

PRESS RELEASE

Status of Policing in India Report 2019: Police Adequacy and Working Conditions

New Delhi, August 27, 2019: Common Cause and Lokniti Programme of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), launched the Status of Policing in India Report (SPIR) 2019 on the tough working conditions of the police in India at the India International Centre today. The release was followed by a panel discussion on 'Indian Police and the Rule of Law in Practice.'

The participants of the panel discussion were Aruna Roy, social activist and founder of Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, Prakash Singh, Former DGP, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Border Security Force and Vrinda Grover, human rights lawyer and social activist. The discussion was chaired by Justice Jasti Chelameswar, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India and Former Chief Justice, Kerala and Gauhati High Courts.

The report examines the conditions in which the Indian police function across the country and shines the spotlight on their resources, opinions, experiences and attitudes. The report is based on data analysed from two sources -- official time-series data released by the government agencies to measure state-wise adequacy levels of the State police as well as data from a comprehensive face to face survey of police personnel across 21 major Indian states.

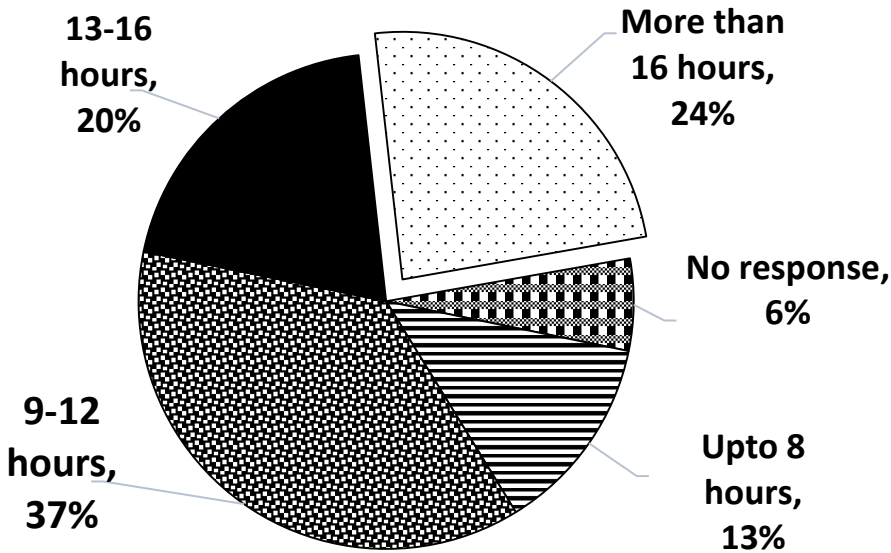
SPIR 2019 is a first of its kind study in India and South Asia, exploring the trying working conditions of police personnel, and the views of their family members, their poor record of gender and social diversity, meagre infrastructure of crime investigation and day to day policing. It is also a nuanced depiction of links between policing and marginalised communities, as well as people-police contact and police violence. Besides a survey of 11,834 police personnel inside police stations across India (20 States and Union Territory of Delhi), the study includes another sample of 10,535 family members of police personnel who were interviewed inside their homes. The surveys were coordinated by a network of academics at the universities and research institutions across India who are part of the Lokniti Programme of the CSDS.

For the first time the official data has been analysed to show the rates of improvement or decline in the indicators of the performance of police forces over time and on several parameters. Comparisons have also been done state-wise to bring out the variations across India. The report works on the intersections of the official data and direct human contact. The data has been dissected for hidden trends and complemented with human responses. Special care has been taken to involve men and women at the lowest rungs of policing hierarchies and from different social backgrounds.

SPIR 2019 aims to create a comprehensive database on policing in India and highlights the need gaps for policymakers and serious researchers. The display of state-wise variances will hopefully encourage healthy competition among states and their political leaderships.

