier for the administration to have control over the entire area easily within a short span of time and the people get their work done rather easily. Both the administration and the people come closer which help in bridging the gap for implementation of the both safety and welfare-oriented programmes launched by the government.

The state police is very sincere about implementing its road safety programmes to save the loss of precious lives. Police administration is confident to reduce the accidents on road through various measures. Police is taking all possible steps to implement the 'Safe drive Save life' programme with the active support from the people. 'No helmet no petrol' is another important policy the state police is following would really help reduce accidents on the road and save the valuable lives.

I am sure you will find this issue interesting.

Happy Reading.

Satya Swaroop
Managing Editor

satya@newmediacomm.biz



Dear Readers,

Modern society calls for women empowerment and it has been practised in almost every country. The spectrum for women empowerment is wide enough but instilling sense of confidence among them through self defense training is one of the criteria for the said purpose. West Bengal Police has recently launched *Sukanya* – a self defense training scheme for girl students in Bidhannagar, Barrackpur & Howrah as a part of its community initiatives at a programme in Bidhannagar. This will be extended in other commissionerates and districts in phases.

The officers and men of West Bengal Police at the call of Hon'ble Chief Minister came forward to deal with the deficit in blood collection during sweltering summer and donated 16,000 units of blood in a span of 7 days. *Utsarga*- a community initiative has also been launched from June this year to organize blood donation and free medical checkup camps. This will be organized throughout the year by various Police units.

Besides articles on our community initiatives, we have accommodated articles on some districts in North Bengal. These articles have unveiled how we have curbed down Cannabis cultivation in Cooch Behar and Poppy cultivation in Malda. Police is determined on getting rid of these unwanted produce in the public interest. Concerted efforts are being made to ensure that farmers are not motivated to grow these plants, which are harmful for the society at large. It is unique that people are now able to file their grievances online, through the website of Jalpaiguri District Police. There is an article on introduction of tourist police in Alipurduar district. The initiative of Uttar Dinajpur District Police in arranging vocational training and job fair for the unemployed youths has been depicted. An article has elucidated modernization measures for better traffic management. Formation of three new police districts in South 24 Paraganas for better policing has been described in another article. There are other regular sections in this issue of Protector as well.

West Bengal Police will remain ever vigilant throughout the state to ensure safety, security of the people and visitors in the state. We however, welcome any suggestions from our readers which will be of immense value.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Surajit Kar Purkayastha'.

Surajit Kar Purkayastha, IPS

Director General & Inspector General of Police



Meeting People's Expectations

Surajit Kar Purkayastha, IPS

People primarily expect police to extend assistance in every situation. We do honour their faith on us and respond to the ever increasing needs of the people within the purview of law. Keeping people's expectation in mind, concrete steps have been taken to increase the quality of policing and quantity as well. Recruitment in the force has been initiated to increase the police-public ratio. A phase of recruitment process has finished recently under the directions of the Hon'ble CM. More units have been created in West Bengal Police by bifurcating existing units. Specialised units have also been created to cope up with the situation. Commissionerate system of policing has already been introduced with the creation of six commissionerates. Chandannagar Commissionerate comprising of seven police stations of Hooghly district is the newest one. Cyber Cell in CID has been made well equipped with modern gadgets to combat crimes like cyber fraud, ransom attack on system etc. We have also strengthened our social media platform through Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp to create a public interface.

New districts have been created for reaching out to people speedily in a better and coordinated manner even in

the far flung but crucial areas. A new district - Kalimpong has been carved out from Darjeeling district to ensure that the areas should get more attention for overall interest of the hill region. Jhargram and Paschim Bardhaman have also been carved out respectively from Paschim Medinipur and Burdwan districts. Besides creation of these three new districts, the state government also formed three police districts- Baruipur, Diamond Harbour and Sundarbans in South 24 Parganas.

West Bengal Police has put special emphasis for ensuring road safety. Traffic department has taken many measures to bring down road accidents with required changes in road engineering and also through installation of CCTV cameras, watch towers, signage, LED screens, incandescent speed breakers, etc. Efforts for better traffic management have been made by augmenting strength of traffic police. "Safe Drive Save Life" campaign conceptualised and initiated by Hon'ble Chief Minister has been made popular and effective steps have been taken by involving all stakeholders. "No Helmet No Petrol" policy in the state has yielded better result and compelled two-wheeler operators and pillion riders to use helmet to avert accidents on roads. Police is also taking steps against rash and drunken driving which often take the toll of valuable lives.

The police in West Bengal over the years have strengthened the bond with the communities by involving them as its eyes and ears through different community policing initiatives. Introduction of 'Sukanya'- an initiative for empowering girl students is one such latest initiative. The people of the state are the real driving force to help us to meet their expectations in right earnest.

Let's join hands to make life better. ■



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UTSARGA: Cops Donate 16,000 Units of Blood to Combat Shortage

By Our Correspondent

West Bengal Police has started a community policing initiative recently styled 'UTSARGA'. Under this project, blood donation and free medical check-up camps are organised by various units in turns regularly at the districts. The program was started in May, 2017 being encouraged by Hon'ble Chief Minister. Every week such blood donation & medical check-up camps are being organised in couple of units rotationally as scheduled. Hon'ble Chief Minister appreciated this noble gesture and conveyed good wishes to all members of West Bengal Police on this occasion.

Donating blood is a noble deed. Blood banks all over the world store various types of blood according to their groups. These require replenishment from time to time to meet urgent demands. In a country like India, where the summer is hot and humid, people donate lesser units of blood. So there is generally a deficit in the supply of blood. Many organisations voluntarily collect blood by motivating people to donate blood for preservations, which may become very useful for the survival of ailing people, who may need this valuable fluid urgently.

There has been a gap between demand





and supply of blood during summer because collections from blood donation camps are low. People normally stay away from donating blood this time. However, it was officers and men of West Bengal Police who came forward at the call of Hon'ble Chief Minister to deal with the short supply of blood during scorching summer and donated 16,000 units of blood in a span of 7 days.

West Bengal Police is now planning to continue the project through out year after its grand success. ■





মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্রী

মমতা বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়-এর

অনুপ্রেরণায়

এবং শ্রম দপ্তরের উদ্যোগে সকল শ্রেণির অসংগঠিত শ্রমিকদের অভিন্ন সামাজিক সুরক্ষা বলয়ে অন্তর্ভুক্ত করার লক্ষ্যে শুরু হল

সামাজিক সুরক্ষা যোজনা, ২০১৭

অসংগঠিত শিল্প ও স্বনিযুক্তি পেশায় কর্মরত শ্রমিকদের জন্য আর্থিক সহায়তা প্রদান প্রকল্প

• ভবিষ্যৎনির্ভর

প্রতি মাসে প্রমিত রুপে ২৫ টাকা, সরকার থেকে পাবেন ৩০ টাকা এবং নিরাবহিত হারে সুদ। মেসার্স পূর্ণ হলে প্রমিত পাবেন ২,৫০,০০০ টাকার বেশি টাকা।

• স্বাস্থ্য

উপযোজ্য বা তার পরিবারের সদস্যরা ক) চিকিৎসার জন্য বার্ষিক ২০ হাজার টাকা পর্যন্ত আর্থিক সহায়তা পেতে পারেন। খ) শ্রম চিকিৎসার ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ১০ হাজার টাকা বাৎসরিক আর্থিক সহায়তা পাওয়ার অধিকারী হবেন। সুউন্নতকর্মিত কারণে উপযোজ্য কর্মসিমে নষ্ট হলে, ঐ উপযোজ্য প্রথম ৫ দিনের জন্য ১০০০ টাকা এবং বাকি দিনগুলি প্রতিদিনের জন্য অতিরিক্ত ১০০ টাকা করে সর্বোচ্চ ১০ হাজার টাকা পর্যন্ত পেতে পারেন।

• মুদ্রা/বৃত্তি

বৃত্তিদের কারণে মুদ্রা হলে ২ লক্ষ টাকা এবং ব্রাহ্মবিক মুদ্রাতে ৫০ হাজার টাকা প্রদান। শারীরিক অসমর্থতার ক্ষেত্রে ৫০,০০০ টাকা থেকে ২ লক্ষ টাকা সহায়তা প্রদান।

• শিক্ষা

একদশ শ্রেণি থেকে ডাক্তারি/ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং পর্যন্ত ছাত্র/ছাত্রীরা জন্য বাৎসরিক ৫০০০ থেকে ৩০,০০০ টাকা পর্যন্ত সহায়তা প্রদান।

উপযোজ্য বা তার পরিবারের সদস্যদের অধিবাসিত অবস্থায় প্রত্যেকের জন্য শ্রমদেয় শ্রম করার জন্য অতিরিক্ত ২৫,০০০ টাকা সহায়তা প্রদান।

উপযোজ্য এবং/অথবা তার পরিবারের সদস্যদের নিম্নলিখিত বিভিন্ন ব্যয়-ব্যয়িতা এবং বৃত্তিমূলক প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদান। এছাড়াও প্রতিটি বৃত্তিমূলক শ্রমিককে সামাজিক মুক্তি কার্য প্রদান করা হবে।

শ্রম দপ্তর, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার



Sukanya

has been extended to districts

Siddh Nath Gupta, IPS
ADG & IGP, North Bengal Region

West Bengal police has introduced a community policing scheme for imparting self-defence training for school girls. Sukanya project was initiated in Kolkata Police following Honourable Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's decision to empower girl children through various manners. West Bengal Police launched the project in Bidhannagar and they will soon spread the project in different other districts of Bengal.

The project has been designed in a manner so that the grown up girl children would get confidence to save themselves from violence and unforeseen sexual attack in any odd situation. The reason to extend such unarmed self defense training in the districts is to instill self-confidence among the girl students who will feel themselves empowered once they undergo such training.

The training will include Karate, Taekwondo, Jujitsu, etc. and trainers from the same locality will train the girl students of high schools. The project was actually designed to prevent sexual harassment, eve teasing and trafficking of girl child. Commissionerates were directed to identify girl's schools where this scheme was to be introduced. The authorities of 115 girl's schools expressed interest in launching the Sukanya scheme in their

respective schools. However, 50 schools were identified on priority basis for their location in vulnerable areas.

Swayangsiddha - a scheme of South 24 Parganas District Police to prevent girl trafficking will be modeled and implemented in North 24 Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad and Howrah as these districts also face the menace of girl trafficking. Police has already taken up sensitisation programmes to prevent girl trafficking. Apart from girl's schools, anti-





trafficking campaigns have been launched at different public places like railway station and bus terminus. Introduction of Sukanya scheme in the state including Commissionerate areas and extension of Swayangsiddha scheme in four other districts in South Bengal will be reflected in the website of West Bengal Police.

The police-public relationship have improved substantially following launching of the community policing initiatives in different places in the state by offering various facilities and that overall crime rate has also fallen particularly in those areas where such work was initiated.

Community Policing in the Jungle Mahal areas has yielded positive results. The state government has introduced several schemes in the region to help people in a number of ways by providing rice at the subsidised rate. The govt organized medical camps, launched a job oriented training programme, supplied



books, constructed libraries and widened the information channel by besides supplying sarees, dress materials, utensils and other household items. Such steps helped the police to remove people's apprehensions and made them feel at home with police personnel. These moves have also helped police to get advance information on many matters, which had helped them to tackle law and order issues more effectively from those sensitive areas.

Not only in food, education and medicine the state government has taken steps to help promote Sports in the Jungle Mahal areas to make the younger generation happy to utilise their pastime properly. Jungle Mahal Cup, Sundarbans



Cup and the Himal Tarai Dooars Cup for the respective region are organised in each year to keep younger generation enthused and move on with the changing times. These competitions have generated new hopes for many successful players, who have performed well in those sports meet. The state government has been sanctioning Rs one lakh each year for organising sports in rural areas. Lot of prizes is given to those who excel in different sports in the final.

