



The West Bengal

Dec 2017-Jan 2018



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The West Bengal

# PROTECTOR



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**CYBER CRIME AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA AND THE LAWS**

**Founder Chairman**  
Late Shri R.K. Prasad

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Human trafficking is the fastest growing organized crime in the world. As per reports generated by different NGOs and government-run security agencies, every year more than 700,000 people are ferried across the world illegally. Observers believe that the trafficking industry has grown by leaps and bounds within a very short span of time. It is giving tough competition to the drug trafficking industry which is sitting tight at the top-most position of the crime ladder.

According to a report published by Thompson Reuters Foundation, almost more than 20,000 women and children have fallen prey to human trafficking in 2016. The report also hinted towards a steep rise in the numbers. This unforeseen surge in the number of human trafficking has also brought forth several restrictive measures initiated by states which are the worst affected by this malice. The bordering states of India such as West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra have rolled out multiple measures to nip this crime in the bud. Cops of these states are joining hands and working in tandem with Women and Child Welfare Department of their respective states. Amongst many of these projects, Kanyashree and Swayangsidha have reaped unparalleled results within a very short span of time and created a wave of awareness amongst young children and women who are vulnerable.

These sensitization campaigns have successfully bolstered a movement against human trafficking and added fuel to the sulking morale of the millions of victims who have been subjected to trafficking across the globe. Still, the registrations of human trafficking cases are minimal. Still victims of human trafficking bear the brunt of the crime and stay away from the legal ecosystem. Thus, it is important for us, as a society, to join hands and start a crusade against this crime and build opinions and shatter taboos which are dovetailed with crimes like human trafficking to build a better future for the generations to come.

Happy Reading

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Satya Swaroop', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Satya Swaroop**  
**Managing Editor**  
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FROM THE DESK OF DGP



Here's wishing everybody a very happy New Year. I would also like to appreciate the entire force for their relentless service during the long festive season and congratulate them for their immaculate performance in seeing off the grand GangaSagar Mela which is considered to be having one of the highest footfalls in the country.

I also congratulate all citizens and men and women in Khaki for joining hands and making Traffic Safety Week a great success. Safe Drive Save Life initiative has already changed the present architecture of traffic management in Bengal and has significantly brought down road accidents.

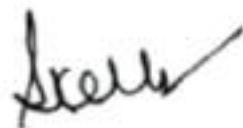
In the First Anniversary edition of West Bengal Protector we are bringing forth a slew of initiatives that we rolled out across the state of Bengal to shield Human Trafficking. Swayangsiddha is leading the pack no doubt. For us, what is heartening is Bengal reports some of the highest recoveries and a humane approach.

Swayangsiddha, a youth-led, preventive action plan of the West Bengal Police, has been extremely successful in remote corners of the state, bringing about a socio-economic change.

Kanyashree the globally acclaimed, state-of-the-art project recognizes freedom and dignity of women folk and aims to give them more power by identifying their potential and caliber. The move identifies organized and positive forces within society to combat coordinated crime in the form of human trafficking and another social evil — child marriage.

West Bengal Police attempts to achieve steady and long-lasting solutions of not only problems related to Police interface but also in working out a healthy and nurturing Police Public relationship.

With newer challenges emerging and the society moving fast in all directions, we are committed to put in our best in building up professionalism and offering selfless and dedicated service to our citizens.



**Surajit Kar Purkayastha, IPS**  
Director General & Inspector General of Police



# NURTURING





# TOMORROW









# ADDRESSING HUMAN TRAFFICKING: CRACKING THE EPICENTRE

By Sanjoy Mukherjee,  
IPS, ADGP CID



**W**est Bengal Police have been fighting a tough war against human trafficking. But the threat still looms large and continues to haunt some of the bordering districts of Bengal. West Bengal Police over the years has undertaken a wide range of steps to combat this threat and achieved significant results.

### **(A) Discuss the problem at large**

West Bengal shares long international borders with Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. A range of socio-economic factors in the region is a cause of human trafficking across these areas, particularly with respect to women and children. West Bengal is both a destination and a conduit for trafficking in humans, many of whom face sexual exploitation.

**The significant factors that currently facilitate it in West Bengal are:**

→ Significant socio-economic disparities between the people of neighbouring countries and India have always been the driving force behind trafficking in the area.

→ Higher degrees of poverty, illiteracy and lack of economic opportunity drive people from neighbouring countries into India, with West Bengal being a transit route as well as a

destination for those searching for jobs and a better standard of living in a democratically mature state.

→ With globalization encouraging movement across borders, aspiring migrants, either unaware of the hazards of migration or unable to bear the legal costs of documentation and legal entry, fall easy prey to human smugglers and traffickers.

→ West Bengal and Bangladesh share over 2216 kilometers of border, a significant portion of which is porous and vulnerable to cross-border movement.

Similarly, Bhutan and Nepal borders are open and there is no hindrance in cross-border movement. Taking advantage of the vulnerability in neighbouring countries, gullible migrants, made vulnerable by poverty, gender and illiteracy, are easy victims of human traffickers, who promise them document-free, unofficial passage across the border.

→ Girls and women of West Bengal fall prey to traffickers

who on the plea of providing them good jobs in metropolitan cities and other urban areas traffic them and then sell them off.

→ Traffickers also approach poor families on the pretext of marrying their daughters. They even promise to pay money. After marriage, the girls are sold off and become untraceable.

→ Traffickers also build up love relationships with young



girls, promising to marry them and settle in urban areas. This way, they obtain the trust and confidence and then traffic them and sell them off.

### **(B) Regulatory and enforcement measures rolled out by West Bengal Police**

• West Bengal Police Order No.5 dated



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14/07/2014 was issued by the DG & IGP of West Bengal for setting up separate AHTU units in all districts of West Bengal. In pursuant to that order, in all the 29 Districts/ Police Districts/ Police Commissionerates/GRP Districts of West Bengal, separate AHTU Units have been set up who are dealing with only human trafficking cases. AHTU, CID, WB is the nodal unit of West Bengal.

- In the year 1996, Governor of West Bengal was pleased to appoint all officers not below the rank of Inspector of Police in West Bengal Police and Kolkata Police to act as Special Police Officers in their respective local jurisdiction for dealing with offences under Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956. This refers to Notification no. 4466/SW/O/3W-25-96 dated 25/09/1996.

- Awareness programmes against human trafficking involving the village Panchayat members are constantly going on. Such programmes have

already started showing wonderful results.

- **KANYASHREE PRAKALPA** was launched by the government of West Bengal on October 1, 2013. This is a conditional cash transfer scheme that incentivises the schooling of all teenage girls between the ages of 13 and 18, simultaneously disincentivizing child marriage.

- **MUKTIR ALO:** The scheme was launched by the West Bengal government for rehabilitation of sex workers and victims of sex trafficking in the state under the Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare, government of West Bengal.

- **SWAWALAMBAN SCHEME** was launched for the socially distressed women and girls including transgenders, trafficked victims, sex workers and women in danger of the age group between 18 and 35 years through which vocational training is imparted in collaboration with NGOs. This scheme emphasizes economic

empowerment of socially marginalized women with special stress on those who are vulnerable to immoral trafficking.

### **(C) Special focus on districts and specific police stations that has waged a war against human trafficking**

- Various district/units along with the NGOs have also started several awareness programmes at the block and village levels for educating girl students and women in their areas to prevent them getting involved with traffickers.

- A project styled as “Swayamsiddha” was initiated by South 24-Parganas District Police of the state. It is a preventive initiative and is perceived to be an answer to one of the most heinous inter-state and transnational organized crimes i.e. human trafficking, especially sex trafficking and is also a countermeasure

against another evil practice of society — child marriage. Swayamsiddha is a Sanskrit word that indicates a “Self Reliant Woman — The Path Finder of society”. The “Swayamsiddha initiative” has been designed to organize positive forces in society to combat organized crime in the form of human trafficking and evil social practice of child marriage. This initiative aims at penetrating into the minds of people with the awareness about trafficking and ills associated with child marriage. Police-public contact opens the floodgate of information about missing girls, women, traffickers and related

matters. With the emergence of a new platform, the expectation of common man will rise. With the increasing demand of people, the units of administration assigned with the task of combating trafficking and child marriage will draw constant motivation to deliver to its potential.

- The impact of the drive of CID West Bengal against the organized traffickers and their initiative along with various other districts to bring awareness among the people of the affected areas has started showing good results.

**(D) Role of CID and other national and**

**international security agencies such as BSF/ Bangladesh Border Security Force**

- CID, West Bengal along with District Police launched a special operation against dreaded trafficker in the state and arrested notorious traffickers, recovering a good number of victims, both girls and boys. This has led to a major blow to their activities in the state of West Bengal. In the year 2015, 2016 and 2017, a dedicated campaign titled as “Operation Smile” and “Operation Muskan” was held during which drive from various places like railway stations, brickfields, line hotels



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etc the following number of children were recovered:

MUSKAN 1	JULY 2015	985
MUSKAN 2	JULY 2016	627
MUSKAN 3	JULY 2017	818
SMILE 1	JANUARY 2015	754
SMILE 2	JANUARY 2016	574

• The following is the figure of the arrest of human traffickers and recovery of victim girls due to all-out efforts against the menace.

Statement of arrest and recovery in human trafficking cases of West Bengal:

Year	Arrest		Victim Girls Recovered		Victim Boy Recovered	
	Male	Female	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
2013	843	96	249	697	23	18
2014	1289	95	283	1117	21	71
2015	1061	235	316	901	90	126
2016	1592	255	499	1819	73	397
2017 upto October	552	140	134	374	22	15

• West Bengal government has taken special initiative for inter-state coordination mechanism relating to human trafficking rescue/information. This has resulted in the signing of a MoU between West Bengal and Maharashtra on 30/05/2014.

• A Police Coordination committee comprising the DGPs of the Eastern region has also been set up and matters relating to human trafficking are discussed in the meeting of the Eastern Regional Police Coordination committee.

• Government of West Bengal has already created West Bengal Task Force on 14/12/2007 for rescue, safe return and repatriation of women and child

victims of trafficking and cross-border movement from Bangladesh. Regular interactive meetings are being attended by representatives of High Commission of Bangladesh, BSF, CID, WB and members of NGOs who are also stakeholders of the task force. The formation of task force has brought wonderful results in rescue, safe return and repatriation of women and child victims of trafficking and cross-border movement:-

In the year 2015, 109 victims

were repatriated. In the year 2016, 145 victims were repatriated. In the year 2017 (up to November), 53 victims have been repatriated.

### **(E) Inspiring stories of victims of human trafficking. How cops gave them a new lease of life**

**(a) Minor girl trafficked for flesh trade and rescued by police**

On 22/03/2016, Ruksar Khatun (15+ years) (Name changed) was kidnapped by one Raju. Later this case was taken up for investigation by AHTU,

CID, West Bengal. During the investigation, it transpired that the girl has been trafficked to Delhi and sold off there. Accordingly, on 26/07/2016 AHTU, CID team held raids at different areas of Delhi and after relentless efforts, they were able to recover the minor girl from the clutches of trafficker Firoj Ali and was also able to secure the arrest of the trafficker/harboured. Later on the first procurer/trafficker Raju, alias Mosaraf Laskar was also arrested after much effort.

After recovery, the victim was found to be in a highly traumatized stage. Her counselling was done with the help of an NGO. After proper assistance, she has now returned to normal life and is now learning sewing skills under the guidance of an NGO so that she can earn her own livelihood. She was also brave enough to identify all the traffickers in Test Identification Parade.

**(b) Minor girl trafficked for illegal marriage**

On 07/01/15 at 7.00 hrs, one KIRAN Kumari (16+) (name changed) of Baguihati, Kolkata, left her house for tuition and disappeared. Control of the investigation was assumed by CID, West Bengal on 25/02/2015. Mother of the victim girl informed that she had received a call from her daughter from an unknown number. It was found that the call came from Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh. A team of AHTU, CID, WB rushed to Bijnor and spotted the house, held raid but the victim had been already transported to another place. After proper collection of information, the CID team held raids at Kashipur Railway Station and was able to

recover the girl. The victim was found to be in a highly traumatized state.

The victim girl was counselled properly and after that, she revealed that she was procured by one Rahul (unknown). He first procured the minor and reached Babughat, Kolkata. He left the girl alone there and she waited and another unknown person who came and told her that Rahul had sent him. That unknown person then trafficked her to Kashipur, Uttarakhand and sold the girl to one Kamal who then transported her to Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh. Chitra Sharma of Bijnor, UP, purchased the girl from Kamal, arranged a

forceful marriage with one Bhisam Sharma who eventually raped the victim. She was kept confined at the residence of Chitra Sharma and then her son too raped her for two months. Later Chitra again handed over the girl to Kamal, in fear of the police. On the way back to Kashipur, Kamal and his accomplice Sushil took turns to rape her.

AHTU, CID, WB then held raids at Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar and secured the arrest of six accused persons. The victim girl after proper counselling has now returned to the mainstream. She was brave enough to identify all the

arrested accused persons in Test Identification Parade. The trial of the case has commenced and she accurately deposed before the court.

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# KANYASHREE – A COMING-OF-AGE JOURNEY

**THE CAGED BIRD SINGS / WITH A FEARFUL TRILL / OF THINGS UNKNOWN / BUT LONGED FOR STILL**

By Sanghamitra Ghosh, IAS

**I**n her seminal 1969 autobiography “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” Maya Angelou, who has been described as a symbolic character for every black girl living in America, refuses to be confined by the constraints of her personal history and the histories of all the African – American women of her time. Instead she evolves from being a childhood victim of systemic racism, abuse, poverty and patriarchy to a self-deterministic adult with a strong

sense of her own identity in a deeply unequal society.

