

Torture in call of duty finds support among cops, reveals study

ARCHIS MOHAN
New Delhi, 26 March

A study on the status of policing in India, released on Wednesday, has found that a significant proportion of police personnel justify the use of torture and violence in the course of their duties, and also believe that they should be allowed to use force without any fear of punishment. The study found Kerala Police to be the most sensitised to the rights of those arrested while that of Jharkhand and Gujarat the least. Police personnel from Gujarat (57 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (51 per cent), Maharashtra (50 per cent), Tamil Nadu (46 per cent), and Odisha (42 per cent) said mob violence against suspected perpetrators of crimes was "justified to a great extent". Those from Kerala (0 per cent), Nagaland and West Bengal (2 per cent each), Punjab (3 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (4 per cent), and Delhi (10 per cent) were least likely to defend mob violence, the study found.

The Status of Policing in India Report 2025: Police Torture and (Un)Accountability, conducted by Common Cause, an advocacy group, in collaboration with the Lokniti Programme of Delhi-based think tank Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), surveyed 8,276 police personnel of various ranks, at 82 locations across 17 states and Union Territories.

Some of the key findings of the study highlighted the significant "disregard for the Rule of Law" among the police forces across the country. It found that 20 per cent of the police personnel feel that it is "very important" for them to use tough methods to create fear among the public, and another 35 per cent think it is "somewhat important".

It found that one in four police personnel strongly justifies mob violence in cases of sexual harassment (27 per cent) and child lifting/kidnapping (25 per cent). "This suggests that about a fourth of India's police personnel support the idea of mobs acting as the judge, jury and executioner in matters they consider grave," the study noted.

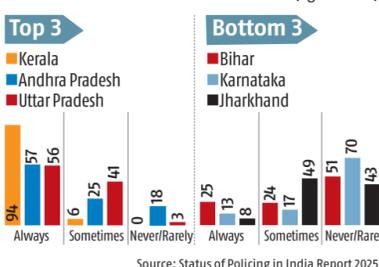
According to the survey, 22 per cent police personnel believe that killing "dangerous criminals" is better than giving them a legal trial. More experienced and upper subordinate officers are relatively less likely to agree with the statement, it said.

The "Status of policing in India", the authors said, explores the nature, causes and factors that contribute to the perpetuation of police violence and torture in India. It is a first-of-its-kind study in seeking to understand the police's attitudes towards tor-



DUTY CHECK

Likelihood of the arrest procedures being followed (figures in %)



ture and the normalisation of its use, the authors said. The study found that police personnel overwhelmingly believe that in order to properly fulfil their responsibilities, they should be allowed to use force without any fear of punishment. Of those interviewed, 26 per cent "strongly agreed" and 45 per cent "somewhat agreed" with this, while 11 per cent "strongly disagreed" and 13 per cent "somewhat disagreed".

Overall, 41 per cent police personnel said that arrest procedures are "always" adhered to, while 24 per cent said that they are "rarely or never" adhered to. Kerala reported the highest compliance (94 per cent said "always"), while Jharkhand reported the poorest compliance (8 per cent said "always").

According to the study, 30 per cent of police personnel said that "third-degree methods" on the accused are justified in serious criminal cases. Nine per cent said they are justified in petty offences.

More on business-standard.com

India unlikely to extradite Hasina

New Delhi doesn't want to send 'wrong message' to the world that it doesn't stand by friends

SATARUPA BHATTACHARJYA
New Delhi, 26 March

India is unlikely to accept Dhaka's request to extradite Sheikh Hasina, the former prime minister of Bangladesh, who was ousted in a student-led movement and fled her country in August last year. She has since been living in self-exile in New Delhi.

An Indian government official, with knowledge of the matter, told *Business Standard* that if India were to agree, a wrong message would go to the world, especially to other countries in the region — "friends and foes alike".

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said: "What signal would we be sending — that we don't stand by our friends?"

Other than India's historical relationship with Bangladesh and China's reach in South Asia, Pakistan's influence, more apparent since Hasina's fall, has become a concern for New Delhi.