Blood donation camps- *Utsarga* are organised by every unit of West Bengal Police and medical camps are organised by different units of the force to reach out the people with their community initiatives. ■

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Revamping Infrastructure for better Traffic Management



Manoj Kumar Verma, IPS
IGP Darjeeling, Former IGP Traffic

Safe Drive Save Life campaign was launched a year back throughout the state by Hon'ble Chief Minister who during a review meeting emphasised on consistent effort to reduce road accidents

and improvement of traffic infrastructure. Besides observing Road Safety Week, West Bengal Police has evolved modernisation of infrastructure for minimizing road accidents through more effective traffic management.

Like previous year, West Bengal Police has observed Road Safety Week this year from 3 to 8 April throughout the state. This has been quite successful with the active participation of school

children, youths, local clubs and NGOs. Consistent efforts to create awareness on road safety and traffic rules have crafted impact on the minds of drivers. Likewise, these have been able to change the mindset of pedestrians since children and youths have come forward to make Road Safety campaign a great success. The number of road accidents has significantly come down with the observance of Road Safety Week throughout the state.





A metro like Kolkata has always been congested due to its huge human and vehicular traffic population. But other cities and towns in the state now have become thickly populated and number of vehicles has also been increasing with the changing situation. So to better manage pedestrian and vehicular traffic, Commissionerates across the state are equipping themselves with modern gadgets and instruments. More than 4000 CCTV cameras have been setup at several intersections which help in live monitoring of the situation.



Speed guns, breath analysers, RLVD and ANPR cameras, are some of the devices which provide the technical hand in better traffic management. These devices cumulatively work to form the Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS) which commenced operation in October 2014. It is the nervous system of the Traffic control Room. All the raw data – texts, photos, video clips, etc. collected from the installed and handheld devices are stored in dedicated servers which can be viewed and assessed by the ITMS. Soon the West Bengal Traffic Headquarters will be equipped with state of the art central control room which will be

interlinked to all the field units. Once it is functional, the police officers will have real time video feeds of the locations.

With passage of time, automation technologies are more and more incorporated. Earlier compound slips were handed out manually to the traffic violator. But now Howrah and Bidhannagar Traffic Police use a Tablet PC and a portable Bluetooth printer to generate the compound slip. Some officers also use a consolidated portable device which includes the terminal with a screen and the printer to give out the compound slips for traffic violations. ■




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Three new Police Districts are Operational

By Our Special Correspondent

West Bengal has unique distinction to have hills, jungles, oceans and the plains within its geographical area—a feature not available in most other states. Of the districts in the state South 24 Parganas is distinctly different from others. It has famous Sundarbans Jungle, which is known for its Royal Bengal Tiger, other wild animals and reptiles, largely because of its proximity to the Bay of Bengal. The Sundarbans area is also very close to Bangladesh border. The human habitation has been increasing in this region with the changing time and the sprawling district was accordingly divided into three police districts for the administrative convenience

following the state government's decision.

Three police districts - Baruipur, Diamond Harbour and Sundarbans have headquarters at Baruipur, Maheshtala and Kakdwip Lot 8 respectively. Senior Superintendent of Police Sunil Choudhury said, "The decision to form these police districts is to provide better services to the people. Bifurcation of such big district was a need over the years. This will help in quick police movement from one place to another within bifurcated shorter jurisdiction. This will also be a great help for the people who use to go to headquarters for various purposes. SPs of newly formed districts will function

independently but I will co-ordinate overall."

Police lines and headquarters of Sundarbans police district will be set up in and around Kakdwip and the authorities are now in search of a piece of land around 12 acres. Tathagata Basu, Superintendent of Police, Sundarbans said, the lone traffic guard at Kulpi is functioning in the district and there is a plan to have another at Kakdwip. He said there is need to have more manpower to manage 14 important junctions, which are heavily congested. Radio Transmission (RT) and District Control Room will also function under one roof. Certain areas including Kulpi, Mandirbazar and



Dholahat are communally sensitive and a core team would be set up for easy access to information. The team comprised with a constable or two and five civic police will be headed by an officer. Civic police while receiving any information will immediately pass on to the officer of the team and the said officer will inform the same to superior officers for further action. SP Sundarbans said, police force will be deputed at Mandirbazar under the supervision of DSP (Mandirbazar) as to mobilize it quickly to take control of law and order in case of any untoward situation. Some areas like Raidighi, Mathurapur, Mandirbazar are far flung from the district



headquarters and it is easier to reach those places from Mandirbazar. However, the post of DSP (Falta) has been renamed as DSP (Mandirbazar), he added.

The area has a stretch of 74-km long national highway. There are some encroachments on roads due to fish and betel wholesale markets. Traders and local people have to be sensitised for curbing

**ANANDA EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
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encroachment as well as creating road safety awareness. Mandirbazar, Raidighi are crime prone areas with cases like human trafficking and brewing of illicit liquor production. Police raids continuously to maintain normalcy in the area and 36 cases had been registered within last one month. As part of their community policing work they are going ahead with the 'Safe Drive Save Life' programme along with the Swayangsigdha project involving senior girl students to carry out the mass awareness campaign against the human trafficking.

Newly formed Diamond Harbour police district is comprised with 12 police stations and one woman police stations and population of the area is around 26.5 lakh, informed Koteswar Rao Nalavat, Superintendent of Police, Diamond Harbour. According to him, unemployment leads to a serious problem that sometimes crop up crime and

law and order issue. A large number of people are associated with the illegal distilleries and distribution of ID liquor. Police, however frequently raid at such distilleries, destroy huge quantity of hooch and register specific cases but the situation remains minimally changed. The menace of hooch can be completely stopped if alternative employment can be provided. 'We will take up the issue with the civil administration to sort out the menace of hooch and problem of local unemployment' said SP Diamond Harbour. Despite huge shortage of manpower, almost every unit has been set up in this district. The headquarters and police lines of Diamond Harbour police district is at Sarengabad. Control room, computer section, District Crime Record Bureau (DCRB), District Intelligence Branch (DIB) has already been set up and arrangements are being made for parade and manpower training at police lines.

SP, Diamond Harbour said, 'We have taken up the issue of traffic infrastructures with the appropriate authorities. PWD has been requested to widen and improve condition of roads and Maheshtala Municipality has been requested for proper illumination of roads.' Dostipur, Amtala and Sirakol are heavily congested and accident prone areas. Adequate measures have been taken to reduce road accidents particularly in these three black spots. Besides creating awareness on road safety, checking, surveillance and prosecution are done under supervision of Deputy Superintendent of Police (Traffic). Besides, installation of guard rails, incandescent cones, speed breakers extensive checking are carried by traffic personnel at different traffic posts. Speed cameras are used to record moments of signal and speed violation. Breathe analyzers are used to ascertain drunken driving and 185 prosecutions have been

made for drunken driving within a few months. Some areas are vulnerable and communally sensitive in the district. It has been emphasized to increase the visibility of the police through regular patrolling, interception (Naka) and surprise visits. Civic volunteers have been deputed for collecting information from vulnerable areas and police take immediate control over the situation before any untoward incident crop up. Koteswar Rao Nalavat, SP Diamond Harbour said that they were utilizing social media modern mode of communication including whatsapp, facebook to spread awareness about the menace of human trafficking in the area. Sampriti Cup Football Tournament and cricket tournament are also organized to promote better relationships with the locals.

Altogether 13 police stations and two women police stations have been brought under the newly formed Baruipur police district where more than 38 lakh people reside. Kultali and Joynagar are historically crime prone areas. Besides, crimes against body and property, human trafficking Baruipur police have also to face



challenges of piracy. Pirates from neighbouring country use to loot money and fish from Indian fishing boats and trawlers. The police arrested eight pirates.

Superintendent of Police Arijit Sinha said they had received 25 acres land for setting up a permanent police lines in Tangtala area. He said the area is developing very fast with the development of Basanti Highway and the areas proximity to the state capital town. He said Sonarpur Traffic Guard is maintaining the ever increasing traffic through the area keeping pace with the steady development. He said the cases of violation of traffic had gone up several times in

recent days. CCTV Cameras have been installed at many points to keep tab on the traffic movement in the area.

The SP said they lay emphasis on the community participation for better relationship among the local people and carry on the Swayangsiddha project with the involvement of girls high schools to prevent human trafficking which is rampant in the area. They also organize rehabilitation programme to help the process of improvement in the society. They promote community policing by involving younger people in various programmes including sports meet. ■



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CID taking a technological leap with TMS

By Our Correspondent

Criminal Investigation Department (CID), West Bengal, in an attempt to widen its intelligence network is planning to recruit Volunteers who will share information about local incidents and happenings. They can also share information about the local hoodlums and movements of any suspicious person in the locality. Attempt is being made to collect and update information in course of surveillance, detection and investigation. CID has developed Task Management System- a mobile based tasking system for Civic Volunteers for the said purpose.

It is said, information is power. Whoever holds the most information has the most control. Governments and enforcement agencies around the world make every effort to

acquire as much information and data as possible to stay a step ahead. This Task Management System has been developed for getting real time picture and

passing instructions with immediate effect so that no incident can crop up and create any law and order problem.



Task Management System works in an integrated manner which addresses various issues and problems.

Sharing of information helps the cops to take preventive measures to reduce crimes in the state. These CVs would be the eyes and ears of the police at the field level. They would provide real time updates about criminal activities and situational status. In today's busy world, people are looking towards more efficient management of tasks. To reduce work pressure and time consumed, companies and organisations are adopting automation technologies.

The Task Management System

has two parts – one is the dashboard and another is the mobile application. Additional Director General (CID) Dr. Rajesh Kumar said “The system has already started functioning in several districts, police districts and commissionerates and we are in the process of implementing it in the remaining places and units.” The dashboard is an all in one platform for allocating tasks to CVs and viewing the relayed information which can be accessed by specially designated supervisory officers. He or she can instruct the concerned entities according to the information being received from the civic volunteers on the field. It has

provision for building criminal profiles according to the data received, indicating relative performances of police stations in utilizing CVs, their attendance, predictions, and generates periodic reports and statements. Moreover, the dashboard can be customized according to the layout choice of the supervising officer for his or her convenience. The application which is installed in the phone or tablet of the CV has several features. It notifies the user of any upcoming tasks, shows performance statistics, and has an integrated instant messenger; can broadcast emergency messages and attendance registration. ■



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WBP observes Anti Drug Day

Atish Chatterjee, OC,
Narcotic Cell, CID

A psychoactive drug, psychopharmaceutical or psychotropic is a chemical substance that changes brain function and results in alternations in perception, mood consciousness or behaviour. These substances may be used medically, recreationally, purposefully to improve performance or alter one's consciousness, as

entheogens, for ritual, spiritual, or shamanic purposes or for research.

Psychoactive drugs operate temporarily affecting a person's neurochemistry, which in turn causes changes in a person's mood, cognition, perception and behaviour. There are many ways in which psychoactive drugs can affect the brain. Each drug has a

specific action on one or more neurotransmitter or neuroreceptor in the brain.

Long-term use of drugs causes changes in brain's chemical systems and circuits affecting important functions like learning, judgement, decision-making, stress, memory, behaviour. Despite being aware of these harmful outcomes, many people,

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সমবায়ী মন গড়ে তুলুন কৃষি উপকরণ সরবরাহ ও উৎপাদিত ফসলের সূচী বিপণন, শস্য সংরক্ষণে কারিগরি সহায়তা প্রদান ও সরকারের কৃষি ও সমবায় সংশ্লিষ্ট উন্নয়নে সার্বিক ভূমিকা পালনই আমাদের কাজ।

unfortunately get addicted to drugs and continue to take the drug which leads to addiction.

This addiction of drugs has become a major socio-cultural problem for the society. Over the years it has reached to a great proportion and time has come to counter this social menace more seriously so that younger generation can be rescued from getting trapped in the labyrinth. At times, it becomes so much of a problem that the person cannot live normally and suffer from various diseases affecting his/her personal life, family and ultimately society at large.

