

STATUS OF POLICING IN INDIA REPORT

Volume I
2020-2021

Policing in Conflict-Affected Regions

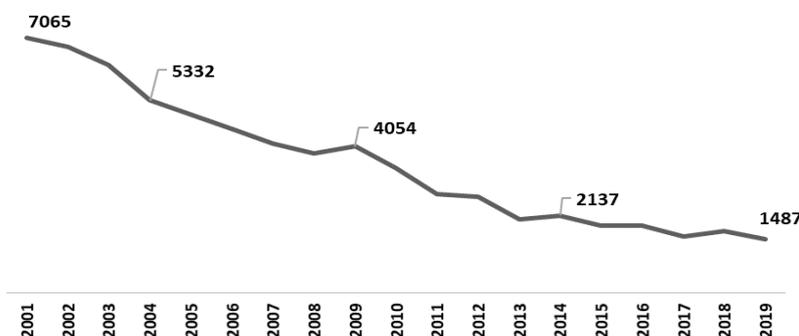
(Key takeaways)

SPIR 2020-21 (vol. I) Key takeaways

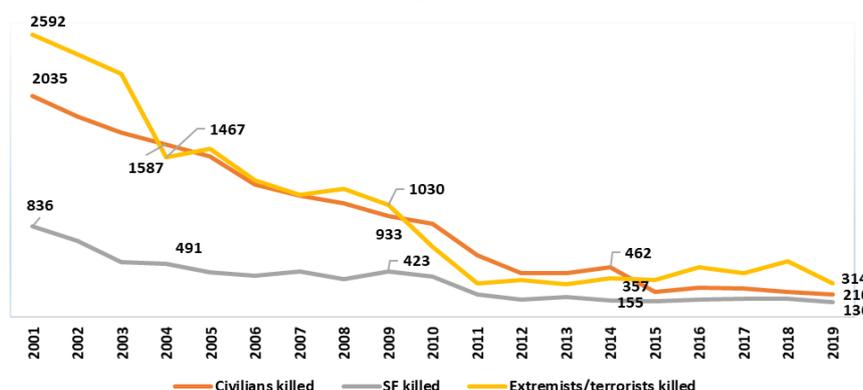
Chapter 1: India’s Conflict in Numbers: An Analysis of Official Data on Conflict States

- The rates of cognisable crimes in the conflict-affected districts and states surveyed are lower than the national average, when seen as an average of five years. While the average rate of IPC crimes in the selected districts is 178 crimes per lakh of population, the corresponding all-India figure is 237 crimes per lakh. The state of Assam, however, has a significantly higher crime rate than any other selected state or the national average, with 328 IPC crimes per lakh of population.
- The conflict-affected districts have an over four times lower rate of 33 SLL crimes per lakh of population against the all-India average of 146 SLL (Special and Local Laws) per lakh.
- The rates of violent crimes (murder, grievous hurt, kidnapping and abduction) are much higher in the conflict-affected districts compared to the national average. While the national rate of kidnapping and abduction is 7 per lakh population, the corresponding rate for the selected districts is 10 per lakh. In the insurgency- affected states, the rate is thrice the national average, at 21 incidents of kidnapping and abduction per lakh population.
- Between 2001 and 2019, over 68,500 incidents of violence were reported from Jammu and Kashmir region, North-eastern states and LWE-affected regions of the country in which 23,283 civilians and security force personnel lost their lives. About 75 percent incidents were reported in the first decade i.e., between 2001 and 2010 and nearly 45 per cent of them were reported in the first five years of 2000s.

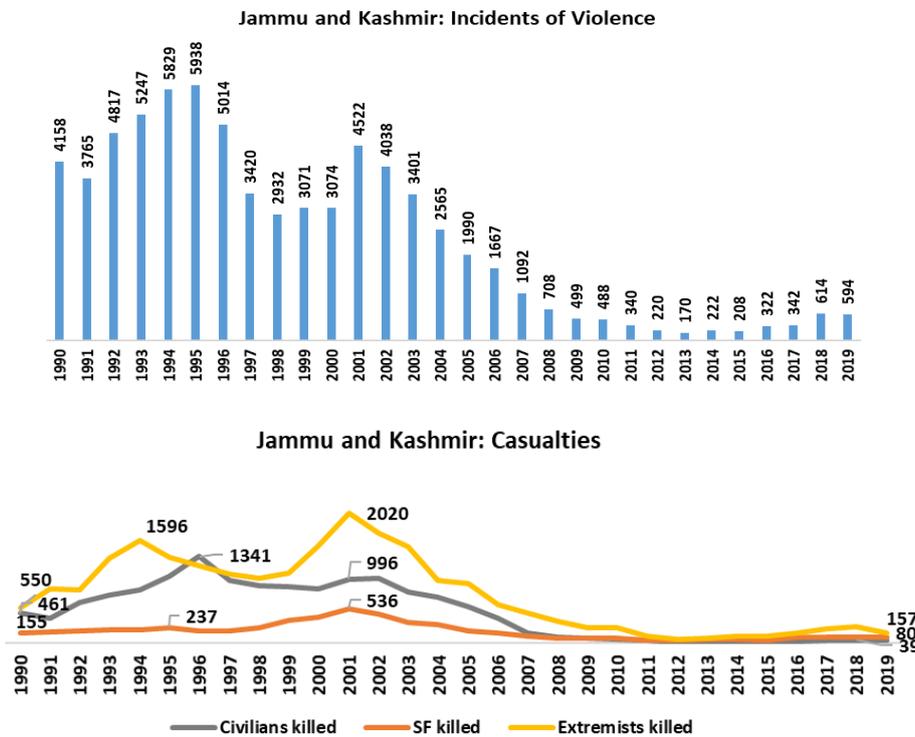
Overall: incidents of violence (2001 to 2019)



