Assam has been passing through difficult phases of history in the past several decades. Consequently, the Assam Police has not only been a direct witness to those, but also played a very significant role in handling those situations.

The pre-Independence decades saw a number of upheavals in Assam, with the Assam Police always standing up to the occasion by handling the situations in a professional manner. The political unrests arising out of the freedom movement becoming intense was an all-India phenomenon. The Second World War, on reaching the Naga Hills district – the part of undivided Assam – brought additional burden on Assam Police. Control over foreigners, vigilance over lines of communication, counter-espionage, anti-sabotage activities, maintenance of internal security, evacuation of refugees from Burma, and even sending a few platoons to the War front – the experience of Assam Police is indeed unique in comparison

to most of its counterparts in other states of the country.

When the British announced its Partition plan in June 1947, it proposed to include Assam in East Pakistan. Though that move was successfully scuttled, Assam's Muslim-majority Bengali-speaking Sylhet district, which was clubbed to Assam in 1874, was included in East Pakistan following a referendum. With this, a large number of police personnel of various ranks went away to Pakistan. Likewise, a number of others shifted from the other side to Assam. Simultaneously, the British officers serving in Assam had also left, while the Assam

Rifles was also completely separated from the Assam Police. Partition on the other hand had triggered serious law and order problems in certain pockets. But then the Assam Police, despite its multiple handicaps, rendered yeomen's service to help the State tide over the difficult transitional period.

The disturbed conditions in the Naga Hills – then a district of Assam – in the 1950s, was yet another trying time for the Assam Police. But then, the Assam Police gave a good account of themselves and proved equal to the task.

The winter of 1962 saw the Chinese Army march down almost up to Tezpur after occupying Tawang and Bomdila. That was the time when the Assam Police stepped in, not only to provide civil back-up to the Indian Army, but also played a big role in evacuation of a large number of people from the Kameng Sector and the north bank of the Brahmaputra. Even before that, in 1960, Assam witnessed an outbreak of violence over the issue of Official Language of the state, and it was again the Assam Police which was all over to bring the situation under control.

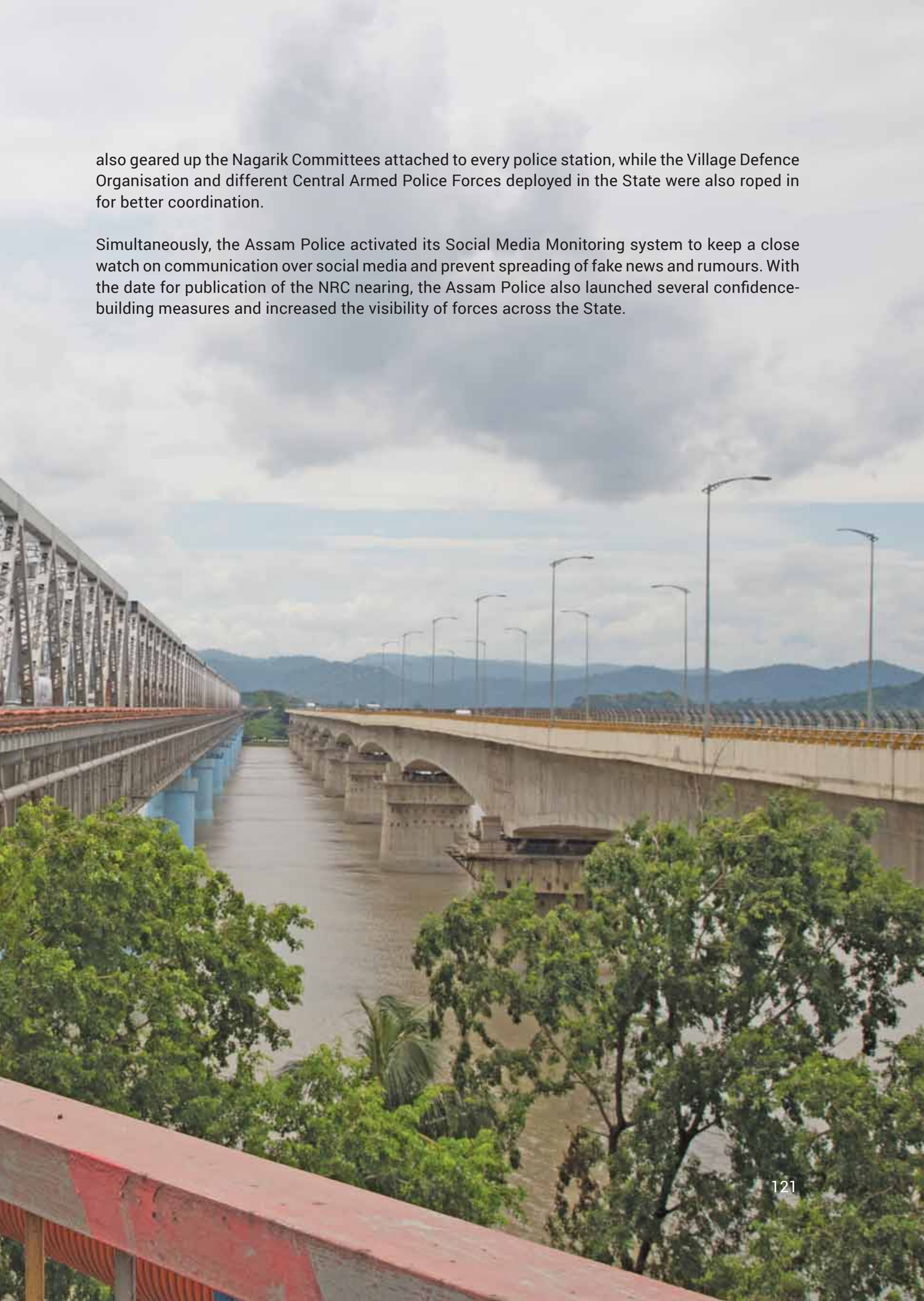
The civil war in East Pakistan culminating in liberation of Bangladesh had a major impact on Assam, with several lakh people from that country seeking refuge in Assam. The government had recorded over four lakhs till June 1971, with the police having a tough time in handling the situation, particularly because only a part of the refugees were lodged in camps with the others mingling with the local population.