West Bengal Police has decided to deal with the problem on humanitarian ground to arouse consciousness among the people at large about the negative impact of drug addiction which spoils the future of the concerned persons, who cannot live normally, suffer from various diseases and become a liability for the society. WB Police accordingly observes June 26 every year as the "Anti-Drug" day to alert people about the ill-effects of the "over dose of drugs." Several NGOs are also associated with the awareness programme. This year however, the venue for the programme was selected at Howrah station on June 28 because of two consecutive holidays. DIG (Operations) CID, Nishat Parwez, Superintendent of Railway



Police Niladri Chakraborty, S.S. CID Subhankar Bhattacharya, among others, were present at the function.

CID, West Bengal has made a short film named "BIVISIKAR PRATIKAR" on the ill effects of drugs and the way out from such difficult phase of life. The film gives a vivid idea of the menace of drug users and the sufferings of the families associated with them. The film is being screened at various places.

West Bengal Police hold several rounds of coordination meetings throughout the year for sharing of intelligence, disposal of drugs, seizure, awareness programmes, etc. which have been conducted by CID, WB and the other State/Central organizations including the SSP of different districts. As a result we could be able to know about the kingpins, racketeers, dealers, peddlers related with NDPS cases. We have also arrested some kingpins and recovered a large quantity of Narcotic

Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. We have also conducted several joint operations with NCB, Kolkata at Burdwan, South 24 Parganas, Birbhum, Malda, and Nadia. Most affected police stations in the state are Samserganj, Suti, Raghunathganj, Lalgola, Bhagabangola, Ranitala, Raninagar and Jalangi of Murshidabad; Baishnabnagar and Kaliachak of Malda; Karimpur of Nadia; Bongaon of North 24 Parganas and Canning of South 24 Parganas.

Police raided at Raghunathganj and Berhampore in Murshidabad, Dankuni in Hooghly and Suri in Birbhum. They have seized 500 gms of Brown Sugar in Raghunathganj, 22 gms of Heroine from Berhampore, 137,000 bottles of 100 ml each of cough syrup containing Codeine Phosphate (Phensedyl) from Dankuni and 1,680 kgs of poppy straw. In Raghunathganj, SI Ashis Majumder of CID (HQ) raided a premise and apprehended



three persons and lodged an FIR on June 22, 2017. In Berhampore, SI Biswajit Mondal of Narcotic Cell (CID) raided the house of Hilal Seikh of Mankara, Mohammadpur and apprehended four accused on December 1, 2016. A FIR was registered in this connection. In Dankuni, Inspector Krishnendu Ghosh, OC Narcotic raided at Mahabir

Parking Plaza and apprehended four persons on December 1, 2016 and registered a complaint. Another raid was conducted in Suri area and two persons were apprehended in connection with poppy straw on November 28, 2016.

CID West Bengal has assumed upon itself the responsibility of

making West Bengal “a zero poppy cultivation state”. It started with the collection of data about the actual persons involved, the main financiers and supporters of illicit poppy cultivation, understanding the economics behind poppy cultivation. Armed with the correct data, a strategy was evolved and some of the main kingpins in the business were arrested.

Awareness programmes were organised in the affected districts involving all stakeholders such as farmers, Panchayat representatives, District Administrative officials, and officials of Excise and Agriculture departments and Narcotic Control Bureau.



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RAJESH SINGH
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A good school is one which takes care of its pupils in a manner that enables them to get a sound foundation of dealing with life. In addition to it is essential for a school to transmit knowledge of various subjects that are considered necessary in a way that the pupils are able to grasp the ideas and also appreciate them in my opinion a school needs to focus not only in academic instruction but also on physical development, mental / intellectual growth, sensitivity to cultural issues and other such aspects which are essential aspects of life. It is essential for a school to transmit moral and ethical value to the children. The child should get a broadening of the vision to enable him to deal with the world as a global village. Efforts need to be made to enhance the confidence level in every child.

It is my firm belief that a child's mind is a universe full of possibilities. It needs the right environment to develop to its maximum potentials at school and at home. To quote "A child's mind is like a dry sponge, ready to soak, all you need to do is to take it to water."

Save Greenery, Save Earth

Seminar at Telecom Headquarters

Prof. Nymphaea Rubra Paul

The students of leading university and colleges shared their concern for the steady deterioration of the environment and felt the need to restore natural flora and fauna urgently through concerted attempts to generate awareness for saving the Earth. A group of students from Presidency University, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology and the research scholars of West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences recently met in a seminar & held a brainstorming session on the possible ways to generate awareness among the people for "saving the greenery: saving the Earth". The seminar was held at West Bengal Police Telecom Head Quarters on 22 April, this year to observe Earth Day and was inaugurated by Shri Sushanta Chakraborty, Deputy Secretary, Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal.

The discussion highlighted the various activities taken at the grass root level for protecting the flora & fauna of mother

earth. Dr. Pravakaran from Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology focused on the aspects of marine pollution along the coastal areas of Chennai. He emphasized on the utilization of modernized techniques including the digital hydraulic suction system & its implementation in protecting the marine life along the coastal areas. Ocean mining sites are usually around large areas of poly metallic nodules (Manganese nodules) and extinct hydrothermal vents at about 1,400 - 3,700 meters below the ocean's surface. The

vents create sulfide deposits, which contain precious metals such as silver, gold, copper, manganese, cobalt, and zinc.

The deposits are mined using either hydraulic suction or continuous-line bucket systems that take ore to the surface to be processed, resulting in disturbances to the benthic layer, increased toxicity of the water column and sediment plumes from tailings. Removing parts of the sea floor disturbs the habitat of benthic organisms, possibly, depending on the type of mining and location, causing





permanent disturbances. Near bottom plumes occur when the tailings are pumped back down to the mining site. Dr. Asit Kumar Maji, Head of the department of Biochemistry threw light on the anti-rabies & animal birth control programme under the supervision of the West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences not only in the Calcutta Municipal Corporation areas but also several municipalities in West Bengal.

The students of Presidency University opined that the motto of today's youth is something beyond and it is YOU NOT ME. How to be aware about nature is an individual's choice but everyone must try it, they added. Shri Kalyan Kr. Mallick, IGP, Telecom spread the message of individual responsibility in protecting the greenery by taking small footsteps yet bold & sustainable in near future. In his inaugural address, Sushanta Chakraborty focused on the fine line of understanding of the duty & responsibility. He said the youth of today are diamonds & the teachers can turn them into Kohinoor in the near future.

The programme under National Services Scheme (NSS) of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Govt. of India was coordinated by me and while addressing the ceremony I added, 'the students at large develop fellow feeling and acquire a high sense of social responsibility when they feel that men in uniform are there with them for social

cause. Students are highly motivated by the presence of police personnel for lending their hearty cooperation and implementation.'

About the author:

She is attached with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, National Police Academy Hyderabad and SVSPA, Barrackpore as a faculty member.

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Investiture Ceremony

Joint Investiture Ceremony of West Bengal Police & Kolkata Police held at 'Uttirna' Open Theatre in June 2017



Blood Donation

Glimpses of Blood Donation drive initiated by Hon'ble Chief Minister to fulfill the scarcity of blood during summer. 16000 police personnel of WBP donated during the event which was held from 20th to 26th May 2017





Anti Drug Day
Various rallies and programs were organised across the state on 26th June - International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking





Plantation

Tree saplings were planted on 5th June which is celebrated as World Environment Day



Road Safety

Moments captured during road safety awareness campaigns





Awareness & Felicitation

Snaps of a variety of awareness and felicitation programs of West Bengal Police





Utsarga

Blood donation cum
Free Medical Checkup camp
organised by W.B.P.





Sukanya

Sukanya - Self defence training for girl students initiated by West Bengal Police launched at Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate





Swayangsidha
Glimpses of the
Swayangsidha
awareness programs
organised by various
police stations



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Redefined Malda in state crime map

with zero poppy mission

Abhijit Chatterjee

Malda, on the northern bank of the Ganges and Farraka Barrage at times was the capital of Gour during the Sultanate regime and had a glorious past. But, this bordering district lost its grandeur and decades back it became one of the vulnerable and crime prone districts due to many nefarious activities. Malda Police has however, redefined the district in the state crime map following its success of zero poppy missions.

Malda had always been known for heinous crimes like dacoity, robbery, murder, kidnapping for ransom, gang rivalry etc and different rowdy groups from in and outside Malda used to commit such crimes. But, during last 15 years the crime pattern got modified in

the district which was hub for clandestine poppy cultivation and corridor for distributing Fake Indian Currency Note (FICN). Malda district shares 173 K.M long international borders with Chapai Nawabganj district of Bangladesh and more than 80 K.M border with Katihar in Bihar and 30 K.M border with Sahibgunj in Jharkhand. Since

this district has inter-state and international borders, it has been rather sandwiched due to criminal activities committed by outside gangs taking shelter in this district and other external agencies intend to destabilise the economy of our country.

Malda Police besides, various preventive measures tried to



tackle crime mainly by roping population of the district through various community policing initiatives. Alor Pathye- a scheme was introduced in the district to felicitate Madhyamik, Higher Secondary toppers and successful candidates in Engineering and Medical degree course. Last year three students one from Kaliachak and two from Baishnabnagar were felicitated in presence of locals, aspiring students and dignitaries. This brightened the image of the district police. These meritorious students who are mostly from underprivileged section of the society have become prominent goodwill



ambassadors of the district police. They partially ease the job of police by counseling distracted villagers to keep themselves away from

indulging illegal, immoral and criminal activities. A Football Tournament namely Samanwoy Cup was organized at Kaliachak which was

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inaccessible for police for its notoriety. Teams from all 27 Gram Panchayats participated in the tournament and the local youths came closer to the police than ever. The youthfulness and energy of local youths were earnestly and consciously channelized so as to prevent them to going ashtray, said Ar nab G h o s h , the Superintendent of Police. Once again this huge pool of young men became goodwill ambassadors of local police and developed into an important interface between the police station and public in general. Malda Police also introduced a vocational training programme Disha for the educated youths of Kaliachak, Baisnabnagar in particular those had a tendency

of slipping into darker avenues of life due to want of proper employment. District police with the help of general administration of Malda took an initiative to impart three months vocational training on Hardware Maintenance, Tally software, Private Security etc to the youths under Border Area Development Fund (BADF). Substantial numbers of such trained youths have earned a decent job and 126 selected boys and girls are yet to get proper employment. These initiatives have empowered both, the community and the police. The police in a joint operation with CID could zero down the illegal poppy cultivation where monetary involvement was hundreds of crores. The status of zero

poppy district has also been admitted by Central government agencies (NCRB), informed SP.

Fatal road accidents have been dropped down by 30 percent since July last year because of systematic approach of the district police. Traffic department identified accident prone zones following 'Black Spots' analysis and the officials physically visited 419 crossings of National Highway(NH), State Highway(SH), district median roads. Speedy vehicles from perpendicular road suddenly got onto the main carriageway which was the reason for fatal accidents, they observed. Following a meeting with the superior officers of district police and engineers of NHAI, PWD (NH), PWD



(Roads) and Zila Parishad, speed breakers were built on such lateral roads which yielded successive result in reducing road accident.

'We have emphasized on proactive policing,' said Superintendent of Police. Social crimes like child marriage, child labour could be prevented due to preventive role of the police and awareness of public. Civic Volunteers and Village Police

are systematically utilized for collecting every possible information and recovery of missing minors. During last ten months 919 minor girls were recovered and 92 child marriages were stopped by the police in Malda. The Civic Volunteers and Village Police maintain regular contact with the villagers and this actually helps them to get even trivial information like the appearance of Nilgai (Blue Bull) in Adina forest. Police are

reaching at the door of people as a development meeting on every fourth Saturday of month is convened and chaired by Pradhan of Gram Panchayat. Development and social issues are discussed in the meeting and prompt actions are taken. The issues which are not directly related with the police are taken up with the concerned authorities of civil administration, said Arnab Ghosh, Superintendent of Police. ■



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Online access to public to express grievances

By Our Special Correspondent

Jalpaiguri Police has introduced online access to public so that they can express their grievances through its website www.jalpaiguripolice.in to draw the attention of the top cop of the district. A column under the head Grievance has been incorporated in the website of the district police which is first of its kind among websites of other district police, claimed Superintendent of Police Amitabha Maity. It is an effort to reach out the public with a better and faster means of communication so that people can express their grievances and can even lodge a complaint against any personnel but their identity will be kept secret, he explained.