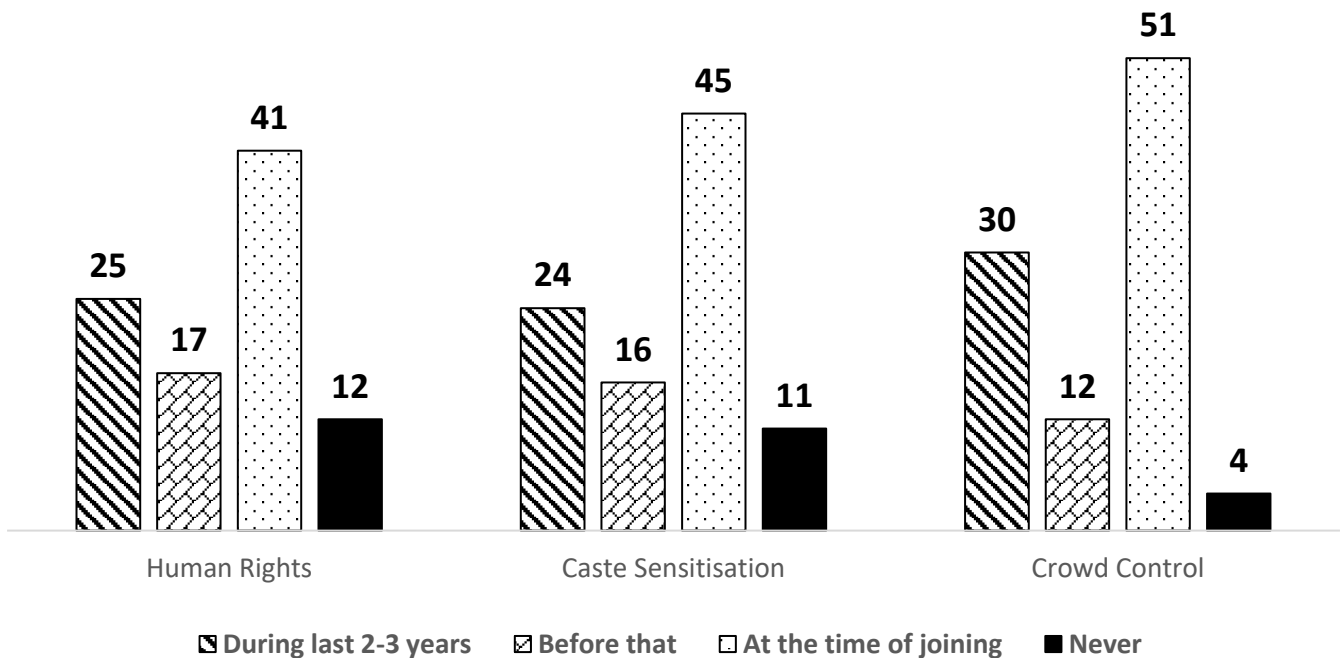
Some of the key findings of the SPIR 2019 are as follows:

Key findings of the Status of Policing in India Report, 2019



On an average, how many hours do you actually work?

- Police personnel work for 14 hours a day on an average, with about 80 percent working for more than eight hours a day.
- One out of two personnel do not get any weekly off days.
- Except Nagaland, the average working hours of personnel are between 11 and 18 hours in the 21 states.
- Nearly one in two personnel work overtime regularly, while eight out of 10 personnel do not get paid for overtime work.

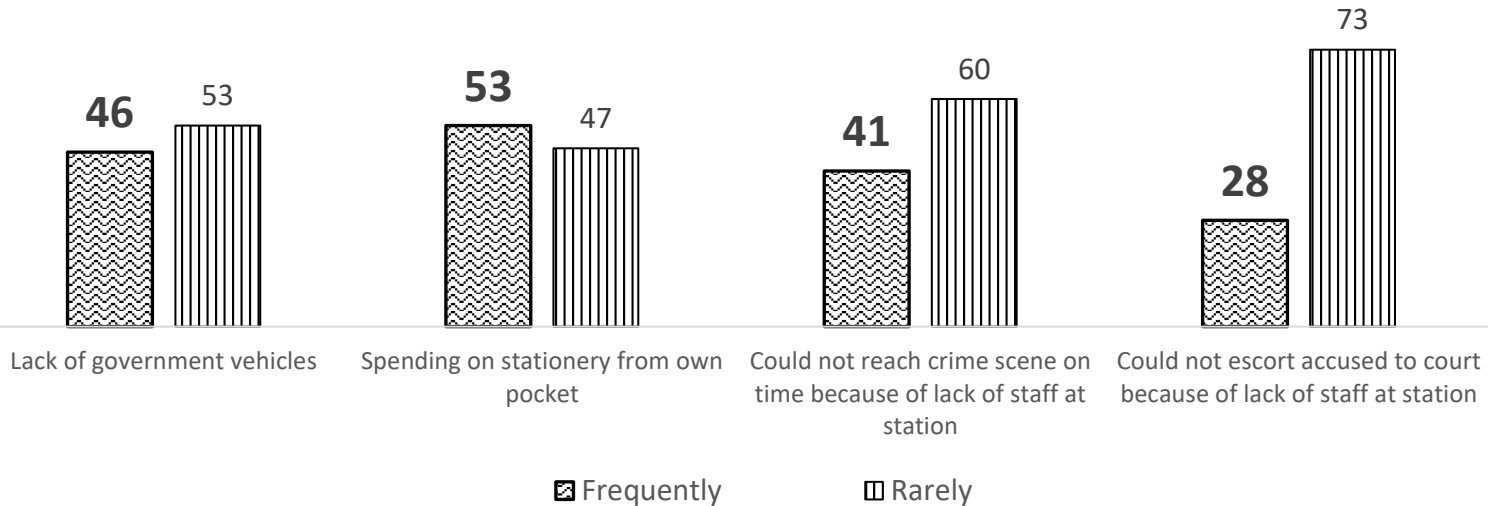


When was the last time you received training about: a.) human rights b.) caste sensitisation c.) crowd control?

- Over the last five years, on an average, only 6.4 percent of the police force have been provided in-service training. Senior police officers are much more likely to receive in-service training than the constabulary-level personnel.
- Across the 22 states, 70 police stations do not have access to wireless devices, 224 police stations do not have access to telephones, and 24 police stations have access to neither wireless nor telephones.
- Twelve percent personnel reported that there is no provision for drinking water in their police stations, 18 percent said there are no clean toilets, and 14 percent said there is no provision for seating area for the public.
- Almost one in three civil police personnel never received training on forensic technology
- About 240 police stations across the 22 states have no access to vehicles.

- Forty-six percent personnel have frequently experienced situations where they needed a government vehicle but it was not available. Further, 41 percent personnel have frequently been in situations where they could not reach a crime scene on time because of lack of staff.

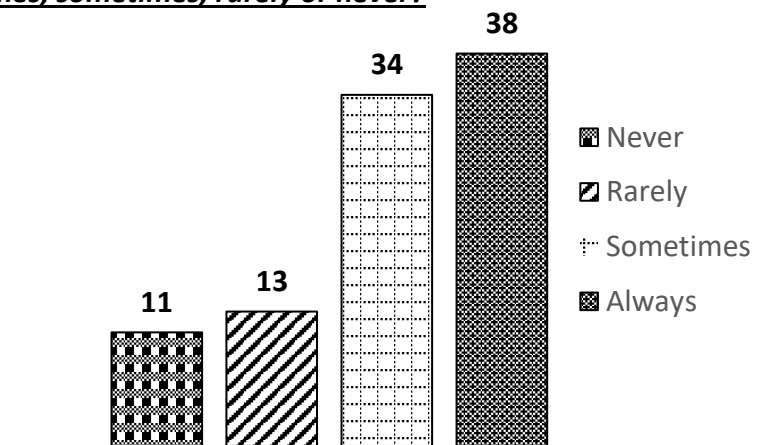
Lack of Basic Resources



How often have you encountered political pressure during investigation of a crime:

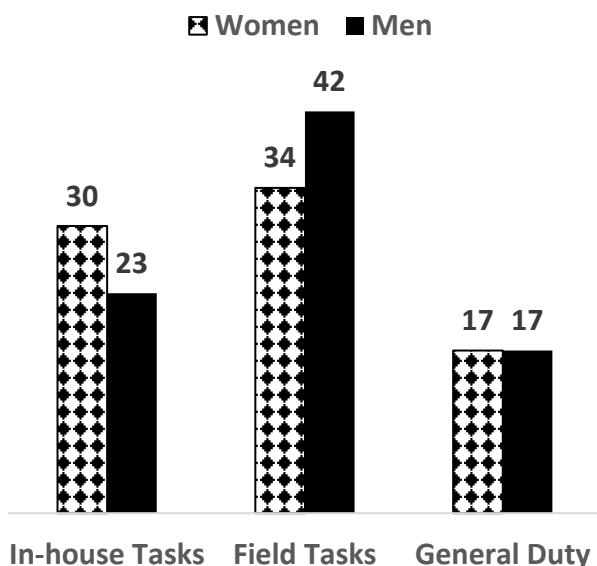
many times, sometimes, rarely or never?