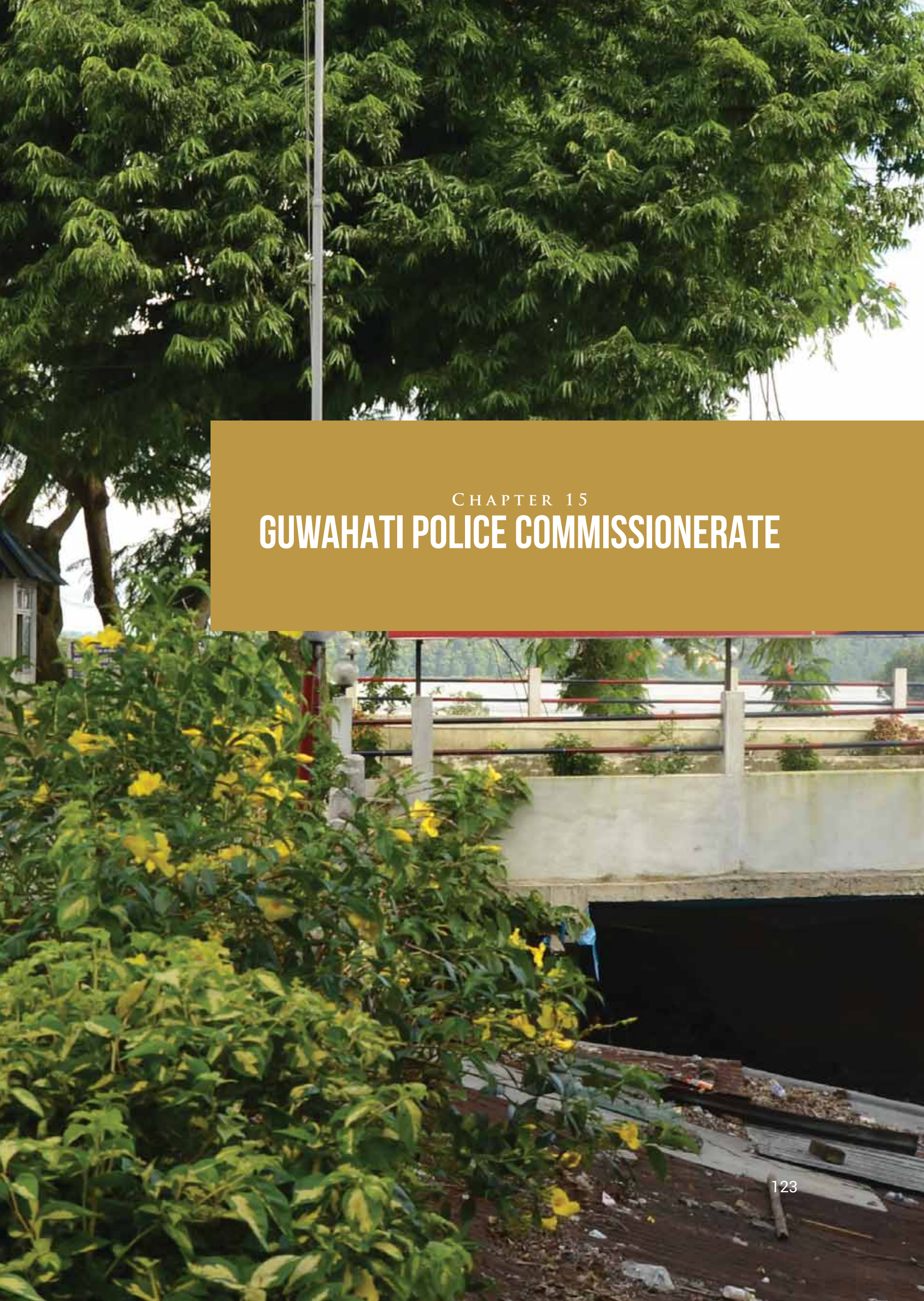
In 1979, began the anti-foreigner movement which lasted for six years, demanding detection and deportation of illegal migrants from erstwhile East Pakistan and new-born Bangladesh. There were several law and order situations, which the police, however, handled quite professionally, until the Assam Accord was signed in August, 1985. The late 1980s and the entire decade of 1990s on the other hand saw the rise of armed militancy, as also the movement for a separate Bodoland state. Nearly 900 security personnel – majority of them of the Assam Police – were killed in the hands of armed insurgents, with the list of martyrs including at least two IPS officers and several officers of the Assam Police Service. Militancy continued through the first decade of the new millennium, and spread to the hill districts too. Statistics maintained by the Assam Police show that while over 2,800 insurgents were killed, nearly 4,000 civilians too lost their lives. It was, however, due to untiring efforts put in by the Assam Police, which was the backbone of the counter-insurgency operations under the Unified Command Structure headed by the Army, that most of the militant groups came forward to settle their issues through peaceful negotiations.

In 2015, as the process for preparation of a National Register of Citizens began under the guidance and direct monitoring of the Supreme Court of India, the Assam Police was vested with the responsibility of providing security to the NRC Seva Kendras, officials conducting door-to-door verifications and setting up fixed pickets in sensitive areas. The Assam Police

also geared up the Nagarik Committees attached to every police station, while the Village Defence Organisation and different Central Armed Police Forces deployed in the State were also roped in for better coordination.

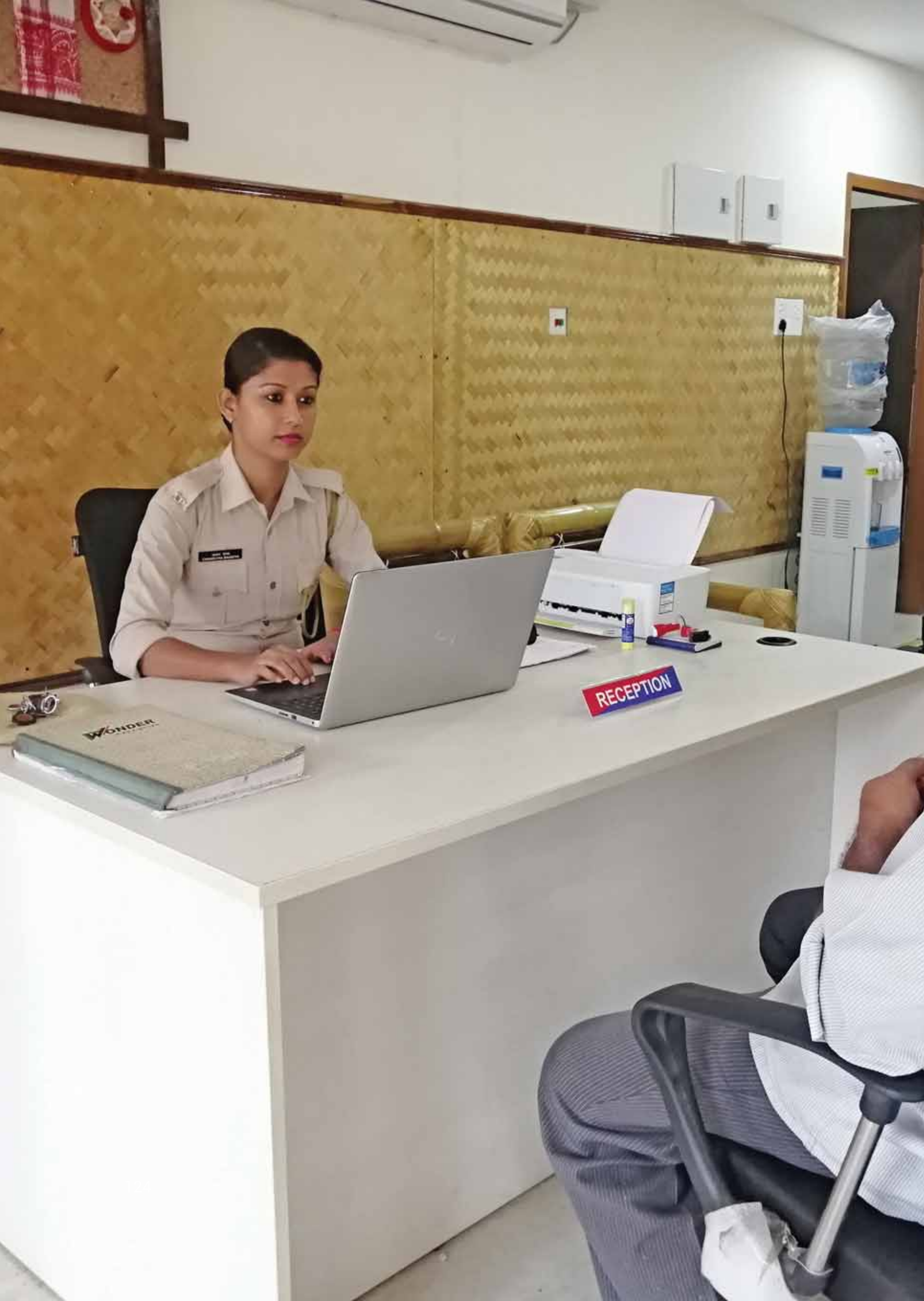
Simultaneously, the Assam Police activated its Social Media Monitoring system to keep a close watch on communication over social media and prevent spreading of fake news and rumours. With the date for publication of the NRC nearing, the Assam Police also launched several confidence-building measures and increased the visibility of forces across the State.





CHAPTER 15

GUWAHATI POLICE COMMISSIONERATE


RECEPTION
WONDER

The history of Police in Guwahati dates back to 1824 when the British had taken possession of the place after ousting the Burmese invaders and created a Military Police post here. The first Police Station in Guwahati was established in 1826 itself. Two other police stations that were set up in Assam at that time were at Rangpur (present-day Sivasagar) and Jorhat. These police stations comprised of one *daroga*, one *jamadar* and a few constables.

In 1874, the then British government created the Municipal Police under provisions of the Bengal District Municipal Improvement Act of 1864. Entrusted with maintenance of law and order in the towns as also prevention and detection of crime, the Municipal Police was initially only in three locations; one of them was obviously Guwahati, the other two being Silchar and Sylhet (which was then clubbed with Assam). The Municipal Police in

Guwahati, at the time of inception, comprised of three 'native' officers and 36 men, which was maintained at a cost of Rs 445 per month, and it was entrusted with the task of protection of the only municipality in the Brahmaputra Valley, i.e. Guwahati.