There is a Grievance Tab in the website. A person wanting to keep his/her identity undisclosed can click on this Tab and post a grievance after registering himself/herself by getting an OTP.

Jalpaiguri is topographically very important because of its proximity with the

international borders of two neighbouring countries- Bangladesh and Bhutan - and famous forest. It has 94-km bordering areas with Bangladesh and another 45-km with Bhutan. Problems of infiltration, smuggling of cattle, drugs and other commodities cause concern for

the police authorities, who have tightened their grip on those crucial matters through intensified patrolling and other pro-active steps to ensure better law and order situation and availability of other facilities for the backward areas of the district. The district has introduced Tourist Police Volunteer in the places of tourist interests like Lataguri, Gorumara and Chalsa who have been armed with mobiles and cycles so that they can easily communicate with concerned individuals or officials for solving problems of the tourist to make their visit comfortable.

The district has 41 Border Outposts (BPOs) to man the two international borders for checking infiltration and smuggling, among other things. The district police have also introduced a verification process for the inhabitants in the bordering moujasi in consultation with the local panchayat bodies under a definite prescribed format for verification of Character Antecedents of the inhabitants of the bordering villages which would soon be done online.

The district is generally



peaceful. However police undertake awareness campaign in almost all tea garden areas to combat trafficking cases. Police also carry on awareness drive for the prevention of child marriage, ATM frauds and drug abuses, among other social ills. Night patrolling, Naka checking and Motorcycle patrolling are carried out regularly to curb criminal activities. District police has taken action against cattle, timber, coal smuggling and

prevented illegal lifting of river bed materials. Cases have been registered against illegal transportation of coal and have seized trucks which were being used for such activities. The district police had also seized huge quantity of valuable timbers and large number of cattle following strict vigilance.

District police has undertaken joint exercise with the Counter Insurgency Force (CIF) in close cooperation of the Forest department to make CIF

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officials familiar with the terrains of jungle patches of Gorumara, Chapramari and Khuttimari besides other adjoining areas to prevent poaching and to keep track if there is any existence of the extremists' elements in the region. Watch towers have been set up at Elenbarie bordering with Darjeeling district and Chamurchi bordering with Bhutan for effective policing and to control cross border crime.



The district police have adopted a series of measures to reduce road accidents through coordinated activities. Besides organising awareness

programmes on "Safe Drive Save Life" audio CDs are played at vantage points, barriers are placed with cautionary signage in the identified accident prone areas and other steps in consultation with the National Highways Authorities. Civic Volunteers are also deployed in different areas to make people aware of the road safety. Special camps are being set up in different anchals with the support of the Village Police and Civic volunteers who take note of the people's problems and sent back to the Block Development Officials for taking appropriate steps to solve their problems. ■





Curbing cannabis plantation, ensures peace

Abhijit Chatterjee

CoochBehar, erstwhile princely state, was incorporated with Indian union and become a district of West Bengal in 1950. King's palace (Rajbari) which is the icon of CoochBehar resembles with the Buckingham palace and influenced by Italian architecture. The palace was set up by Maharaja Nripendra

Narayan during the 15th century. Koch dynasty was established by Visamviswa during 915 AD. Besides Nripendra Narayan, Jitendra Narayan and Jagaddipendra were important among Koch kings who were famous for initiating various welfare steps and reforming judicial system.

Forgetting its glorious past, a

section of people in CoochBehar was inclined to grow cannabis (ganja) plant with the insistence of some crooked persons that tarnished the image of the district and made it infamous. However, CoochBehar Police last year tracked down the narcotic gang, arrested culprits and seized 2500Kgs cannabis worth



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more than one crore rupees. District Police in a joint operation with CID conducted an aerial survey with DRONE and identified the places where cannabis plants were grown. Cannabis plants were then set on fire. Poppy cultivation had also been totally curbed down due to surveillance. In a major breakthrough, narcotic substances like opium and cough syrup were also seized in huge quantities and destroyed at bio -plant under supervision of Drug Disposal Committee, informed Superintendent of Police Anoop Jaiswal.

The district has 550 K.M inter -state and international borders with Assam, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Although, no incident of infiltration or



insurgent activities of Kamtapur Liberation Organisation, (KLO) National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), Rava Party is reported during recent years still police is quite vigilant and keeps regular monitoring in co-ordination with Border

Security Force (BSF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and CRPF. There are several check posts for intercepting vehicles and Naka operation. Surveillance has been intensified during night through cycle and foot patrolling. Highway patrol vans patrol on NH 31 and State



Highways 12A and 16. Police personnel record footages with body cameras and those are sent to SP. Superior officers including SP go on surprise visits at different places to check whether on duty personnel are on alert. Intelligence collection has been improved following regular interaction among personnel of all 13 Police Stations, two Women Police Stations - one at Sadar and another at Dinhata, Village Police, Civic Volunteers and superior officers through WhatsApp group. Civic Volunteers of 128 anchals and village police immediately inform Anchal Officer in case of arrival of any stranger in any village and suspicious movement of any person. Prior information in fact helps to tackle and prevent any untoward incident before it happens. Anchal officers also hold weekly meeting with their respective team of Village Police and Civic Volunteers.

Separate traffic unit has been set up in six police stations and the unit functions under supervision of OC (Traffic). Thirty Constables and 1200 civic volunteers are deputed for various operation of traffic unit. The district police has



already identified important crossings and vulnerable areas for installing 110 CCTV cameras which will put in operation very soon. Number of road accidents has significantly come down following installation of guard rails, illuminated road stud, speed breaker and street lighting, said the Superintendent of Police. The district police arrange in-service training for SI and ASIs. Indoor and outdoor training and fire fighting training has also been organized for capacity building of Civic Volunteers.

'Safe Drive, Save Life' is now not mere a popular slogan but it has become a very successful awareness campaign which

involves all stake holders including students, NGOs and local clubs. A tableau on 'Safe Drive, Save Life' campaign moved round on the road during the Republic Day parade. Blood donation camps were also organized in different police stations and at the district headquarters and 813 units were collected during this summer. CoochBehar Sports 2017 and Khel Diwas were organised this year where nearly 500 clubs and 10000 participants took part in various events like Football, Volleyball, Kabaddi, Karate, etc. There were junior and sub junior groups. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee awarded ten toppers in a gala concluding ceremony. ■

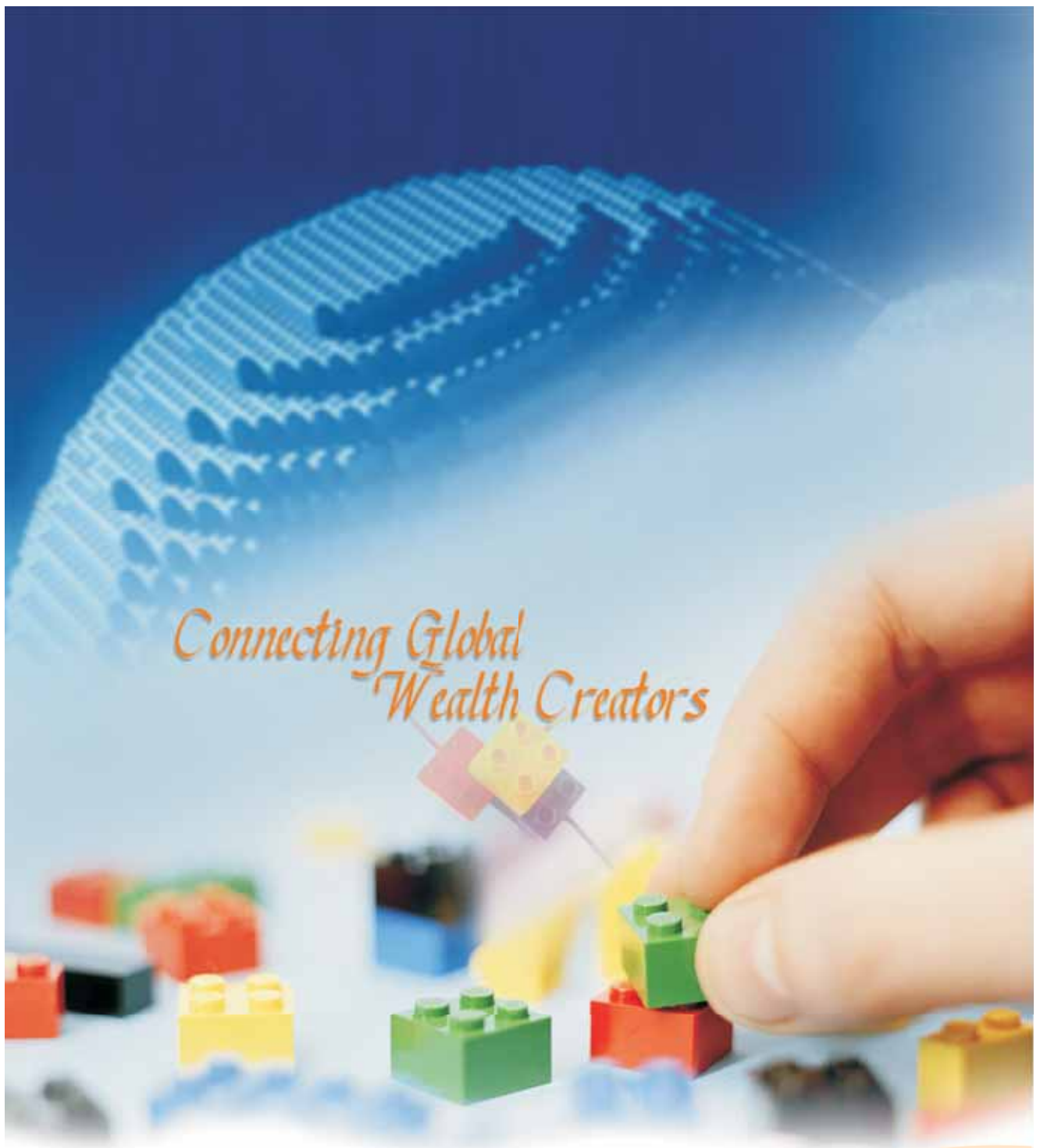


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Uttar Dinajpur Police organises Placement Fair for youths

Abhijit Chatterjee

Uttar Dinajpur Police has made a mark in its community initiatives. This district is one step ahead from others as it has arranged placement fair for the unemployed youths following skill development training under Border Area Development Programme (BADP).

Uttar Dinajpur Police has taken up an ambitious project to train nearly 5,000 youths including women in different vocational skills so that they can find a job. The training on Computer

Hardware Maintenance, Data Entry Operator, Financial accounting through Tally and Security Guards had

been imparted to local youths so that they can meet up local demands of skilled human resource and find a job. The candidates had undergone training for 100 hours and they



can practice on their own without any cost.

Six hundred youths have already been imparted training in first phase. Besides, vocational training the district



police has arranged career counseling and grooming session for XII pass outs by professional agencies. B T Solution, Sunita Skills, Trust India Solution, RCLD, Prime Security Agency had participated in the Placement

training programmes are organised for the younger generation of the area, who have completed class XII. We will continue to help them get ready for getting employment opportunity. Experts on the career development schemes



Fair and had also extended their co-operation in providing employment. District Superintendent of Police **Amit Kumar Bhagat Rathod** told **West Bengal Protector** that their effort to train local youths proved success since 22 of 600 candidates have already received employment after the training. The SP said, "Such

have been roped in to conduct these training programmes so that the trainees become suitable to take up prospective assignments."

While international telecom company Vodafone has appointed 15 trained persons, seven others have received employment as Security Guards in different

establishments. A survey was conducted in 3000 villages in seven blocks along Indo-Bangladesh borders and the training programme had been undertaken as part of the country's current effort for Skill Development. The government has earmarked funds for the development along border areas. Kendriya Bhandar – a Govt of India sponsored NGO has been entrusted with the job to train the local people, who belonged to the financially backward sections in this bordering district.