India too has its caged birds – the millions of adolescent girls who, confined by their gender, exist as daughters, sisters, wives and mothers – with no identity to call their own. India’s Constitution guarantees its citizens the right against exploitation, and the fundamental rights to equality, freedom, and education. The reality, however, is that for the majority of girls from disadvantaged backgrounds across the country, such

entitlements remain out of reach. Invisible and unheard, they live dreary lives, their bodies, minds, aspirations and talents sacrificed at the altar of social evils like child marriage.

In October 2013, the Government of West Bengal launched Kanyashree Prakalpa, a conditional cash transfer scheme that provides a safety net for those vulnerable families who are forced, by tradition, social compulsion or poverty, to truncate the education of their daughters and contract them to wholly illegal and dangerous



marriages. Kanyashree's programmatic strategy directly strikes at the inter-linked issues of child marriage and female school dropouts. The Scheme provides every indigent female student between the ages of 13 and 18 with an annual scholarship, and a one-time grant of 25,000 Rupees on her 18th birthday. The stipulation being, of course, that she be unmarried at the time of receiving the benefits.

To reinforce the positive impact of increased education and delayed marriages, the scheme also works to enhance the social power and self-esteem of girls through adolescent-friendly approaches like events, competitions and Kanyashree clubs to promote social and psychological empowerment. A wave of martial arts training is taking the state by storm – groups of girls clad in white are demonstrating their agility and skills in wu-shu, karate and taekwondo in school fields and in district competitions. A conscious effort is being made to break gender stereotypes by engaging girls in archery, rock

climbing, computer training, chess, cricket etc. Kanyashree girls now act as brand ambassadors for the state's various programmes on sanitation, safe driving, immunization, menstrual hygiene, and of course, child marriage.

So far almost 45 lakh girls have enrolled in Kanyashree Prakalpa, with about 11.28 lakh having reached age 18 without falling prey to child marriage. Many girls report feeling enormously enabled – it is not just the prospect of receiving money that excites them, but that they receive it in bank accounts that are opened in their own names. It has put on hold their parents' quest for a suitable groom. Many girls have grasped the opportunity to start a new dialogue with their parents, a dialogue in which they dare to speak of their future identities forged through continued education and professional training, identities that may – or may not – include marriage.

The Kanyashree story however, has just begun. Now that the foundation of the scheme has been established in all districts,

targeted interventions need to be planned for particular geographical areas and populations. Each district has pockets of vulnerability – the isolated islands of the Sunderbans, the inaccessible pockets in the mountainous north, the closed tea gardens of the Duars, the disadvantaged communities in Purulia and Bankura, the hubs of child trafficking in Malda and other border areas – we must ensure that there is no girl left unprotected and un-schooled in these areas. Girls who enroll in Kanyashree but drop-out must be brought back to school, or linked to other protective mechanisms.

However, getting girls to remain in school and remain unmarried till age 18 is not enough. The state's policy makers need to ensure that the increased time spent in schools and colleges is well spent in receiving a quality education, in a system where there are sufficient, capable teachers teaching in properly lit, well-ventilated classrooms, well-stocked libraries and up-to-

date laboratories. The other barriers that hinder girls' access to education – lack of toilets, poor transport facilities, violence in institutions and elsewhere – must be simultaneously addressed.

Several systems – educational, commercial, and social - need to evolve towards an environment in which girls aspire to become leaders, professionals or technocrats. Or even

entrepreneurs – whether in rural livelihood or in high-tech start-ups will depend on their location, their abilities and their own bent of mind. We must not lose sight of the fact that Kanyashree girls' bank accounts are just a tool; true financial inclusion will be when these bank accounts see regular incomings and outgoings, lendings and borrowings that signify healthy, productive financial lives. Health systems need to evolve beyond blinkered discussions of reproductive health to ensuring that adolescents – both girls and boys – learn to deal with their emerging sexuality and relationships in healthy and mutually respectful manner.

Across the world it is being acknowledged that adolescents are a significant demographic whose time has come. Kanyashree girls are at the age when they are establishing their individuality and their own voice. Given adequate support, they have the ability to articulate their needs, demand their rights and make their own choices. More important – they have tremendous potential as drivers for change.

However, to put the entire responsibility of transformation on the shoulders of girls would be trap them in another cage. Whether West Bengal will reap the benefits of its investment in its adolescent girls will depend on whether we, as policy makers, can see beyond the economic dividend of preventing child marriage to building a cohort of confident, responsible and active citizens, both men and women, whose values and actions contribute towards a more equitable, violence-free society.



"We are trying to make this an all encompassing project from the point of beneficiaries, as there are still pockets which are not under the purview of this initiative"

"We are also trying to utilize this platform by making it a convergence point for all governmental schemes aimed at adolescence and women empowerment, issues such as health, nutrition and lifestyle are the main focus among others"

"We also want to create child protection committee in the village level. We will also incorporate the club as the active members of the CPC's"

"We are also utilizing different departmental funds to create training centres aimed at vocational education so that they are equipped with the technical skills that they wish to acquire."

Sangbamitra Ghosh, IAS,  
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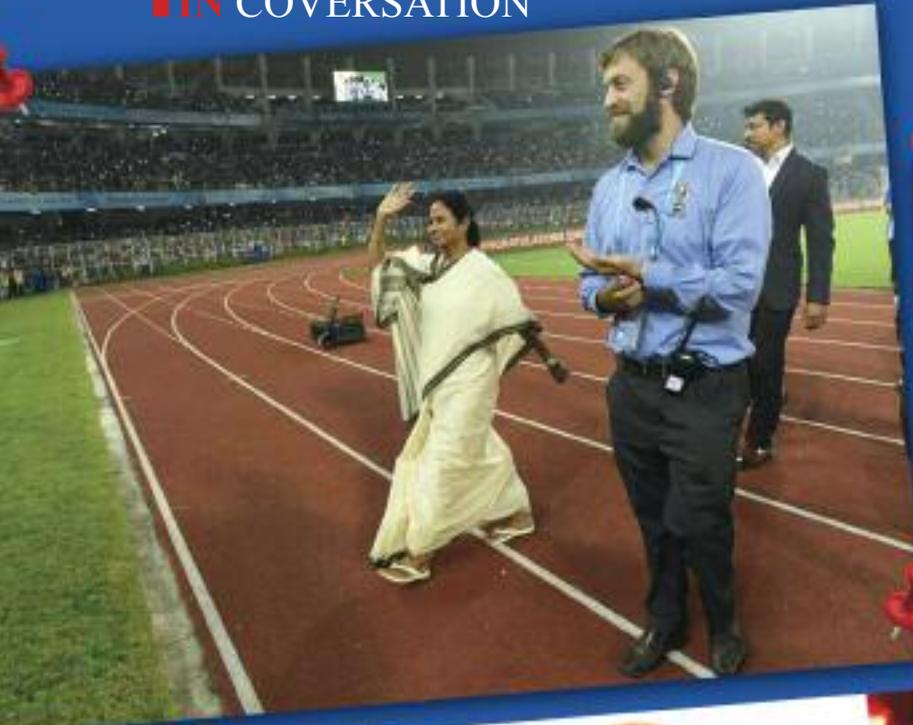
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# BIDHANNAGAR COMMISSIONERATE: PRIORITIZING SAFETY





By Subhajit Bhattacharya

**T**he world came to an awe as India successfully organized its first ever FIFA tournament last year. The extravaganza, later dubbed as the ‘most economic World Cup’ by many, was held brilliantly as the Bidhannagar Commissionerate went an extra mile to ensure peace and calm.

Talking about it, Commissioner of Police of the said Commissionerate, Gyanwant Singh (IPS), spoke on the commendable work of his forces and how they made it happen.

“This was a FIFA World Cup and we had to maintain international standards. The basic idea of this kind of tournament is to provide wholesale entertainment to the public and ensure hassle-free experience,” Singh said to *The Protector*. The Commissioner was vocal while talking about the priorities as he revealed: “Safety and security were issues of utmost priority,” before adding, “We had provided full security and full safety.”

The Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Krirangan or more commonly known as the Salt Lake Stadium

was selected as the venue to host the final of the tournament. It also hosted some high-voltage matches of footballing nations such as Brazil, England and Japan. To ensure the safety of the visitors and spectators alike, the Bidhannagar Police took up a series of initiatives both inside and outside the stadium, which resulted in a smooth outcome at the end.

“The problem is to maintain a balance, to create a system through which people could reach their destinations safely. When they are inside the stadium, they are safe and if

something untoward happens, provisions of evacuation should be ready," Commissioner Singh pointed out.

Speaking about measures taken inside the stadium campus, Singh revealed that his forces took a number of technological help whereas volunteers also played a huge part in keeping peace intact. "Roughly 2,500 persons entered on every match-day other than the spectators. Each and every person was very thoroughly checked," he said.

Unsurprisingly, huge number of police personnel was posted at the venue during the matches. However, those numbers put other festivities such as the Durga Puja in the city to shame as Singh revealed them.

"It's a huge number, more than 3,700 actually. It was a massive deployment."

Although massive number of police personnel was posted in front of each gate of the Salt Lake Stadium in the FIFA U-17 World Cup, the Commissionerate took an extra measure by frisking the incoming spectators for contraband during the match-days. Gyanwant Singh revealed that the Commissionerate took the effort to install Door Frame Metal Detectors inside the stadium campus to frisk the incoming spectators for metal objects.

"Those were the actual gates for us," Singh revealed before mentioning the numbers of the metal detecting gates. "We created a 120 DFMDs." Talking

about other technological bits of assistance, Singh mentioned: "240 CCTV cameras with very high-end software were installed. We created a video wall and the resolution was so good that we were able to monitor each and every block, entrance even every person.

The procedure during the World Cup proved to be impeccable for the police force and became a textbook procedure in the days that followed, Singh mentioned. "Even today, we are following the same protocols we followed during the World Cup," he added.

However large were the arrangements during the FIFA U-17 World Cup, the Commissionerate went back to its usual day-to-day operations as the tournament came to an end. With a large area of the Commissionerate's jurisdiction coming up as a smart city, the Commissioner spoke about his forces and the community-connect in the said area.

"We have two-three special programmes. We have a programme called 'Cops'. In this, an officer is assigned a block (the ward in some cases) who go to these places and communicate with the locals," he said. He also pointed out: "Our idea is they will become part of the block and in this manner, they would also end up collecting information about the block."

Keeping various age groups and women in mind, the Commissioner said his forces are also indulging in several other

community programmes which have shown bright prospects nonetheless.

"For elderly persons, we have a programme called 'Saanjhbaati' and for young girls, we have 'Sukanya'. We regularly organize blood donation camps as well. We also host sporting activities called 'Bidhannagar Cup' during the winters. Last year, more than 250 clubs participated in it."

The IT hubs like Salt Lake and New Town have been a prized asset for the Bidhannagar Commissionerate. Being an IT area, it has witnessed a lot of cases associated with cybercrime in recent years, dealing with which has been a major challenge for the Bidhannagar police.

"Cybercrime police deals with very high-end cases. Unfortunately, it is happening in Sector V and New Town. Lots of bad elements have entered there," Singh said before continuing. "They are coming up with new ideas every other day. Generally, their targets are foreigners." The Commissioner also elaborated his force's efforts to deal with the problem, as he revealed that the police have created a 'database' of several such companies which indulge in illegal affairs in the jurisdiction.

With all the efforts of the police, the Commissioner thanked the general populace of his jurisdiction for being an extended helping hand of the police. "The good thing is the public here I must say. They are very progressive," he concludes.

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# THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER WITH THE BRASS PROTECTING IT

By Anubhav Chakraborty

**A**midst the ever-growing roars of scores of football fans filling up the streets of Kolkata and hoardings that

promised a mega extravaganza in our beloved city, the logistical and security implications of such a grand event of international prominence brought forth an unprecedented challenge to the

police establishment and the bulk of it fell on the shoulders of Bidhannagar Commissionerate. Here are excerpts from their perspective on the event:

## Anindya Sundor Bhattacharya (ACP – Bidhannagar Zone)



“During the Under-19 World Cup, the role of police is a testament to the professionalism and teamwork of our police force.”

This Under-19 World Cup has been a learning experience for all of us. An event of such magnitude and the vast challenges, both logistical and security it brought along, is somewhat unprecedented in our history as a policing institution. Twenty four teams participated in this event, which meant meaning we had to liaison with all those country's security apparatus to ensure smooth sailing. We worked with the civic bodies as well as other government and non-governmental organisations. The number of gates through which the stadium can be accessed, we also created service roads to ensure that pedestrians do not face the problem of over-crowding. Special parking zones were set up especially for this particular event. It is a matter of tremendous pride that we, as a team, were able to perform so well and make sure that the event got over without a hitch. During the Under-19 World Cup, the role of police in it is a testament to the professionalism and teamwork of our police force. We had posted about 3,700 personnel for this event and looking back, it was quite challenging but a rewarding experience at the end of it.

**Mouli Khamaru**  
(SI Bidhannagar North)

“The most important take away for me from this entire experience is that, it showed how essential and efficient teamwork is and how it can overcome any given number of challenges.”

I was posted in the traffic control room during the Under-19 World Cup. In our control room, we had real-time footage. We had 4k and PTC cameras around the stadium, in total there were 242 cameras. The headquarters was headed by Santosh Kumar Pandey (DC Headquarters) with Surojit Dey (DSP) and with their guidance we took on the challenge head-on. Our work ranged from ensuring that every gate is accessible to supervising the safety instruments inside the stadium. We also took care of the pre-game formalities and essential checks and balances, such as assisting bomb squads and logistical personnel. The most important take away for me from this entire experience is that it showed how essential and efficient teamwork is and how it can overcome any given number of challenges.



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**Biplab Mondal**  
(Traffic Inspector, Bidhannagar Traffic)

“We worked together with Kolkata Police, Kolkata Municipal Corporation and other civic bodies to create the best possible safety and easy passage for pedestrians and vehicles.”