Records say, the cost of maintenance of the Municipal Police was defrayed by means of a house-rate levied upon the householders and shopkeepers carrying on business within the municipal limits. A European officer posted as District Superintendent for Kamrup, was overall in charge of the Municipal Police.

A lot of water has flowed down the Brahmaputra since 1874, and Guwahati – where Dispur became the capital of Assam, first temporarily in 1973 and then permanently in 2004 – was carved out as a separate police district in May, 1983 with N Ramachandran becoming the first Guwahati city SP. Twenty-two years later, in February, 2005, the post was upgraded to that of a Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP). It was on January 1, 2015 that Guwahati joined the league of big cities of the country, with the government notifying creation of the Police Commissionerate, Guwahati. Jyotirmoy Chakravarty became the first Police Commissioner of Guwahati.

The Police Commissionerate of Guwahati has divided the city into three police districts, namely the West Police District, the East Police District and the Central Police District, each headed by an officer of the rank of a Superintendent of Police, known as the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP). In addition, the Police Commissionerate also has a Crime Branch and a Traffic Branch, each headed by a DCP. The Police Commissionerate has, under its jurisdiction, as many as 20 Police Stations, each headed by an Officer in-Charge of the rank of an Inspector. There are 20 Police Outpsts operating under the Commissionerate.

The Traffic Branch of the Guwahati Police Commissionerate on the other hand has divided Guwahati city into four Traffic Divisions, these being Dispur, Panbazar, Chandmari and Pandu, each headed by an Inspector.

The Guwahati Police Commissionerate has taken a number of special measures to make the city particularly safe for women and children. While efforts have been put in to make the police stations citizens-friendly as well as friendly for women, its website has a list of NGOs working for women and children, and another of shelter homes for mentally ill persons, apart from information on Child Welfare Committee, and Children/Women Shelter Homes in the city. The website also has a detailed advisory for citizens, covering basic tips on prevention and reporting of burglary, drug and substance abuse, and safe electronic transaction. It also

has full texts of the four major Acts, these being Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act of 2012, The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act of 2013, The Assam Land Grabbing (Prohibition) Act of 2010, and The Assam Protection of Interests of Investors (in Financial Establishments) (Amendment) Act of 2013 for the benefit of people.

Efforts are on over the years to make Guwahati Police people's friendly. Significant among these has been launching of Nagarik (Citizens) Committees in July, 1996 by the then Superintendent of Police to allow participatory policing in different police stations in the city. The primary role of such Citizens Committees has been to make citizens an important stakeholder in crime prevention and law enforcement during mega festivals and in other law and orders issues as well as traffic management. Success of this experiment led to the expansion of Nagarik Committees all over the State Police Stations in recent times.

Another citizen-centric scheme in Guwahati city police as conceived and initiated by the incumbent DGP, Kuladhar Saikia being setting up of reception counters in select police stations in the city. Under MOITRI scheme, the old police buildings in thanas are being renovated and newly-constructed to allow for all modern amenities for the citizens and police personnel so that new challenges in policing can be effectively met with. Already two such new Police Station buildings have been inaugurated by in July, 2019 by Chief Minister, Assam, Sarbananda Sonowal.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement of Guwahati Police Commissionerate -

'Maintain order, prevent and detect crime by enforcing law firmly and impartially, without fear or favour, prejudice or vindictiveness.'

'Maintain integrity and discipline of the highest order in sincere performance of duties in accordance with the law and the Constitution and respect the rights of citizens as guaranteed by it.'

'Strive to build up a strong Police-Public bond in order to encourage community participation in law enforcement and promote harmony and spirit of brotherhood amongst all segments of society, transcending religious, linguistic, social and regional diversities and to remove practices derogatory to the dignity of women and disadvantageous sections of society.'

'Strive to be courteous and well-mannered at all times, develop self restraint and be truthful and honest in thought and deed, in both personal and official life.'

KULADHAR SAIKIA

Chapter 16

COMMUNITY OUT REACH

Assam Police has functioned through thick and thin with the community behind it, be it during the huge challenge thrown up by the Partition, the great earthquake of 1950 and its aftermath, the Chinese aggression, or various natural disasters like floods that Assam continues to face every year.

Assam Police has shown the way by creating a unique force called Village Defence Organisation (VDO) way back in 1950, a concept that has been picked up by some other states of the country as well as neighbouring countries. Moreover, a couple of other major initiatives taken in recent years have given a totally new meaning to participating policing.

VILLAGE DEFENCE ORGANISATION

Way back in 1949, when freedom fighter and legislator late Harinarayan Baruah organized a small group of youth in a village called Birinasayek near Titabor in Jorhat district to look after and safeguard their own village, little did he imagine that it would one day become a statewide body and even attract international attention. As the concept – initially called Gaon-Rakshi Bahini (Village Defence Party) – soon began to spread across different districts within a short span of time. Gradually it came to be known as Village Defence Organizaion. The government, on noticing that it was providing vital support to the police and administration in maintaining security and social order in the village, extended recognition to it by enacting the Village Defence Organisation Act in 1966.

The Village Defence Organisation is headed by the Director General of Police, but functions under a Chief Controller, who is generally a DIG of the Assam Police. The SPs are designated as District Village Defence Officers, while the SDPO/Dy SP (HQ) is the Sub Divisional Village Defence Officer. The Officer in-Charge of the police station on the other hand is the Thana Village Defence Officer who directly deals with the Village Defence Party (VDP) members who are all volunteers from among the youth of the respective villages.

A Village Defence Party (VDP) – the primary unit of the organization – is headed by a Nayak, and he has a group of members under him, who attend village patrolling duty every night by turn purely as volunteers. Under each Police Station area, however, there is a Circle Organiser, who is a salaried person under the VDO. The Circle Organiser is the key person who organizes and supervises the VDPs under each police station area. There are 202 sanctioned posts of CO, VDO.

Though the Director General of Police is the head of the Village Defence Organisation, there are a few honorary functionaries who are designated with the responsibility of motivating the volunteers and promote and popularize the concept and objectives of the organisation. These honorary functionaries are – Honorary Chief Adviser, Honorary Adviser (one each at

the state level) and an Honorary Deputy Advisor in all the Sub-Divisions.

There are also a number of advisory committees which guide and regulate the functioning of the Village Defence Organization at various levels in the districts. These are – District Advisory Committee, Sub-Divisional Advisory Committee, Thana Advisory Committee and Primary Committee.

The VDPs execute a wide range of duties. These include – routine patrolling of the village with or without the local police, guarding vital installations like oil pipelines, railway tracks and bridges, assisting the police in preventing and detecting crimes and criminals and gathering intelligence, assisting the state machinery during elections (especially by manning the polling booths).

Every registered VDP member receive a monthly pocket money of Rs 1,500 nd those members of VDPs who are engaged in surveillance of railway tracks from Srirampur to Guwahati receive a monthly sum of Rs 3,000 per head.

Recently, the Chief Minister of Assam also announced a financial grant Rupees one lakh to the next of kin of any VDP volunteer who dies on duty. Each year, on January 29, the Assam Police organises the foundation day of the Village Defence Organisation centrally at a chosen venue.

The government meanwhile has installed a statue and constructed a meeting hall in the memory of Late Harinarayan Baruah in Jorhat. The Village Defence Organisation has in the meantime adopted Rupkonwar Jyotiprasad Agarwala's famous song 'Gaonor Lora Gaon-e Bonti Jolai Jaon Ami' as its theme song.

PROJECT PRAHARI

Delving deep into the phenomenon of social prejudices like witch-hunting that had severely

affected some of the interior villages in few districts, then DIG Kuladhar Saikia (who later rose to become DGP in 2018) came up with this brilliant concept of an approach to Community Policing in August, 2001. It was perceived that the new approach would hit at the root cause of the social malady so that the law enforcing agency can play a major role in preventing such a social malady.

