

**LOKNITI-CSDS & COMMON CAUSE POLICE STUDY – 2023**  
**SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE FOR POLICE PERSONNEL**

Z1. State: \_\_\_\_\_

Z2. District HQ/City Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Z3. Site of the Interview:

1. Police lines
2. Police station
3. Court
97. Any other (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

Z4. Rural/Urban:

1. Rural
2. Urban

Z5. Location Category:

1. Capital city
2. City
3. District Head Quarter
4. Small Town

Z6. Date of Interview: \_\_\_\_\_

Z7. Name of Investigator: \_\_\_\_\_

**INVESTIGATOR'S INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENT OF INFORMED CONSENT**

My Name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am from Lokniti-CSDS: Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (Please mention your university's name here), a research institute based in Delhi. We are doing a survey, in which we are interviewing thousands of police personnel across the country, to gather their perspective towards the criminal justice system. The survey aims to understand the police work related to arrest, investigation and use of force such as third-degree methods by the police. Based on this study, a report on the 'Status of Policing in India' will be produced. This survey is an independent study and it is not linked to any political party or government agency. Your responses and personal information will be kept strictly confidential, and will not be shared with your bosses or any government agency or any news outlet. The findings of the survey will be used for research work. We hope that you will take part in this survey, since your participation is extremely valuable. It usually takes 30–40 minutes to complete this interview. Please spare some time for the interview and help me in completing this survey.

Z8. May I begin the interview now?

1. Respondent agrees to be interviewed.
2. Respondent does not agree to be interviewed.

## INTERVIEW BEGINS

Q1. Presently, what is your rank within the police service? **(Do not read out the options)**

1. Constable
2. Head Constable
3. Assistant Sub-Inspector
4. Sub-Inspector
5. Inspector
6. Assistant/Deputy Superintendent of Police
7. Additional Superintendent of Police
8. Superintendent of Police
9. Senior Superintendent of Police
10. Deputy Inspector General
11. Inspector General of Police
12. Additional Director General of Police
13. Director General of Police
14. Commissioner of Police
15. Deputy Commissioner of Police
16. Assistant Commissioner of Police
17. Special Commissioner of Police
18. Joint Commissioner of Police

Q2. How long have you been in service? **(No. of years; if less than one year, code 00)** \_\_\_\_\_

Q3. Where are you currently posted?

1. Police station
2. Police outpost/chowki
3. Special police station/unit **(Specify which)** \_\_\_\_\_
4. District office
5. Police Head Quarter (PHQ)
97. Any other **(Specify)** \_\_\_\_\_
98. No response

Q4. How long have you been at your current posting? **(No. of years; if less than one year, code 00)** \_\_\_\_\_

Q5. In this posting, what is your **main duty**? **(Do not read out the options)**

1. General duty
2. Patrolling in different areas
3. Investigation of cases
4. Maintaining law and order
5. Maintaining registers / data or record feeding
6. Ensuring safety and security of public
7. Filing FIR, NCR and other complaints
8. Traffic management
9. Dealing with public
10. Any other routine work (within office) not mentioned above
11. Security of VIPs / judges / senior police officers
12. Court duty / taking accused to court

- 13. Catching criminals
- 14. Driving police vehicles
- 15. Training related work
- 16. Work of a duty officer in a police station
- 17. Supervision over lock-ups inside police station
- 18. In charge of check posts
- 19. Managing a police station
- 20. Attending to emergency situations
- 97. Any other (*Specify*) \_\_\_\_\_
- 98. No response

Q6. How frequently do you do the following things – often, sometimes, rarely, or never?

	1.Often	2.Sometimes	3.Rarely	4.Never	98.No response
a. Conduct arrest					
b. Conduct interrogation of suspects					
c. Conduct/Assist in investigation					

### Crime and arrests in your area

Q7. I am reading to you some measures to reduce crime. Please tell me how useful the following measures are for reducing crime in your area – very useful, somewhat useful, not much useful, or not at all useful?