We started preparing for this mega event three months prior to the inaugural ceremony. I, personally, took it as a challenge as a traffic inspector to ensure smooth vehicular movement and convenience on road during the Under-19 World Cup. We had a no-compromise attitude towards this whole event as any minor mismanagement would entail an international issue. With that in mind, the entire Bidhannagar city Police force with the CP leading the way took on this challenge. We worked together with Kolkata Police, Kolkata Municipal Corporation and other civic bodies to create the best possible safety and easy passage for pedestrians and vehicles. We charted out parking spaces, vehicular and pedestrian routes and road fencing so that everything can be done in unison and in an organised manner. We prioritised parking spaces in and around the stadium so that the spectators do not have to walk any more than needed to enjoy a good game of football. We also compartmentalised tasks amongst ourselves, as there were international teams and we also had the Referee headquarters based in our city.



## Moloy Mondal (Bidhannagar South – Green Police/ Stewart)

“This training has brought a new-found confidence in myself and my ability to deliver my undertakings as a green police.”

This is the first time I have witnessed an event of such grandiosity. The training that we received for the U-19 World Cup has really helped us in reaching our full potential. During the training, we learnt the basics of crowd management and how to control and direct crowds through heavy traffic or congested areas. We were also taught how to pacify an agitated individual and how to find solutions without further aggravating the situation. We have managed the famous Kolkata derby before but the difference between the derby crowd and that of Fifa or ISL is the sheer temperament of the crowd, the latter being much more organised and in control of one's emotion. This training has brought a new-found confidence in myself and my ability to deliver undertakings as a green police. The reason that we did our duties without any hiccup is because of unflinching support from our supervisors and seniors who guided us at every step.



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# NEW TOWN POLICE STATION: **BREAKING BARRIERS**

By Our Correspondent



**A**n age-old image of a policeman is one with a stern, unfriendly face, characterized by an equally surly demeanour, marked with sheer aggressiveness and flaunting a grumpy and rude attitude.

With such an image, I walked into the New Town police station.

A building with distinct architectural features, the structure is placed just beside the main SRCM Road. As I approached it, I ran into a group of constables who were leaving on a patrol. They greeted me with a smile and were courteous enough to show me to the room of the Inspector-in-Charge, Atanu Ghosal.

The age-old picture got its first jolt!

The IC was out on one of his many assignments for the day and thus, I had to wait. As I waited for him to return, I helped myself to a tour of the police station and its surroundings. It was an organized structure and the whole ambience wore an approachable look and feel. As I was talking to the police personnel there, the IC arrived. Another jolt!

The warm and courteous man greeted me with a smile and offered a cup of tea. From the word go, I could sense the passion he has for the work he does and the fulfilment he gets from being an officer in the police force. He stated that his police station handles around 1,00,000 people every day and it is also responsible for the security of around 55,000 IT employees who work there.

The police station also maintains liaison with the local medical and business establishments to ensure the

normal continuation of daily affairs of its jurisdiction. The police here go much beyond their mandated responsibilities, three to five police personnel donate blood every week and as the area is home to several nursing homes and migrant medical tourists, they take special care on those particular occasions. He further elaborated: "For them, we are the first point of contact. They do not have any other contact or source in the city that can help them in any undesired situation. I remember this when once I gave blood to a 9-year-old Bhutanese kid."

### KNOW YOUR OC -

Atanu Ghosal was in the NCC in his formative years. Thus, the love for uniform was always there. When presented with the opportunity to join the police force, he did not give it a second thought and joined in 1991. Ghosal, who is a first generation officer and father of two energetic boys, expressed his love for adventure and how this keeps him going.

The officer, while reflecting upon his career, states: "This is the only job that gives an ordinary person the means to empower others and that is why I do this every day". He repeatedly stated the importance of community policing in this

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day and age.

The Police Station also focuses on criminal rehabilitation and is on a road to reduce homelessness in the vicinity. The IC himself helps out with social work and also reaches out to different social organizations working in the area.

The Police Station has been told by the local Panchayat to help out with the recent flood like situation in the area. The cops took immediate action and have splendidly coordinated, thus ensuring an uninterrupted aid work.

### **Logistics of the Police Station:**

Patrolling Cars – FOUR (4).

O.C — One (1).

P.C Mobile – One (1).

Total Strength - SIX (6).

Human Resource of the station –

Sub- Inspector – twelve (12).

Male – 11. female -1.

Assistant Sub- Inspector – Eight (8).

Constable –Eighteen (30):

Male – 18 Female – 12.

Home guard – five(5) Male – 3 female -2.

The only regret that the officer has is not having enough time to

spend with his family but insists that the joy he gets from his extended family in the police station certainly compensates for that.

The Police Station's response time is within five (5) minutes, which is quicker than what it once used to be. All that has changed in the past few years as modernization of the police force has begun.

The IC of New Town Police Station signs off: "The approach of police should always be such that people feel connected with them, thus, facilitating community policing which is the only way to break free from the stereotypical perception of the police force."



# BIDHANNAGAR NORTH: POLICE STATION WITH A DIFFERENCE



By Our Correspondent

**J**ust meters behind the huge state government offices, an old building stands with much grace and poise as police vans pass through its bylanes. It is the Bidhannagar North Police station. While I approached the station, I could sense the serenity and calmness that surrounds it.

I was greeted by Sub-Inspector Mouli Khamara as the Inspector-in-Charge Somnath Banerjee was attending a meeting. A young officer with just three years into the service, she represents the face of a new emerging police

evolution.

He spoke in detail about the outreach programmes that his station has initiated especially directed towards sensitization of schoolchildren about the social evils that prevail in our society,

An officer nurturing a love for cricket and other sports, a doting father, he also involves himself with blood donation camps and organizes football tournaments to engage with today's youth.



Banerjee, a graduate in B.Sc, also holds a diploma in Computer Science. He cares deeply about the people he serves as he wholeheartedly believes in the mission and vision of the police force.

“Police can see the darkness as well as the light of society. Thus, it is truly rewarding to serve the purpose of the people and stand beside them in the darkest of their times.”

force, marked with ambition and a strong sense of responsibility towards the community. She informed me about the lady police station that their station has and also the cybercrime division.

like human trafficking and bank frauds.

He is a first generation police officer in his family and he enjoys cricket. As he explains:

## KNOW YOUR OC



As we looked around, the ambience reminded me of how selfless the service is and how actually thankless it is. These men and women devote their entire lives to the safety and security of the masses and yet prejudices about policing still continue.

Somnath Banerjee, a quintessential Bengali with a warm smile, reaffirming the faith and belief in the police force, welcomed me. Banerjee joined the police force in 1991 and was always eager to express his passion for his profession and how it has worked as a catalyst for his psychological

“The way Gavaskar used to tackle those bouncers from West Indian bowlers is something to marvel at. Nowadays, it’s rare to see such grace in batsmen.”

**Logistics of the Station -**

Patrolling Cars – 2  
O.C -1  
Patrolling Bikes -2  
Total – 5

**Human Resource of the Station -**

Sub Inspector -  
9 Male –  
8 Female – 1.

Assistant Sub Inspector – 5

Constable -31

Junior Constables – 14  
Lady – 11 Senior Constables – 6.

There also a rotating posting of a deputation force – 1st Battalion – 8. 3rd Battalion – 5 - Total - 13.

However, the officer regretted the fact that the colonial perception of

police still prevails in society and people are still hesitant about approaching the cops. He said that his police station is availing every avenue to alter this idea. Efforts are on to take policing as a community-centric approach rather than an authoritative one.

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# SAFE DRIVE SAVE LIFE





## JAGADHATRI PUJA TO CHANDANNAGAR COMMISSIONERATE

# WALKING THAT EXTRA MILE: FROM SOCIAL MEANS TO COMMUNITY CONNECT

By Sourav Dey

**W**ould it feel good if the festival of lights came twice in a calendar year? It sure would. This is where Chandannagar, with all of its history and colonial architecture, provides

four more days of dazzling lights and festivities to those who belong there and also the spectators who visit the town from other places.

The origins of the Jagadhatri puja as we know it remains unknown even today. However,

it is believed by Chandannagar residents that the puja was started in the early 1750s and the goddess continues to be worshipped by more than 250 puja committees till date. The festivity is visited by tens of lakhs of people every year,



resulting in a real-time challenge for the police force involved to maintain peace and calm throughout the festival days.

Although, a few days of festivities for the common man turns into a kind of overdrive for the police personnel, the latter work tirelessly day and night to maintain the law and order. Added to that, this was the first time when the Chandannagar Police Commissionerate handled such an event after being established only a few months ago. Considering the fact, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Sumit Kumar, had a lot to talk about the engagement of the force during the famous festival in the town.

“Jagadhatri Puja is one of the most important festivals here,” he said and added, “In the entire West Bengal, the Jagadhatri Puja mostly takes place here. During the puja, people from Kolkata and nearby districts visit the place. The record footfall every day stands at more than 10 lakhs, which is astounding. These are very small places — Chandannagar and Bhadreswar

— where the Puja takes place in more than 250 places and those who visit here, visit them all.”

“During the puja, the town is closed from every direction,” the DCP said. The officer also revealed that the spectators, who travel by bus, train as well as launches, include many VIP personalities, such as judges, prominent journalists and senior bureaucrats. He also stated that despite the huge footfall, security arrangements have never come under scanner as the newborn Commissionerate, with the help of the local police station covered approached it brilliantly.

“Our target was the spectators who came here for pandal hopping had to go through minimum inconvenience and no big law and order problem or crime arose out of the blue,” the DCP said before adding, “For this, we divided the entire area into different clusters, every one of which had its own inspector.” He also elaborated that the massive number of spectators caused the roads to close down, resulting in denying movement

## The Changemakers





of motor vehicles. For this reason, the Commissionerate decided to divide the area into clusters, with a huge number of police personnel to complement each cluster during the festivities. DCP Kumar also revealed that the Commissionerate made sure that the force patrolled throughout their clusters, paying special attention to crowd management. This made the existing police force to be more efficient and helped to keep the law and order intact.

Regarding the clusters, DCP Kumar revealed that the Commissionerate underwent certain special procedures including crossing over the Ganges on ferries. "We also put some of our personnel in that zone," he said before adding that this resulted in the contention of crimes along the river banks, which otherwise would not have been possible.

"We also used our DD (Detective department) extensively to counter crimes in the ferry crossing as well as in other parts of the town. We also used almost 3,000 personnel during the festive season," he revealed. The official also stated that technological monitoring, such as CCTV feeds and drones helped the police to control the crowds systematically resulting in huge success on the newly established Commissionerate's part.

Complementing the Deputy Police Commissioner's statements, Assistant Police Commissioner IJA Rahman said: "We used a drone technology this year in the Jagadhatri Puja to monitor the crowd from the sky. A control room was established in the police station here and we also installed 120 CCTV cameras to monitor the

situation.”

ACP Rahman also pointed out it was a challenge for the police stations as well as the Commissionerate to successfully fulfil their duties during Jagadhatri Puja despite the deployment of such huge force because of the sheer number of people visiting the area. Apart from the technological help, she maintained: “We used motorcycle patrolling during the peak hours. This made a huge impact on the criminals as no big crime was reported.” She further added: “There was also police personnel in civil clothes to handle eve-teasing and petty crimes like those.”

Although a new found police outfit, the Chandannagar Commissionerate has been doing some extraordinary work since the day of inception. Talking about all of it, the newly appointed Commissioner of Police, Ajoy Kumar, discussed his life, job and challenges.

A graduate of the 1993 batch, the Commissioner spoke about how he opted to join the police in his initial days. “The police is an outfit where the interface with the public is very high compared to other services. Although there are challenging times,, it is important for me to reach out to the common people,” Commissioner Kumar said while talking about how he became the officer he is today.

“I am the first police person in my entire family,” the Commissioner says before

adding: “There is a particular concept about the police in people’s minds, you know, but when one joins the department, it is a completely new and different feeling.” Talking about the challenges the uniform brings, the Commissioner mentioned about the expectations of the common people, which he defined as a complex yet must-do job for the personnel. He also spoke about the personal lives of police personnel, saying it might be so very hard to stay away from their families on festivities, but it is a sacrifice the personnel are keen for the greater good of society.

The Commissioner spoke about community and social connect and revealed that it is high time for the uniform holders to connect more and more with society and those living within it. “You see, since the past few decades, the police have become friendlier with the masses and I think we have to be even friendlier in order to work more closely and efficiently,” he said. “We would also need cooperation from the public as I think the police should command respect, rather than demanding it.”

Talking about the challenges during his time at the Commissionerate, Commissioner Kumar said he did not have much difficulty controlling the scenario in his new-found jurisdiction. “We do not have many instances of dacoity or violent crimes. It has been dealt with from

before. What we do have here are cases of rowdyism and extortion. But, to be honest, the rate has significantly dropped these days,” he said. “On the other hand, regarding crimes against women, we are doing preventive policing. There have been some cases of theft and we are monitoring the area very carefully for that.” The officer also pointed out to the establishment of the Detective Department as a means to handle urban crimes, which have been a massive force to deal with the crimes in the ‘formative stage’ of the Commissionerate.

As pointed out earlier, the Commissioner also elaborated on the new Commissionerate’s role in community connect with several initiatives. “There is an ongoing Safe Drive Save Life initiative. We have also organized blood donation camps as well as sporting events.” Commissioner Kumar also spoke about a certain incident where the Rishra Police Station took the initiative in the marriage of a helpless girl. He also revealed that thoughts are ongoing in a rehabilitation process where known criminals would get help to get back to normal life. With a bright hope for a perfect future, the Commissioner concluded that upon functioning properly after some time, he hopes to establish the new-found Commissionerate as one of the finest compared to its counterparts in the state.