Christened as Project PRAHARI – the latter an acronym for 'Pragatir Hake Raij' ('People for Progress') in the local language – its broad objectives were as follows:

- Prevention of Social Conflicts, delinquencies and eradication of superstitions and prejudices like witch-hunting, black magic, etc.
- Empowerment, knowledge accessibility and capacity building for vertical mobility.
- Social participation, decision-making, development and management.
- Reconnecting individuals with community, communities with the government and economy.
- Face to the Uniform.

While local police played a pivotal role in the network of community partners involving different agencies, NGOs, village and traditional institutions, science clubs, youth and women's groups, Project Prahari registered an encouraging impact in the first attempt itself made in Kokrajhar. This initial success almost immediately prompted then DGP Harekrishna Deka to declare it as a state-level initiative.

Soon every district under this project began selecting a village which was either crime-infested, communally sensitive, terrorist-prone, or inhabited by socially underprivileged people, frequent interactions were held with members of the community to understand and identify the root causes of their problems, and then solutions sought at the local

level with the people becoming the main players of the development process. Project Prahari emphasized on building a bridge of friendship and mutual cooperation between the police and the communities and worked as a two-way process -- the police launched a slew of activities like social participation in decision-making, empowerment, knowledge accessibility and capacity building among the villagers, what came in return was massive intelligence inputs, which in turn, helped the police in prevention of social tension, ethnic conflicts, and criminal and terrorist activities.

Mass awareness campaign by district police under Project Prahari all over the state against social prejudices, mass-lynching, drug-addiction with the collaboration of experts and reputed institution is the hallmark of the project.

Community participation led to some wonderful changes. Villagers of Serfanguri, Kolabari, Kharbuja and Chilsilibari for instance, got together not just to resolve group conflicts, but also revived in just 25 days the 5-km Longa Canal that was lying in a dilapidated condition for more than a decade. The people set up a Prahari Water Users Committee to manage the canal, and soon the villagers enhanced their agricultural production by taking to two crops a year. Such an effort was also soon replicated by villagers of Donhsinginari in Golaghat district where people dug a one-km long canal to irrigate their paddy fields.

People of eleven villages in Kokrajhar – including Thaigerguri, Islampur, Kolabari and Demdema – were trained in weaving and other local crafts with experts from the Ahmedabad-based National Institute of Design providing advanced lessons on trendy designs and marketing. Villagers of Betbari in Bongaigaon district took to apiculture on a large scale, while those of Shipansila and Sarapara received advanced training in bamboo craft, venetian blinds and other items under experts from the Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre. Several

youths of Taiphaneng village of Tinsukia on the other hand were imparted training in motor driving. Groups of villagers who have taken to making various handicraft and handloom items meanwhile were provided market linkage through NEDFi-haat and other organisations, so that their products reach out to the urban customers.

Women, however, comprise the backbone of Project Prahari, always having majority participation in Community Management Group meetings and mandatorily holding important offices in the CMGs, thus playing a significant role in decision-making. Exposing women to knowledge and skills related to maternity and reproductive health as also basic healthcare practices on the other hand have helped stop the menace of black-magic and witch-craft practiced by local quacks, thus bringing down incidents of witch-hunting in a big way.

Engaging in positive developmental activities under Project Prahari has prevented a large number of village youth from straying into criminal and terrorist groups. It also resulted in reducing public support to insurgent groups, thus relieving the villagers from the menace of extortions, abduction and other related problems. In many places villagers also got together to construct bridges on minor rivers with local resources, which in turn have led to increased attendance of children in schools, especially in the rainy season.

Project Prahari also anchored programmes for eradication of illiteracy and gender violence, while more women have become aware of the need to maintain personal hygiene in addition to improving general health of both women and children. The Assam State Women's Commission and the Guwahati regional centre of National Institute of Public Cooperation & Child Development were roped in to train women from different districts in strategies to

prevent crimes against women and children.

The biggest achievement of Project Prahari, however, was its active role in suggesting measures for enactment of the Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Act, 2015. While stakeholders of Project Prahari played an active role in the campaign for enacting such a law to bring an end to the practice of witch-hunting, it led to the unanimous passing of the Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2015, by the Assam Legislative Assembly on August 13, 2015, which got the approval of the President of India in the year 2018.

Project Prahari also attracted a lot of national and international attention. While it got enough coverage in the media the world over, the Country Status report 'Platform for Action: After 10 Years', published by the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Department of Women Child Welfare, Government of India, and presented to the UNO General Assembly meeting in 2005 highlighted the achievements of Project Prahari as a successful model for women empowerment.

Students and scholars of various institutions have also found Project Prahari a very significant topic of study. A team of faculty members from the Singapore-based management institute called INSEAD visited Thaigerguri, Kalabari, Betbari and other villages of Kokrajhar to undertake a field study of the impact of Project Prahari. A case study on Project Prahari prepared by the INSEAD team on 'Police as an agent of change' later appeared in Harvard Business Review in 2015.

Likewise, a team of students and research scholars from the Conflict Transformation & Peace-Building Studies of Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University visited villages in Kokrajhar to make an on-the-spot study. Several batches of probationers belonging to the IAS and IPS also visited Prahari villages in Kokrajhar as part of their field study.

The Prahari model was presented in several institutions of international repute too. They include Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, Institute of Economic Growth (Delhi University), National Police Academy, Indian Institute of Technology (Guwahati), Jamia Milia University, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Tezpur University, Lee Kaun Yew School of Public Policy under National University of Singapore, etc. Porject Prahari on the other hand roped in the OKD Institute of Social Change & Development, Guwahati, to make a study into the dynamics of witchcraft-related offences and suggest policy prescriptions for prevention of this social menace.

The Bureau of Police Research & Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, on the other hand has not only appreciated Project Prahari by terming it one of the nest practices in India. for the changes it has brought about in remote villages across Assam, but has also highlighted it for emulation in its project for Community Policing Programme for Leftwing extremists affected areas.

PROJECT AASHWAS

Formerly known as **Aashwas**, the Project Assist is operated by the National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH), New Delhi, with active cooperation from Assam Police. The project was originally conceived by the former DGP, H K Deka and taken forward by its nodal officer, Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, IPS.

Assam Police has lost over 500 police personnel in extremist-related violence in the state over a period of nearly one and a half decade. While

such a large number of brave police personnel laid down their lives fighting extremists, their families were pushed into difficult situations, with the children becoming the worst victims. Though the families did receive adequate monetary compensation, children orphaned by extremist violence were often forced to quit school as their mothers struggled to make both ends meet.

The project has the following three major components – (i) Training curriculum module for Police personnel to develop a community orientation, (ii) Campaign for awareness and sensitization, and (iii) A scheme to ensure direct assistance to the children of victim families for their educational rehabilitation through finance provided by National Foundation for Communal Harmony.

The Project roped in National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), which in turn develop a detailed syllabus for training of the police personnel, created a pool of trainers with members from various fields, and also conducted the training sessions.

The National Foundation for Communal Harmony, New Delhi came forward to extend financial assistance to children whose bread-earning parents were killed/ permanently incapacitated during communal, caste, ethnic or terrorist violence, the fund directed solely towards educational rehabilitation of the children.

Children are identified through the local police station which also arranges documentation and facilitates receipt of the monthly stipend to the beneficiary child to be provided by NFCH. Senior police officers and NGO members supervise proper utilization of the assistance through home visits, in the process also taking stock of the educational and psycho-social progress of the children.

Project also carried out a campaign to sensitize the people at the grassroots level for creating a

violence-free society as the primary focus.

In 2004, the sensitization campaign was replaced by a social mobilization campaign with a view to empowering children in particular and the people in general. Some activities included essay competitions for students and exposure tour to Guwahati, Sivasagar and Numaligarh Refinery, while police-students interactive sessions were organized in different locations of the state.

Three Shishu Shanti Samaroh (Children's Conclave) were organized in Sivasagar, Kokrajhar and Guwahati, where children and guardians of families met and shared their experiences. Officials on the other hand took stock of their progress and anti-violence advocacy sessions.

In 2015, Project Aashwas conducted a "Know India Programme" in Guwahati in association with the National Foundation for Communal Harmony. Held at the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, the five-day event was attended by 45 children from violence-affected areas of six states – Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bihar, Manipur and Assam. The broad objectives were: (i) Promoting a spirit of national integration and unity in diversity and to instill a sense of social harmony amongst the participants, (ii) Motivating them to act as focal points for dissemination of knowledge and information in the rural as well as urban areas and (iii) Strengthening secular principles through various creative activities and expressions, and channelizing the energy of the children and youth towards the nation-building process.

