

POLICE ADMINISTRATION IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

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Abstract

Himachal Pradesh cannot be seen in isolation of the global and national trends of crime and law and order Problems. No Society can Progress amid lawlessness though Himachal Pradesh is a peaceful State, but crime and criminality is changing its nature and trends. Today democratic countries all over the world are haunted by the spectre of crime and lawlessness. There is a sense of crisis about police security and the centre of crisis is the police to enforce laws and maintain order. The present paper focuses on the history of police in Himachal Pradesh and strength of police in Himachal Pradesh.

Keywords: Vigilance, Forensic, Law enforcement and lawlessness.

Introduction

Man lives in a society which is a set of orderly arranged institutions related to each other and also inter-dependent mutually over one another. The framework and the apparatus of the society need to protect the life and property of the individuals. Hence, there is a need to establish institutions which would strictly enforce the law and punish people who do not comply with the law of the land (Begum 1996). No society can progress amidst lawlessness. One cannot visualise the existence of society in the absence of police, as maintenance of peace and order is the key to the development of all social, political, religious and economic functions of any democratic set up (Bhandari 2010). Hence it is an essential service. Although policing is a very vital aspect for the existence of the society, yet the police force as a whole is the target of criticism by all and sundry, including intellectuals, jurists, social activists, media, politicians and citizens (Sen 2010).

Today democratic countries all over the world are haunted by the spectre of crime and lawlessness. There is a sense of crisis about police security and the centre of crisis is the police to enforce laws and maintain order (Stone 1985). Law enforcement and crime detection and prevention are not only functions assigned to the police, a third function is the source of endless trouble; the maintenance of social order. Regrettably even after

the country gained independence and we adopted a democratic framework of government, with the most laudable concepts of freedom, liberty, equality and justice enshrined into the administrative approach towards the citizen. The need of the hour is to reshape and reorient the old police, so as to fill into the new concept of a democratic and free society (Singh 2002).

Oxford dictionary defines police as “the civil force charged with keeping order, civil administration of the city or town and public order”. According to the Royal commission on police powers and procedures 1929, a policeman is a person paid to perform, as a matter of duty, acts, which, if he were so minded, he might have done voluntarily. The term police today designate the executive civil force of a state, which is entrusted the duty of maintaining public order and enforcing regulations for the prevention and detention of crime.

Brief History of Himachal Pradesh Police

In 1948, states like Mandi, Chamba, Sirmaur, Suket and Bilaspur had their regular police forces. Other smaller states had a common Police Force. The Rulers of Punjab Hill States, with the exception of Sirmaur and Bilaspur, realized the advantage of establishing a common system of Policing in their States. The system was adopted as an experiment for three years from 1st April, 1943. This was, in the true sense, the beginning of Himachal Pradesh Police (Himpol 2010).

For proper administration of the scheme, an Executive Committee, consisting of 5 members was constituted. Four members of this committee were elected by the Rulers from amongst themselves. The 5th member was nominated by the Political Agent of the Punjab Hill States to represent such states which may be under his direct administration due to minority of the Rulers or for other reasons. The Committee elected one of them as its chairman. In order to ensure proper administration of Police work, an officer of the status of Superintendent of Police in British India was appointed. He had the authority to exercise general supervision over the Police Cadre in these States.

In 1948, after the constitution of the Union Territory, efforts were made to stream line the police force in the State to bring it at par with other forces of the India Union. The police force drawn from different states having varying backgrounds and traditions were amalgamated to form the H.P. Police. The Police Administration in the State was headed by an

Inspector General of Police who was also Inspector General of Police for Union Territories of Delhi and Ajmer. Sh. S.R. Chaudhary IP was the first IGP. In 1953, a separate Inspector General of Police was appointed for Himachal Pradesh. This officer of the Imperial Police Services was from Punjab Cadre on deputation.

The Union Territory of H.P. was given statehood on 25th January 1971. Initially there was only one Range in the entire state with headquarters at Shimla with all the 12 districts under it. On 16th Feb, 1974 the Northern Range with headquarters in Dharamshala was created and 7 districts viz. Chamba, Una, Kangra, Mandi, Lahaul & Spiti, Kullu and Hamirpur were placed under it. The Southern Range with headquarters in Shimla was left with 5 districts viz. Shimla, Kinnaur, Bilaspur, Solan and Sirmaur. On 24th April, 1986, the Central Range with headquarters at Mandi was created and 5 districts viz. Mandi, Kullu, Lahaul & Spiti, Hamirpur and Bilaspur were placed under its jurisdiction.

The Recruit Training Centre, which was functioning at Chamba since the beginning was shifted in 1974 to Junga in District Shimla and on 25th July 1995 it was shifted to Drongarh in district Kangra, after it attained the status of full-fledged Police Training College (PTC). It is headed by a Dy. Inspector General of Police as its principal.

There are seven armed police battalions in Himachal Pradesh - one of the HPAP and six India Reserve Battalions. The 1st Armed Police Battalion was created in 1971 and located at Junga. The purpose was to meet the emergent duties at Shimla and to assist to local police whenever required. The first India Reserve Battalion was raised in June, 1993 with its headquarter initially in Darongarh, but later on shifted to Bangarh, district Una. The 2nd IRBn has been raised in 2005 with the reorganization of the existing 2nd and 3rd HPAP Bns. with its headquarters at Dharamshala. The 3rd IRBns. was also raised in 2005 with its Headquarters at Pandoh, Distt. Mandi. The 4th IRB raised on 09-07-2008 at its Hdqrs. at Jungleberi in Hamirpur District, 5th IRB (Mahila) raised on 26-08-2008 with its Headquarter at Bassi in Bilaspur District and 6th IRBn raised on 17-11-2009 with its Headquarter at Kolar in Sirmaur District. The main function of these Battalions is to assist the State police in maintenance of public order and to render assistance to other States on the request of the Centre.

In the year 1988, the State Forensic Science Laboratory was established at Shimla, which was later shifted to Junga on 26th August 1996. The laboratory has been designed as per National Standards. Presently 6 areas viz. Biology/Serology, Chemistry & Toxicology, Documents/Photography and Physics & Ballistics divisions are functional. Presently two FSLs are also functional at Mandi and Dharamshala.

H.P. Police Wireless Organization came into existence during 1954 and has two wings i.e. Cryptography and Wireless Communication. An officer of the rank of Dy. Inspector General of Police is the overall in charge of this organization. The wireless organization has been renamed as Directorate of Police Communication & Technical Services (C&TS) in 2007 and it has been reorganized. The Vigilance department was established in 1965 to investigate cases involving corrupt public servants and those who misuse their official position for pecuniary benefits. It is headed by an officer of the rank of Addl. Director General of Police. There are 2 Zones and 12 anti-corruption units.

The Enforcement directorate was created in 1981 as a specialised wing to prevent to leakage Govt. revenue and to investigate cases involving all economic laws applicable to the State. It is headed by an officer of the rank of Addl. Director General of Police. There are 2 Zones - Northern Zone with Headquarters at Dharmshala and Southern Zone with Headquarters in Shimla. As per H.P. Government Notification No. Per(Vig.)A(4)-2/99 dated, 15-11-2006 the existing Vigilance and Enforcement Departments have been merged to form one new Department namely The State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau(SVAB) with its Headquarters at Shimla. The Bureau is to be headed by an officer of the rank of Director General of Police/Addl. Director General of Police.

Today there are 114 Police Stations in the State including 12 PSs of SVACB, 2 PSs of TTR and 1 PS of CID. 112 Police Posts located in the 12 Districts and 1 Police District Baddi of the State. The present strength of Himachal Pradesh Police includes 89 IPS officers, 169 State Police Services officers, 2051 NGOs grade-I, and 14794 NGOs grade-II.

Strength of Police in Himachal Pradesh:

Himachal Pradesh Police is headed by a senior IPS officer called Director General and Inspector General of Police, below the hierarchy there are 4 Addl. Director General of Police belonging to CID, Law &

Order, Training & Armed Police and SV&ACB. There are 9 Inspector General of Police, 5 Deputy Inspector General of Police, and 1 Principal PTC and one Assistant Inspector General of Police. There are 16 Superintendent of Police posted at Various places in the State Including one each in every district, apart from these there are 9 commandants of Battalions of armed forces in Himachal Pradesh. These all 49 posts are IPS senior Duty Posts.

