

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP)
ON
EFFECTIVE CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN POLICE OFFICERS OF
NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS OF STATES

PREFACE:

Crime in India underwent a progressive change in the past few decades and thereby posing a tough challenge to the law enforcement agencies. Since police is a state subject different state police are combating the crimes in their respective jurisdictions in their own capacity even while dealing with inter-state crimes, cybercrimes, counterfeit currency, narcotics, smuggling, leftwing extremism, terrorism, etc., which is not yielding effective results due to individual efforts and lack of coordination and cooperation with other states who are also dealing with similar crimes. Though there are few instances of Inter-state/Inter-district border police co-operation in combating Inter-state crimes it is being done on ad-hoc basis and through informal means which is yielding temporary results.

Hence, an institutionalized mechanism/Standard Operating Procedure needs to be developed for effective Co-ordination between Police Officers of neighbouring districts of States.

OBJECTIVES OF STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

- 1) To effectively prevent and combat inter-state crimes such as cybercrimes, inter-state criminal gangs, counterfeit- currency, smuggling activities, Drugs/Arms/Human trafficking, terrorism etc.
- 2) To achieve a quicker and more targeted cooperation in Law and Order issues, Crime Investigation / Detection, anti-terrorist and anti-extremist operations.
- 3) To improve information exchange and update crime and criminal databases.
- 4) To combat inter-state border crimes by forming joint investigation teams.
- 5) To bust safe havens of criminals/extremists/terrorists in state/district border areas.
- 6) To resolve Border Disputes.

Advantages of having a Standard Operating Procedure

1. Filling security gaps in inter-district and inter-state border areas.
2. Better information exchange on crime and criminals among the states and better updation of crime and criminal databases.
3. Secure better assistance in crime prevention, detection and apprehension of accused.
4. Execution of inter-state warrants.
5. Cross-border pursuit and apprehension of accused.
6. Better monitoring the activities of habitual offenders, inter-state criminal gangs and crime prevention.
7. Better coordination during terrorist activities and natural calamities like floods, earth quakes etc.
8. Sharing of best practices on policing.
9. Coordination of the intelligence in general and better execution of counter-terrorist operations and anti-extremist operations and safeguarding public lives and improve internal security of the nation.
10. Optimum utilization of resources human/financial/technical leading to improved performance, accountability and better policing.

Different Committees for achieving Inter-State Police Co-operation

To achieve the objectives as stated above following committees will be in place at different levels.

1. District Level Committee
2. Range Level Committee
3. State Level Committee

1. District Level Committee

In order to secure effective cooperation with the police of neighboring border districts of neighboring states for exchange of information, assistance, and seamless co-ordination to deal with law & order issues and crimes. To ensure the effective co-operation a District Level Committee will be formed with the following members.

- The District Superintendent of Police of the Bordering Districts.
- A representative of District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner will be as a special invitee.
- The local Commander of CAPF deployed in the area will also be invited to attend the meeting as member of the Committee.
- All other stakeholders like representative from Forest, Revenue, Excise, Mining, Railways, etc. will also be nominated as co-opted members of the Committee.

Note:- A Gazetted officer of the district shall be designated as a nodal officer to exclusively deal with inter-district police matters and pursue the agenda items discussed in the meeting. The contact details of the nodal officer of the district should be circulated to all concerned and uploaded in district police website to facilitate better communication and coordination.

2. Zone/Range Level Committee

1. As more than one District may be co-terminus with the neighbouring State, another Committee should be constituted under the Chairmanship of the Zonal/ Range Head of the Police Department.
2. The SsP of the Districts sharing Borders will be the member.
3. The Commissioner of the Division will be the Special Invitee of the Committee.
4. All other stakeholders like representatives from Forest, Revenue, Excise, Mining, Railways, etc. will also be nominated as co-opted members of the Committee.
5. The local commander of the CAPF deployed in the area will also be members of the committee.

A Gazetted officer of the Zone/Range shall be designated as a nodal officer to follow up the agenda points discussed in the meetings.