Aashwas, meanwhile, has been able to attract a number of recognitions. It was included in the 'Compendium on Best Practices of Indian Police' brought out by the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) and National Police Academy. The National Foundation for Communal Harmony has acclaimed Aashwas as doing yeomen's service in its Annual Report.

PROJECT SAHAYOG

In April 2003, Assam Police launched Project Sahayog – a project exclusively involving the Assam Police Battalions in community policing. Each Battalion was made to identify a village within a 10-km radius of its headquarters, carry out a detailed survey of the educational, economic and social conditions of the villagers, identify feasible existing government developmental schemes and then encourage the village youth to take up specific growth-oriented projects by forming self-help groups.

The basic objectives of Project Sahayog were – (i) Motivating village youth to be self-reliant by actively participating in various government developmental schemes, (ii) Formation of self-help groups among village youth to derive benefits offered by different financial institutions for setting up viable projects based on local resources, (iii) Support villagers in interactions with developmental agencies for overall socio-economic uplift of the local area.

Battalion headquarters in different places played pivot for furthering these goals. Emphasis was laid on providing several kinds of skills including literacy to help village youth find various means of livelihood. This in turn was expected to bring about desirable changes in the social, economic and cultural lives of the people. The project initiated during the tenure of H K Deka, IPS, the then DGP, had D K Bora, IPS, as its nodal officer.

NAGARIK COMMITTEE

As its logo says, service to and welfare of the people are the top priorities of Assam Police. Keeping this in mind, the then Guwahati City SP Kuladhar Saikia in 1996 drew up a comprehensive

plan for meaningful participation of the public in policing in Guwahati City. It was exactly on July 3, 1996, that the first Nagarik Committee was formed under the Panbazar police station.

Soon the idea was extended to all police stations in the city, to provide a platform for peoples' participation in policing their localities by adopting the strategy of 'Watch thy neighbourhood'. In 1999, formal guidelines of the Nagarik Committee were prepared by then City SP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, providing one Nagarik Committees for each municipality ward, with sub-committees having specific responsibilities.

The Nagarik Committees continue to meet on a monthly, bi-monthly and quarterly basis to discuss civic and crime related problems in specific areas, as also ways and means of solving them are decided.

ASSISTING THE UPDATING OF NRC

Assam Police has been playing active role in assisting the process of updating of National Register of Citizens (NRC) by providing all sorts of security and law and order management. Apart from making foolproof deployment of forces and collaboration with different CAPFs, it has been sensitizing the people in vulnerable areas by participating in public-connect programmes. The OCs of police stations along with other force personnel and senior officers have been regularly undertaking tours into interior areas while providing adequate security measures to the officials and staff connected with the NRC updating process. All such actions have resulted in peaceful release of drafts of the NRC, for which Assam Police has been appreciated all across the country including in the All India DGPs/IGPs conference held in December, 2018 in Gujarat.

CHATIA POLIC
ESTD-YEAR

CHAPTER 17

HERITAGE MATTERS

Three police stations in Assam have been declared as 'Heritage' buildings, with the Department of Archaeology, Government of Assam, taking up the task of conserving them. These three police stations are Dhekiajuli, Chatia and Gohpur, and the reason behind declaring them as 'Heritage' property is that all three were scenes of certain very significant incidents of India's freedom movement.

Dhekiajuli police station in Sonitpur district, established in 1914, was the scene of one of the worst incidents of police firing inside a police station during the freedom movement. It was on September 20, 1942 that a large number of people from Dhekiajuli and its surrounding villages led by satyagrahis had converged at the police station to hoist the national tricolour atop it. Earlier, as Mahatma Gandhi had given the 'Quit India' call to the British on August 9, 1942, Congress leaders in the then undivided Darrang district decided to hoist the national flag atop all police stations as part of the Freedom Movement. While hundreds of people gathered outside the police station, the designated satyagrahis began marching into it, one by one, holding the national flag in their hands. The police, however, resisted, opened fire, initially one by one, and then indiscriminately, killing at least 13 persons on the spot.

Eleven of the 13 martyrs were identified as – Manbar Nath, Kumali Devi, Mahiram Koch, Ratan Kachari, Sarunath Chutia, Moniram Kachari, Lerela Kachari, Dayal Das Panika, Khahuli Nath, Mangal Kurku and Tileswari Barua. Of them, Tileswari being only 12 years old, is said to be the youngest martyr of India's freedom movement. Two other persons – a beggar and a sanyasi – who also laid down their lives for the motherland, however could not be identified by name. This is also the only incident where a beggar and a sanyasi had attained martyrdom in India's freedom movement.

Gohpur police station, now in the newly-created Biswanath district, too witnessed hundreds of satyagrahis arriving from different villages of the area on September 20, 1942, to hoist the national tricolour. Even as the satyagrahis, led by Kanaklata Barua, a 14-year old schoolgirl, raised the 'Vande mataram' slogan and entered the police station campus, the police opened fire, killing her and another satyagrahi – Mukunda Kakati – on the spot. A couple of satyagrahis, however, managed to climb the police station roof from behind, removed the Union Jack and hoisted the tricolour in its place despite the police firing.

Chatia police station on the other hand stands out to be the first police station anywhere in the country where satyagrahis and other freedom fighters peacefully raised the tricolour without much resistance from the police. In Chatia however, the satyagrahis, instead of attempting to pull down the Union Jack, hoisted the tricolour in a pole that was much taller than the British flag, thus lowering its status. It happened on August 22, 1942. Chatia police station was established in 1914.

A number of police stations were established by the British during the first two decades of its occupation of Assam beginning 1826. The original structures have not survived, one of the reasons being that those were all constructed with bamboo and thatch, and had undergone repair and reconstruction over the past nearly two centuries.

ASSAM POLICE
CYBERDOME

CHAPTER 18

SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Social Media use has transformed the world, changing lives of both individuals as well as professionals. Police across the world are increasingly making use of Social Media to gather intelligence, connect with citizens, track down offenders, solve and prevent crimes and keep law and order situation under control. Being a police force that has played multiple roles in different junctions of the history of Northeastern India, Assam Police has moved appropriately with changing time and technology to face the new challenges in the cyber space. All the district police, apart from Assam Police Headquarter, have been officially utilizing the potential of social media for policing work.

On July 7, 2018, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal formally inaugurated Assam Police Cyberdome in Guwahati. The Cyberdome Project, has been set up to empower the force to use information and communication technology (ICT) for better service delivery, and creation of a digital repository of its available databases on crime, insurgency, terrorism and related cases. The project was conceptualised to provide an advanced platform for addressing cybercrime

and related issues. A corollary of Smart Police Project, the Assam Police Cyberdome Project has helped the police force use cutting edge technology to crack down on crime and its manifestations.

The use of ICT and Social Media is of great importance can be gauged from the fact that there has been remarkable response to various campaigns made by Assam Police through twitter handles which range from awareness drive against fake news, improper driving habits, drugs etc.

Since then, messages sent out by Assam Police through its Social Media platforms, more particularly through its Twitter handle, has brought about a sea change not only in its functioning, but also in the public perception of the police force which is already known across the country for it creative style of messaging. The Twitter handle has made it first mark in the backdrop of a ghastly murder of two youths in a mob lynching incident that was triggered off by a fake news that had spread like wildfire in a particular pocket of Karbi Anglong district in June 2018.

One of the strongly impacting messages that the Assam Police Twitter handle posted read – “Mobs have many heads but sadly no brains. There is no offence that can justify the actions of a mob. Choose your battles wisely. Fight for society - not against it.” Another one said – “Mobs may not follow the law, but the law will follow them. Think before you hit. If you hit, the law won’t miss.” A third post of this campaign asked, “What does your weekend look like?

Because we have to plan ours, if it's with us." An image carried along with it added, "Sharing rumours/hate messages online can enable you for a date with us in the nearest police station this weekend."

There was significant increase in likes and shares of Assam Police Twitter handle with such posts of socially relevant issues.