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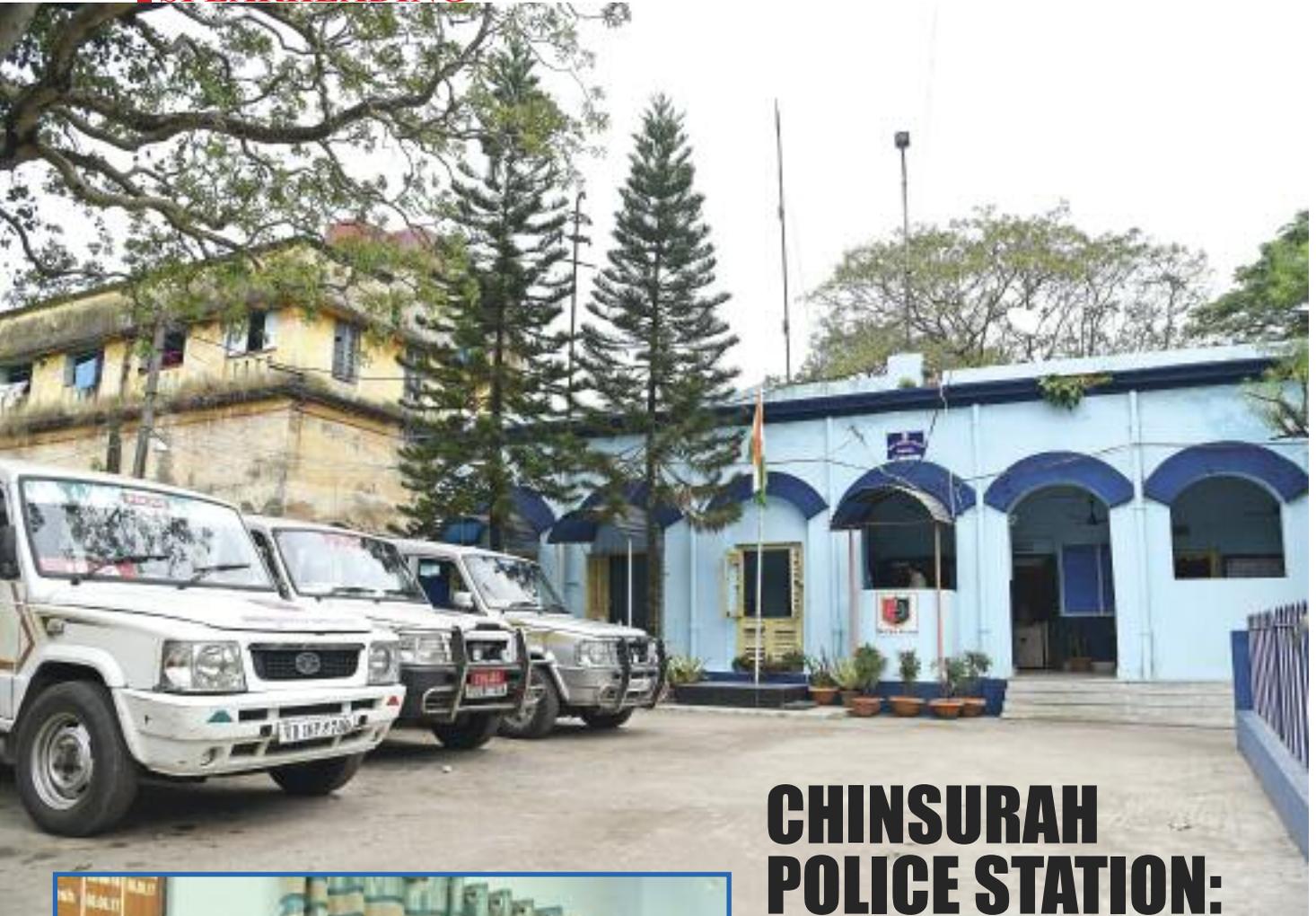
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# CHINSURAH POLICE STATION: CARVING A NEW NICHE

By Our Correspondent



**W**ith hardly two minutes of walking distance from the newly founded Chandannagar Commissionerate and the Hooghly District Court, the Chinsurah Police Station operates within the municipal towns of Hooghly-Chinsurah and Bansberia.

One of the most efficient police stations under the Commissionerate, it recently came into the limelight with the arrests of two persons carrying illegal firearms, associated

with the comparatively high profile case of Bhadreswar Municipality Chairman Manoj Upadhyay's murder. With the emergence of the newly found Commissionerate, the Chinsurah police station has come under the purview of a new limelight with its unique way of solving different crimes and establishing it as an example in the entire district.

The Officer-in-Charge of the police station, IC Nirupam Ghosh, spoke in detail about his profile and the station's day-to-day operations and challenges. A veteran with an experience of 26 years under his belt, IC Ghosh joined the force in 1991. A

finished my study, this was my first job and since then, I am here," Ghosh said. Answering another question to whether it was his aim to join the forces, he replied: "I never thought about it. But, it was the first opportunity I got and you can say I am happy with my profession. I love this job and I never thought about anything else. To be honest, I also didn't have time to think about doing other jobs. This is my mother district, I did my training here and after that, I joined up in Hooghly itself."

Speaking on the jurisdiction, he added: "Our jurisdiction

helped the police during the Durga Pujas, which he looks forward to using in a more efficient manner in the future. Talking about his experience with the local community, he said that the locals were helpful in the last Durga Puja, who helped the police station to mobilize volunteers. This resulted in the police taking a breath of air and keeping an extra eye on the roads as well as on important junctions in the town. This helped the 12-manned police stations go an extra mile keeping the calm intact in their respective jurisdictions.

"We have been doing some excellent work regarding connecting with the community here," the IC said before adding: "We have organised multiple blood donation camps, football tournaments. There is a Safe Drive Save Life initiative ongoing between the children of schools," he added.

The Officer-in-Charge revealed that the jurisdiction of the police station has a mixture of crime and criminal activities. "In the town, there are certain small to moderate crimes although the activities of the criminals are minimal," he said before adding that the rate of larger crimes has gone down in the jurisdiction considered to previous years. He also stated that although the station does not have any specialised units, the officers have been extremely cautious about the different crime reports and have dealt with those successfully.



resident of Asansol in the Burdwan district, he has been appointed throughout the state such as in North 24 Parganas and East Midnapore. A commerce graduate during his initial days, Ghosh spoke about himself and how he ended up joining the force two decades ago. Excerpts:

"I studied commerce. After I

starts from Chandannagar in the South till Bandel in the North, the Ganges in the East and the railway station to the West. The area is around 52 square kilometer."

The officer talked about technological developments of his force in the station. He also maintained that CCTV footages throughout his jurisdiction had



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**Howrah City Police celebrated a cultural programme on the occasion of 7th Raising Day.**

In which children of Police families and schools of Howrah Police Commissionerate performed. Commendation and reward was given to 7 – ACPs, 8 – Inspectors, 1 – SI, 1 – ASI, 9 – LCs, 2 – HGs and 1 – CV. Good citizens of Howrah Police Commissionerate who have also rewarded for they are helping the Police throughout the year. The ceremony was attended by Shri Prasun Banerjee, Hon’ble MP, Howrah, Shri A. Hazra, Hon’ble MP, Bolpur, Shri L. R. Shukla, Hon’ble MOS, WB, Dr. R.



Chakraborty, Hon’ble Mayor, HMC, Smt. V. Dalmia, Hon’ble MLA, Bally, Shri Vivek Sahay, IPS, ADG & IGP (Traffic), WB, Shri A M Ranade, IPS, IGP, CID, WB, Shri P. Pandey, IPS, Comm. of Police. Chandannagar PC, Shri G. Sharma, IPS, SP, Howrah (Rural), Shri S. Kumar, IPS, DCP (HQ), Chandannagar PC.



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# A TRUE BLUE COP WITH A NOVEL MISSION



*A mother, a friend, a distinguished officer of the Indian Police Service, an accomplished marathon runner and above all, an epitome of a modern Indian woman. That's how Suman Bala Saboo should be described. The Protector lists out the journey of this super cop since she joined the prestigious Indian Police Service in 1987 till date. Excerpts:*

## Growing up -

Daughter of a government servant, Sahoo grew up in Delhi. Her mother was a teacher. She did her Bachelor's degree in zoology from Hansraj College, Delhi University. She pursued her Masters in the same. Initially, she wanted to become a lecturer and thus pursued and successfully earned UGC and CISR scholarship for her M.phil, which she duly completed but as fate would have it, it was her father who insisted that she appear for the Civil Services exams at least once. She took Zoology and Botany as her two main papers.

It is evident that managing two very academically challenging goals is very imposing. When asked about how she managed her time, she replied: "Most of my General Studies was done during the bus journeys to my college. I had to change three buses every day to reach Hansraj College from my home".

On the very first attempt, Sahoo cleared prelims and the mains but could not manage the interview round as the questions were much more intricate than what she had expected. Also, for a brief period of time after the completion of her higher secondary, she wanted to pursue MBBS but did not do so after not clearing it in one attempt. After the first Civil Services attempt, she continued her academic pursuits and deliberately kept her desire to appear for the same for the second time, a closely guarded secret that she did not disclose to her own family as well. She cleared it in her second attempt. She got AIR 151 and was given the Indian Police Service. She vividly remembers: "I clearly remember, one of the

interview panellists asked me whether I would take IPS if given the opportunity. My reply was a firm yes."

## First Impressions -

Her first impression of the magnitude of the Services and how prestigious it actually comes later on. "After I got my ranking and IPS, there was this programme that came on Doordarshan titled "Premier Institutions of India" and coincidentally during that time they ran a story about National Police Academy. It used to air at around 10 pm every night." That was the first time she understood what IPS entail. Her mother was a bit hesitant about her joining the police services but ultimately, she had to yield to her daughter's wishes. Her worries continued when she learnt that Sahoo would have to learn horse riding, swimming and several other things that people rarely get acquainted with in their normal lives.

After the initiation of the training phase, the officer explained and appreciated how there was no leeway given to lady officers in physical or academic training. The entire batch had to go through the same rigorous training irrespective of their gender. Mr. S. Ramakrishnan was the A.D.O.D. of the NPA during her stay there. She also mentioned Mr. R. K. Johri who was the then Assistant Director.

Sahoo recalls 8 lady officers out of their batch of 120. After the first six months, some of the lady officers left to pursue different services and one got martyred in Manipur during probation and finally, four lady officers remained in the 1987 batch of the Indian Police Services. There were about 24-25 senior lady

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officers when she joined the Services. Theirs' was the 15th batch of the IPS since the inaugural batch of 1972.

### Training and learning the ropes:

Officer Sahoo started her career as an officer in Hooghly district, West Bengal. At first, she was required to complete the mandatory state training in Barrackpore for one month. After that, she found herself in Singur PS as a part of her rural PS attachment and Sreerampore PS as urban PS attachment. The SP office in Chinsura is where she completed her attachment to the SP office. She continued to

focus on how important it is to understand how a police station works and its inner nitty gritty as during this period after completion, the officer would have to supervise these areas. If one is not thorough with the police procedures and state laws, the task can be a very daunting one. Minute details such as how many registers are there in a police station to how D.I.B works in an SP office — everything had to be learnt. The thoroughness of the training can be sensed by the fact that the officer will have to sit on the Duty officer's chair and write GD's for 10 days. The probationary officer is also

required to investigate five cases, all of which come as a directive from the National Police Academy. Another important task that the officer is required to do is maintaining the cash book of SP office for seven to 10 days.

During her first posting in Hooghly, people stood in awe as it was unprecedented for the masses to see a lady IPS officer. The love and affection Hooghly gave her always holds a special place in her. As a Delhiite, she initially had a hard time communicating in Bengali but the caretaker of her residence and his two children helped her out with primary books which provided pictorial representation whenever needed. As she remembered her initial days in Hooghly, she constantly laughed. She spoke about a primary teacher who refused to take money in exchange for teaching Bengali to the officer and how she insisted and maintained the protocol by giving him remuneration. However, the teacher took that money and bought cassettes of Rabindra Sangeet for her and also went on to explain the meaning of each song in an effort to grow her interest in the language. As we all know, Tagore is the epitome of Bengali language and Bengali culture, incorporating his music in tutoring proved to be fruitful as Suman cleared the departmental exam for Bengali in her first attempt.

### Professional life and highlights:

The officer has handled many distinguished and challenging portfolios throughout her career and continues to do so. Thus, we were curious to know how she views her professional life and if there is any particular posting

that she thinks is more mentionable than the others.

She started off by stating that every posting has its own set of challenges and this diversity of workplace is what motivated her to join the Police Service in the first place but there are few that stood out for her. It included her tenure as the Deputy Commissioner (Special Branch), Kolkata Police. At the time of her posting, there was no DG security. Thus, the entire security set up was supervised by the Deputy Commissioner. Every state visit, be it the Governor's or any VIP or foreign dignitaries, all were under the responsibility of the DC Special Branch. All the political intelligence also ran through the DC. It required the on-duty officers to remain on their toes for 24 hours because the DC Special Branch is responsible for postings of all officers in plainclothes and a various other divisions. All this workload did have an impact on her personal life as she is also a mother, but she managed that as well.

The officer was jubilant in sharing how far women have come in the Services and how more and more women are choosing this field as their profession. In the last IPS batch, there were 36 lady officers, which a resounding upsurge from that of her batch of just four. In her words: "I don't only blame parents for lack of interest in policing. As far as women are concerned, I believe it is the women themselves who need to have more self-confidence and clearer goals."

The officer shared her experience as the chairperson of the board for female constable recruitment. She observed that girls from the financial outskirts

of society are keen on joining the police force than middle-class girls. During one of these trails, she met a woman, a widow and a mother of two who ran the fastest because that woman had the hunger to provide a better future to her offspring. This passion made her run like that and eventually she got the job. It is the passion that is most important. As far as the appeal of the police force is concerned, it is evident from the response that the department gets highlighting the charm of uniform is very much alive and intact.

### On rising crimes against women:

Like the pragmatist she is, she

opined that it cannot be tackled only by police personnel. The cops can and are taking sufficient prevention. The police have the advantage of prevention, protection, detection but the general public needs to be more aware and contribute to collective security. She also added that crimes in general terms are gender-neutral barring oddities and thus, not only women but men too should be proactive in ensuring their protection.

The officer spoke about the need for gender sensitisation in our society and making sure that the police as an organization does not misbehave and maintain utmost professionalism while



conducting a case. It is important that before we look at society, we must look into ourselves, she said. According to Suman: "It is difficult to change society but we must keep trying. But before anything else, we should change ourselves. As an organization, it is our duty to make sure that our people don't misbehave."

During her posting in Lalbazar as DC (DD), she regularly held weekly meetings with various NGOs working on this very subject alongside many high-ranking police officials. These NGOs included the ones like Swayam, Sanghita, etc.

When she was posted as SS (CID) then also she made sure to run gender-sensitization programmes particularly focusing on sexual harassment at workplace which was then newly introduced and also domestic violence protection that the then government created legislation on.

### **Steps towards the future:**

The officer is currently serving as the DG (Welfare), West Bengal Police. She mentioned that since she joined three years back, she had changed many things. One of them is that there were many funds such as sports fund, welfare fund, etc which were put in one place for better allocation and management and a society was formed, named West Bengal Police Welfare and Sports Society.

The department has started to give student loans. Students doing well in their Secondary and Higher Secondary exams get Rs 2000, Rs 4000 and Rs 6000 as scholarship based on their performance.

The department is also

involved in a lot of ex-gratia work as well. Anybody wanting to take a loan for education, marriage and other issues are provided with the same. The department helps in remunerating the deceased personnel's family. These opportunities are available in every district of the state. They are also encouraging sports. Twenty five percent of the cost borne by the district in organizing sports tournaments or activities, is given by the Head office and sometimes even more than that.

Insurance is another aspect that she mentioned. The West Bengal Police Medical insurance covers the entire family of any serving member. The Personal Accident insurance which covers any personal accident provides Rs 6 lakh to the family of the deceased. A sum is also given in case of grievous injuries. The contractual personnel of the police force such as Home Guards and Sevaks are also insured under different schemes. The department has recently signed an MoU with the State Bank of India for police salary package for a duration of three years. This move has led to further advantages, as the bank is also providing personal accident protection of Rs 5 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, Rs 15 lakh as per salary holder's position.

She has plans to incorporate skill development under the aforementioned society and is in talks with the concerned ministry. She thinks it would help the wards of the police personnel and even the Home Guards and their families too as they could learn new skills from these proposed centres and create new earning avenues.

There are also talks for family

creches in every district which would be a huge help to the working police families.

An officer with a distinguished career, Suman has set an example for all the young people out there. Her colleagues and those she serve always shower accolades for her professionalism and her dedication towards her duty. And of course, beyond the confines of the printed word, a free spirit evolves and is nurtured everyday for the betterment of this city and humanity.

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As told to Subhajit Bhattacharya



**UTSARGA:  
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# PHOTO STORY



# ELIMINATING ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

By John Shehan  
Vice-President,  
Exploited Child Division  
National Centre for Missing and  
Exploited Children

*“Every day of my life, I live in constant fear that someone will see my pictures and recognize me and that I will be humiliated all over again. It hurts me to know someone is looking at them — at me — when I was just a little girl being abused for the camera. I did not choose to be there but now I am there forever in pictures that people are using to do sick things. I want it all erased. I want it all stopped. But I am powerless to stop it just like I was powerless to stop my uncle.”*



**T**his quote is part of a victim impact statement which clearly portrays the long-lasting impact of a child’s sexual exploitation. This crime is exponentially compounded when the sexual abuse is recorded via digital images/videos and shared online. Many of these child victims, just like Amy in the victim impact statement above, are now adults, living with the frustrating realization that their sexual abuse material is traded

online regularly among those with a sexual interest in children.

“I want it all erased. I want it all stopped”.

Can this be done? Does that technology exist which can find a single image amongst millions of others? If such technology does exist, can it be put to scale against the billions of images stored online daily? How can child sexual abuse images be isolated online while still respecting the privacy of legitimate online users? This is a complex issue to say the least but as we learned, it can be done through the use of very precise technology that utilizes the power of hash values.

It started in 2006 when the Technology Coalition and the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) teamed up to help address this growing problem of child sexual abuse images online and an idea was born. It started out simple. NCMEC could provide hash values derived from child sexual abuse images that were previously reported to its CyberTipline by Electronic Service Providers (ESPs). ESPs could voluntarily participate and compare the NCMEC hash values against hash values of images that have already been uploaded by users to their platform. Images matching a hash value derived from child sexual abuse images could be removed by the ESP and reported to the CyberTipline. It was an exciting concept that offered a technological opportunity to reduce the proliferation of child sexual abuse material online. While exciting, everyone was cautiously optimistic as we knew this would amount to looking for a very tiny needle within a very

large haystack.

As we began to carefully walk down this path, we learned of limitations with hashing technologies. Undeterred we presented this challenge to several US-based technology companies such as Google, Facebook and Microsoft. Not surprisingly, they rose to the challenge. A more robust imaging matching technology, called PhotoDNA was developed. Since then PhotoDNA has become one of the most significant tools ever created in the reduction of child sexual abuse material online. Every year more and more US-based ESPs have adopted the use of PhotoDNA increasing its success.

In the US, proactive scanning for child sexual abuse images is voluntary, but the reporting aspect is not. When a US-based ESP becomes aware of child pornography on their network, they are required by law to submit a report to NCMEC's CyberTipline. Fast forward to 2017, the voluntary implementation of child sexual abuse hash value scanning has continued to grow, both in the number of companies utilizing this technology and the size of the hash value list. In 2017, NCMEC's CyberTipline received more than 10 million reports and we have provided more than 500,000 child sexual abuse hash values to the companies! 94% of the CyberTipline reports received in 2017 involved uploaders of apparent child pornography from outside the United States, including some in India. This increased volume has evolved NCMEC into a global clearinghouse of information that make CyberTipline reports available to local, state and

federal law enforcement in the US as well as more than 100 national police forces around the world, including Europol and Interpol.

The widespread adoption of these technology tools speaks to the extremely precise nature in which technology companies can voluntarily identify and remove child sexual abuse material from the Internet. This surgical-like precision considers the need to quickly and proactively find the heinous illegal material, while balancing the privacy concerns of legitimate Internet users. However, we can't stop there.

In 2017, a groundbreaking tool was developed by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection to combat the growing proliferation of child sexual abuse material on the Internet. The automated tool is called Project Arachnid, which is a spider crawling the open Internet and the dark-web for web pages containing child sexual abuse hash values. NCMEC has partnered with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection on Project Arachnid and is providing hashes values and other technical support.

### **Over only a six-week period in 2017, Project Arachnid:**

- Processed over 230 million web pages
- Detected over 5.1 million unique web pages hosting child sexual abuse material
- Detected over 40,000 unique images of child sexual abuse

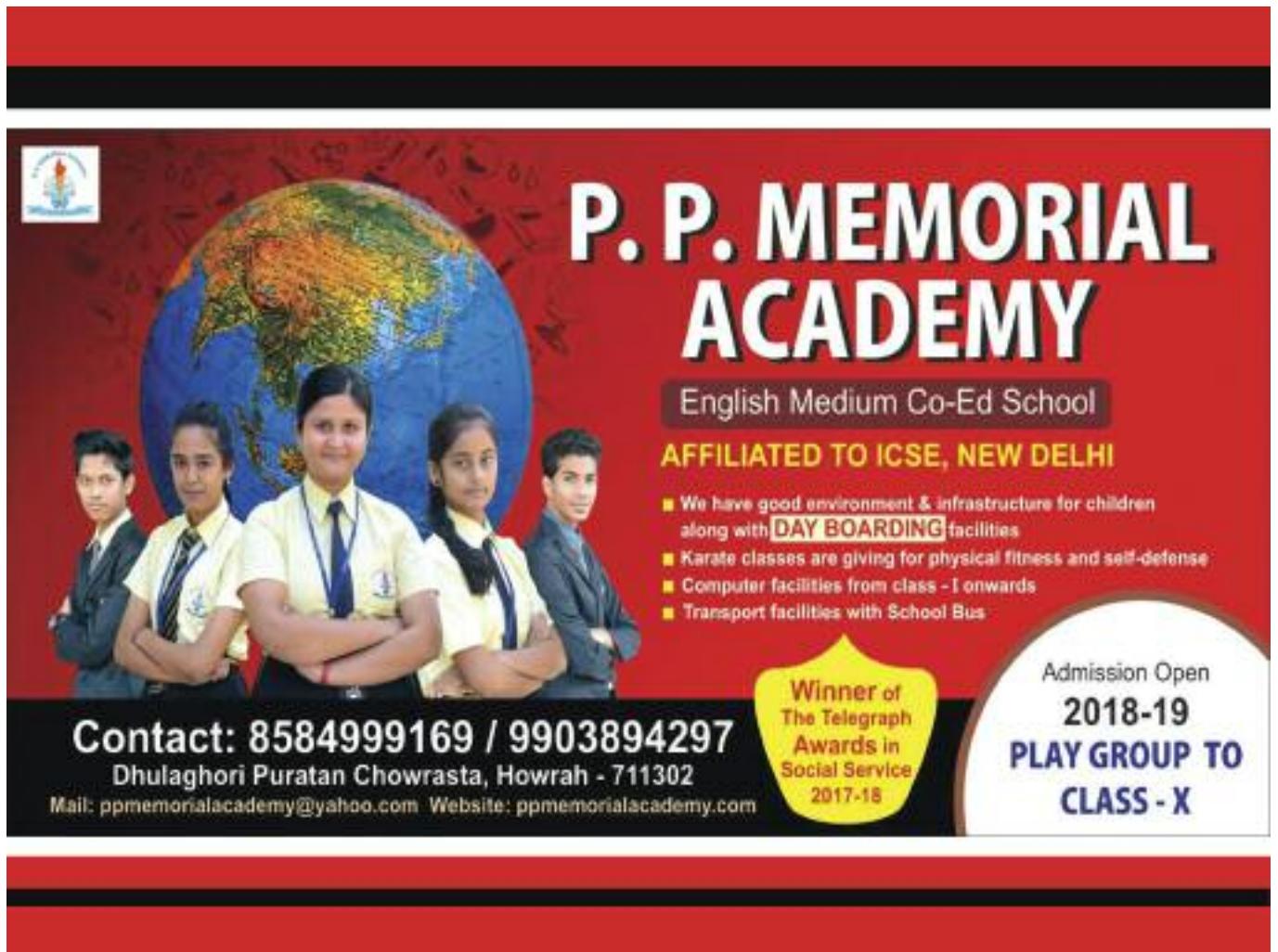
What is amazing about this tool is that when child sexual abuse material is identified, a notice is sent to the hosting provider to request its immediate removal. So not only

are technology companies armed with the tools to ensure they are not hosting child sexual abuse material, there is a cutting-edge tool that can spider the Internet, find those images and send notices to those hosting providers that may not be voluntarily taking steps to find and remove child sexual abuse content.

In the 18 years that I've devoted my career towards child protection at the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, I can confidently say that hash values of child sexual abuse material are the way forward to eliminate the material from the Internet. Together

NGOs, law enforcement and Internet companies have made a huge difference in the lives of children around the world and I am proud to have been a part of making these tools a reality. NCMEC is enthusiastic about discussions that have taken place and the interest that has been expressed to make CyberTipline reports available to law enforcement in India to expand and further address the issue of child sexual abuse images online.

For more information about the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, please visit us at [www.missingkids.org](http://www.missingkids.org).



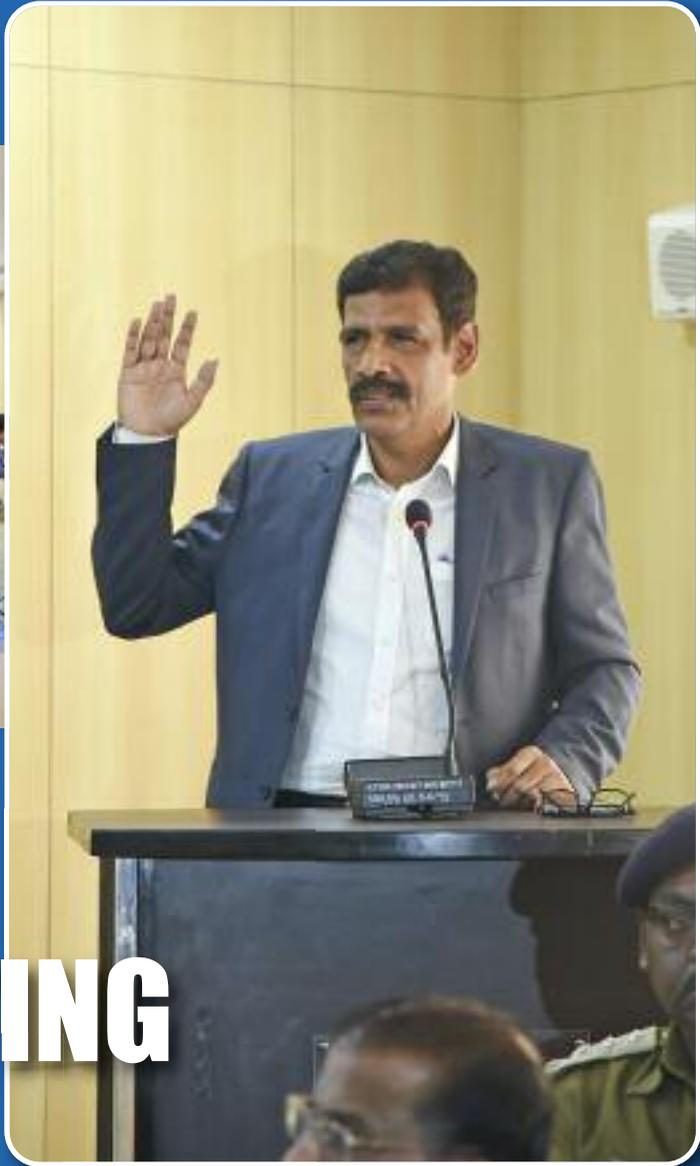
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# ROADS: THE CONNECTING DOTS





By Our Correspondent

**R**oads are important thoroughfares through which an individual reaches Point B from Point A, connecting kids to their schools, patients to hospitals, the working class to their respective stations, so on and so forth. Hence, it is of utmost importance that it flows

uninterruptedly.

This is where traffic policing comes into play. Traditionally, the role of traffic police was one of ensuring smooth vehicular flow throughout the city but ensuring road safety is somewhat a new concept. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched 'Safe Drive, Save Life' campaign focusing on responsible road behaviour and promoting safe

driving practices. According to the statistics, there are about 1.5 lakh deaths per year due to road accidents and to curb down the numbers, she launched this campaign on July 8, 2016, at Nazrul Manch in the presence of personnel from Kolkata and West Bengal Traffic police and transport department. The Protector spoke to Deputy Commissioner Traffic (South)

Vivek Sahay to know more about the progress of this campaign, its success and his take on the campaign.

The officer started off by mentioning how the Chief Minister treated this as an emergency and launched the campaign on a war footing and in doing so, how she has put the issue of road safety in public focus. Sahay mentions that there is also the help from the Supreme Court monitoring committee to whom they have to report and compliance obligation as to the instructions given by the Supreme Court is concerned. It should be mentioned that the Supreme Court in the last meeting held in November praised the efforts of the state government on record for its performance in the “Safe Drive, Save Life” campaign.

The officer mentioned how the West Bengal and Kolkata Traffic Police have managed to bring down the number of road accidents and fatalities by using

the available tools under this programme:

“We have been able to bring down road accidents by almost 17% and fatalities also by 17% to 18%. The target being 10% annually, we have done better than that.”

In road safety there are four E’s — Education, Enforcement, Engineering and Emergency care. That is precisely why this campaign has multiple stakeholders. Emergency care has to deal with the health department, Engineering is concerned with mostly National Highways Authority of India and Public Welfare Department and the Traffic Police and Transport department is doing the enforcing.

We have all seen the hoardings and posters around the city with the slogan of ‘Safe Drive, Save Life’, the officer reiterated the same and he explains that throughout the state every police station is conducting quiz competitions and debates in

order to promote this drive. The police are using all the traditional media platforms and as well as new media to promote road safety and responsible driving. He also mentions how the traffic department is focusing on the four D’s –

**One should not be drunk while driving.**  
**One should not be drugged while driving.**  
**One should not be drowsy while driving.**  
**One should not be distracted while driving.**



The police from this year onwards will focus on jaywalking and lane discipline in addition to wearing seat belts and helmets. Sahay said: "We have 20-30% accidents where pedestrians are the victim and our investigations have revealed that it is always the vehicle that is responsible".

It is essential that the people understand the concept of road safety and how pedestrians are also a part of it and it's not only about vehicles. Lane discipline is somewhat alien to the Indian driver, as we see in everyday traffic that people cut lanes as if it's a fashion of some sort. This makes traffic management and road safety much more difficult.

### Target to forming partners:

In policing terms, a target is a reference to the audience or people who are on the receiving end of a policy but this year the police have decided to incorporate targets of this SLSD programme as partners.

The police will depend on and work with the community as for example if the teachers tell the parents, who have come to pick their kids to wear helmets then the police would be interested in making them partners and also if the kids tell their parents to wear seatbelts, he or she also becomes partner in this campaign. This community-driven approach will be the direction that the campaign will take in 2018.

### Financing the new traffic

Sahay mentions: "I want to mention our immense gratitude to the Transport Department for their generous financial

assistance for procurement of traffic equipment and traffic furniture"

All these upgradations require a sizable financial assistance and the Transport department have been generous enough to provide that. As of now, the procurement has been divided into various parts. Mentionable ones are traffic uniforms like raincoats and umbrellas. Another one is traffic furniture like guard rails, spring posts and etc. The Department also has monitoring devices such as breathalyzers, Red Light violation detection cameras, number plate recognition cameras and laser speed guns and so and so. All

these are very costly equipment and the Transport department is near about doubling their assistance every year. The Transport department has provided assistance to the traffic worth of up to Rs 50 crores, which is a very big amount.

### The architecture of the state traffic

The entire state traffic safety infrastructure is headed by "The State Safety Council", chaired by the Chief Secretary.

In this council, there are multiple stakeholders represented, such as Health department, PWD, Transport

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and Police. There is also district level safety councils, whose secretariat is now proposed to be the SP office. The officer explained that since a place is required and as there is already a predefined infrastructure existing in the SP office, it would be convenient and effective as well to make the office of the SP the secretariat for district-level

face or to drink countering issues like drowsiness that drivers face in early hours of the day. This initiative has already saved about 100 lives. As the fatality statistics from December 2016 and December 2017 have shown, it is a great achievement because here is an opportunity in policing to save so many lives in one initiative.

of potential law-breakers. The towers will have monitoring capabilities as they will be equipped with state-of-the-art cameras and they will be manned as well by traffic personnel. Around 20 towers are already built and the target is to build 100 such towers by the end of 2018.

The DG has already expressed



safety council, despite its chairman being the District Magistrate.

### Projects and seasonal activities

The police are always engaging with the public and coming up with innovative ways to ensure road safety, one of them is during December and months when extreme fog becomes a serious problem, the police have put about 250 checkpoints and they are stopping vehicles to provide them water either to wash their

As far as highway patrolling is concerned, the department is now focused on capacity building and adding more highway patrol vans. In this endeavour, funds from MP LADS and assistance from the Transport department have resulted in building many watchtowers on the highways. The purpose of the watchtowers is to deter motorists from engaging in illegal activities and breaking traffic rules as the presence of police makes a huge psychological effect on the mind

concern about the perils of stopping speeding vehicles at police checkpoints. Thus, the DG has plans to put about 42 camper vans which would be modified with a variable messaging system with NPR cameras on top by the end of 2018. This move would ensure the issues of police misconduct if any and also hit-run offenders at checkpoints as they would be in full view of the cameras.

The officer mentioned a regular grievance that the truckers' association has put forth. It is too many irregular



checking points within very short intervals by different government agencies prevail. The department is considering the idea of creating around 150 fixed checking points where vehicles can be safely diverted and stopped and checked. The department is also focused greatly on small vehicles conspicuity tapes so that even in low light and high fog conditions even the smallest vehicles like rickshaws and cycles are spottable.

The department has been collecting data on recurring accident spots and they term it

as “Black Spots”. Whenever these Black Spots are identified, a team of traffic police, local cops and PWD officers visit them to investigate the reasons for it, also see if there could be a blind spot or a curvature problem in the road. Whatever the problem is, these teams resolve them and they do it continually.

These are just some the measures through which the “Safe Drive, Safe Life” campaign has been engaging with the public and reinforcing and reintroducing the concept of road safety to the citizens of the

state. Though it will take time but it can be said with assurance that West Bengal police is determined to make the roads safe, leading the journey to attain fulfilment.

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## 'MORE OUTREACH PROGRAMMES DIRECTED TOWARDS SPECIFIC ASPECT OF POLICING NEEDED'

By Our Correspondent

*This society is not static and thus, the social evils keep on evolving. To counter this ever-evolving nature of crimes and societal challenges, the police need to adapt and engage in capacity building and decide on the route to be acquired to attain such objectives. Excerpts from opinions of the GenNext:*

“



**Sreyosee Dutta (student, first year)-**

“Police personnel are there to protect us and that is precisely why it’s a problem when the general public feels hesitant in engaging with them. Hence, it is my opinion that cops should be perceived as friends rather than foes and to attain that, the cop should highlight their humane side more often which would greatly help to reduce the unfounded hesitancy among the masses.”

”

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**Poulami Dutta (student) –**

“Police should be harsher towards perpetrators of crimes against women and make sure that their dignity is not violated during cross-examination. Being a young woman and having been to the local police station several times, I just have one simple suggestion for them —cops should be harsher towards the perpetrators of crimes against women.”

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“



**Timir Das (student/musician) –**

“Community approach is best suited for today’s society as people should be more at ease while interacting with the police. The police are there to help us but sometimes their good deeds get misrepresented and thus, there should be more outreach programmes directed towards this specific aspect of policing”.

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“



**Prarthona Bose (student)-**

“I will feel more safe and content if there were more patrolling cars and more of a visual presence of police on the streets at night, which there is, but still there are plenty of areas where it’s a tad difficult to access. The police should build up its technological capacity so that when threatened, a victim can instantaneously call on the law authorities and it will also ensure the timely response and prevention of a potential crime.”

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**Abhi Kumar Dey (student)-**

“Police should be given the latest combat gear and every modern resource possible to fight today’s issues. Though I understand that in a democracy, police should have more of a community approach that does not mean that they have to deal with ancient tools which were more suitable in yesteryears and have no utility in today’s times. Modern problems require modern equipment.”

”

“



**Sourav Dutta (Journalism student - final year) –**

“I think striking a balance between modernization and community outreach would be ideal for dealing with today’s challenges. As a resident of Kolkata, I have noticed the slow but steady improvement in both the City of Joy and West Bengal Police’s capabilities. The change is most certainly welcome but I do feel that there is more that the cops can do especially in the sphere of traffic policing and the acute shortage of personnel should also be dealt with seriously.”

”

“



**Sankhadeep Das (B.Tech student)-**

“Police personnel should be friendlier towards the general public, especially in the rural areas and suburbs. As I belong to a rural area, according to me, police in those areas should be more proactive in pursuing more sustainable trust dialogues with the general populace there. It would boost their cause to save lives and protect the underprivileged. For example, if a mishap happens, locals would come forward and voluntarily help the police to the best of their capabilities which in turn would make policing in that particular area much easier. Thus, police personnel should be friendlier towards the general public, especially in the rural areas and suburbs.”

”

“



**Madhurima Sarkar (student) –**

“Patrolling should be increased at night to ensure the safety of women and people in general and also there should be a female police constable so that a lady victim can be attended to without any delay. As a resident of Howrah, I have had issues with the traffic situation there for quite a few years now and there is also a growing presence of eve-teasers. Though the proactive role of the concerned police station has curbed this menace to a great extent, it has not been able to actually stop it. I believe, to deal with this social evil, patrolling should be increased at night to ensure the safety of women and people in general and also there should be a female police constable so that a lady victim can be apprehended without any delay”.

”

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One of the few perks of modernization, cellular devices or the mobile phones has been a great help to mankind. A small gadget itself, the mobile has helped every person in every corner of the world reachable at the touch of a few buttons.

However, with all the advancements it has helped us achieve, the mobile phone has also emerged as a device leading to radiation-related health problems. This generation's children have been negatively affected, risking both theirs and our future in the process.

Motivated to dealing with health problems of little ones, Peerless Hospital and BK Roy Research Centre's leading paediatrician, Dr. Sanjukta Dey, explained the downside of the usage of mobile phones and other similar gadgets by infants.

"The radiation from a mobile is there. There have been many studies about it. But acting ethically on these is not possible. However, these studies have shown that the radiation from mobiles can cause brain problems in infants."

One such study in 2011 by the International Agency for Research on Cancer at the World Health Organization reached a conclusion that the 30 kHz-300 GHz electromagnetic waves is a 'Group 2B', which is a possible human carcinogen leading to cancer.

Apart from cancer, Dr. Dey opined that neurological diseases, physiological addiction, cognition, sleep, and behavioural problems are all parts of the emerging mobile phone related problems for children.

"A newborn's brain develops very fast every day compared to that of adults. If an infant's brain's dividing cells are exposed to electromagnetic waves, it can cause more severe problems. You can see how medical problems like Autism and ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder) have increased these days."

Dr. Dey elaborated on the said topic. "Be it television or mobiles, the moving images are playing in a rapid sequence. And the continuity of watching these moving images can cause the dividing brain cells to get disturbed which in turn cause the brain to become hyperactive."

The paediatrician also stated that hyperactivity can lead towards sleeplessness for children.

# CHILDREN AND SMARTPHONES: FRIENDS OR FOES?

By Sourav Dey



## Cartoons and TV shows having an adverse effect on children

For this generation, which is the first to be greatly affected by the electromagnetic radiation of mobile phones, many instances have been recorded where children are unable or are uninterested in orthodox methods of education. According to the doctor, she has faced several cases where parents have complained that their children have lost interest in reading books or writing on paper.

“Children are being unable to keep their concentration intact in written words. Whenever they are reading a book or writing something, they cannot concentrate,” Dr. Dey said. She further elaborated: “A generation of hyperactive inattentive children is growing up who are probably going to be disturbed.”

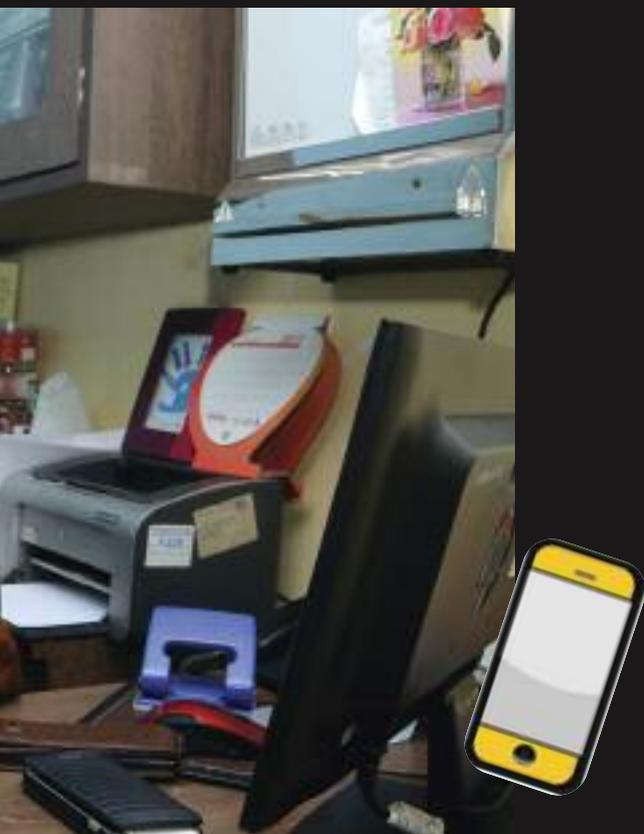
The doctor also spoke about kids losing interest going outdoors as an effect of cellular gadgets. According to the paediatrician, soap operas and cartoons, among other shows are consumed on mobile devices, making it difficult for children to distinguish between fiction and reality.

“You see, a cartoon is showing a cat and a mouse chasing each other, hurting another with every possible tool. This is causing a negative psychological effect on today’s kids. They are growing up thinking hurting someone is alright.”

She also indicated that parents are taking up a key role in this addiction, where parents feel their children are learning to cope with technological advancements these days along with an increased use of mobile phones by children.

A debatable topic itself, it needs to be understood whether the use of cellular devices should be completely prohibited? Studies indicate that use of smartphones by children leads to a number of health problems as well.

One thing is certain that the future of this generation, the decision makers of tomorrow, has to be protected at all costs. Something that needs to be looked into urgently is the rising use of smartphones and its impending problems in order to make our future safe and bright.





*In a candid chat with The Protector, Arindam Sil opens up about his perception of cinema, his competitors and how streaming has changed the concept of viewing cinema. Excerpts:*

### Are you bored with acting?

No no, I still want to act. I am acting in Anjan Dutta's new film. But the problem is that in this industry, everything works on perception. Because I have my own production house, people simply assume I won't have any time for acting. I am busy with direction now but at one point, I have played the best of characters and I didn't get my due. Now, people compliment me on my acting. Where were they before

in school and what I learnt was the importance of psychology, of body language. A vast number of actors have no input in the role that they play. They do what their director tells them to. Some others are good actors and consistent with their work — Sudipta Chakraborty, Sohini Sarkar or Anirban Bhattacharya. These are people who think about the characters they play and add things of their own. That is my school of acting – an

how to manage men. I went on to work in a corporate organisation. Coming from that background, the way the industry worked shocked me initially. I created the first software for budgeting a production. They never knew what a "fund flow statement" was. I started it. I faced some opposition in the beginning but eventually, everyone fell in line. There was one person who inspired me a lot – Anjan Dutta. He used to tell me: "it isn't enough to criticise, you must lead by example". I have tried to do exactly that.

## 'STREAMING WON'T DESTROY CINEMA, IT WILL ONLY STRENGTHEN IT'

2013? Now, when I direct people, I act out their parts and show it to them and even former Indian skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni has complimented me on my acting skills.

You've played a wide variety of characters. Some portions of a character come from a director's brief but the majority should happen from man-watching.

I had read Desmond Morris (author of *The Naked Ape*) when I started acting. It was a deeply disturbing read but it drew me to psychology. I used to read books on psychology when I was

By Deepanjan Ghosh

actor has to contribute. In my acting and the characters I have played, my man-watching has helped me tremendously. I have even used lines that I have heard people saying.

You work in an industry that isn't known for punctuality. But you have a reputation for being punctual. How have you managed this?

I have always believed that you set your own standards. I walked into an industry where I felt like criticizing every bit of it. I was from St. Xavier's College which taught me to be smart. And then I did my MBA which taught me

But creativity cannot be constrained to set working hours?

I am a very disciplined creative person. That has come from my extreme fondness for Satyajit Ray. I have never worked with him but I have seen that discipline still surviving in his family. When Sandip Ray makes a film, you can still see that discipline.

In the present industry, who do you think is your competitor?

I think anyone who is doing good work. Whenever I see good work, anything that inspires me, I consider it as competition. We shouldn't be living in a fool's paradise. Just because your films are a hit now, you cannot permit your standards to slip.

Streaming video is big now. Are you thinking of



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**something purely for streaming?**

With streaming services, the concept of watching movies has changed drastically. Streaming provides a new avenue, for audiences and distributors. A film like *Posto* was sold for a crore to a local web platform. Before Dhananjay was even released, the rights had been bought by Amazon Prime. So I was assured that the film was a hit because the money was home. But that didn't stop me from pushing myself. When I make movies, I will still make them with the theatre in mind but I want to do experimental things for web platforms that haven't been done before. Bickram Ghosh and I want to do a series on world music. It wouldn't have been possible to do something like this anywhere else. Streaming is a great thing if you can take it positively, if you don't go and create something as basic as "Dupur Thakurpo".

**Is the audience different from streaming video?**

No, such distinctions are outdated now. *Game of Thrones* finds huge audiences in smaller centres like Dhanbad and Asansol as well. It isn't like the old days, where some films would be made for rural audiences and some for the urban crowd. If we can ride this wave, then we can do something in our own language that can find a huge audience. And this popularity can spill over into other areas. Before I made *Shabor*, Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay's books weren't especially popular. But when the film became a hit, the sale of his books shot up. Streaming will allow us to break barriers and do things which weren't possible

before. Streaming won't destroy cinema, it will strengthen it.

**Speaking of *Game of Thrones*, it is a show which has unprecedented budgets. But in Bengali, we are always told that a smaller audience makes such budgets difficult to justify. Will that ever change?**

Do the maths yourself. If Hoichoi manages to get 5 lakh subscribers in the next three years at the rate of Rs 1,000 per subscriber, that's revenue of Rs 500 crore. Will it then be very difficult for them to create big-budget spectacles? But then, there is no point in creating a meaningless film with huge budgets. Sanjay Leela Bhansali, for example, exploits grandeur. He has great visuals but there is some problem with his storytelling. We have grown up watching films like *Ben Hur*. Why should we settle for something like *Padmavati*?

**In an industry where everyone avoids commenting on politics, you are very open in your support. Are you never afraid that your comments may have repercussions?**

No, because my support is unconditional. I don't expect any quid-pro-quo from Mamata Banerjee and she is aware of it. My focus is on my cinema. And we all have just one life, should we spend it cowering in fear? The weaker you are the more people take advantage of you. Projecting a certain amount of strength is needed and that strength comes from extreme honesty.

**You have a long-standing relationship with the police. Is there any quid-pro-quo**

**there?**

Oh yes! And I have to say, the way the Kolkata and West Bengal Police have helped me in my movies, it is unimaginable. You won't be able to shoot in a bylane in Mumbai without paying off the cops. In Kolkata, we have shot *Gunday* and *Meri Pyari Bindu* without any problem. They simply asked us, very humbly, if we wanted to donate something to the police welfare fund and we did it so gratefully. Without their support, it wouldn't have been possible to stop traffic at Shyambazar 5 Point Crossing for a shoot with Amitabh Bachchan.

There can be no better friend than the Kolkata Police. In Malaysia, I had asked a policeman for directions and he responded rudely. I realised how much more warm and cordial our cops were. In my city, cops help people cross the road; they help the elderly deal with loneliness. I know, because I work closely with Project Pranam. The community policing section of the Kolkata Police is absolutely incredible. I have said this before and I will say it again if they are allowed to work without political interference, Kolkata Police are among the best in the world.

**And they have an immense stock of stories**

Oh yes! *Rahasya Rabibar* has become extremely popular on Facebook. Supratim (Additional Commissioner Supratim Sarkar) who has been writing it is a very dear friend of mine. The book is being released at Book Fair this year and I have already asked for the rights to it. *Rahasya Rabibar* is a web-series I would love to do.



# KRISHNA SARKAR – THE ‘BUTTERFLY WOMAN’ OF BENGAL

By Ranabir Bhattacharyya

**T**he incredible story of Krishna Sarkar, the

butterfly woman of Kolkata is indeed a fascinating one. A senior staff nurse of OT, Cardiology Department at

SSKM Hospital, Krishna Sarkar is now an integral part of 'butterfly identification' in Bengal. Her journey in this

## PROTECTORS

domain dates back to the Orkut days when scribbling down the pages online, she came across the world of butterflies, majestic yet

fragile winged wonders of the natural world. In the beginning, Krishna mostly relied on digital data to gain knowledge on

butterflies. Subsequently, her personal quest for identifying butterflies also began. The turning point of her life was indeed the day when she came in direct contact with Isaac Kehimkar, the 'butterfly man of India', an avid naturalist, photographer, teacher and prolific author.

It has been more than a decade in the domain of photography and eventually Krishna Sarkar has won so many accolades. In 2014, she was invited by the forest department to work in Rajabhatkhawa Interpretation Centre in Buxar Reserve. In 2015, she was invited to work in a prestigious US Full Bright Fellowship project where she was assigned to find out whether there have been significant changes among butterflies due to climate change. The outcome of the project was exhibited in four metro cities in India and Krishna Sarkar was felicitated for her vital and invaluable contribution. The President of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) herself congratulated her on stage. Krishna Sarkar is also credited with the discovery of new butterfly Hoary Palmer (Unkana Ambasa).

There is a popular misconception that butterflies are not regularly seen in urban sectors. Krishna Sarkar clarifies in her own words, "For working professionals like us, it is not possible to venture our trips so often. You would be surprised to know that we click butterflies on a regular basis in areas like the Botanical Garden, the Chintamanimar Garden, the Rabindra Sarobar Lake, the Victoria Memorial, Mohorkunj etc. I remember, we had spent quality time in Bardhaman, Kalyani, Haringhata as well."



Anyhow, the whole aspect of butterflying isn't an easy task either as Krishna Sarkar herself says, "You need to have ample physical strength, stamina. Sometimes we have to walk 10-15 km to click the perfect frame. Interestingly, there are certain butterflies like Tawny Rajah, Duffer and others who dislike flowers and don't prefer to sit on flowers either."

No doubt, people of the calibre of Krishna Sarkar are fighting tirelessly for raising consciousness for the conservation of nature. Krishna Sarkar looks very optimistic with the present generation as she says, "Gone are those days when people were not aware of

ecology. I have conducted classes with kids in remote areas in



Sikkim. I have seen their admiration for nature. All is not lost. Mother Nature is indeed beautiful and it is our duty to

take care of it in the best interests of human civilization."

And importantly enough, the world today needs more and more enthusiastic persons like Krishna Sarkar who go beyond their normal activities to take interest in the vast physical environment, which throbs with life and activities of creatures spelling out precisely the varied beauty of Mother Nature.

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# CYBER CRIME AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA AND THE LAWS

**WHY CYBER BULLYING SHOULD NEVER BE TAKEN  
AS A HOLISTIC TERM FOR CYBER HARASSMENT**



**Dr. Debarati Halder, Ph.D**

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In a recent academic conference where I was speaking on cyber bullying, I got some 'strange questions' as why I am not covering topics like pornography and obscenity. To me, these questions were 'strange' because I was delivering lecture specifically on cyber bullying. But to the individuals who asked the questions (and this group included academicians and practitioners from women's rights group as well), this seemed to be a genuine concern as why cyber bullying does not mean cyber pornography, cyber obscenity, revenge porn, cyber stalking or the concept of cyber harassment.

### **Decoding cyber bullying:**

Many of us believe that cyber bullying is the holistic term to explain the concept of cyber harassment. In reality it is not.

Cyber harassment or online harassment is a holistic term which may include various types of harassments including cyber bullying. The term cyber bullying is defined as "abuse/harassment by teasing or insulting, victims' body shape, intellect, family back ground, dress sense, mother tongue, place of origin, attitude, race, caste, class, name calling, using modern telecommunication networks such as mobile phones (SMS/MMS) and Internet (Chat rooms, emails, notice boards and groups)"(Jaishankar, 2009).

www.Stopbullying.gov explains cyber bullying as ".....Cyberbullying includes sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, or mean content about someone else. It can include sharing personal or private information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation."

A clear reading of the definition of Jaishankar and the explanation provided by Stopbullying.gov would suggest that cyber bullying includes conveying or posting of insulting, degrading, teasing, messages in the victim's timeline, in groups or forums etc. Bullying messages are also conveyed through one-to one chatting mechanism. Bullying messages may typically be like "you are a liar", or "you look ugly", or "you are worthless", or "x is a black spot in the team", or "x is a big zero when it comes to trendy fashion" etc. Presently, India does not have any cyber bullying prevention law.

However, it would be wrong to say that cyber bullying happens to children. Adults may also be victims of bullying, including workplace bullying.

### **So when does bullying turn into stalking?**

Often people confuse cyber bullying with cyber stalking. We at Centre for Cyber Victim Counselling had provided a functional definition of cyber stalking in our 2010 research report which is as follows:

"In one word, when 'following' is added by Mens rea to commit harm and it is successfully digitally carried out, we can say cyber stalking has happened" (Halder & Jaishankar, 2010).

S.354D of the Indian Penal Code (inserted via Criminal Law amendment Act, 2013) defines cyber stalking as follows:

"Any man who follows a woman or contacts or attempts to contact such woman to foster personal interaction repeatedly despite a clear indication of disinterest by such woman or whoever monitors the use by a woman of the internet, email or

any other form of electronic communication or watches or spies a person in a manner that results in fear of violence or serious alarm or distress, in the mind of such woman or interferes with the mental peace of such woman, commits the offence of stalking."

Seeing from the above perspectives we can see several stages of cyber stalking:

**The first stage of cyber stalking can be Repeated Pursuing**

**The second stage can be data mining and/or monitoring.**

**The third stage can be creating threat /fear in the mind of the victim.**

Repeated pursuing can be in the form of sending /posting messages which may not be insulting or degrading or annoying at the beginning. This is because the stalker (especially in case of interpersonal stalking) may not necessarily like to insult or humiliate his 'target'. The main aim of the stalker may be to persuade the victim to enter into an emotional relationship where the stalker may be a dominant figure. The messages may turn insulting or degrading when the process reaches the third stage, i.e., when the sender wants the victim to feel threatened. Stalking may adopt the process of cyber bullying when the victim refuses to abide by the 'commands' or 'demands' of the stalker. The later may then start sending insulting, annoying, degrading messages in order to create a fear of constant harassment and defamation of the victim. Bullying therefore changes into the phenomena of

cyber stalking when the bully becomes obsessive with his victim and continues to post hurting, degrading, insulting messages as long as the victim does not start developing a sense of fear; when he starts monitoring his victim to see the outcome of bullying or rather, to see how far the victim is affected by bullying.

## Revenge porn and bullying

Again, revenge porn and bullying can be completely different forms of online harassment. Revenge porn “.....is an act whereby the perpetrator satisfies his anger and frustration for broken relationship through publicizing false, sexually provocative portrayal of his /her victim by misusing the information that he may have known naturally and that he may have stored in his computer, or may have conveyed to his electronic device by the victim herself, or may have been stored in device with the consent of the victim herself; and which may essentially have been done to publicly defame the victim.”(Halder & Jaishankar, 2013).

Revenge porn may necessarily include unethical using of images of the victim for taking revenge and creating a fake avatar of the victim which may signify the later as that of bad character. Unfortunately many countries including India do not have any focussed law to prevent and punish revenge porn. However, several legal academicians including cyber civil right activists in the US have proposed revenge porn legislations and such proposals have been considered as legal provisions to criminalise revenge

porn. In case of revenge porn, the perpetrator may or may not include bullying tactics to create extra humiliation to his/her victim. I have observed that in several revenge porn cases, the perpetrator may limit his act to posting to his own time line with a tagline indicating that the victim is of bad character, or may create a fake avatar either in the social websites like Facebook or Twitter etc indicating that the profile owner may solicit sex, or may upload the image to adult networking websites where all images may be ‘consumed’ as erotica. Revenge porn and bullying may be clubbed up only when the perpetrator posts/sends annoying, insulting, degrading messages to the victim or to a group to humiliate the victim with the revenge porn content, i.e., after he has already created revenge porn and wishes to continue harassing the victim with teasing messages. However, I would still not agree to call it cyber bullying; it would be categorised as defamation if seen from the perspective of defamation laws. S.499 of the Indian Penal Code which states as follows:

“Whoever, by words either spoken or intended to be read, or by signs or by visible representations, makes or publishes any imputation concerning any person intending to harm, or knowing or having reason to believe that such imputation will harm, the reputation of such person, is said, except in the cases hereinafter expected, to defame that person. Explanation 1.—It may amount to defamation to impute anything to a deceased person, if the imputation would harm the reputation of that person if living, and is intended to be

hurtful to the feelings of his family or other near relatives. Explanation 2.—It may amount to defamation to make an imputation concerning a company or an association or collection of persons as such. Explanation 3.—An imputation in the form of an alternative or expressed ironically, may amount to defamation. Explanation 4.—No imputation is said to harm a person’s reputation, unless that imputation directly or indirectly, in the estimation of others, lowers the moral or intellectual character of that person, or lowers the character of that person in respect of his caste or of his calling, or lowers the credit of that person, or causes it to be believed that the body of that person is in a loathsome state, or in a state generally considered as disgraceful.”



As may be seen from the above, cyber harassment or online harassment therefore is a bigger term which includes forms of harassment including cyber bullying. It is essential to understand the differences because the terms may signify different types of criminal or civil wrongs and as such may attract different types of punishments by courts of law. For instance, if a victim who has encountered impersonation (not

amounting to revenge porn, but an ordinary impersonation whereby his/her image had been used to create a profile in the matrimonial site), he/she should not report the incident as cyber bullying to the concerned website. It should be 'impersonation', meaning the perpetrator has unethically and unauthorisedly used the personal picture and information of the victim to create harassment. Depending upon the mens rea, nature of the profile and impact of the same on the victim's reputation, the police may book the offender under various provisions under Information Technology Act and also under

Indian Penal Code for impersonation (for example, Ss 66D of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (amended in 2008), Ss. 416 & 417, 499, 500 IPC, etc). In case the victim is a woman, the police may also include provisions meant for harming the modesty of women (S.509 IPC). Similarly, in case of stalking, the victim should rather report the crime as stalking and not cyber bullying because the legal provisions in India do not recognise any offence of cyber bullying, but prescribes stringent punishment for stalking. Whereas, in other jurisdictions, where both cyber stalking and cyber bullying are

recognised as offences, both may have different types of punishments. Further, the social media websites may also have different reporting mechanism for cyber bullying and cyber stalking.

However, cyber bullying still remains in a grey area from legal perspectives. More research is needed to develop a good universal understanding which may help to demarcate why cyber bullying be considered as Bad Speech. Further, research is also needed to create deeper demarcation between different forms of online harassment for the purpose of better policy developments.



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**DG & IGP, West Bengal inaugurate new building of SP office & Police Line of Hooghly Rural District Police.**





# CARING HANDS



# SAMARITAN HELP MISSION



# COMMUNITY BONDING



Samaritan Help Mission completed three years of its Community Transformation project in 2017, Howrah City Police, Belilious Trust Estate, Government of West Bengal represented by the Honorable Minister Shri Arup Roy, Dr. Rathin Chakraborty Mayor Howrah Municipal Corporation, and Howrah City Police Represented by Shri D.P Singh (IPS) Commissioner of Howrah City Police has played a pivotal role in the transformation. The Community Transformation Project was started on 14th November 2014 to save the Dying I.R Belilious Institution from becoming a hub of Criminal activity, Garbage dumping Ground by the Local Populace.







The Project was started under the Guidance of Shri Ajey Mukund Ranade (IPS) first Commissioner of Howrah City Police, and the guidance continues by Shri D.P. Singh (IPS) the 2nd Commissioner of Howrah City Police and within three Years It has created a bigger impact on the Society, by Creating an Opportunity for the Poor children to get quality english education of Tikiapara Bustee , providing Livelihood and Vocational Training for the widows, divorcees abandoned by their husbands, and now leading a respectable and life of dignity .Their children are getting free education, Primary Health Center ( Rebecca Belilious Charitable Dispensary) has been established for the poor population, Women have come under banking umbrella of SBI and their money are saved from the Illegal Chits funds

On 16th December 2017 Howrah City police Unveiled a Case study on the community Transformation project, followed by the inauguration of Kalpana Chawla Auditorium by The Shri Surajit Kar Purkayastha (IPS) Director General of Police West Bengal, The Director General Of Police clearly stated that Community social Transformation project by Howrah City Police and Samaritan Help Mission, has decreased the Crime rate of Howrah and Tikiapara, just because the awareness of education has risen among the poor population.

# CONTACTS

<b>LIST OF SUPERIOR OFFICERS OF WEST BENGAL POLICE</b>		<b>Designation</b>	<b>Tel: OFF</b>
		<b>Range DIG</b>	
<b>Designation</b>	<b>Tel: OFF</b>	"IGP, Burdwan Range"	2681-1488
DG & IGP	2214-5400	"DIG, Midnapore Range"	03222-225440
DG & IGP (Welfare)	2448-2411	"DIG, Malda Range"	03522-255505
DG & IGP (O)	2479-4046	"DIG, Jalpaiguri Range"	03561-220881
ADG & IGP (Law & Order)	2214-5009	"DIG, Presidency Range"	2479-1940
ADG & IGP (Provisioning)	2479-4064	"DIG, Murshidabad Range"	033-2582-7679
ADG & IGP (Admin)	2479-4021	"DIG, Darjeeling Range"	0354-2257732
ADG & IGP (Ops.)	2479-4088	"DIG, Bankura"	03242-251252
ADG & IGP (Estb)	2479-4025		
IGP (A)	2479-4031	<b>"CP,SSP, SP, SRP"</b>	
IGP (O)	2479-4045	"CP, Bidhan Nagar"	2335-8286
IGP (HQ)	2479-4052	"CP, Siliguri"	0353-2511210
IGP (Welfare)	2479-4023	"CP, Asansol-DGP"	0341-2257260
IGP (HQ) - II	2479-4024	"CP, Barrackpore"	2592-0030
IGP (Mod & Cord)	2479-4034	"CP, Howrah"	"2641-2626, 2640-4001"
IGP Personnel	2214-4778	"CP, Chandannagar"	2680-4827
DIG (A)	2479-4047	"SSP, Co-Ordination, South 24 Pgs"	2479-3333
DIG (P & W)	2479-4023	"SP, North 24 - Pgs"	2542-3055
AIG(S) WB	2479-4058	"SP, Howrah Rural"	2661-6210
DY SP DG CR	2214-5823	"SP, Nadia"	03472-252229
<b>Criminal Investigation Department</b>		"SP, Murshidabad"	03482-250751/ 250753
"ADG & IGP, CID"	2479-1330	"SP, Hooghly"	2680-4827
IGP CID -I	2479-2955	"SP, Birbhum"	03462-255353
IGP CID -II	2448-8288	"SP, Purba Bardhaman"	0342-2662956
DIG CID	2479-1586	"SP, Paschim Medinipur"	03222-275609
DIG CID Spl.	2479-1830	"SP, Purba Medinipur"	03228-269580
DIG CID (Operation)	2479-1093	"SP, Jhargram"	03221-255192
SS CID-West	2479-2341	"SP, Purulia"	03252-222304
SS CID-Ops.	2479-2834	"SP, Bankura"	03242-250305
SS CID-Spl	2479-0162	"SP, Malda"	03512-252520
SS CID HQ	2449-9075	"SP, Dakshin Dinajpur"	03522-255321
SS CID SOUTH	2479-1409	"SP, Darjeeling"	0354-2257001
SS CID-North at Siliguri	0353- 2574576/78	"SP, Uttar Dinajpur"	03523-246417
<b>Zonal ADG &amp; IGP</b>		"SP, Jalpaiguri"	03561-230492
ADG & IGP North Bengal	0353-2546553	"SP, Alipurduar"	03564-256244
ADG & IGP South Bengal	2479-1573	"SP, Coochbehar"	03582-227755
IGP Western Range	0343-2562787	"SP, Diamond Harbour Police Dist."	2480-1616
		"SP, Baruipur Police Dist."	2433-0010
		"SP, Sundarban Police Dist."	03210-255701
		"SP, Kalimpong"	03552-255359
		"SRP, Sealdah"	2556-8007
		"SRP, Howrah"	2640-3600
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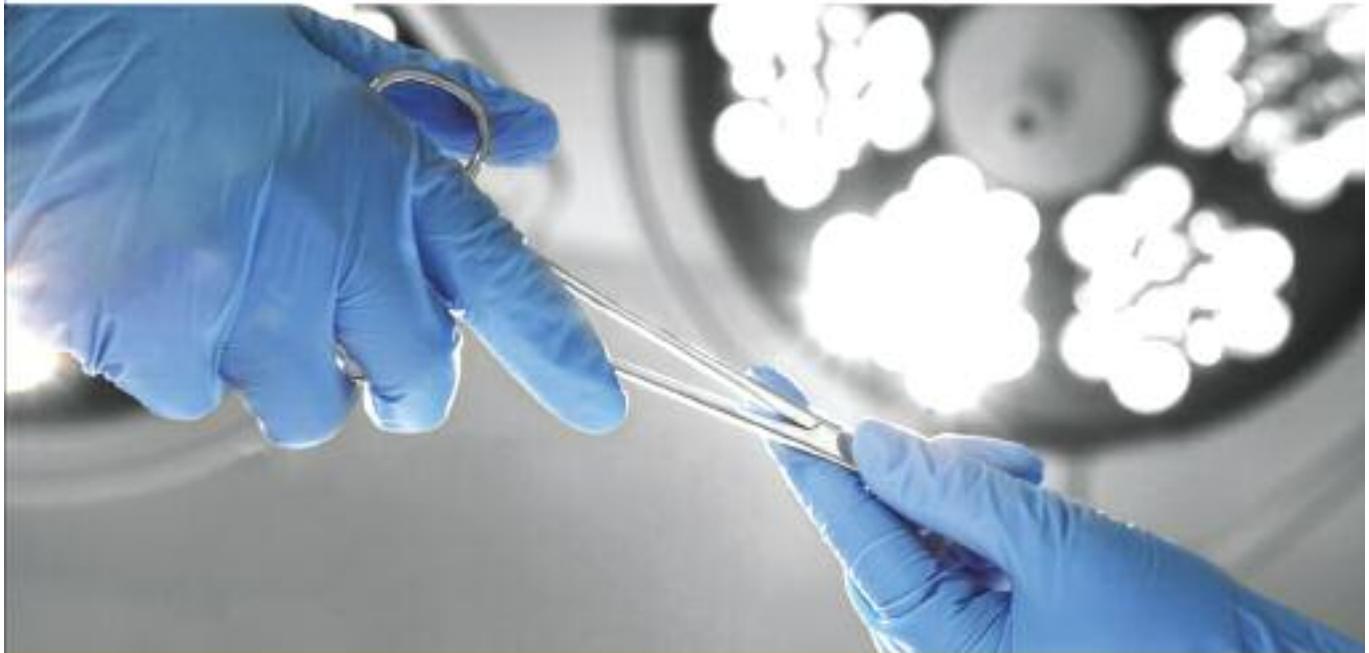
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