The SP said that they had started preventive policing to ensure advance information gathering for the prevention of crimes. A systematic approach is being maintained so that criminals do not have easy access to resources for committing crimes. Mapping of crime prone areas has been done and background and criminal antecedents of the miscreants have been collected through source networks. They have disposed about 22000 warrants during recent years and have taken appropriate steps to deal with the cognizable offence, he added.

The district has 237-km international border with Bangladesh and 205-km inter-state border making the areas more vulnerable. There are seven check posts on NH31 and 34 and the state highway. Superior officers visit at various incepting points where Naka Checking is usual.





Accident prone areas on major thoroughfares have also been identified. Besides installing 32 CCTV cameras and guard rails at different vantage positions, the district police has introduced solar blinkers, road studs and cautionary signs to make the entire highway better for smooth movement, the SP informed. He also said that they had started taking certain measures to help the drivers driving heavy trucks on the

highway. Blood pressure of truck drivers are measured on the road side camps. If any driver is found unfit to drive at that moment, he is advised to take rest for at least 30 minutes at the camp and is offered water and tea. This measure has been taken to reduce the chances of accident because truck drivers drive for long hours and particularly on highways. They may fall asleep or their Blood Pressure may go

high which may increase the chances of road accidents. The SP said, the idea behind the measure was "not to punish but to create an emphatic environment." The district police has also taken up social awareness programmes as a section of people still has the habit of "witch hunting". A section of villagers indulge in child marriage largely because of backwardness in the region. ■

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Tourist Police for Dooars visitors

Abhijit Chatterjee



Dooars is now new destination for tourists for its scenic beauty and picturesque forest. A section of tourists who are little bit adventurous also prefer to trek along the jungle and hills in Dooars. Some places in the region have been developed as tourist destination in the state and showcased by the government since last few years. Alipurduar Police accordingly has introduced Tourist Police to provide necessary security cover for those who visit emerging tourist destinations like Buxa, Jayanti, Haatipota, Raimatang, Khayerbari and particularly Jaldapara wildlife sanctuary. Forest areas are open for

tourists except 90 days from 15 June.

Securities of tourists are all time priority of Alipurduar Police. District Intelligence Branch (DIB) verifies reports on guests' check in and checkout of all the hotels through online. They also verify the identities of guests at Home Stay. Such verification of tourists gives police a clear picture about the people who visit Dooars for spending leisure time or any other purpose.

Superintendent of Police Avvaru Ravindranath told West Bengal PROTECTOR that forest covers one-third of total



area in the district. Naturally crimes related to forest i.e. poaching, tree felling, timber smuggling were common at times. It was a major challenge for the police to stop poaching and smuggling in the sensitive forest and bordering areas as the poaching gangs hailed from other states. Elephant tusk and horn of rhino are precious and sold in crores of rupees in foreign countries. A horn of rhino is sold at Rs 1.2



crore. Poaching gangs from Assam and other North Eastern states in connivance with locals used to kill wild animals for smuggling their tusks, horns, skins, etc. for earning lucrative amounts. Those gangs did not even bother to exchange fire with deadly weapons to kill forest guards. But now forest crime has come down as villagers have been sensitized. Villagers

have been advised to report police in case they see any stranger in the village and about suspicious movement of him or any local. Poaching has been contained since 2015 following people's awareness and security beef up. The police had arrested goons of two poaching gangs one from Assam and another from Manipur and seized two AK47 rifles. No incident of poaching

has been reported thereafter.

Alipurduar district has 95 K.M international borders with Bhutan and 30 K.M inter-state borders with Assam. Jaigaon in Alipurduar district is bordering town which shares borders with Phuntsholing, the gateway of Bhutan. Lots of Bhutanese nationals travel through these borders. Police keep eyes on law and order in the region and guard borders

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in association with CRPF and SSB. Earlier poachers and smugglers managed to flee through the borders after

committing crimes. But strict surveillance has stopped such crimes. Alipurduar police is ever vigilant in border areas so

that no insurgent can sneak into this district. SP said 60 CCTV cameras have been installed in 17 vulnerable places of which 25 CCTV cameras alone have been installed in the border areas at Jaigaon with the help of Jaigaon Development Authority. One company CRPF personnel have been deployed at Barobisha near Assam border and some Border Out Posts are run at Indo- Bhutan borders by 34 Battalion of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). Two highway patrol vans patrol round the clock on highways.

Besides observing Road Safety Week, Alipurduar Police also organises 'Safe Drive Save Life' campaign in association with local schools, clubs, NGOs and emphasises on bringing changes in road user's behaviour by creating rudimentary knowledge on traffic rules and road sense. Traffic infrastructures on NH31 and other roads have been developed. Asian Highway will also come up within a year. Twenty auto-manual signals, road stud, guard rails have been installed at different important crossings. Police come down heavily on the offenders for drunken driving, signal violation and speeding. The district police uses breathe analyzer, laser speed gun to ascertain such offenses. Forty two driving license have been cancelled within a few months for flouting traffic rules.

There are 62 tea gardens in the district where police carried on

awareness campaign and sensitised people on various issues and also extended necessary support as part of the community initiatives. Awareness programme and continuous campaign against Human Trafficking at all tea gardens, schools and villages has almost zeroed down trafficking in the district and in recognition of this exemplary effort US Consulate has felicitated SP Avvaru Ravindranath. Police also launched an awareness campaign at every Gram Panchayat about ATM fraud and thousands of leaflets were distributed among the villagers. In such camps police explained how villagers were lured by the frauds. Police warned them not to share ATM pin with anybody because no



Bank official ask it for. The villagers were advised to ignore such unsolicited phone calls and/or SMS. Awareness campaign against narcotic drug is also organised every year. There are eight police stations and one women police station in the district and peace committees have been formed in every police station area to ensure harmony among all communities, SP informed. He

said, 8.56 acre land has been earmarked for construction of police barracks, canteen, armoury, family quarters etc in police lines. State government has sanctioned Rs 42 crores for development of these infrastructures and another Rs 8 crores for erecting a four storied building where offices of SP, Addl. SP and other senior officers will be housed. ■

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Falakata Police Station Prevents child marriage and gambling

Anirban Saha

Falakata is one of the oldest Police Stations in West Bengal. It was a sub-division in 1905. The old PS building was built by Chinese craftsmen. Its new building

was built by the Siliguri - Jalpaiguri Development Authority (SJDA). Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the building in 2012.

Mujnai River is flowing towards the western direction of the police station. At times waterways were very popular means of transport here and large boats, barges used to



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Binod Gazmere

Inspector in Charge, Falakata PS



ferry passengers and goods from this place. Mahakabarli Ghat and Goalpara Ghat are still landmarks of this area. Vegetables are produced in good quantity as the land is fertile for the presence of alluvial soil. There are ten cold storages in the area which facilitate local producers to keep their produces stored for few months. Nearly three lakh people live in this town including some tribal population. The area has seven tea gardens. Most of the people belong to middle income group and their occupations are mostly

agriculture and business. Although literacy rate here is as high as 60 per cent still child marriage and gambling are phenomenal. These are the challenges for police to curb down such social evils. Crime against women and property-related disputes are often reported but those are efficiently dealt with. Law and order situation in the area is now under control though it was disturbed in the mid-nineties of the last century.

Policing: Continuous surveillance through mobile patrolling, cycle patrolling and foot patrolling has

maintained public tranquility despite the presence of some sensitive areas. Since police are visible in the locality miscreants think twice before committing an offence. Last year a notorious gang which had stolen motorcycles was caught and four persons were arrested in that connection and 14 vehicles were seized.

Jurisdictional area of Falakata Police Station is divided into 12 Anchals. Each Anchal has a Peace Committee consisting of 10 members and meeting of these committees are held periodically to review the situation of the respective

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anchal. Later the resolution is referred to the police for appropriate actions. The members of those committees are connected through a WhatsApp group. Updated

information of any local incident are shared among the members of this group which helps in tackling matters quickly before it crops up and create a law and order

problem. Meetings are also organised with Gram Panchayat Pradhans at regular intervals to listen to their grievances. Holding of village meetings, display of Tableaus and distribution of leaflets, awareness campaign with the assistance of NGOs play a significant role in removing social evils.

New Traffic Wing has been created with two officers, 105 Civic Volunteers who have been performing round the clock duties since October last year. Traffic posts have been setup with CCTVs at Dhupguri, Milbor Chowpati and Falakata Chowpati. A police post has been setup at Dateshwar recently with three officers, who look after five GPs in the northern side. Drives against illegal





encroachment on footpaths are conducted along the stretch of Falakata bazaars and other main roads to keep traffic flow smoother

Beyond Policing: Awareness campaigns against child marriage, gambling, liquor consumption and ATM fraud are organised from time to time involving clubs, NGOs and other stake holders. Tableaus move around the villages and large number of leaflets distributed among people to educate safe handling of ATM. Mid-day meal checks in the schools are also being carried out by the police to ensure hygiene among the school children. This year 36 local clubs participated in Himal Tarai Festival where football, martial arts, archery and other sports were part of the event. An orientation programme is held at regular intervals involving schools which educate and inform the school-goers on the working of a police station and its various aspects. 'Safe Drive Save Life' campaign was organised and since last year 35 rallies were organised involving school and college students, transporters, public and local clubs. Short films on road safety were screened at various

educational institutions. Blood donation camps were organised which helped them to collect 70 units of blood and handed over to blood bank. ■



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Kotwali Police Station

Protecting People and Heritage

Anirban Saha

CoochBehar, as the name suggests was the abode for Cooch before incorporation with Indian union in 1950. It was a princely state ruled by Cooch kings. Many heritage buildings and cultural legacy of Cooch dynasty are still evident in CoochBehar which is now a district in North Bengal. CoochBehar is immediately recognized for the architectural excellence of King's Palace, Madan Mohan Temple, Banerwar Temple and many other buildings of Cooch dynasty. Cooch kings had own currency, measuring system, criminal justice delivery system and so on. Maharaja Nripendra Narayan banned the practice of slave-keeping (Kritadas Pratha) in his kingdom through enactment of

law in 1884. His son Maharaja Jitendra Narayan reformed the judicial system during his reign. Present Kotwali police station building also bears the heritage of Cooch rules. It was Kotwali during Jitendra Narayan's regime.

Area Profile: The jurisdiction of Kotwali Police Station covers an area of 754.84 Sq. Kms with one Sub-Division, two Blocks and a Municipality with 20 Wards. Kotwali Police Station shares boundary with Pundibari Police Station in north, Dinhata Police Station in south, Mathabhanga Police Station in east and Tufanganj Police Station in west. Population is approximately more than 75 lakhs.

There are two universities-

Coochbehar Panchanan Barma University and Uttar Banga Krishi Vishwavidyalaya. Nine colleges, 55 high schools, 236 primary schools and 47 madrasas cater the needs of education in CoochBehar town. Besides some temples of historical significance, there are some mosques in this area. Jute, tobacco, rice, pulses and corn are most commonly grown in the area. There is district hospital - Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Hospital and some private hospitals, clinics and several primary health centres to look after medical needs of the populace. There is a shelter for orphaned children. The town has an airport but isn't very active.

Policing: The overall law and

Officerspeak:

Communication is the key word in policing too. We try to resolve any problem by way of proper communication. We hold talks with aggrieved persons or who are at loggerheads. We seldom resort to stringent means as people are mostly law abiding.

Samir Kumar Paul
Inspector in Charge



order situation in town is good though there are instances of many motor cycle thefts. The local people are somewhat aggressive and sensitive on certain issues. They even take law on their hands and lynch targeted person. Cattle smuggling and lifting are matter of concern in semi urban and rural areas. Cannabis cultivation particularly in Bandhsala and Chandnamari areas remain a headache for the police. Yet, the cops stay vigilant round the clock which has resulted in arrests of many who had been involved in drug peddling, kidnapping, robbery, fake currency racketeering, etc. Our officers and men patrol with a vehicle, motorbikes and cycles and guard Banks and ATM



kiosks during night and inform superior officers about any development through WhatsApp.

Beyond Policing: Kotwali Police Station organises various community programmes from time to time which include donating clothes

and blankets to the poor people, facilitating needy students with books and other stationeries, providing expenses for higher education to the meritorious but financially weak students and organising blood donation and free medical checkup camps, sports tournaments etc. ■



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Kotwali Police Station - Jalpaiguri

Ever vigilant at transit point

By Our Correspondent

Jalpaiguri is known for three Ts - Tea, Timber and Tourism—has made the area popular and prosperous. The name is possibly originated from the abundant local produce of Jalpai (Olive). The town's topography is criss-crossed with rivulets and rivers and it is situated close to the hilly region of Darjeeling and neighbouring Sikkim.

Area Profile: Kotwali Police Station of Jalpaiguri has a jurisdictional area of 503.1 Sq. Kms. The area is populated by mostly Bengali, Santhali, Nepali, Marwari and Hindi speaking people. There are 14 Gram Panchayats and a

Municipality covering 45 Wards. Tea, paddy, jute, mustard, potato, watermelon and ground nut are grown in the area. The area has a number of tourist attractions - Devi Choudhurani Temple, Bhramri Devi Temple, Jatilleshwar Temple, Jalpesh Shrine, Pir Kalu Sahib Shrine, tea gardens and different spots to watch scenic beauty including sunrise in the Teesta spur and the Teesta barrage. Wildlife in the forest-dominated areas includes Elephants, Barking Deer, Spotted Deer and a number of birds. People are mostly literate. Jalpaiguri Zilla School, Government Girls

High School, Fanindra Deb Institution, Sunitibala Sadar Girls School, Holy Child School, Saint Paul's School, Kendriya Vidyalaya are some of the reputed schools in the town. Ananda Chandra College, P.D. Women's College, St. Xavier's College are affiliated to University of North Bengal. Jalpaiguri Polytechnic Institute, Institute of Pharmacy, Jalpaiguri Government Engineering College, Jalpaiguri Law College are institutions for pursuing diploma, degree in engineering and law.

Policing: Sevoke being a transit point, it remains busy almost



Officerspeak:

I emphasize on professionalism and no cop should be impatient to hear public grievances. Despite, pressure of this job, I suggest my colleagues to find some time for physical exercise because this can only keep them feet and cheerful. They should also have thorough knowledge about local people and their sentiments. A cop who is a good communicator and always provides people some kind of assistance, naturally earns respect of the society.

Biswasroy Sarkar
IC, Kotwali PS

all year round. Heavy traffic of people and goods brings in challenges. The police is ever vigilant to keep eyes on them. Check posts which are setup at various locations have to inspect hundreds of trucks every day to check thoroughfare of illegal goods. The Highway Patrol vehicles do their job on the highway stretch which is 80kms long. The vehicles are fitted with on-board cameras. To increase visibility at night and during adverse weather, retro reflective tapes have been put at different spots. Two international borders with Bhutan and Bangladesh possess a key challenge as enormity of trade is conducted annually through them. Apart

from them, there is a state border with Assam and a district border with Darjeeling. The jurisdictional area of the Kotwali police station is segregated into several anchals. The cops hold weekly meetings and Police Assistant Booths at those anchals. There is a designated anchal officer for each anchal, who reports every happening of the anchal to the cops from time to time. This way the cops get the quick raw information from them. The police have the responsibility of checking mid-day meals at various schools also. They also meet volunteers, employees and doctors of different NGOs those run home and day care centres to get updates on the

children. The cops are always connected by official WhatsApp groups by which they stay updated real time.

Beyond Policing: Community policing goes hand in hand with conventional form of policing. Kotwali Police station conducts many community policing programs all year round. Few months back, the station conducted blood donation camp to replenish dwindling stocks of blood banks across the state. 60 units of blood were collected from donors from every walk of life. Safe Drive Save Life rallies and campaigns are also organised from time to time to generate awareness among the public. ■

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ITAHAR POLICE STATION
UTTAR DINAJPUR , ITAHAR

Itahar Police Station

Always alert to maintain public tranquility

By Our Special Correspondent

Uttar Dinajpur is at remote location in North Bengal. Itahar is one of the three towns in this district which is mostly known

and talked about following district headquarters Raiganj.

Itahar Police Station has a boundary of area bordering

Kaliaganj in Uttar Dinajpur, both Harirampur and Kusmundi in Dakshin Dinajpur at Eastern side. Both Chanchol and Harishchandrapur in Malda and Abadpur at Katihar in Bihar are located at Western side of this police station. This police station shares border with Raiganj police station in northern side while Pukhuria and Gajol police station area of Malda district on the southern side. The area is a little more than 364 sq k.m consisting of 12 Gram Panchayats. Itahar is one



Officerspeak:

Although it is contrary to our age-old tradition still there has been a new trend of intolerance among the people. We would request people to nurture our tradition of amity. We would advise people to pay no heed to any rumour but warn those who incite public sentiments.

Nim Tshering Bhutia

Officer in Charge, Itahar PS



of the very few towns which has no direct railway link and depend largely on road connection. The area has nearly 2.5 lakh population with predominantly minority community. A large section of people depends on agriculture. Paddy, wheat, jute, corn and pulses are grown in the area. Nearly 52 percent people are literate and there are 49 secondary and higher secondary schools besides 173 primary schools. Dr. Meghnad Saha College is one graduate degree college in this area while Maulana Abul Kalam College and Ideal Teachers Training College are two teachers training institutions. This area has 36 primary health centres and 24 branches of different banks.

Policing: The area is sensitive for its topography and the police have to keep eyes on every trivial matter. There is one officer for each Anchal who is assisted by one Village Police for maintaining law and order at village level. There are 'Peace Committees' comprising of Pradhan and other members of respective Gram Panchayat and

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members of all communities, those ensure peaceful celebration of different festivals of all communities. They also ensure that members of all communities remain together and maintain cordial relation among them. Micro-level committees are active to ensure that no problem can crop up.

There is an Out Post at Churamon under this police station and altogether six police camps have been set up at different remote places for the total coverage and visibility of cop. Those police camps are at Pratirajpur in East, Jamalpur in West, Kotar at far North, Madhuban at South and Joyhat at far South. Boitala Check Post is on NH 34 to prevent road

accidents and highway crime. Intensive patrolling is carried out particularly at night. One vehicle covers the northern side while the other one covers the southern. Patrolling team of Itahar police station has adopted the policy of preventive policing to check highway crimes. They intercept passenger and goods vehicles at eleven Naka points, question drivers and/or passengers, check relevant documents and cross examine that none of them have otherwise ulterior motive. Motor cycle theft and land related crimes are frequent in the area. Dowry related disputes and tortures at in-laws house are also common mostly in rural areas but

offenders are strongly dealt with. Civic Volunteers are used for traffic duty, Bank and ATM kiosk guarding and collecting village level information.

Beyond Policing: This police station undertakes various programmes for improving relationship with the people and extends support to the backward sections in many ways. It organises blood donation camps and also awareness drives on various issues including human trafficking and child marriage. It observes Road Safety Week and conducts Safe Drive Save Life campaign as well. Special steps are taken during the time of natural calamities and relief materials are made available to the victims. Blanket and woollen materials are distributed among poor people during winter. This police station organises Police-Public football and cricket tournament to improve relationship with commoners and local youths for ensuring better law and order situation.



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CID nets Fake CID officials

By Our Special Correspondent

Phansidewa PS case no.192/17 dt.13/06/17 u/s
384/419/420/411/120B IPC

Five fake CID officials were arrested by Criminal Investigation Department and Detective Department of Darjeeling Police. Criminal Investigation Department, West Bengal, has nabbed a three-member "fake CID officers", near Mahananda Bridge under Phansidewa in Darjeeling who tried to hoodwink a local businessman for paying graft on June 13 this year. The fraudsters were arrested following a businessman Mohammad Meheub Alam of Chathat, Phansidewa met CID officials at Special Superintendent (North Bengal) Office, Pintail Village in Siliguri and expressed his doubt over the

raid and subsequent demand of money by the said officials.

While narrating the incident, Md. Alam said to CID officials that five persons led by one Subodh Chandra Roy entered into his business premises - Teesta Fertilizer" on 25 May at around 10-30 A.M. They claimed themselves as CID and reprimanded him that he was doing clandestine business of expired fertilizer. They took away his mobile sets and got into forceful entry to godown and started searching. They allegedly took some empty gunny bags of fertilizer and prepared a seizure list but written nothing on that and forced the businessman to sign on the blank paper. Subodh Ch.

Roy demanded 20 lakhs rupees from Md. Alam with an assurance of settling up the matter. Three of them took Md. Alam at the terrace of his house and threatened him to face dire consequences if their demand of money was not fulfilled. During this threatening session others of the team were able to rob Rs. 1, 10,000/- (One lakh ten thousand rupees) from his fertilizer shop which was revealed later. At the time of departure fraudsters demanded Rupees Rs. 1, 50,000/- (One lakhs and fifty thousand only) and reminded the businessman to fulfill their demand failing which he would have to face dire consequences. The fake CID



team took mobile numbers of the businessman. The businessman could not trust the CID officials and he decided to verify the fact with the office of SS (NB).

The businessman went to CID office to inform the incident on 26 May this year. The CID officials swung into action and became sure that the gang was fraud. CID officials laid a trap to arrest cheaters, who were extorting money. Accordingly the businessman was asked to call the “fake persons” with the agreement to pay Rs 75,000/- at the site of appointment where the five-member CID team led by SI Mansur Uddin was present in plain cloth.

The fraudsters i.e “fake CID officials” arrived at the spot in a car numbering WB74U 9097 and CID officials caught hold of the miscreants from the spot who were identified as Subodh Kumar Roy, Bharat Das and Ranjit Chowdhury. The “fake officials” admitted their guilt and gave names of their two accomplices as Satya Ranjan Das and Manoj Halder.

An inquiry against fake CID officials was initiated by CID. It

was also learnt that the accused persons were further demanding money from the businessman over phone. They asked Md. Alam to hand over the money outside Siliguri PS. The real CID officials concluded that this was a gang of cheaters who were extorting money. A trap was planned to arrest the accused.

Md. Alam was advised by the CID officers to agree with the demand of fraudsters. Following a negotiation it was decided to hand over Rs. 75000/- as full and final settlement on 13 June at about 4-30 P.M near Mahananda Barrage. Accordingly CID team lead by SI Mansur Uddin along with SI Chabilal Singha, ASI Ajit Gurung, and Constables Sibendu Nandi and Abhijit Patowary took cover at the place in disguise of local craftsmen. Around quarter to five, CID team noticed a car with registration no.WB-74U 9097 came to the said spot and three people got down. Five minutes later Md. Alam noticed them at the spot and handed over the money. Sub Inspector Mansur Uddin with his team surrounded the gang

and their car. He also disclosed their identity and demanded identity from those self proclaimed CID officials. On being trapped the fraudsters tried to flee but three of them were nabbed by CID team following a chase.

Subodh Chandra Roy (60), of Baghajatin Colony, Pradhannagar, Darjeeling, Bharat Das (48), of Fatehpur, District- Mujaffarpur, Bihar and presently resident of Samar Nagar, Pradhannagar, Darjeeling and Ranjit Chowdhury (42) of Milan More, Champasari, Pradhannagar, Darjeeling were caught red handed. During interrogation they confessed their guilt and disclosed names of their two accomplices - Satya Ranjan Das of Ghatpar, Coochbehar and Manoj Halder alias Monu of Ashrampara, Siliguri who were later arrested by Sub Inspector Jabbar Ali of Detective Department, Darjeeling and seized money from their possession. ■

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The truth about fake News

Amitesh Banerjee

Senior Advocate, Senior Standing Counsel
State of West Bengal

Quite recently, the news channels were rife with reports of wide scale communal violence and riots in West Bengal as gleaned from several posts on social media websites like Facebook and Twitter. The fake news went viral on the smart phone messaging platform, WhatsApp too and everywhere opinions flew on what needed to be done and how the State authorities were unable to control the situation. Upon closer inspection it was found that the pictures accompanying these posts were file pictures from the Gujarat riots in 2002. Complaints in this regard were lodged at several police stations in Kolkata. But the damage had been done; a lot of unsuspecting people had already been sucked into this vortex of hate and suspicion. A lot of people actually believed

that Bengal was burning and stoked the communal fires in the state. Unfortunately, these are the offline real life consequences of online lies.