The Assam Police not only won accolades, but it also proved that Social Media and information and communication technology were indeed inseparable part of both detection and prevention of crime.

While Assam Police has been making the best use of Social Media during specific incidents like the one mentioned above, it has also made it a point to run a continuous campaign intended at curbing crimes against women and children. One such tweet that went viral in a big way read – "For every unwanted compliment you give a lady, we have a complimentary legal action ready for you," followed by the tagline #ThinkBeforeYouStalk. This tweet got an amazing 1,200 likes in a span of about a week, apart from being retweeted several hundred times, including Bollywood actor Kajol, who wrote – "Complement by respecting, not by stalking." These tweets and posts were soon shared by thousands including by Kajol's actor husband Ajay Devgun, resulting in the Assam Police Facebook page reaching close to a million users and the Twitter handle registering over 7 lakh re-tweets.

Yet another popular tweet picked up a rhyme from Bollywood film 'Gully Boy' starring Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt, to spread a message that warns people against online frauds. Using the title 'Gullible Boy', the tweet read – "Jab Internet par scam kiya jayega, apna time ayega" (Whenever there is a scam in the internet, it will be our time).

CYBERDOME

The Assam Police Cyberdome and Digital Intelligence and Training and Analysis Centre (DITAC) is a high-tech centre for cyber security and innovation to effectively tackle all forms of cyber-crimes and offences. Inaugurated in July 2018, it also aims at empowering the police force to use Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better service delivery, and create a digital repository of its available databases on crime, insurgency, terrorism and related cases.

Conceptualised to provide an advanced platform for addressing cybercrime and related issues, the Assam Police Cyberdome is a high-tech centre for cyber security and innovation to effectively tackle all forms of cybercrimes and offences. It is also intended at providing IT support to the investigating officers to move forward and unearth vital information regarding cyber criminals and crimes using the latest technology.

Another objective of Cyberdome is to help curb various kinds of cyber-crimes committed across the state. It also aims at constant capacity building of Assam Police personnel for better policing of cyber space and issues affecting the common people thereof. The Special Branch of the Assam Police has meanwhile trained police officers from each district, who work as master trainers for Cybercrime. Cyberdome also aids cyber investigation, cyber intelligence and cyber forensics.

Through its presence in various social media platforms, Assam Police has also saved many innocent lives. It was one evening in July 2018 when police found a Facebook post of a minor girl who updated her status as 'I am gonna to commit suicide today.' The police acted swiftly, and not only located the girl in 30 minutes and ensured her safety, but also organised counselling for her and parents for the next few days. The Global Head of Safety of Facebook, Antigone Davis had praised in public domain the role of Assam Police on this incident.

Likewise, the Assam Police social media campaign before and after release of the final draft National Register of Citizens (NRC) also contributed immensely in keeping rumour-mongering and hate messaging under strict control like tag line of "Our NRC, Fair NRC".

The Assam Police tweet that, however, recorded the highest likes was one showing a shadow image of Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's signature 'pose', one that contained a simple message of appealing to the people to follow traffic rules... #FollowTrafficRules." While this tweet recorded nearly 30,000 likes in about three weeks. SRK himself liked it and retweeted thus – "The best message I think this pose has conveyed. Please follow traffic rules."

All the district police have been making awareness campaigns since September 2018 in schools/colleges on issues of uses and abuses of social media.

Assam Police has conducted campaigns on issues like mental health, domestic abuse and emotional abuse. For children's safety, it also partnered with UNICEF India and a leading NGO and ran a month-long campaign on various issues related to cybercrime among young people.

Assam Police has not only been able to connect with people but has also received suggestions from the citizens. Most importantly, the Social Media campaign of Assam Police has been able to initiate a dialogue on various social issues.

CHAPTER 19

ASSAM POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION

Assam Police Housing Corporation Ltd is a public sector undertaking of the Government of Assam, which was incorporated in November, 1980. Under administrative control of the Home department of the Government of Assam, its major area of mandated activity is construction of various administrative as well as residential buildings for the Assam Police. The company has of late also ventured into procuring construction contracts in other departments of both, the state government as well as central government. The Corporation is entrusted with implementation of MOITRI scheme

MOITRI FACELIFT

While police stations set up over the past

century and a half or more came in all shapes and sizes, the Assam Police in December 2017 launched a scheme called Mission of Overall Improvement of Thana for Responsive Image - MOITRI – in order to provide a major face-lift to them.

The government, under MOITRI scheme, divided the police stations into three categories – Metro, Town and Rural, with the first phase taking up 73 police stations and 76 police stations in second phase for renovation or new construction. There are altogether 346 police stations in Assam, all of which are to undergo revamp under the scheme in a period of five years.

The MOITRI scheme is also intended at making the police station environment people-friendly. Under this scheme, all the 346 police stations are being transformed into centres for PSDS (Public Service Delivery System). The main motive of the scheme is to convert and remodel every police station in such a way that distance between the common people and the police force is reduced to the minimum.

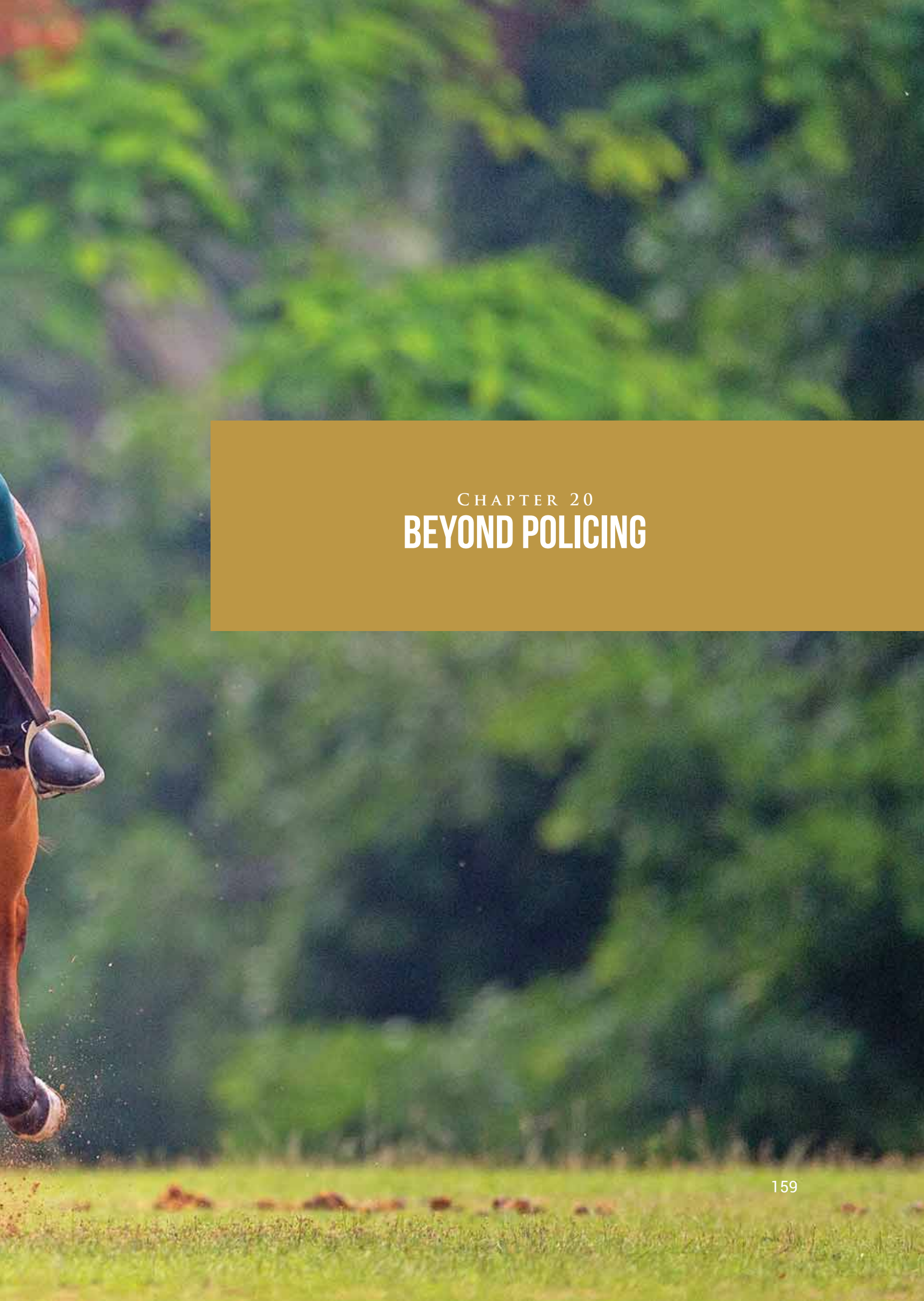
The scheme also includes capacity building, soft skill improvement, responsiveness to deal with new generation crimes, such as drugs and cybercrimes, along with provisions for counselling of juvenile offenders, gender-

based violence as well as special amenities for the differently-abled. It also includes greater community participation in controlling crime and maintaining peace and harmony, providing citizen-centric service delivery.

The scheme also provides several digital technology systems such as video conferencing, internet connectivity, etc., to the police stations. Equipment for detecting and investigating cyber-crimes are also being provided to the police stations under this scheme in a phased manner. Police stations are being sought to have proper landscaping, complete with a horticulture and floriculture plan, to be implemented along with the construction.

A few police stations are also being preserved for their aesthetic and historical value. Although they will be equipped with better technologies and tools, the exteriors of the station will remain same.

The governing body of MOITRI is headed by the Chief Minister of Assam. The day-to-day activities on the other hand are taken up by the Assam Police Housing Corporation Ltd, a state PSU set up in November 1980, which is the implementing agency of project MOITRI.



Chapter 20

BEYOND POLICING

SPORTING SPIRIT

Remaining fit both in body and mind is a basic mantra for every police personnel. Assam Police encourages individuals on is roll to take part in various games and sports activities.

Sports facilities are inseparable part of the Police Training College (PTC), other training establishments and Battalions bases of Assam Police. While PTC Dergaon is the principal hub for such activities, the headquarters of the 4th Assam Police Battalion at Kahilipara in Guwahati has recently emerged as a major sports training facility. Football remaining the backbone of Assam Police, a number of police personnel of various ranks have also excelled in various other sports.

Several of them have won medals in events like Archery, Equestrian, Athletics, Shooting, Taekwondo, Karate, Wushu and Cycling in different All-India police tournaments like All India Police Archery Championship, All India Police Shooting Sports Championship,

Bihu in fact is inseparable from various cultural programmes that are organised as part of Assam Police Day in the headquarters in Guwahati, in the districts and in the Battalions. Likewise, the Assam Police hussori team is also almost a must in the Independence Day and Republic Day functions in Guwahati.

All India Police Meet, All India Police Equestrian Meet, and so on. A number of Assam Police sportspersons have also represented Assam and won medals in different National Games in the past two decades.

Sportspersons of Assam Police have also found place in Indian contingents and won medals in international tournaments. These include South Asian Games (2008), the 4thWorld Cup Archery Championship in Shanghai, China (2011), the 2nd World Police Fairfax and Fire-games in Virginia, USA (2015), World Police Sports Meet held in Los Angeles, US (2018), International Athletic Competitions in Kazakhstan (2019), World Police and Fire Games held in Chengdu, China (2019) and so on. A number of Assam Police sportspersons have also won medals by representing the Assam state contingent in National Games, National Archery Championship,

Endurance Championship, National Taekwondo Championship, All India Karate Championship, National Wushu Championship and so on in the past two decades.

There was a time when football in Assam literally meant Assam Police; the state football team for the Santosh Trophy once mostly comprised of players from the Assam Police team. The final match of any major tournament in Assam meant one team was Assam Police. The Assam Police team also holds record of beating Mohammedan Sporting Club, one of India's near-invincible team in the 1970s. Gilbertson Sangma, a legendary football player of the Assam Police went on to represent an Indian team abroad.

CULTURE, LITERATURE

Bihu is arguably the biggest festival of Assam, some of the best bihu hussori teams of the state belong to the Assam Police. There are a number of expert artistes in Assam Police who have excelled in the art of playing the traditional dhol, pepa, banhi and gogona, and hussori teams of the Assam Police are often invited to opening ceremonies of various functions and events across Assam.

Likewise, there are a number of well-known Assamese drama artistes and authors in the Assam Police who have carved a niche for themselves in the world of literature. Prominent among them are, Sri Hare Krishna Deka and Sri Kuladhar Saikia – both IPS officers– have also won the prestigious Sahitya Akademi award for their outstanding contribution to Assamese literature.

Chapter 21

ASSAM POLICE DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Assam Police celebrated its 68th Foundation Day as Assam Police Day on Ist October, 2018 in the headquarter of 4th Assam Police Battalion headquarters located at Kahilipara in Guwahati. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sri Sarbananda Sonowal was the chief guest at the celebration which was marked by the elegant parade participated by various units of Assam Police. The Foundation Day celebration was marked by participation of general public in large numbers.

On the occasion, Assam Police also organized awareness programme on cybercrime, use of social media, drug abuse, mob violence, lynching, superstition and other social issues across the State.

EXHIBITION AT COTTON UNIVERSITY

In furtherance of its stated endeavour to strengthen its bond with the citizens, Assam Police organized an extraordinary exhibition in the historic Cotton University campus in Guwahati to showcase its disaster preparedness for any crisis situation and to highlight its modern, scientific investigation capabilities.

Vice-Chancellor of Cotton University inaugurated the exhibition in presence of the DGP, Assam and a host of other senior Assam Police officers besides a huge crowd of enthusiastic public including students. It was indeed huge step forward in the direction of consolidating police-public relationship.

COP QUIZ

In this context, an inter-college quiz contest, popularly known as 'Cop Quest' was also organised at Cotton University, Guwahati as part of the Police Day celebration which, as usual, attracted large number of active participants.

LEADERS ALONG THE JOURNEY

IG OF POLICE ASSAM

T J C PLOWDEN	CS	OCT	1876
W J WILLIAMSON	IA	MAR	1877
L HARE	CS	JUL	1880
H J PEET	IA	JUN	1881
T J MURRAY	CS	FEB	1882
H C WILLIAMS	CS	JUL	1885
J J S DRIBERG	CS	FEB	1890
R B MC CABE	ICS	JAN	1896
A W DAVIS	ICS	JUN	1897
A E WOODS	IA	APR	1901
W J REID	ICS	JAN	1902
A W DAVIS	ICS	OCT	1902
A E WOODS	IA	APR	1905

EAST BENGAL AND ASSAM

N BONHAM CARTER	ICS	DEC	1905
H LE MESURIER	ICS	MAY	1908
E C STUART BAKER	IP	OCT	1908
N BONHAM CARTER	ICS	FEB	1909
R B HUGHES BULLER	ICS	NOV	1910

ASSAM

A E WOODS	IA	APR	1912
D HERBERT	IA	APR	1915
A A CAMPBELL	IP	SEP	1919
W C M DUNDAS	IP	JAN	1921
M A LUFFMAN	IP	APR	1926
W C M DUNDAS	IP	DEC	1926
T P M O CALLAGHAN	IP	SEP	1929
C R F BION	IP	MAY	1932
T P M O CALLAGHAN	IP	NOV	1932
T E FURZE	IP	MAR	1935
R G R CUMMING	IP	DEC	1937
H G BARTLEY	IP	FEB	1945
R G R CUMMING	IP	SEP	1945
H G BARTLEY	IP	SEP	1946
J E REID	IP	SEP	1947
K R CHAUDHURY	IP	OCT	1949
J E REID	IP	MAR	1950
K R CHAUDHURY	IP	APR	1951
D C DUTT	IP	OCT	1953
K R CHAUDHURY	IP	FEB	1954
D C DUTT	IP	IP	NOV
K R CHAUDHURY	IP	JAN	1955
D C DUTT	IP	JUN	1956
K R CHAUDHURY	IP	JUL	1956
D C DUTT	IP	OCT	1956
H HUSSAIN	IPS	DEC	1957

