

## Status of Policing in India Report 2019

### Why in news?

The report on the Status of Policing in India, jointly developed by NGO Common Cause and the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, was released recently.

### What is the report on?

- This is the second such joint report.
- The report surveys on police adequacy and working conditions.
- The latest report surveys 12,000 police persons across 22 states together with their family members (around 11,000).
- **Significance** - The report offers a potent explanation for the low credibility of the police in public perception.
- In October 2018, the Delhi High Court in its judgment on the [Hashimpura massacre case](#) relied on the 2018 edition of the Status of Policing in India Report.
- With the report's findings, it established the institutional bias of the police force against Muslims to convict 16 policemen for killing 42 people in 1987.

### What are the key findings of 2019 report?

- **Infrastructure** - Across the states -
  1. 70 police stations did not have wireless devices
  2. 214 police stations lacked telephone access
  3. 24 police stations had neither of the above
- Police stations, on average, have just 6 computers and states like Bihar and Assam less than one.
- Nearly 240 stations did not even have vehicles.
- 1 in 5 women in the police said she lacked a separate toilet.
- The police work, on average, 14 hours a day.
- **Social attitude** - Police forces exhibit frightening prejudices against women, lower castes, and minorities.
- One in four male personnel demonstrates high bias against their female colleagues.

- About one in four police persons in several states does not receive any kind of gender sensitisation training.
- Most of them see complaints of gender-based violence as false and motivated, which explains why most sexual assaults go unreported.
- Nearly one-fourth of the women personnel surveyed reported of the absence of the Internal Committee mandated for dealing with sexual harassment at the workplace.
- One in two police personnel surveyed feel that Muslims are likely to be “naturally prone” to committing crimes.
- 35% of police personnel interviewed think that it was natural for a mob to punish the “culprit” in cases of cow slaughter.
- 43% think it is natural for a mob to punish someone accused of rape.
- 37% of personnel interviewed feel that for minor offences, a small punishment should be handed out by the police rather than a legal trial.
- 72% of police personnel experience “political pressure” during the investigation of cases involving influential persons.
- The frequent transfers of senior police persons who do not conform to a political leader’s demands have entered the realm of popular culture.

### **What does this imply?**

- The findings are certainly worrying when rapid social transformation demands a robust and sensitised police force in the country.
- The training given to officers, a 6-month crash course on civil and Criminal Procedure Codes, the Indian Penal Code and the Evidence Act may not be sufficient.
- On the other hand, there are simply not enough people to do the fundamental job.
- E.g. in U.P. and Haryana, there are as many as 60% and 53% vacancies in positions reserved for SCs, STs, OBCs, and women
- There are vacancies at all ranks, but those in senior ranks are higher than those in the constabulary.

### **What is to be done?**

- There is a need to insulate police personnel from political influence.
- Transfer as a form of punishment for displeasing someone should be reconsidered.
- Unlike most functioning democracies, India’s police force does not have its genesis in the concept of public service.
- It is instead the creation of the British as an instrument of enforcement and oppression.

- So, above all, India's police force should be redesigned to work as a protector of citizens - of all citizens' security, rights, and property, without bias.

**Source: Indian Express, Business Standard**