	1.Very useful	2.Somewhat useful	3.Not much useful	4.Not at all useful	98.No response
a. More preventive arrests of anti-social elements					
b. Increasing the presence of beat police and/or PCR van patrolling or the number of police stations and chowkis					
c. Forming special squads that can detain people indefinitely					
d. Recruiting more women into the police					

Q8a. In your experience, what is the crime for which the **most arrests** are made in your area or jurisdiction, such as murder, assault, kidnapping, theft, robbery, crimes against women, etc. (*Do not read out the options*)

1. Crimes against women
2. Crimes against children
3. Crimes against SCs and STs
4. Bodily crimes (murder, assault, kidnapping)
5. Loitering, public nuisance
6. Offences by public servants
7. Rioting
8. Simple theft and extortion
9. Robbery
97. Any other (*Specify*) \_\_\_\_\_
98. No response

Q8b. And what is the crime for which the **second most arrests** are made?*(Do not read out the options)*

1. Crimes against women
2. Crimes against children
3. Crimes against SCs and STs
4. Bodily crimes (murder, assault, kidnapping)
5. Loitering, public nuisance
6. Offences by public servants
7. Rioting
8. Simple theft and extortion
9. Robbery
97. Any other (*Specify*) \_\_\_\_\_
98. No response

### Views on violence, and/or marginalised groups

Q9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “For the greater good of the society, it is alright for the police to be violent towards suspects of serious offences.” (If agree, check ‘fully agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’; if disagree, check ‘fully disagree’ or ‘somewhat disagree’)

1. Fully Agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Somewhat disagree
4. Fully Disagree
98. No response

Q10: Sometimes there are instances when mobs punish crime suspects with violence. In your opinion, to what extent is it justified for a mob to punish suspects in the following cases - justified to a great extent, justified to some extent, not much justified, or not at all justified?

	1. To a great extent	2. To some extent	3. Not much justified	4. Not at all justified	98. No response
a. In cases of petty thefts like pick-pocketing or chain-snatching					
b. In the case of child lifting / Kidnapping					

c. When there is a case of cow-slaughter					
d. When there is a case of sexual harassment and assault					

Q10aa. In such a situation, if the suspect gets injured, should any action be taken against the people who beat him or not?

1. Yes
2. No
98. No response

Q11. In your opinion, to what extent are these people naturally prone to commit crime – to a great extent, to some extent, not much, or not at all?

	1.Great extent	2.Some extent	3.Not much	4.Not at all	5.No response
a. Hijra/transgender					
b. Muslims					
c. Adivasis					
d. Dalits					
e. Christian					
f. Rich and powerful people					
g. Nat/Saperas/banjara types					
h. Slum dwellers					
i. Migrants					
j. Sex workers					
k. Poor people					

Q12. Now I am going to read out two statements, please tell me which statement you agree with the most? (**Read out both the statements**)

**Statement 1:** While investigating and interrogating suspected criminals, it is always important for the police officer to follow the legal procedures.

**Statement 2:** While investigating and interrogating suspected criminals, it is more important for the police officer to solve the case by any means rather than strictly following the legal procedures.

1. Agree with Statement 1

2. Agree with Statement 2

98. No response

Q13. If you see a couple kissing or expressing physical affection in public places like parks or in public transport (metro, autos), what kind of action should be taken?

(Do not read out the options)

1. Shouting at them loudly in public to teach them a lesson

2. Beating with baton/lathi or slapping them to get them to stop

3. Giving them a verbal warning

4. Detaining them at the police station for a while to teach them a lesson

5. Arresting them

6. No action / I will ignore

97. Any other (**Specify**) \_\_\_\_\_

98. No response

Q14. Do you think that Hijra/Transgender/Homosexual people have a bad influence on the society, and the police needs to deal with them strictly - yes always, yes sometimes or never?

1. Yes, always

2. Yes, sometimes

3. Never

98.No response

### Perceptions of the criminal justice system

Q15. Now I want to know your views on the functioning of the criminal justice system as a whole. I will read out two statements that people often make about their experiences with the criminal justice system. Please tell me which statement you agree with the most? (Read out both the statements)

**Statement 1.** The criminal justice system is too weak and slow to address crimes.

**Statement 2.** The criminal justice system has problems, but it still works to address crimes.

1. Agree with 1st Statement

2. Agree with 2nd Statement

98. No response

Q16. In your opinion, to what extent do people from these communities get justice – great extent, some extent, not much extent, or not at all?

