

Kolkata: Angry policemen thrash DCP with batons, stage protest demanding safeguards against COVID-19



The troopers of the elite combat force in Kolkata were angry over the lack of masks and PPE kits during their coronavirus duty.

Key Highlights

- A Kolkata police officer said that an inquiry has been ordered into the incident.
- No policemen had been booked in connection with the incident.
- The situation was brought under control after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee intervened and met the agitated policemen.

Kolkata: Staging a protest demanding safeguards against COVID-19, a group of policemen from elite combat force badly thrashed a Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) rank officer in West Bengal capital Kolkata on Tuesday.

A Kolkata police officer said that an inquiry has been ordered into the incident. No policemen had been booked in connection with the incident.

As per a report in Indian Express, the situation was brought under control after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee intervened and met the agitated policemen.

What triggered the ruckus was the alleged negligence of the authorities to sanitise cops' residential quarters where a police officer was tested COVID-19 positive. Later, three more cops were tested positive in the same building.

"A probe is underway. There can be disappointment among the policemen regarding the duty schedule, but no acts of indiscipline will not be tolerated," the report quoted a police officer as saying.

What caused further resentment among the personnel was the duty roster issued for coronavirus and cyclone Amphan duty on Tuesday night.

Later, a group of at least 500 elite cops staged a protest outside the Police Training School (PTS). As the commotion broke out, DCP NS Paul, who resides in the PTS quarter with his family, came out to calm the protesting policemen. However, the baton-wielding cops chased the officer and thrashed him.

The DCP was later rescued by other officers and admitted to a hospital. The agitating policemen alleged that they were not given masks and PPE kits despite being deployed in containment zones.

Poor food standard was also another grudge of the policemen.

"After a sub-inspector tested positive for Covid-19, the quarters he used to live in with us were not sanitised. A few days later, three more tested positive and no step was taken to sanitise the premises. We don't know how many of us are already infected," said a protesting constable.

After the incident, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee ordered municipal staff to sanitise the quarters.

Source:<https://www.timesnownews.com/amp/mirror-now/in-focus/article/kolkata-angry-policemen-thrash-dcp-with-batons-stage-protest-demanding-safeguards-against-covid/595267>