This incident related above is not the first, nor will it be the last. Fake news have been rampant for years, even centuries, long before the advent of the internet, the smart-phone or social media.

One of the earliest instances of fake news was the "Great Moon Hoax" of 1835. The New York Sun published articles about a real life astronomer and a made-up colleague who had observed bizarre life on the moon. The fictionalized articles successfully attracted new subscribers and the paper suffered very little backlash when it finally admitted that the series had been a hoax. Such stories were intended to

entertain readers and not to mislead them. Sadly, this is not always the case anymore. The impact of fake news, propaganda and misinformation, now has taken alarming proportions and has been widely scrutinized in the United States since the US election last year.

It has been found that fake news actually outperformed real news on Facebook during the final weeks of the election campaign in the US as per an analysis by BuzzFeed.

Another famous fake news doing the rounds now and then is that the UNESCO has voted the Indian national anthem the best in the world. While that bit of news would make any Indian proud, the fact of the matter is that it is not true. Another one claimed that Islam is the most peaceful religion as



declared by the UNESCO. Again, that may make some people very happy but is equally capable of making some people very angry. In fact things came to such a stand that the UNESCO was compelled to issue a declaration that it does not declare anything!

In 2016 India had over 50 million accounts on the smart-phone instant messenger WhatsApp. On the day of demonetization on November 8, 2016 when India released the 2,000-rupee currency bill, the fake news went viral over WhatsApp that the note came equipped with spying technology which tracked bills 120 meters below the earth. The Finance Minister refuted the lies, but not before they had spread to the country's mainstream news outlets.

There is no question that these fake stories resonate with people. There are people who use these stories for their own gain, or in their own interest (which may be political or financial in nature).

There is no question that people saw these posts, shared them, commented on them, liked them and that they



created tremendous velocity on WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter. It is a distressing thing, to say the least. In India, it becomes more of a problem because the lack of education among several sections of the society paves the way for rumour-mongering and belief in the word-of-mouth.

As a father of teenagers, I am well aware of the dangers of the social media and the internet. It is not a world that can be denied either, because a lot of school and college research, projects and homework is done on the internet. The youngsters these days have wide access to all the social media sites, not only Facebook, WhatApp and Twitter and often can be found on Instagram, Snapchat and whatever.

Fake news, the spreading and

propagation of fake news is a global problem. Today all over the world, think-tanks and companies are looking for ways to combat the problem with technology.

A growing cadre of technologists, academics and media experts are now beginning the perplexing process of trying to think up solutions to the problem.

“The biggest challenge is who wants to be the arbiter of truth and what truth is,” said Claire Wardle, research director for the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University.

“The way that people receive information now is increasingly via social networks, so any solution that anybody comes up with, the



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social networks have to be on board.”

Most of the solutions discussed online fall into three general categories: (1) the hiring of human editors (2) crowdsourcing and (3) technological or algorithmic solutions. Let's have a brief look at these:

(1) Hiring people – especially the number needed to deal with Facebook's or WhatsApp's volume of content – is expensive, and it may be hard for them to act quickly. The social network ecosystem is enormous, and common sense tells us that any human solution would be next to impossible. Humans are also partial to subjectivity, and even an meticulous person can have views which may not be correct and would be in a disproportionately powerful position and open to abuse.

(2) Crowdsourced vetting would open up the assessment process to the body politic, having people apply for a sort of “verified news checker” status and then allowing them to rank news as they see it. This isn't dissimilar to the way Wikipedia works, and could be more democratic than a team of paid staff. It would be less likely to be accused of bias or censorship because anyone

could theoretically join, but could also be easier to fool by people promoting fake or biased news by using automated systems on the computer.

(3) Algorithmic or machine learning vetting is the third approach, and the one currently favored by Facebook, who fired their human trending news team and replaced them with an algorithm in 2016. But the current systems are failing to identify and downgrade hoax news or distinguish satire from real stories; Facebook's algorithm started emitting fake news almost immediately after its inception. Technology companies like to claim that algorithms are free of personal bias, yet they inevitably reflect the subjective decisions of those who designed them, and software engineers and developers can be prone to journalistic errors. Algorithms also happen to be cheaper and easier to manage than human

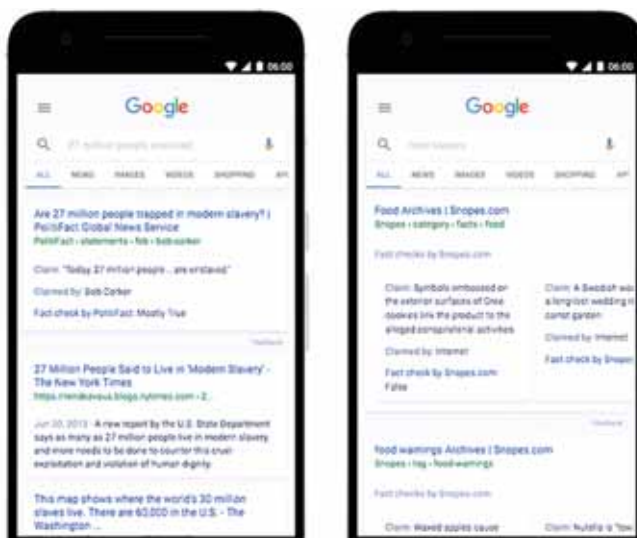
beings, but an algorithmic solution must be transparent.

While the social media websites battle it out and look for solutions, as a parent and a responsible citizen, how do we control the spread and influence of false information through the social media?

Of course, one should never share news on the social media before verifying its content. You probably tell your kids not to believe everything they read. But what you really mean is, “Don't believe everything you read without verifying it first.” Separating fact from fiction has become a challenging but important step in an online environment where false claims, half-truths, and outright lies are vying for clicks, shares, and likes. Now, the internet's most popular services are fighting back - and not a moment too soon: As Common Sense's March 2017 report shows, tweens and teens prefer getting their news from social media sites such as

YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter.

Until recently, top social and search sites Google, Facebook, and Twitter permitted almost any “news” to grace its platforms. So long as the information didn't violate their terms of service (bullying or illegal stuff, for example),



they relied on users to flag problems or simply speak out their opinions publicly. But some users with malicious or dubious intentions took advantage of this policy to circulate misinformation, influence opinion, make money, and discredit rivals.

Encouraging your children to dig deeper is a smart way to help them develop crucial medialiteracy skills. Once they start using the internet to share information, research articles, and follow interesting people, they should know how to find reliable information by crossreferencing sources, using fact-checking sites, and looking for telltale signs of real and fake news.

Nowadays, there are more tools to help in this effort. See how these online media giants are tackling this challenging topic:

Google's Fact Check. If your kid is researching information using Google News (either the site or the app), he or she may come across Google's Fact Check tag. A "fact check" only comes up if the story is controversial, which Google determines in various ways. Google doesn't label the story

true or false, but it encourages users to do more digging.

Facebook's Disputed Tag. When stories have been flagged as iffy by users or Facebook's algorithm, Facebook checks with online fact-checkers Snopes and PolitiFact. If the stories are questionable, Facebook puts a "Disputed" note on them. Like, Google, Facebook doesn't label the story true or false, but adding the Disputed tag should prompt kids to investigate further.

Twitter's Verified Accounts. Since so many people, including kids, get their news from Twitter, it's important to know whether tweets are legit or from a hacker, a fly-by-nighter, or another bad actor. Twitter's Verified Accounts add more stability and accountability in an effort to thwart false information, bullying, and audience manipulation. The company uses a thorough vetting process to determine whether a user is who they say they are and displays a blue check mark next to a verified user's name.

Unfortunately, human beings have a lot of prejudices: social, cultural, religious and

otherwise.

On current evidence, unfortunately, many people feel comfortable when presented by news which doesn't challenge their own prejudices and preferences – even if that news is inaccurate, misleading or false.

The true solution of these hate and rumour mongering posts is a complex, nuanced and long-term challenge of educating the public about the importance of informed debate – and why properly considering an accurate, rational and compelling viewpoint from the other side of the fence is an essential part of the democratic process. Change can only come with education and an acceptance that we ourselves may have prejudices which we need to discard. That is real change, change that can make a difference.

In the words of Claire Wardle, "How do we bring people together to agree on facts when people don't want to receive information that doesn't fit with how they see the world?"

THAT is something to think about. ■



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Sravani Mela: Cops manage cauldron of crime with calm and ease, amass accolades

Subhajit Bhattacharya

The advent of the holy month of Sravan denotes the marriage of Lord Shiva and Devi Parvati or according to another school of belief, the birth of Lord Shiva. Celebrations of this auspicious celestial event are marked by the mammoth Sravani Mela in Hooghly's Tarakeshwar. This year it was

celebrated from 8th July to 17th August. Sravani Mela is one of the oldest and largest Hindu religious gatherings in West Bengal. Hundreds of devotees, from far and wide, throng the Tarakeshwar temple to pay homage to Lord Shiva and bathe him in milk and water. This year, the number surged

to almost 22 lakhs, according to an official record. This is also the longest religious milieu spread across a stretch of 39 km. On such occasions, religious spots are soft targets for terrorists and criminals. A silent threat always looms large and hence, to check all possible danger, the district

police have crafted a master plan and given the entire security skeleton a huge face-lift with apt tools and trained workforce.

More than 1500 to 2000 trained police personnel and civic volunteers scanned every nook and corner of the city with great precision. The government of West Bengal along with the police made illustrious security and civic arrangements to meet all the impending challenges. They left no stone unturned to plug all possible loopholes in the security barrier of Tarakeshwar. All this was done under the able leadership of the Superintendent of Police Sukesh Kumar Jain, IPS Hooghly (Rural). The man who



spearheaded the mission says: "Managing a mega religious gathering was an uphill task for the team but we managed it well this year." He further adds: "Constant briefing and

training and team effort helped us to iron out the strategic hindrances that we came across till last year".

The top tier of the district administration along with the local Officer-in-Charge laid a robust plan and implemented it with the help of a proper workforce.

Amit Kumar Mitra, Officer-in-Charge of Tarakeshwar police station, thinks that the constant crowd



management was the biggest challenge for the team. "Repeated announcements and multiple drop gates helped us tackle the barrage of pilgrims". The numbers of the

Disaster Control Strategy By West Bengal Police

- (a) Proper illumination of the entire route.
- (b) Proper mobile and motorcycle patrolling.
- (c) No entry in all strategic points to restrict vehicles.
- (d) Erecting PABs at all important junctions.
- (e) Installation of 17 drop gates to regulate crowd pressure.
- (f) Installation of 50 CCTV cameras and regulating crowd through observation round the clock.
- (g) Use of 40 Public Address System covering the entire area connected through a single wire.
- (h) Anti-crime patrolling.
- (I) Coordination with stakeholders.
- (j) Proper parking arrangements.
- (k) Proper queue management inside the temple premise.
- (l) Proper exit and route guides within the temple complex.

missing persons spiked last year to almost 3500 but this year it plummeted to zero.

Crime against women and cases of snatching and theft took a nose dive due to a number of active steps undertaken by the cops. A highly trained team of DMG (Disaster Management) personnel also kept strict vigil on all the devotees who plunged into the holy water of the famous 'Dudh Pukur' to wash away their sins.

People from different parts of Bengal and the media showered accolades for the men and women in uniform for their unparalleled service. ■

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Diabetes is beyond sugar

Dr. Kaushik Pandit

Chief Consultant Endocrinologist and Diabetologist,
Belle Vue Clinic, Kolkata.