	1.Great extent	2.Some extent	3.Not much	4.Not at all	5.No response
a. Hijra/transgender					
b. Muslims					
c. Adivasis					
d. Dalits					
e. Christian					
f. Rich and powerful people					

g. Nat/Saperas/banjara types (state teams to look for area or state specific words for NTs/DNTs)					
h. Slum dwellers					
i. Migrants					
j. Sex workers					
k. Poor people					

Q17: I will read out two statements, please tell me which statement you agree with the most?  
(Read out both the statements)

**Statement 1.** For small/minor offences, police should follow a complete legal trial.

**Statement 2.** In case of small/minor crimes, it is better for the police to give minor punishment to the criminal instead of following a legal trial.

1. Agree with 1stStatement
2. Agree with 2ndStatement
98. No response

Q18: Now I will read out two statements, please tell me which one you agree with the most?  
(Read out both the statements)

**Statement 1:** For the greater good of the society, killing dangerous criminals during encounters is sometimes more effective than giving them a legal trial. **Statement 2:** No matter how dangerous a criminal is, the police should try to catch them and follow proper legal procedures.

1. Agree with 1st Statement
2. Agree with 2nd Statement
98. No response

Q19. Often there is pressure from the public that police deal with suspected criminals with a heavy hand without following procedure. To what extent does such public pressure influence the functioning of the police – great extent, some extent, not much, or not at all?

1. Great extent
2. Some extent
3. Not much
4. Not at all
98. No response

### Views on law and procedure (arrest, interrogation, questioning)

Q20: In your experience, how often are these procedures followed when a person is being arrested – always, sometimes, rarely, or never?

	1.Always	2.Some times	3.Rarely	4.Never	5.Not aware of this ( <i>silent category</i> )	98.No response
a: Inform them of the reasons for the arrest						
b: Complete an arrest memo with all the required signatures						
c: Identify yourself as a police officer with your name tag visible						
d: Inform their family members about the arrest						
e: Inform them that they can contact a lawyer						
f: Complete an inspection memo						
g: Take the arrestee to a doctor for a medical examination						
h: Have a female police personnel present at the time of a woman's arrest						
i: Release the person on bail immediately at the police station in bailable offences						

Q20aa. Often, police personnel say that it is difficult to comply with all the arrest procedures. In your experience, can all arrest procedures be followed at every arrest – always, sometimes, rarely, or never?

1. Always
2. Sometimes
3. Rarely
4. Never
98. No response

Q21. In its judgment in *Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar*, the Supreme Court says the power to arrest must be “exercised with caution” and “police officers must be able to justify the reasons” when making arrests. Do you agree or disagree?

(If agree, check ‘strongly agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’; if disagree, check ‘strongly disagree’ or ‘somewhat disagree’)

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Somewhat disagree
4. Strongly disagree
5. Not heard of it / not aware about it (***silent category***)
98. No response

Q22: Now I will read out two statements, please tell me which one you agree with the most?

(Read out both the statements)

**Statement 1.** Preventive arrests should be done regularly to prevent offences from taking place. **Statement 2.** Preventive arrests should be done only in special situations when there is a threat to law and order.

1. Agree with 1st Statement
2. Agree with 2nd Statement
98. No response

Q23. If an arrested person asks for a lawyer, how soon after the arrest does the police generally allow the person to see a lawyer? (***Do not read out the options***)

1. Immediately
2. When the investigating officer decides
3. Once the person is taken to a judicial magistrate
4. Lawyers are not permitted before the person is taken before a magistrate
5. Lawyers are not available
97. Any other (***Specify***) \_\_\_\_\_
98. No response

Q24. If a lawyer talks to an arrested person in police custody, should this conversation be allowed to take place in private or not? (***If the respondent says ‘yes’, then probe how frequently – always or sometimes***)

(Do not read out the options)

1. Yes, always
2. Yes, sometimes
3. Depends (***silent category***)
4. Never
5. A lawyer cannot be allowed in police custody
98. No response

Q25: We often hear that the police use various tactics to solve criminal cases, such as verbal abuse, threats, physical force such as slapping, etc. or third-degree methods. In your opinion, are these practices justified towards the following:

	I. Verbal abuse or threats 1. Yes 2. No 98.No response	II. Actions like slapping, etc. 1. Yes 2. No 98. No response	III. Third-degree methods 1. Yes 2. No 98. No response
a: Towards the accused while investigating petty offences like theft, etc.			
b: Towards the accused while investigating serious criminal cases like rape, murder, etc.			
c: Towards a witness who is not cooperating			

Q26: To what extent do you agree that torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information in the following kinds of cases - strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

	1.Strongly agree	2.Somewhat agree	3.Somewhat disagree	4.Strongly disagree	98.No response
a: Major theft cases					
b: Rape or sexual assault cases					
c: Serious violent crimes like murder					
d: Crimes against national security like terrorism cases					
e: Against history-sheeters					

Q27. Suppose a minor girl has been kidnapped, and the suspect is not cooperating. In such a situation, how justified is it to use third-degree to locate the girl?

