STUDY NOTES · BASIC CONCEPT

What is a Commissionerate System?

Defence & Security

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Under the commissionerate system, the Police Commissioner holds both executive and magisterial powers within a city or metropolitan area. This system is usually implemented in large urban areas where crime, population density, and administrative complexity are high.

Key Authority Structure

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a) Police Commissioner

Usually an IPS officer of DGP/ADGP rank

Holds dual powers:

- Police powers (law & order, investigation, crime control)
- Magisterial powers (earlier held by District Magistrate)

Can issue: Curfews, Prohibitory orders (Section 144 / BNSS equivalent), Preventive detentions, Arms license orders

b) Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs)

Each zone or division is headed by a DCP, Responsible for day-to-day law enforcement

c) Assistant Commissioners / ACPs

Supervise police stations and investigations

How It Works (Step-by-Step)

- The Commissioner acts as both police chief and executive authority.
- Reduces delays caused by coordination between police and civil administration.
- Faster Decision-Making
- No need to wait for district magistrate approval for curfews, arrests, or emergency orders.
- Urban-Focused Policing
- Tailored for metropolitan challenges like:

- Organized crime

- Cybercrime
- Traffic congestion
- Terror threats
- Large protests
- Direct Accountability

Difference

Feature	Dual System (Rural/Smaller Cities)	Commissionerate System (Metros)
Command	Divided between the **District Magistrate (DM)**and **Superintendent of Police (SP)**.	Unified under the **Commissioner of Police (CP)**.
Magisterial Power	Only the DM can issue licenses, order Section 144, or authorize preventive arrests.	The CP (and officers above ACP rank) holds these executive magisterial powers.
Reporting	The SP reports to the DM for law and order issues.	The CP reports directly to the State Government (Home Department).
Response Time	Slower, as police must wait for magistrate approval for many actions.	Faster, as decision-making is centralized within the police force.

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