"Any perceived act of weakness would be detrimental to India's position," the official said.

In December, the transitional government in Dhaka made a formal request to India for Hasina's extradition. India has not responded yet.



In December, the transitional government in Dhaka made a formal request to India for Hasina's extradition. India has not responded yet

The transitional government, which has alleged human rights violations by Hasina during her 15-year tenure, including her attempt to quell last year's protests with brutal force (hundreds were killed), has requested Interpol, the world police network, to issue a notice for her arrest.

Previously, Hasina lived in India for six years after her father Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman and most of her other family members were assassinated in a coup in 1975.

Riva Ganguly Das, India's former ambassador to Bangladesh, said: "The world will judge us by how we treat our friends."

Asked about the legal aspect of an existing treaty between India and Bangladesh, she pointed to the section under which extradition could be refused if the offence for which it is requested is of a political nature.

India is worried about the lack of political stability in Bangladesh, where the transitional government is being led by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel Peace Prize winner.

"It is in nobody's interest that the instability continues. The people of Bangladesh want an election," Das said.

However, it is unclear when Bangladesh's next election would be held.

The transitional government has sought a meeting between Yunus and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of a conference of South and Southeast Asian countries in Bangkok in April. The Indian government has not responded yet. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri visited Dhaka in December.

Yunus is expected to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing this week. It is unclear if Yunus will discuss the topic with Xi. But India is unlikely to change its position on Hasina.

China analyst and member of India's National Security Advisory Board Jayadeva Ranade said, "We are not going to ditch a friend. It will be effectively sentencing her to death. That will be unacceptable even to the international community."

The Indian government is also concerned about Pakistan's influence that goes beyond Islamist groups in Bangladesh.

"More than China, it is Pakistan that India would be worried about, from a security perspective, in the changed scenario," Das said.

India and Bangladesh share a border of some 4,000 km. India has significantly tightened its border control since August.

"The instability in Bangladesh poses a security risk for India," Ranade said.

India is Bangladesh's largest trading partner in South Asia, with bilateral trade at \$14.01 billion in 2023-24, according to Indian government data. But talks on economic and water-sharing (Teesta River) agreements are currently stalled.

Misleading ads: SC asks states to set up grievance redress mechanism

Observing that misleading advertisements could cause great harm to the society, the Supreme Court on Wednesday set a two-month deadline for the states and union territories to create a grievance redress mechanism to deal with complaints against such ads.

Issuing a slew of directions to curb misleading advertisements, a Bench of Abhay S Oka and Ujjal

Bhuyan said they could cause great harm to the society and that it was essential to stop them and save the ignorant masses.

The state governments, the court said, should create mechanisms for members of the public to lodge complaints against objectionable advertisements prohibited under the Drugs and Magic Remedies Act, 1954. The 1954 act is more than 70 years old and there is no implementa-

tion in its true letter, it said. "We direct the states governments to create proper grievance redressal mechanisms within a period of two months from today and give adequate publicity to the availability at frequent intervals." The mechanism could entail complaints being lodged on a toll-free number or through an email. The top court directed the states to sensitise the police machinery on implementation of the provisions of 1954 act.

PTI

UPI faces outage, NPCI reports technical issues

India's real-time payments system Unified Payments Interface (UPI) faced an outage on Wednesday leading to transaction failures across third party apps and banking applications.

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) stated that the system faced intermittent technical issues leading to failures.

"NPCI had faced intermittent technical issues owing to which UPI had partial decline. The same has been addressed now and the

system has stabilised. Regret the inconvenience," the apex payments body said in a statement on X.

Third party apps said that they raised the issue with NPCI after the initial outages on their app. "Nearly half of our verification for virtual payment addresses saw a failure. Seemed like a network problem since transactions either failed or were categorised pending on our app," a founder of a third party UPI application said.