1. Yes, absolutely justified
2. Yes, sometimes justified
3. Not at all justified
98. No response

Q28. If an accused in a serious crime is absconding, how justified would it be to use physical force like hitting/slapping against his/her family members if they do not answer police questions properly?

1. Yes, absolutely justified
2. Yes, sometimes justified
3. Not at all justified

98. No response

Q29: Of the following items, how important are these in cracking a case - very important, somewhat important, not much important, or not at all important?

	1. Very important	2. Somewhat important	3. Not much important	4. Not at all important	98. No response
a: Confessional statement of the accused					
b: Forensic evidence like fingerprints, DNA profiling					
c: Recovery items like clothes, dead body, weapons, etc. under Section 27, Evidence Act					
d: CCTV footage and/or call details records Against history-sheeters					
e: Obtaining information from mukhbirs / informants / khabris					
f: Tests like lie-detector and narco analysis					

Q30. Ajay was arrested on May 3rd. His father comes to the police station asking for a copy of the General Diary entry for that day when the arrest was made. Should the Sub-Inspector present give a copy of the diary entry to him?

1. Yes

2. No

98. No response

Q31: Of the three statements, which statement do you agree with the most? (Read out all three statements)

**Statement 1:** 15 days is sufficient time for police custody of accused persons.

**Statement 2:** Time in police custody should be extended beyond 15 days for all accused persons.

**Statement 3:** Only in serious offences, time in police custody should be extended beyond 15 days.

1. Agree with 1st Statement

2. Agree with 2nd Statement

3. Agree with 3rd Statement

4. 15 days is too long, should be reduced (*silent option*)

98. No response

Q32. How feasible/practical is it for the police personnel to take every arrested person for a medical examination – always, sometimes, rarely, or never?

1. Always
  2. Sometimes
  3. Rarely
  4. Never
98. No response

Q33. How feasible/practical is it for the police personnel to produce a person before a judge/magistrate within 24 hours of their arrest– always, sometimes, rarely, or never?

1. Always
  2. Sometimes
  3. Rarely
  4. Never
98. No response

Q34. There are different reasons for delays in taking an arrested person before a magistrate within 24 hours. I am going to read out a list. In your opinion, which is the most important reason? **(Read out options 1, 2 and 3 only)**

1. Inadequate infrastructure (vehicles, fuels, escorts)
2. More time needed for interrogation of the accused
3. The first 24 hours' time is inadequate for proper investigation

97. Any other **(Specify)** \_\_\_\_\_

98. No response

Q35. "Confessions made by accused persons in custody before Investigating Officers of all ranks should be made admissible as evidence". Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

(If agree, check 'strongly agree' or 'somewhat agree'; if disagree, check 'strongly disagree' or 'somewhat disagree')

1. Strongly agree
  2. Somewhat agree
  3. Somewhat disagree
  4. Strongly disagree
98. No response

Q36. Should lawyers be allowed to be present during interrogation – always, sometimes, rarely, or never?

1. Always
  2. Sometimes
  3. Rarely
  4. Never
98. No response

Q37: In your opinion, how frequently do Investigating Officers have to use the following techniques to deal with an uncooperative accused – many times,

sometimes, once or twice, or never?

	1.Many times	2.Sometimes	3.Once or twice	4.Never	98.No response
a: Threatening the person					
b: Slapping/using light force against the person (pushing, etc.)					
c: Making the person sit in murga					
d: Keeping a person hungry and thirsty for some time					
e: Using third- degree to obtain information in serious offences (beating on soles, applying red chilli powder to the body parts, suspension of the body)					

### Accountability

Q38. "To properly fulfil their responsibilities, police should be allowed to use force without any fear of punishment." Do you agree or disagree?

(If agree, please ask whether 'strongly agree' or 'somewhat agree'; if disagree, please ask whether 'strongly disagree' or 'somewhat disagree')

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Somewhat disagree
4. Strongly disagree
98. No response

Q39. After encounter killings, we often see the police officers involved being garlanded and appreciated. Which of the three statements do you agree with the most in this regard?