Table 1
Strength of District police in Himachal Pradesh (As on 1 March 2015)

S.N.	District	Strength of Policemen	Population	Policemen per lakh Population
1.	Bilaspur	538	3,40,685	157.9
2.	Chamba	660	4,60,499	143.3
3	Hamirpur	383	4,12,009	92.9
4	Kangra	1286	13,38,536	96.07
5	Kinnaur	378	83,950	450.2
6	Kullu	453	3,79,865	119.2
7	Lahaul Spiti	231	33,224	695.2
8	Mandi	920	9,00,987	102.1
9	Shimla	1553	7,21,745	215.1
10	Sirmaur	619	4,58,351	135.0
11	Solan	846	4,99,380	169.4
12	Una	456	4,47,967	101.8
	Total	8323	68,56,509	121.3

Source: Reports Of state Police of Himachal Pradesh

It is evident from the table 1 that the police strength in Himachal Pradesh from inspector to constable was 8323, which was about 121.3 policemen per lakh of the population. When it was calculated for different districts then it was, 157.9 in Bilaspur, 143.3 in Chamba, 92.9 in Hamirpur, 96.07 in Kangra, 450.2 in Kinnour and 119.25, 695.2, 102.1, 215.17, 135.01, 169.4 and 101.18 in Kullu, Lahoul Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmour, Solan and Una respectively.

According to a UN report, for effective law and order maintenance there should be 222 police personnel per lakh of the population. But in Himachal Pradesh it was only 121.3, where as it is below 100 for Kangra and Hamirpur Districts of Himachal Pradesh.

Table 2
Number of Police Stations in Himachal Pradesh
 (Per lakh of the population As on 1 March 2015)

S.N.	District	No. of Police Stations	Population	Police stations per lakh of the population
1.	Bilaspur	7	3,40,685	2.05
2.	Chamba	8	4,60,499	1.73
3	Hamirpur	5	4,12,009	1.21
4	Kangra	16	13,38,536	1.19
5	Kinnaur	4	83,950	4.76
6	Kullu	7	3,79,865	1.84
7	Lahaul Spiti	3	33,224	9.02
8	Mandi	10	9,00,987	1.10
9	Shimla	15	7,21,745	2.07
10	Sirmaur	8	4,58,351	1.74
11	Solan	12	4,99,380	2.40
12	Una	6	4,47,967	1.33
Total		99	68,56,509	1.44

Source: Reports Of state Police of Himachal Pradesh

Table 2 clearly shows that There were 99 Police Stations in Himachal Pradesh, 7 in Bilaspur, 8 in Chamba, 5 in Hamirpur, 16 in Kangra, 4 in Kinnour and 7, 3, 10, 15, 8, 12 and 6 in Kullu, Lahoul Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmour, Solan and Una respectively. When it was calculated for the police stations per lakh population in Himachal Pradesh then it was around 1.44 police station for per lack population, highest in Lahoul Spiti where it was 9.02 and lowest in Mandi where it was 1.10.

Table3
Area in Square Kilometre to be looked after by policeman in Himachal Pradesh

S.N.	Distt.	Strength of police	Area in Square Kilometre	Area in Square Kilometre per policeman
1.	Bilaspur	538	1167	2.16
2.	Chamba	660	6528	9.89
3	Hamirpur	383	1118	2.91
4	Kangra	1286	5739	4.46
5	Kinnaur	378	6401	16.9
6	Kullu	453	5503	12.14
7	Lahaul Spiti	231	13835	59.89
8	Mandi	920	3950	4.29
9	Shimla	1553	5131	3.30
10	Sirmaur	619	2825	4.56
11	Solan	846	1936	2.28
12	Una	456	1540	3.37
	Total	8323	55673	6.68

Source: Reports Of state Police of Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh is hilly state with area of 55673 square kilometres with scattered population in various small villages with very few cities. For administrative convenience whole of the state is divided in to 12 districts. Table 3 clearly shows the Area in Square Kilometre to be looked after by a policeman In Himachal Pradesh. On an Average a policeman has to look after 6.68 square kilometre of the area. When calculated district wise it was 2.16 in Bilaspur, 9.89 in Chamba, 2.91 in Hamirpur, 4.46 in Kangra, 16.9 in Kinnour and 12.14, 59.89, 4.29, 3.30, 4.56, 2.28 and 3.37 in Kullu, Lahoul Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmour, Solan and Una respectively. The highest area to be looked after was in Lahaul Spiti where it was 59.89. The lowest area to be looked after was in Bilaspur(2.16).

Table 4
Vacancies of Police Personnel in District police in Himachal Pradesh
As on 1 March 2015

S.N.	District	Sanctioned Strength	Posted Strength	Vacancies
1.	Bilaspur	620	538	82
2.	Chamba	689	660	29
3	Hamirpur	414	383	31
4	Kangra	1418	1286	132
5	Kinnaur	409	378	31
6	Kullu	480	453	27
7	Lahaul Spiti	241	231	10
8	Mandi	1007	920	87
9	Shimla	1854	1553	301
10	Sirmaur	666	619	47
11	Solan	915	846	69
12	Una	504	456	48
Total		9217	8323	894

Source: Reports Of state Police of Himachal Pradesh

Table 4 is regarding the vacancies of Police Personnel in district police in Himachal Pradesh, it clearly shows in Himachal Pradesh there were 894 vacancies in police among the ranks from police Inspector to police constable which was nearly 10 percent of the total sanctioned posts in Himachal Pradesh. . When calculated district wise vacancies were 82 in Bilaspur, 29 in Chamba, 31 in Hamirpur, 132 in Kangra, 31 in Kinnour and 27,10,87,301,47,69 and 48 in Kullu, Lahoul Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmour, Solan and Una respectively.

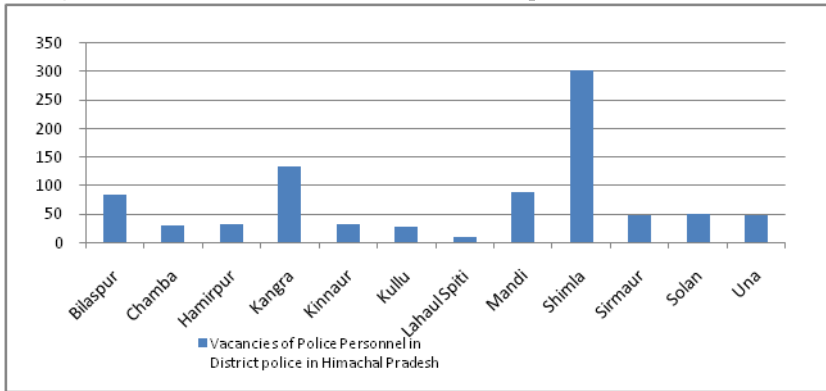
Figure 1 : Vacancies of Police Personnel in District police in Himachal Pradesh

Figure 1 clearly shows the district wise vacancies of police personnel in all the districts of Himachal Pradesh. The highest number of vacancies was in Shimla 301, Kangra 132 and 87 in Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh and lowest in Lahaul Spiti 10.

Table 5
Strength and vacancies in Armed Police and other units in Himachal Pradesh
As on 1 March 2015

S.N.	Name of Unit	Sanctioned Strength	Posted Strength	Vacancies
1	1 st Bn. Junga	752	543	209
2	1 st IRBn	916	666	250
3	2 nd IRBn	916	522	394
4	3 rd IRBn	916	561	355
5	4 th IRBn	916	656	260
6	5 th IRBn	916	824	92
7	6 th IRBn	916	865	51
8	PTC	97	88	9
9	A&PT	8	6	2
10	HPIPS	76	45	31
11	State CID	533	500	33
12	PHQ	12	10	2
13	S.R.	4	4	0
14	N.R.	4	3	1
15	C.R.	4	3	1
16	FSL	8	7	1
17	SV&Acb	279	254	25
18	TT&R	83	79	4
19	C&TS	405	334	71
Total		7761	5976	1791

Source: Reports Of state Police of Himachal Pradesh

Other than District police there were 19 other wings in Himachal Police, table 5 depicts the vacancies in these branches of Himachal Police. There were 1791 vacancies in all these wings which were nearly 23 percent of the sanctioned posts. Maximum of these vacancies were in the armed police of Himachal Pradesh. Highest vacancies are in 2nd Independent Reserve Battalion (394), 3rd Independent Reserve Battalion (355) and 4th Independent Reserve Battalion (260).

Table 6
Rank wise Vacancies in District Police in Himachal Pradesh
As on 1 March 2015

S.N.	Rank	Sanctioned Strength	Posted strength	Vacancies
1	Inspector	98	88	10
2	Sub Inspector	293	232	61
3	ASI	745	538	162
4	Head Constable	1494	1305	189
5	Constable	6587	6115	472
Total		9217	8323	894

Source: Reports Of state Police of Himachal Pradesh

Table 6 clearly shows the rank wise vacancies in Police Administration in Himachal Pradesh. There were total 894 vacancies including 472 of constables, 189 of Head Constables, 162 of Assistant Sub Inspectors, 61 of Sub Inspectors and 10 of Inspectors.

