

British Council communication skills training for Kolkata Police

Kolkata, Tuesday, 24 August 2021

Mr Soumen Mitra IPS, Commissioner of Police, Kolkata and Dr Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director East and Northeast, British Council today announced the launch of a customised communication skills course for the personnel of Kolkata Police in the presence of **Ms Barbara Wickham OBE, Director India, British Council** and **Ms Sophie Ross, Acting British Deputy High Commissioner Kolkata.**

The **‘Communicating with Confidence’** course has been specially designed by British Council for the Kolkata Police with a strong focus on improving the police officers’ soft skills through the English language. The aim of the online course is to enhance communication skills to support crucial communication during interacting with the public, in interstate and international cooperation and related work areas. The course will help participating police officers with skills in supporting the rising number of international tourists visiting Kolkata. The course will be available to 1,500 police force officers across ranks.

With specific focus on building speaking skills and confidence, participants will get extensive opportunities during the live online classes to practice communication skills. Participants will develop fluency, vocabulary, and pronunciation thereby enhancing their confidence across ranks, and improving their interaction with the citizens. The 22.5 hour-course will be delivered over seven weeks, through bi-weekly classes.

Being a major tourist hub and a gateway to India for many neighbouring countries, the Kolkata Police also engages with international tourists. Stronger communication skills can aid improved international perception not just for the police force, but the state and the nation.

British Council and the Government of West Bengal have an active Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that focuses on systemic collaboration on English language training across the whole school and higher education sectors that is linked to employability; research collaboration and capacity building in higher education and cultural collaboration between the UK and West Bengal with a focus on crafts, skills, festivals and tourism. British Council has been working with the Government of West Bengal to impart Communicative English language training to officers from various departments since 2013. The new course builds on the British Council’s work towards creating opportunities for, and upskilling of, West Bengal’s civil servants.

Soumen Mitra IPS, Commissioner of Police, Kolkata, said, “We look forward to working with British Council and are sure that the specially designed, holistic communication course will add long-term value to our officers. It will not only enhance the public experience while interacting with the Kolkata Police department but will also increase output of our police officers while providing and seeking information, interviewing witnesses or suspects, and dealing with court cases. Kolkata being a major tourist hub and a gateway to India for many neighbouring countries, stronger communication skills and improved English language proficiency will help our officers overcome the language barrier while dealing with international tourists.”

Dr Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director East and Northeast India, British Council, said, “We are delighted to launch this customised communication skills course for the officers of the Kolkata Police. Over the years the Kolkata Police have been our valued partners – enabling us to work together on a variety of programmes and activities for the benefit of the city and its people. We have been working with the government of West Bengal to provide communication skills training to over 1,700 officers from different departments and the launch of the ‘Communicating with Confidence’ course for the Kolkata Police is another link in the chain of our ongoing effort to improve skills and education opportunities in the city.”

ABOUT THE BRITISH COUNCIL

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We work with over 100 countries in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Last year we reached over 80 million people directly and 791 million people overall, including online, broadcasts and publications. We make a positive contribution to the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust. Founded in 1934 we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. We receive a 15 per cent core funding grant from the UK government. www.britishcouncil.in

For media information, please contact:

Abhishek Ghosh / Sayanjita Dey

Sagittarius.Inc

Ph: 9903227841 / 8697719315