(Read out all three statements)

**Statement 1:** This is a good boost to the morale of police force.

**Statement 2:** Celebration can come after proper evidence that encounter was unavoidable.

**Statement 3:** Killings might happen in the course of policing, there is nothing to celebrate about them.

1. Agree with 1stStatement
2. Agree with 2nd Statement
3. Agree with 3rd Statement
98. No response

Q40. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement – “A judicial inquiry into every death in police custody is a necessary measure”.

(If agree, please ask whether ‘strongly agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’; if disagree, please ask whether ‘strongly disagree’ or ‘somewhat disagree’)

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Somewhat disagree
4. Strongly disagree
98. No response

Q41. What kind of system of inquiry should be in place to investigate complaints of serious police misconduct? **(Read out options 1 and 2 only)**

1. Inquiry within the police department
2. An external inquiry but with some representation from the police
3. An independent body with no police personnel **(silent category)**
98. No response

Q42. “The police should be allowed to arrest and detain suspected criminals without any court investigation”. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

(If agree, please ask whether ‘strongly agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’; if disagree, please ask whether ‘strongly disagree’ or ‘somewhat disagree’)

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Somewhat disagree
4. Strongly disagree
98. No response

Q43: To what extent do you agree with the following statements – completely agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or completely disagree?

	1. Completely agree	2. Somewhat agree	3. Somewhat disagree	4. Completely disagree	98. No response
a: A majority of the complaints against police are false and frivolous					
b: A majority of the complaints filed against police are politically motivated					
c: The general public can easily file complaints against police					

Q44. Considering the sensitivity of police work, should police be exempted or not from providing information under the Right to Information Act?

1. Yes
2. No
98. No response

Q45. Many countries have separate laws against torture. Do you agree or disagree that India also needs such a separate law?

(If agree, please ask whether 'strongly agree' or 'somewhat agree'; if disagree, please ask whether 'strongly disagree' or 'somewhat disagree')

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Somewhat disagree
4. Strongly disagree
98. No response

Q46. In your opinion, how important is it for the police to use tough methods to create fear among the public – very important, somewhat important, not much important, or not at all important? (**Do not read out the options**)

1. Very important
2. Somewhat important
3. Not much important
4. Not at all important, police should be a friendly force, no need to instill fear
98. No response

Q47. Most often, custodial torture is witnessed by other police officers. In your opinion, should it be mandatory for police witnesses to report this type of violence?

1. Yes, always
2. Yes, sometimes
3. Never
98. No response

Q47a. If junior police personnel have legal protection (guaranteed safeguard) when they complain against seniors, would you feel comfortable filing a complaint against seniors for use of violence?

1. Yes, always
2. Yes, sometimes
3. Never
98. No response

Q48: In your opinion, how important is it for the police to get training on the following - very important, somewhat important, not much important, or not at all important?

	1. Very important	2. Somewhat important	3. Not much important	4. Not at all important	98. No response
a: Human rights					
b: Prevention of torture					
c: Evidence-based interrogation techniques					

Q49. In your opinion, how important is it to train the police on crime investigation methods that give alternatives to using force against accused persons – very important, somewhat important, not much important, or not at all important?

1. Very important
2. Somewhat important
3. Not much important
4. Not at all important
98. No response

Q50. Police knows that it is not good to use torture or third-degree, but sometimes it becomes necessary to use violence and torture/third-degree. What do you think about this? ***(Write the answer as told, coding will be done later in CSDS)***

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

B1. What is your age? \_\_\_\_ ***(In completed years)***98. No response ***(If more than 95 years, code 95 in that case)***

B2. Gender:

1. Male
2. Female
3. Other

B3. Till what level have you studied?

1. 10<sup>th</sup> pass / Matric pass
2. 12<sup>th</sup> pass / Intermediate
3. Diploma / Certificate
4. Graduate and above
98. No response

B4. What is your caste group?

1. SC
2. ST
3. OBC
4. General / Other
98. No response

B5. What is your religion?

1. Hindu
2. Muslim
3. Christian
4. Sikh
5. Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist
6. Jain
7. Parsi
8. No religion
9. Other ***(Specify which)*** \_\_\_\_\_

B6. Exact location – GPS to be added: