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Central and State Police Training Academy Libraries, Government of India: A Special Study

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Abstract

Police academy libraries play a vital role in supporting professional education, training, research, and informed decision-making among police personnel. They provide access to specialized information related to police administration, criminal investigation, law and order, counter-terrorism, security, crime prevention, and related areas. The present study examines the existing organizational and management structure of Police Academy Libraries, identifies major deficiencies, and explores measures for improving their effectiveness in accordance with contemporary information needs. The study focuses on the organization of library resources, services, procedures, infrastructure, information technologies, and the availability and accessibility of relevant information resources. Particular attention is given to the adoption of modern information science practices and digital technologies to enhance the efficiency and utilization of library resources. The study also considers the changing information requirements of police officers and trainees and the role of libraries in supporting their academic and professional development. An effective and scientifically organized Police Academy Library can serve as a central knowledge hub by providing timely, reliable, and comprehensive information to its users. Strengthening library infrastructure, collections, services, technological facilities, and management practices can contribute significantly to improving the quality of police training and research. The study therefore proposes measures for developing Police Academy Libraries into modern, user-oriented, technologically enabled, and professionally managed special libraries. Such improvements can help these libraries respond effectively to the requirements of the twenty-first century and contribute to institutional development, professional excellence, and the overall effectiveness of police organizations.

Keywords: library infrastructure, special library, police academy, central police training academy, state training police academy

INTRODUCTION

In the gradual development of human society over time, people have evolved into a civilized society. He emphasized the importance of education because the more educated a person or society is, the more they will develop. The history of libraries is intertwined with the development of human civilization. Libraries are as old as human civilization itself. It's a different matter that the formal establishment of libraries isn't very old. In ancient times, when printing wasn't available, books were written and preserved for future generations. as-is As knowledge developed, the field of writing also developed. The invention of the printing press further encouraged writing. It was felt that to preserve and conserve knowledge, some means and medium should be used which would enable the accumulated knowledge to reach future generations. The library has played an important role in accomplishing this task.

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From a simple perspective, the word library means "a collection or storage of books. Books were known only for storage, but their ancient purpose, function, and meaning are completely different from the purposes of the present era. Today's library, as an essential social institution, is an important means and foundation for the progress and awakening of man and society.

According to Piers Butler, a library is Defined as Follows:

"A book is a social creation for preserving the national and ethnic memory of a nation and its society, and a library is a social instrument for transferring this memory to the consciousness of living people ."

On the other hand, we can say that the library is a living archive which has a place to keep records of the progress made by man from the Stone Age to the Space Age.

Libraries hold a paramount place in the fields of training, study, and education. Libraries are a powerful and creative tool for learning, research, developing decision-making, gathering information, developing self-knowledge, and making informed decisions. Libraries are a unit, a true companion and friend to the individual. The storage of books and knowledge-related material is not just a place; it is a very important institution that collects and transmits knowledge and study material and is essential for the development of society and the nation.

Libraries are actually storehouses of knowledge, where one can quench one's thirst for knowledge. By acquiring knowledge from the library, a person not only helps in his own progress but also in national progress. National unity, international peace, cooperation, and goodwill are enhanced by the library. Libraries always preserve the literary and cultural remains of humanity for the use of future generations. The role of libraries is very important in fulfilling the educational needs of people from different sections of society and the nation. In this way, libraries indirectly contribute to the economic, industrial, scientific, and educational structure and development of the country.

Libraries also have many forms, and the main function of all is to help in acquiring knowledge, no matter in what form it helps in acquiring knowledge. Libraries play an inspiring role in the creation, emergence, and development of new ideas.

Objective of the Study

To assess the existing organizational and management structure of Police Academy Libraries.

- To identify the major shortcomings and challenges in the existing library infrastructure, resources, services, and procedures.
- To examine the adequacy and accessibility of information resources required for police education, training, research, and professional development.
- To evaluate the use of modern information science practices and digital technologies in Police Academy Libraries.
- To identify the changing information needs of police officers, trainees, researchers, and other library users.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature on police training academy libraries in India highlights their growing importance as specialized knowledge centres supporting police education, professional training, legal research, criminological studies, and operational decision-making [1]. Existing studies and institutional reports indicate that these libraries function within a broader administrative and training framework governed by central and state police organizations [2]. The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) has emphasized the standardization and modernization of police training institutions, including the development of appropriate learning resources and infrastructure [3].

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The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), Hyderabad, represents one of the major institutional models for police training in India [4]. Its library provides extensive resources covering police science, law, criminology, social sciences, and related disciplines. The availability of specialized collections and digital learning facilities supports the academic and professional requirements of Indian Police Service probationers and senior police officers. Similarly, the North Eastern Police Academy (NEPA), Meghalaya, maintains a substantial library collection organized according to systematic classification practices, demonstrating the importance of structured information organization within police training institutions [5].

At the state level, police academies have developed library facilities to support recruit training, promotional courses, specialized training, and continuing professional education. The Rajasthan Police Academy (RPA), Jaipur, for example, provides a substantial collection of books and periodicals and has incorporated digital and virtual learning facilities into its training environment [6]. Likewise, police training institutions in Tamil Nadu and other states combine traditional library collections with information and communication technology facilities to support multidisciplinary police education.

Studies in Library and Information Science (LIS) further indicate that technological modernization is becoming an important component of police and departmental libraries [7]. The adoption of open-source library automation software such as Koha, RFID-based services, digital repositories, electronic resources, and automated cataloguing can improve resource organization, retrieval, circulation, and accessibility. Such technologies can enable police personnel and trainees to obtain relevant information more efficiently.

The literature also demonstrates that police training libraries have potential beyond conventional information provision. Research involving police personnel has examined issues such as occupational stress, burnout, professional development, and training requirements, indicating the broader role of institutional knowledge resources in supporting police organizations [8]. Policy-oriented studies have additionally identified deficiencies in police training infrastructure, expenditure, human resources, and learning facilities. These findings suggest that library development should be considered an integral part of broader police modernization and capacity-building initiatives [9].

Overall, the reviewed literature establishes that police academy libraries are essential components of the police training ecosystem. However, the literature appears to provide greater attention to training infrastructure, institutional development, and digital transformation than to a comprehensive assessment of the organizational structure, collection development, library services, staffing, user needs, technology adoption, and management practices of Police Academy Libraries across India. Therefore, there is a need for a systematic study that evaluates the present status of these libraries, identifies existing deficiencies, and proposes a modern framework for their development in accordance with contemporary information needs and twenty-first-century police training requirements.

Special libraries

Special libraries are established and operated to meet the specific information needs of the organizations or institutions to which they belong. A library associated with a particular type of organization is therefore considered a special library because its collections are developed, organized, and preserved according to the specialized objectives and functions of that organization. The resources held in such libraries are intended to support the organization's programs, professional activities, research, training, and decision-making processes. In the context of the rapid growth of information and the increasing demand for specialized knowledge, special libraries have become an important component of organizations across various professional fields. Their collections and services should be carefully aligned with the objectives of the parent institution so that they contribute effectively to its development and functioning [10].

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Most leading organizations and institutions maintain their own libraries, which serve as important information centers for their respective users. Similarly, the Police Academy of Patna has a dedicated library that can be categorized as a special library because it is established to fulfill the specific information and training requirements of police personnel. The library houses books, reference materials, and other information resources related to policing, law enforcement, criminology, security, investigation, and other relevant subjects. It functions as an important information center supporting the education and professional training of police officers. In this way, the library contributes to the professional development of personnel and supports the overall objectives and institutional growth of the academy.

Police training institutions are established to provide police officers with the knowledge, skills, and professional competencies required to perform their duties effectively. In India, each State maintains its own police organization, while several central police organizations function under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. These include the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), and National Police Academy (NPA), among others.

These police organizations operate specialized training institutions and academies where gazetted and non-gazetted police personnel receive professional education and training. Such training plays an important role in enhancing the knowledge, skills, and operational competence of police officers and contributes to the effective maintenance of public safety, security, and law and order.

Police training academies functioning under central police organizations and State Police Departments provide specialized educational and professional training to police personnel. Along with training facilities, many of these institutions maintain dedicated libraries that serve as important sources of academic, legal, technical, and professional information. These libraries support classroom instruction, research, professional development, and continuous learning among police personnel.

Central Police Organization Training Institute

1. Border Security Force Police Academy (Tekanpur), Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
2. Bureau of Police Research and Development, New Delhi
3. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) (India) Largest police training academy
4. Central Reserve Police Force Academy (Mount Abu), Rajasthan
5. Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Academy, Mussoorie, Uttarakhand
6. Central Industrial Security Force Academy, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)
7. Central Bureau of Research (CBRA), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)

The document list of police training institutions lists all Central police training academies. The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad, is officially described as the largest police training academy in India.

State Police Training Academy:

1. Rajasthan Police Academy-Jaipur
2. Haryana Police Academy-Karnal
3. Madhya Pradesh Police Academy-Sagar
4. Andhra Pradesh Police Academy-Hyderabad
5. Maharashtra Police Academy-Nashik
6. Karnataka Police Academy Mysore
7. Gujarat Police Academy-Gandhinagar
8. Punjab Police Academy Phillaur
9. Uttar Pradesh Police Academy-Moradabad

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10. Jammu and Kashmir Police Academy-Udhampur
11. Orissa Police Academy, Bhubaneswar
12. Jharkhand Police Academy-Hazaribagh
13. Bihar Police Academy–Rajagriha (Nalanda)
14. Kerala Police Academy-Trichur
15. Chhattisgarh Police Academy-Raipur
16. Tamil Nadu Police Academy-Chennai
17. Himachal Police Academy-Kangra (Dharamshala)

Institutional Architecture and Resource Stratification

The structure of police academy libraries in India is divided into central institutions that serve senior leadership and national security forces, as well as state-level academies that support regional police personnel as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

At the top of the central tier is the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA) in Hyderabad, which trains Indian Police Service (IPS) officers. The SVPNPA library has a large collection of both physical and digital resources, including between 70,000 and 100,000 physical books along with a comprehensive e-Library. This central platform offers access to more than 181,000 e-books, 33,000 course materials, 31,000 academic journals, and 3,400 legal case studies. Other specialized central training institutes, such as the Central Academy for Police Training (CAPT) in Bhopal, the Internal Security Academy (ISA) in Mount Abu, and the ITBP Police Academy in Mussoorie, maintain focused collections related to counter-insurgency, internal security, cybercrime investigation, and paramilitary administration (Figure 1).

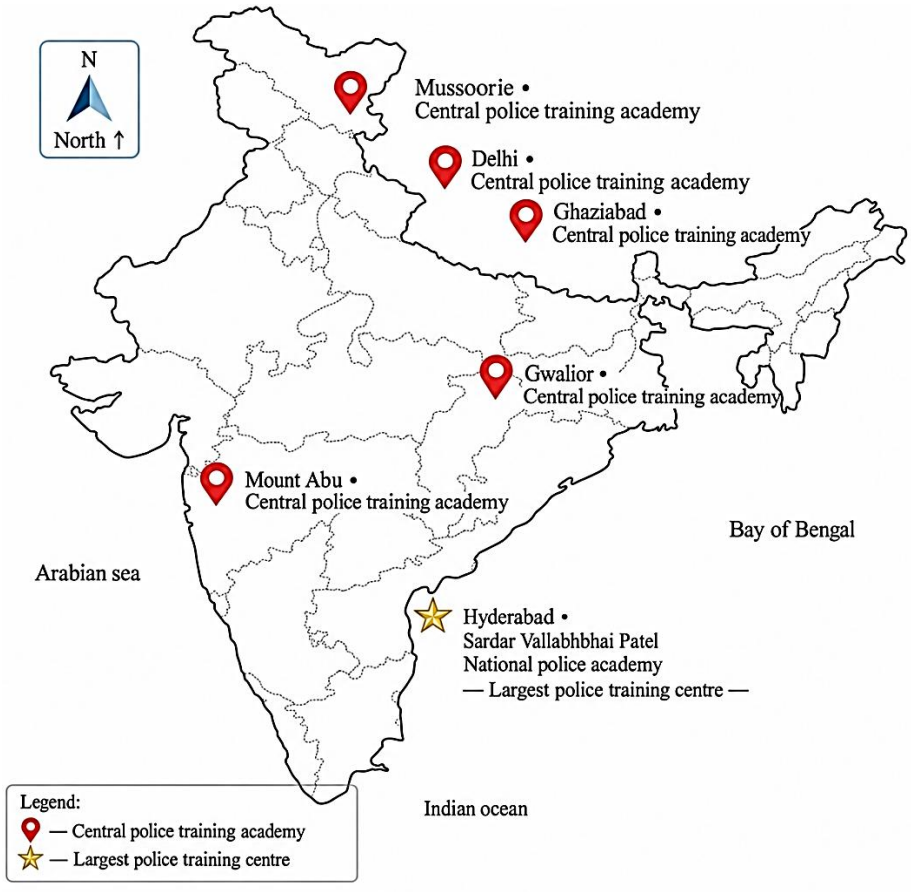


Figure 1. Outline MAP (Central Police Training Academics).
Map Sources: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) list

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Figure 2. Outline MAP (State Police Training Academics)
Map Sources: (MHA) Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) Document list of Police Training Institutes in India.

In contrast, State Police Academies, such as the Rajasthan Police Academy (RPA) in Jaipur, the Punjab Police Academy (PPA) in Phillaur, the Kolkata Police Training Academy, and the Gujarat Police Academy in Karai, concentrate on regional legal systems, local statutes, regional crime patterns, and local administrative procedures (Figure 2). For instance, the Rajasthan Police Academy Library holds over 35,000 physical volumes and subscribes to major national legal and law enforcement magazines. These state-level libraries directly serve basic recruits, from Constables up to Deputy Superintendents of Police (DySPs), and also offer three-week training sessions on local state laws for newly appointed IPS officers.

Digital Modernization and Infrastructure in police training Academy

A key characteristic of police academy libraries in India is their swift integration with digital technology, driven by collaborative efforts between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Informatics Centre (NIC). At the heart of this transformation is e-Granthalaya, a library management software developed by the NIC, which is being rolled out across the country. This system has been implemented at institutions such as CAPT Bhopal, ITBP Academy Mussoorie, Kerala Police Academy (KEPA), and several state police training centers. Its adoption has significantly improved processes such as cataloging, sharing of resources between libraries, and access to digital resources held by the institutions.

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At the level of executive research, digital platforms use cloud-based systems to allow easy access to important legal and scientific databases from outside the academy premises. The SVPNPA eLibrary portal collects content from top legal research platforms like Manupatra, LexisNexis India, Live Law, and CASEMINE, as well as broader academic sources such as JSTOR, Springer, Sage, Taylor & Francis, and Emerald. Through this digital setup, law enforcement officers can study past court decisions, understand medico-legal issues, and explore new trends in areas like computational criminology and digital forensics. In addition, specialized state facilities are also embracing modern learning management systems, digital simulation labs, and smaller digital resource collections to support training programs in cybercrime, human trafficking, and counter-terrorism [11].

The administrative structure follows clear guidelines from central policies issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), which are then put into action by the NIC. Using e-Granthalaya and cloud authentication, central digital resources are shared with regional academies, creating a unified digital network. This network ensures that both field officers and academic researchers have access to the same legal standards, court cases, and updates on forensic techniques [12].

Finding of the Study

1. The library building should be an independent building constructed according to the standards of Library Science. It should be equipped with all modern scientific safety facilities such as CCTV, fire alarms, fire-fighting systems, etc. The library building should also be centrally located and well-ventilated.
2. The library should have a fixed and regular annual budget, with a provision for an annual increase of 10%.
3. Additional comprehensive supplementary grants should be provided for the modernization of the library.
4. The library should have an approved and well-defined staff structure. All sanctioned posts of the Librarian and library staff should always remain filled. There should be clear policies and rules regarding staff training, promotion, time-scale pay, career advancement, and rewards for outstanding work.
5. The selection, acquisition, storage, preservation, classification, cataloguing, maintenance, control, and weeding of books and other information materials should be carried out according to the rules and principles of Library Science and relevant manuals.
6. Modern information technology resources such as automation, internet, and networking should be fully installed in the library. E-library and e-governance facilities should be established and developed. Networking should be established among all academic libraries.
7. A special action plan should be prepared at the national level for the modernization of libraries and implemented in all academic libraries. A National Information Centre should be established and developed at the national level for the training and development of academic libraries, and all academic libraries should be connected to it through networking.
8. Regular training and library orientation facilities should be provided to users for the maximum and effective utilization of the library. Feedback should also be collected regularly from users.
9. Libraries should provide facilities for photocopying, publication, and inter-library loan. Total Quality Management (TQM) and Quality Assurance systems should also be established. Every library should have its own website; otherwise, adequate space and facilities should be provided for it on the website of the concerned academic institution.
10. There should be a positive attitude and cooperation between administration and management for the continuous development and improvement of the library.

CONCLUSION

The study highlights that central and state police training academies serve as essential information centers for developing police administration, legal knowledge, crime investigation techniques, and

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national security standards. While elite institutions like the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA) and academies utilizing digital frameworks like e-Granthalaya demonstrate significant progress, the organizational structure and management of most academy libraries remain inadequate and fail to meet standard principles. To transform these facilities into world-class information hubs fit for modern 21st-century requirements, systematic reforms must be implemented. This requires establishing independent and modern library buildings, ensuring fixed annual budgets with continuous growth, appointing qualified professional staff, and adopting standard classification and cataloguing methods. Furthermore, establishing a centralized national information network, enhancing user orientation, integrating cloud-based digital databases, and fostering active administrative cooperation are essential steps to ensure these libraries fully support the training and professional excellence of law enforcement personnel across the country.

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