AJINKYA KAWALE

India's digital cricket frenzy hits an exabyte

SURAJEET DAS GUPTA
New Delhi, 26 March

Indians, according to estimates by telecommunications companies (telcos), consumed a staggering 1 exabyte/EB (1 billion gigabyte) of data, streaming the much-awaited final between India and New Zealand in the Champions Trophy on their devices — making it one of the highest globally for a standalone event lasting just five to six hours.

In the global sports sweepstakes, the biggest data guzzler has been the FIFA World Cup 2022, when the total data consumed to stream the matches across the world was estimated at 15 EB — but over 64 matches. Industry estimates suggest the average per match was around 0.2-0.3 EB, with the final consuming even more.

The total data consumption across the world for the 2024 Olympics is estimated at an average of 0.9 EB per day. In contrast, during the Champions Trophy final, the bulk of the data usage was in India, apart from West Asia, among others.

In the non-sporting arena, industry estimates suggest that the biggest data-consuming event is China's Singles' Day, the world's largest online shopping festival, which peaks on November 11. According to



India vs New Zealand Champions Trophy final, played on March 9, was one of the highest streamed standalone events

estimates, it sees consumption of 1-2 EB on that day due to the online buying frenzy, along with processing orders, social media engagement, livestreaming, and more.

The cricket frenzy from just one match can be gauged from the fact that while India won to lift the trophy, Indians, on average, consumed a total of 21.5 EB of data per month in 2024, growing at 23 per cent over 2023. A single final game in March accounted for around 5 per cent of the month's total data consumption.

Among telcos, Reliance Jio accounted for 50 per cent of the data consumption, hitting 0.5 EB just for the match. The popularity of the viewing was reflected

in the fact that peak concurrent viewership on JioHotstar for the final reached 61 million. The total minutes of viewing was 110 billion minutes on JioHotstar, closing in on television (TV), which saw 137 billion minutes.

The growing shift of viewership from TV to digital online platforms is reflected in a study by Kantar, which found that over 24 per cent of internet users (around 286 million) are cord-cutters who consume content exclusively on digital platforms. Another 50 per cent (599 million) are concurrent users — watching content on both TV and digital platforms — and 26 per cent (305 million) consume content only on traditional linear TV.

India may soon train nations on drug regulatory practices

SANKET KOUL
New Delhi, 26 March

India may soon start training drug regulators from select foreign countries on drug regulatory practices and pharmacovigilance, officials in the know said on Wednesday.

The project could include drug regulators and inspectors from African, South East Asian, and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries on drug regulatory aspects and the sharing of expertise as part of the Ministry of External Affairs' (MEA's) International Training and Education Center for Health (ITECH) programme.

"A proposal for the same has been forwarded to the MEA, with the body expecting to get an approval for the programme soon," an official from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) said.

As part of the programme, countries would be informed on how the quality of drugs is monitored through market surveillance, where drug samples are drawn randomly from the market and manufacturing facilities and tested at government laboratories.

These training programmes will be held at the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), an autonomous organisation under the Union health ministry, which has proposed training programmes for the drug regulators.

[TECH DIGEST]

mybs.in/tech

APPLE ANNOUNCES DATES FOR WWDC

Apple has confirmed that its 2025 Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) will be held online from June 9 to 13. The event will begin with a keynote presentation, where the company will highlight the "latest Apple software and technologies." This year's conference will include video sessions and opportunities for developers to engage with Apple engineers and designers through online labs. These resources will be available on the Apple Developer app, website, and YouTube channel.

Vivo previews Vision MR headset

Vivo has introduced a prototype of its upcoming mixed-reality (MR) headset, named "Vision." The device appears to incorporate a pair of sensors positioned at the bottom of the frame, likely designed to track hand gestures and user movement—similar to Apple Vision Pro. The company stated that the MR headset integrates with its "Blue Technology Matrix," which comprises proprietary artificial intelligence (AI) models, imaging processes, and additional features.



Jay SPEAKS

To book your copy, call 022 24978470 or SMS reachbs to 56677 or email us at order@bsmail.in

The Fact of the Matter.

Business Standard