- Twenty-eight percent police personnel believe that pressure from politicians is the biggest hindrance in crime investigation.
- Seventy two percent police personnel have experienced political pressure during investigation of cases involving influential persons.



Police & Political Pressure

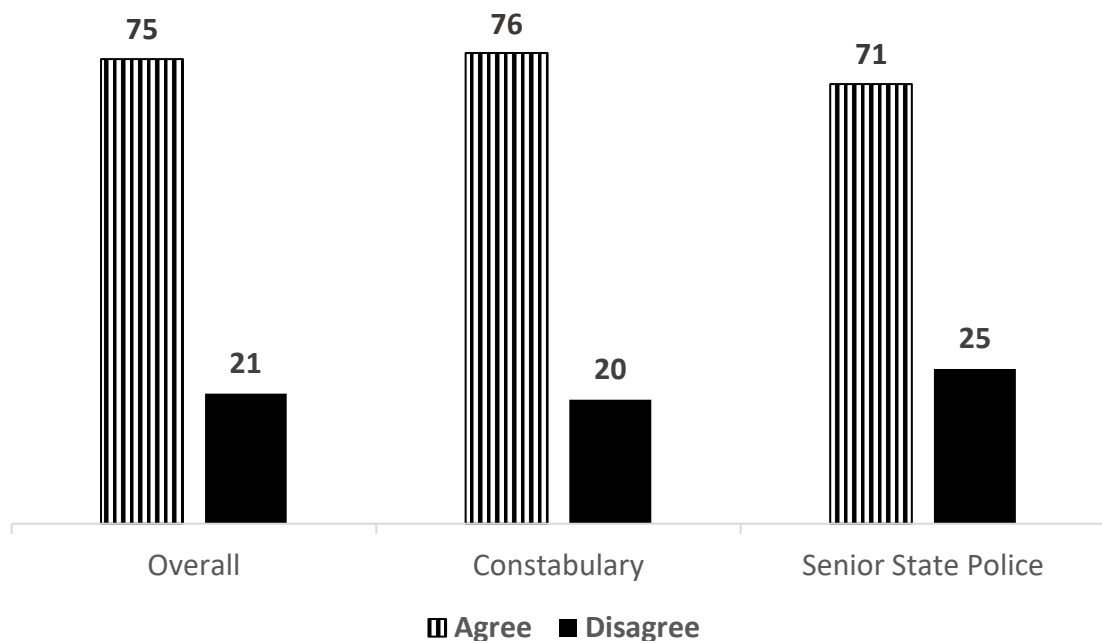
- Women personnel are more likely to be involved in in-house tasks such as maintaining registers, data etc., while male personnel are more likely to be involved in field-based tasks such as patrolling, law and order duties, etc.
- One in five female personnel reported the absence of separate toilets for women at their police station/ workplace.
- One in four policewomen said there was no sexual harassment committee in their police station/ jurisdiction.



- Two out of five police personnel think that children in conflict with law between 16 and 18 years old should be treated like adult criminals.
- Thirty-five percent personnel feel (to a large extent and somewhat combined) that it is natural for a mob to punish the culprit in case of cow slaughter.

To what extent is it natural for the mob to punish the culprits on their own in the following cases?				
	To a large extent	Somewhat	Rarely	Not at all
In case of cow-slaughter	15	20	16	46
In case of kidnapping	17	22	18	38
In case of rape	22	21	17	36
In case of road accidents due to driver's negligence	20	21	16	40

- Fifty-four percent police personnel are of the opinion that an increase in the number of FIRs registered indicates an increase in crime in the area.
- Three-fifth of the civil police personnel believe that no matter how serious a crime, there should be a preliminary investigation before registering a FIR, as opposed to direct registration of FIR.
- SCs, STs, OBCs and women are less likely to be recruited/posted at the officer-ranks than police personnel in general.
- One out of five police personnel feel that killing dangerous criminals is better than a legal trial.
- Three out of four personnel feel that it is justified for the police to be violent towards criminals.
- Four out of five personnel believe that there is nothing wrong in the police beating up criminals to extract confessions.
- Thirty seven percent personnel feel that for minor offences, a small punishment should be handed out by the police rather than a legal trial.



For the greater good of the society, it is alright for the police to be violent towards criminals?