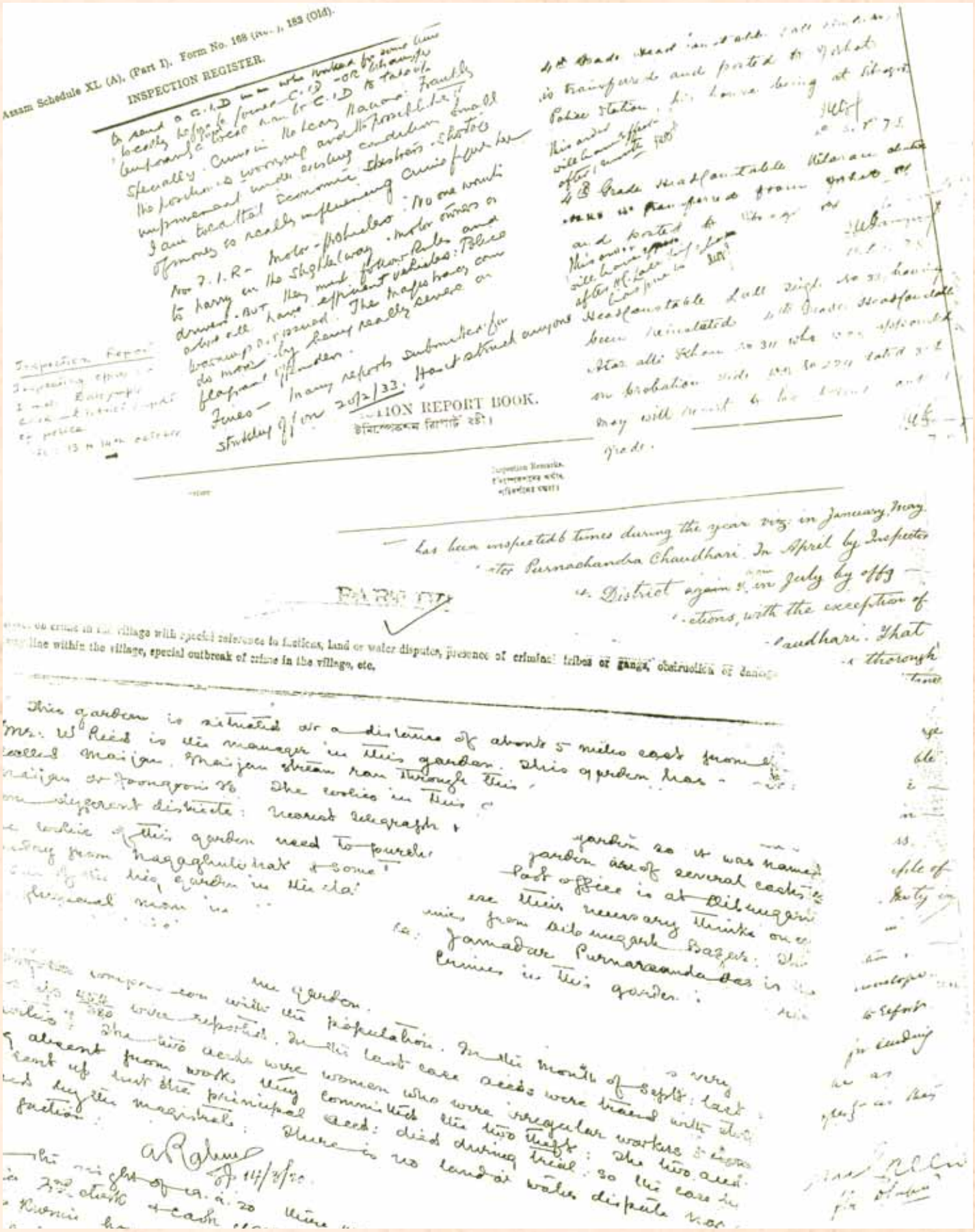
D C DUTT	IP	MAR	1958
S M DUTT	IP	OCT	1958
H HUSSAIN	IPS	SEP	1960
I ALI	IPS	MAY	1962
B K BARUA	IPS	JUL	1964
L B K DEY	IPS	NOV	1965
B K BARUA	IPS	DEC	1965
L B K DEY	IPS	SEP	1968
B K BARUA	IPS	NOV	1968
L B K DEY	IPS	JAN	1969
S AHMED	IPS	OCT	1975
P C DAS	IPS	NOV	1978

DG & IG OF POLICE ASSAM

P C DAS	IPS	NOV	1981
J S PATHAK	IPS	NOV	1984
T A SUBRAMANIAN		IPS	JAN
B C SARMA	IPS	APR	1986
M R CHOUDHURY	IPS	MAR	1987
N N CHANGKAKOTI	IPS	MAR	1988
S V SUBRAMANIAN		IPS	AUG
B D KHARKWAL	IPS	MAY	1990
PRAKASH SINGH	IPS	MAR	1991
S V SUBRAMANIAN	IPS	JUL	1991

H S CHITTARAN-JAN	IPS	APR	1994
RANJU DAS	IPS	FEB	1995
K HRISHIKESAN	IPS	MAY	1996
P V SUMANT	IPS	DEC	1998
H K DEKA	IPS	NOV	2000
P V SUMANT	IPS	OCT	2003
D N DUTT	IPS	JAN	2006
R N MATHUR	IPS	JAN	2007
G M SRIVASTAVA	IPS	DEC	2008
SHANKAR BARUA	IPS	JUL	2009
J N CHOUDHURY	IPS	JAN	2012
KHAGEN SARMA	IPS	17-JAN	2014
MUKESH SAHAY	IPS	NOV	2015
KULADHAR SAIKIA	IPS	30TH- APR	2018

FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY



Assam Schedule XL (A), (Part I). Form No. 168 (Rev.), 183 (Old).

INSPECTION REGISTER.

...TION REPORT BOOK.

Inspection Remarks.

PART IV

...on crime in the village with special reference to factions, land or water disputes, presence of criminal tribes or gangs, obstruction of dancing ... line within the village, special outbreak of crime in the village, etc.

This garden is situated at a distance of about 5 miles east from ... Mr. W Reed is the manager in this garden. This garden has ... called Maijan. Maijan stream ran through this ... Maijan or Joongoni ... The coolies in this ... different districts: nearest telegraph ... coolies of this garden used to purchase ... from Nagaghulohat & some ... of the big garden in the ... principal man in ...

... garden so it was named ... garden are of several castes ... Post office is at Dibrugarh ... their necessary thinks on ... from Dibrugarh Bazar. The ... Jamadar Purnaranda das is the ... Crimes in this garden.

... the garden.

... comparison with the population. In the month of Septr. last ... were reported. In the last case accds were traced with ... The two accds were women who were irregular workers & ... absent from work they committed the two theft: the two accds ... up but the principal accd: died during trial. So the case ... by the magistrate: There is no land or water dispute ... faction.

A Rahman
14/3/20

... the night of 19.9.20 there ... 2nd stock & cash ...

PART IV.

VILLAGE HISTORY.

Notes on crime in the village with special reference to factions, land or water disputes, presence of criminal tribes or gangs, obstr... way line within the village, special outbreak of crime in the village, etc.

Serial number of entry.	Date of entry.	Remarks.

Halua chuti G.B. of the village is ... helping hand to the police ... Gopra chutia is a thief, the village is ... troubled at present.

26.12.39. A village Defence party has been organized recently with Salikihat as the centre. There are about 50 volunteers divided into 16 groups each under a captain. Baliram Hazarika is the secretary of the V.D.P. at Salikihat. They patrol in their respective areas sometimes independent and sometimes with police.

INSPECTION REPORT

Dated 19/10/... Gorakhat P.S. 26.12.39

... Secy. V.D.P. Salikihat ... has been ... in his place. Halua G.B. ... and Bindhai chutia are in the village. Mehu ... Saikia is an unlicensed ...

... chuti and ... chuti of ... of notorious ... character and ... of ... They were ... 16(9)45, 23(9)45, 24(9)45 ... by the Capt. of early case ... strongly suspect them of ... every row and then ... they were named ... in each case as above ... will be found ... from the Bahwas ...

Assam Schedule XL (A), (Part I), Form No. 168 (New), 183 (Old).

INSPECTION REGISTER.

Assam Schedule XL (A), (Part I), Form No. 168 (New), 183 (Old).

INSPECTION REGISTER.

... Baliram Hazarika having resigned elected Secretary Cheniram G.B. leading man Debendra ...