Figure 2
Rank wise Vacancies in District Police in Himachal Pradesh

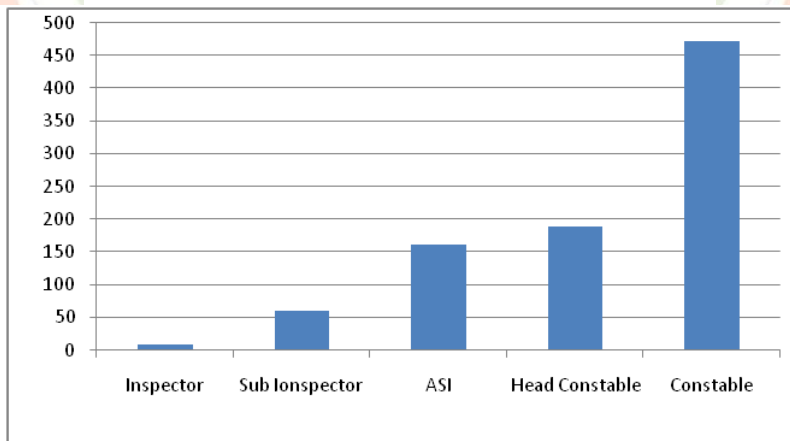


Figure 2 clearly shows that the vacancies go on increasing down the lower ranks. The highest vacancies are of the ranks of constables and were minimum for the ranks of Inspectors. An increasing trend in the vacancies is clearly seen in the figure from the rank of Inspector to that of constable.

Major Findings of the Study:

- It was found that there were 121.3 policemen per lakh of the population in Himachal Pradesh. When it was calculated for different districts it is, 157.9 in Bilaspur, 143.3 in Chamba, 92.9 in Hamirpur, 96.07 in Kangra, 450.2 in Kinnour and 119.25, 695.2, 102.1, 215.17, 135.01, 169.4 and 101.18 in Kullu, Lahoul Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmour, Solan and Una respectively.
- It was observed that there were 99 Police Stations in Himachal Pradesh, 7 in Bilaspur, 8 in Chamba, 5 in Hamirpur, 16 in Kangra, 4 in Kinnour and 7, 3, 10, 15, 8, 12 and 6 in Kullu, Lahoul Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmour, Solan and Una respectively. When calculated for the police stations Per lakh of the population in Himachal Pradesh it is 1.44, Highest being in Lahoul Spiti Where it is 9.02 And lowest in Mandi where it is 1.10.
- It was found that in Himachal Pradesh there were 894 vacancies in police among the ranks from police Inspector to police constable in the District police, it was nearly 10 percent of the total sanctioned posts in Himachal Pradesh.
- Other than District police there were 19 other wings in Himachal Police, there were 1791 vacancies in all these wings, it was nearly 23 percent of the sanctioned posts. Maximum of these vacancies were in the armed police of Himachal Pradesh. Highest vacancies are in 2nd Independent Reserve Battalion (394), 3rd Independent Reserve Battalion (355) and 4th Independent Reserve Battalion (260).
- It was seen that in Himachal Pradesh there were total 894 vacancies including 472 of constables, 189 of Head Constables, 162 of Assistant Sub Inspectors, 61 of Sub Inspectors and 10 of Inspectors. The vacancies go on increasing down the lower ranks.

The highest vacancies are of the ranks of constables and are minimum for the ranks of Inspectors. An increasing trend in the vacancies is clearly seen in the figure from the rank of Inspector to that of constable.

Conclusion and Suggestions

No Society can Progress amid lawlessness though Himachal Pradesh is a peaceful State, but crime and criminality is changing its nature and trends. Himachal Pradesh cannot be seen in isolation of the global and national trends of crime and law and order Problems. Initiatives should be taken to strengthen the structural and procedural aspects of Police Administration in Himachal Pradesh.

As the population in Himachal Pradesh is on rise as in the country as a whole, the Strength of Police should also be increased with the same pace. More posts need to be created to tackle the complex nature of crime and law and order problems. Vacancies in the sanctioned posts in various ranks should be filled with the most suitable talent in the state, So that peace and progress in the state can be ensured.

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