3. State Level Meeting

The issues which could not be sorted out in the District and Range level Committee meetings will be taken up in the State Level meeting wherein DsGP of the neighbouring State will meet once in a year. All issues requiring attention at higher level will be discussed in this meeting. Principal Secretary, Home of the State will be the special invitee in the meeting to resolve the issues related with various departments of the Government.

An AIG/SP rank officer of the DGP office shall be designated as a nodal officer to follow up the agenda points discussed in the State Level meeting.

Proceedings of every meeting should be drawn and a copy should be submitted to all concerned mentioning following information : -

- Date and Place of the Meeting
- Officers attended the meeting
- Agenda Points discussed

Action Taken/To be taken on proceedings of the meetings should be recorded and may be discussed / reviewed in the next meeting.

Periodicity of the Meetings

- The District Level Committee Meeting shall be convened quarterly, preferably in March, June, September and December.
- The Range Level Committee Meeting shall be convened twice in a year preferably in April and November.
- The State Level Committee Meeting shall be convened once in a year, preferably after completion of the District Level and Range Level Meetings.

Venue of the meetings

The meetings at all levels be arranged on rotation basis. Meeting can also be convened through video conferencing. The host District/Range/State will preside over the meeting.

Agenda of the Meeting

The Agenda of the Meeting should be prepared at least 1 (one) month before the date of meeting. The agenda should be prepared in consultation with the respective counterparts.

The following subjects can be part of the agenda: -

- i. Discussion on the subjects of mutual interest.
- ii. Discuss & resolve border disputes
- iii. Sharing of inputs related to law & order.
- iv. Crime control in the Bordering area.
- v. Discussion on security related threats.
- vi. Human Trafficking /Missing children
- vii. Smuggling of Drugs and Narcotics
- viii. Smuggling of Arms and Ammunition
- ix. Extortion & Kidnapping
- x. Extremist /LWE Activities
- xi. Wild Life Trafficking.
- xii. Shelter by criminals/ extremist in the Bordering areas.
- xiii. Extremist activities in the Bordering area and preventive measures to be taken by the Bordering District.
- xiv. Timely collection of information and exchange of intelligence inputs.
- xv. Modalities of the Joint Exercise involving, CAPF and Police of the Bordering State.
- xvi. Co-ordination at Police Station level.
- xvii. Steps to be taken to thwart the attempts by the Miscreants /Anti-social elements endangering the safety and security of residents of the bordering areas.
- xviii. Illegal deforestation, encroachment on forest land in Bordering area.
- xix. Illegal mining in Bordering areas.
- xx. Confidence building measures amongst the residents of bordering areas like cultural programme, sports events etc.


The above points are illustrative and not exhaustive. The Committee may take up region-specific points for deliberation which are vital to Border policing.

Minutes of the Meeting

- 1) Minutes of the meeting should be prepared immediately after the completion of the meeting and signed jointly by the participating stakeholders.
- 2) Minutes shall be issued by the host State/Zone/Range/District.
- 3) A copy of the minutes may also be sent to the concerned DGSP and State Government besides the respective stakeholders.
- 4) Action Taken Report be collected from all concerned which should be placed before the Committee during the next meeting

State Control and Co-ordination Centre

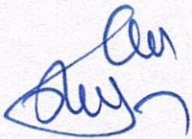
A State Control and Co-ordination Centre shall be functional at State level under supervision of ADGP (L&O/Border/SB) nominated by DGP of the concerned state. The mandate for the Co-ordination Center is to act as Nodal Agency among the neighbouring States to share the information on need basis. Any information required by other State be forwarded to the Co-ordination Center of the concerned State from which the information is required. The Co-ordination Center will immediately collect the information and forward to the needy State. Based on requirement it should also co-ordinate with other departments and agencies outside the police.


 8.10.18
 (Deepak Kumar, IPS)
 IGP (L&O), Assam

(Chairman)

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 IGP, Home Guards &
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 (Member)

(Sateesh Balan, IPS)
 DIGP (STF), Haryana
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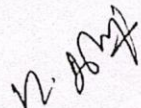
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