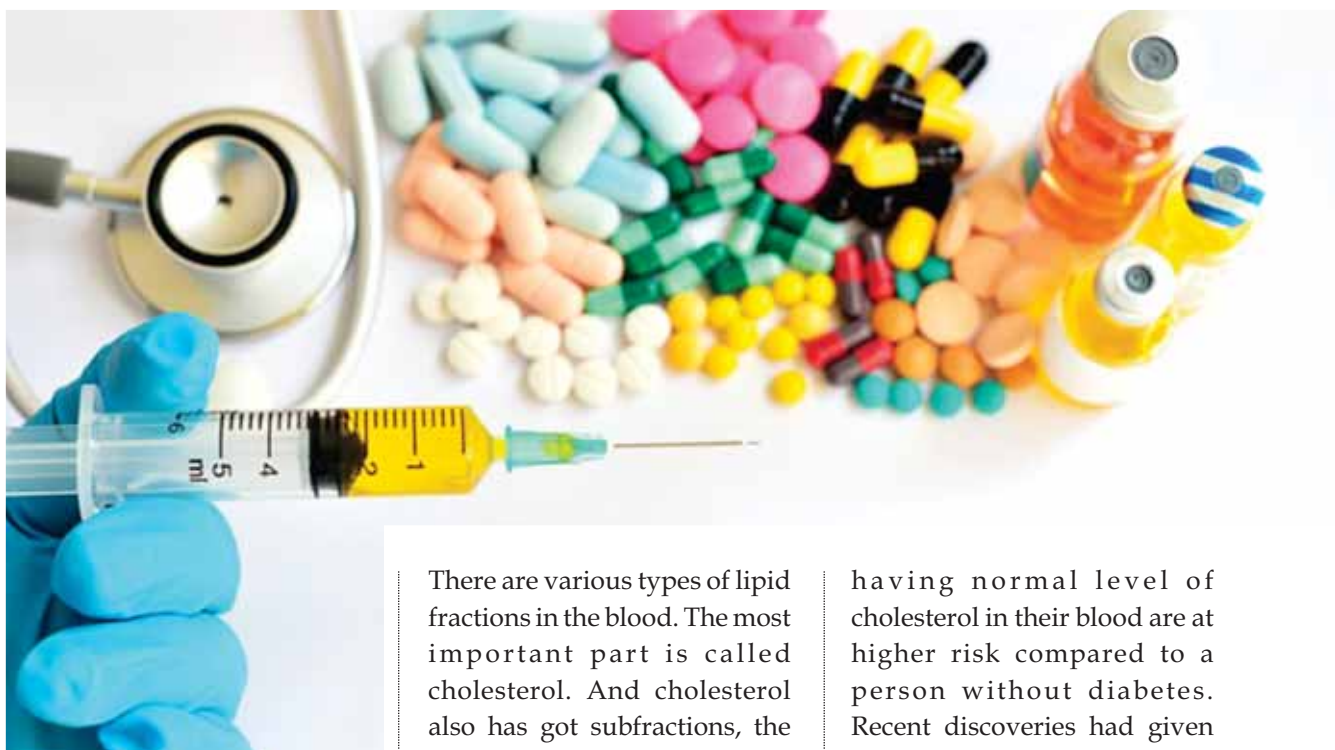
We know diabetes as too much of sugar in the blood. But is that all there is to it? Unfortunately that's not the be all and end all of it. It is true that diabetes, which is excess of sugar inside the body, is only a part of the problem that needs to be dealt with. Diabetes (especially Type 2 diabetes, the most common or garden variety) unfortunately is entwined with some other ailments, which makes the matter worse or more complicated. Take for example; the presence of high blood

pressure (or hypertension in technical term), which is rather quite common in people with diabetes, makes the risk of having a heart attack or damage to the kidneys many times more. In fact, people with diabetes not only gets the heart attack much more commonly it is usually more severe as well making it all the more dangerous. Coupled with it, if the person also has got increased cholesterol (a type of fatty substance that goes around in the blood) makes the

heart attack risk all the more common by a several fold. Therefore while we need to concentrate on the sugar front in a person with diabetes, that surely is not the only issue that needs to be dealt with.

Let's take the example of high blood pressure. High BP increases the chances of having damage to the kidneys, especially in presence of diabetes. People with Type 2 diabetes (the adult onset variety) are known to develop minor kidney problems without any symptoms. Only sophisticated tests reveal that the diabetes and high BP related kidney damage has already started, and here one needs to concentrate on sugar and probably more importantly on high BP. Because the damage can be reversed at this stage to normalcy if both sugar and BP is well controlled. Similar situation exists in the heart






front. High BP damages the heart to a similar extent of high sugar. And here the importance of high BP control along with lipids hold a tremendous importance in preventing heart attack in the first place and preventing a second one in a person who have already sustained a heart attack.

The story of lipid (fatty substances in the blood) is of immense importance especially in the case of prevention of heart attack.

There are various types of lipid fractions in the blood. The most important part is called cholesterol. And cholesterol also has got subfractions, the good cholesterol (HDL cholesterol) and the bad cholesterol (LDL cholesterol) fraction subserving different functions in increasing the rate of heart attack (the names are good enough to indicate their function). While it may be easy to control the lipid parameters with medicines, it is very important to appreciate the role of diet and exercise in managing the lipids as well. Regular exercise improves the HDL cholesterol and reduces the rate of heart attack. It is also important to appreciate that people with diabetes despite

having normal level of cholesterol in their blood are at higher risk compared to a person without diabetes. Recent discoveries had given us enough evidence in hand to suggest that most people with diabetes would need to have cholesterol-lowering medication despite their cholesterol being in the normal range to reduce the risk of oncoming heart attack.

In short, people with diabetes need to have multipronged attack to prevent the complications and need medications other than sugar control. So can we say, sugar is beyond sugar and to keep them healthy, we have to think beyond sugar. ■



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Citizen's Talk

West Bengal Protector asked a cross-section of the society for their views on the multi-dimensional work of the state Police. They were also asked to put forth their suggestions, if they had any. Here's what they said to its Correspondent **Anirban Saha**



Community connection between the police and the people is very important. Initiatives such as blood donation, medical camps, road safety awareness campaigns, which encourage people to participate help to develop better socio-cultural relations. Such initiatives also help in reducing crime rates. I have conducted dramas at Dumdum Central Jail with participation of many inmates. This has been a noble initiative on the part of the police. I have further suggested if such dramas with themes of social cause can be performed at various locations on roads, to raise mass awareness. Moving theaters are innovative and they appeal to a wider audience.

Samrat Bose, Theater Director and Actor

As police work directly involves public, the relation between those two entities is vital. With changing time Policing work no longer just mean the usual *lathi* and gun operations, but also helping the community in social causes, such as blood donation, medical camps, awareness campaigns, disaster management, etc., which West Bengal Police undertakes round the year in various districts and villages. I recently heard about the Swayangsiddha initiative and how the police are visiting numerous girls' schools and colleges to raise awareness about the human trafficking and child marriages by interacting with the students, teachers and parents. I applauded the cops for these special services to the society.

June Roy Ahmed, Fashion Designer





With passing time, acceptance of modern technologies is helping police forces around the world to detect, solve crime, and manage traffic in a quick and effective manner. West Bengal Police does the job well with introduction of such technologies. The recent arrests in connection with the infant trafficking case are a feather in the hat for the cops. Regarding road safety and awareness, the West Bengal Police are doing their best to minimise road mishaps which occur due to rash and negligent driving, and ignorance.

Debojit Sarkar, Service

My work takes me around a lot, to several states, and I visit my family and friends residing in Kolkata, twice a year. When I come, I feel very safe riding around in the districts even at late nights and never encountered any form of harassment by the police compared to many other places. I have also found out that they are very helpful towards law-abiding citizens, especially towards the women and senior citizens. I appreciate that West Bengal Police is doing their best to maintain law and order in the state which is one of the densely inhabited in the country. Summing it up for their exceptional service, "Hats-off West Bengal Police".

Anindya Saha, Entrepreneur



West Bengal Police is taking steps to keep the state violence-free. The Maoists insurgency problem has been controlled through extensive operations and simultaneously aiding the people of Jungle Mahal for ensuring betterment of their lives. Regular community welfare programmes are conducted in the remotest of villages. The cops are working hand in hand with the state government to improve the lives of the affected. I appreciate the hard work the police personnel are doing.

Ali Azmal Belaluddin Ahmed, Stock Broker

The amplitude of responsibilities of West Bengal Police is vast and each police station has to cover a large area with limited personnel. The job of a policeman is manifold. In most incidents, police is the first contact of the public. With the start of community policing initiatives, they have helped in carrying out conventional policing to quite a friendly environment in solving people's problem particularly in the remotest areas where normal facilities are lacking. Use of modern technologies has also helped policing job in every manner.

Tomalika Dutta, Service



LIST OF SUPERIOR OFFICERS OF WEST BENGAL POLICE

Designation	Tel: OFF
DG & IGP	2214 -5400
ADG & IGP (Law & Order)	2214-5009
ADG & IGP (Provisioning)	2479-4064
ADG & IGP (Admin)	2479-4021
ADG & IGP (Welfare)	2448-2411
ADG & IGP (O)	2479-4046
ADG & IGP (Estb)	2479-4025
IGP (A)	2479-4031
IGP (O)	2479-4088
IGP (HQ)	2479-4052
IGP (Welfare)	2479-4023
IGP (HQ) - II	2479-4024
IGP (Mod & Cord)	2479-4034
IGP Personnel	2214-4778
DIG (O)	2479-4045
DIG (A)	2479-4047
DIG (P & W)	2479-5449
AIG(S) WB	2479-4058
DY SP DG CR	2214-5823
Criminal Investigation Department	
ADG & IGP, CID	2479-1330
IGP CID -I	2479-2955
IGP CID -II	2448-8288
DIG CID	2479-1586
DIG CID Spl.	2479-1830
DIG CID (Operation)	2479-1093
SS CID-West	2479-2341
SS CID-Ops.	2479-2834
SS CID-Spl	2479-0162
SS CID HQ	2449-9075
SS CID SOUTH	2479-1409
SS CID-North at Siliguri	0353-2574576/78
Zonal ADG & IGP	
ADG & IGP North Bengal	0353-2546553
ADG & IGP South Bengal	2479-1573
IGP Western Range	0343-2562787
Range DIG	
IGP, Burdwan Range	2681-1488
DIG, Midnapore Range	03222-225440
DIG, Malda Range	03522-255505

Designation	Tel: OFF
DIG, Jalpaiguri Range	03561-220881
DIG, Presidency Range	2479-1940
DIG, Murshidabad Range	033-2582-7679
DIG, Darjeeling Range	0354-2257732
DIG, Bankura	03242-251252
CP, SSP, SP, SRP	
CP, Bidhan Nagar	2335-8286
CP, Siliguri	0353-2511210
CP, Asansol-DGP	0341-2257260
CP, Barrackpore	2592-0030
CP, Howrah	2641-2626, 2640-4001
CP, Chandannagar	2680-4827
SSP, Co-Ordination, South 24 Pgs	2479-3333
SP, North 24 - Pgs	2542-3055
SP, Howrah Rural	2661-6210
SP, Nadia	03472-252229
SP, Murshidabad	03482-250751/250753
SP, Hooghly	2680-4827
SP, Birbhum	03462-255353
SP, Burdwan	0342-2662956
SP, Paschim Medinipur	03222-275609
SP, Purba Medinipur	03228-269580
SP, Jhargram	03221-255192
SP, Purulia	03252-222304
SP, Bankura	03242-250305
SP, Malda	03512-252520
SP, Dakshin Dinajpur	03522-255321
SP, Darjeeling	0354-2257001
SP, Uttar Dinajpur	03523-246417
SP, Jalpaiguri	03561-230492
SP, Alipurduar	03564-256244
SP, Coochbehar	03582-227755
SP, Diamond Harbour Police Dist.	2480-1616
SP, Baruaipur Police Dist.	2433-0010
SP, Sundarban Police Dist.	03210-255701
SP, Kalimpong	03552-255359
SRP, Sealdah	2556-8007
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