Overall: Casualties during the violence (2001 - 2019)



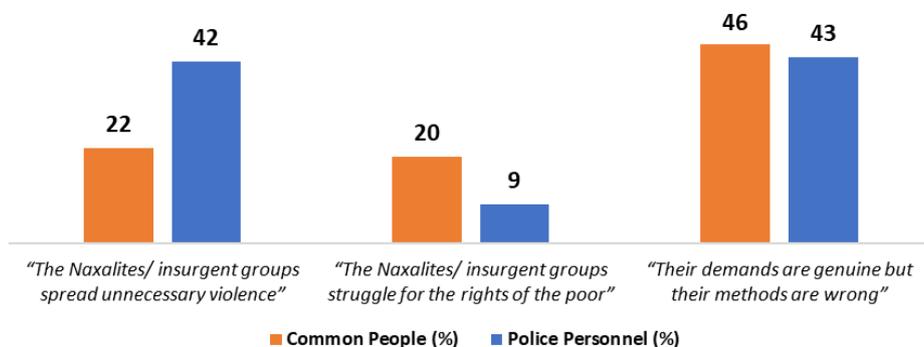
- The level of violence and tension in J&K region has significantly come down as compared to 1990s and early 2000s. There was a perceptible decline in the number of incidents and also in the number of civilians, security forces personnel and terrorists killed.



- Post 2012, insurgency in the NE states has declined rapidly and the violent incidents have dropped from 1025 to 223 in 2019. In 2019, as many as 21 civilians and four security personnel lost lives in the Northeast region compared to 97 and 14 respectively in 2012.

Chapter 2: Attitudes towards conflict and conflict groups

- In Conflict-affected regions, 46 percent common people and 43 percent police personnel believe that the demands of Naxalites/insurgents are genuine but their methods are wrong. The scheduled tribes are more likely to believe so, with one out of two ST persons agreeing with the statement.



Note: Rest of the respondents did not answer. All figures are rounded off.

Question asked: (1): The Naxalites/insurgent groups spread unnecessary violence; (2): The Naxalites/insurgent groups struggle for the rights of the poor; (3): Their demands are genuine but their methods are wrong. Which statement do you agree?

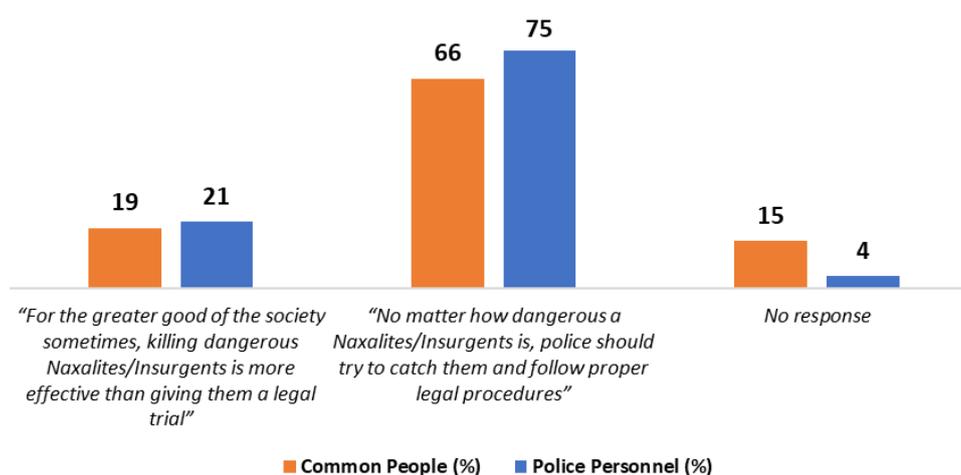
- According to common people, inequality, injustice, exploitation, discrimination are the biggest reasons behind Naxalite/insurgent activities, followed by poverty and unemployment.

Major reason for Naxalism activities in your area	Common People (%)	Police Personnel (%)
Inequality/injustice/exploitation/discrimination	14	11
Poverty/hunger	13	15
Unemployment	11	17
Education	5	10
Corruption	4	4
To protect their land/identity	3	3
Demand for autonomy/freedom	3	2
Unsettled political issues	2	4
Atrocities against people by the Government	2	2
Any other	6	14
No Response	37	18

Note: All figures are rounded off.

Question asked: In your Opinion what is the major reason for Naxalism/ insurgency related activities in your area?

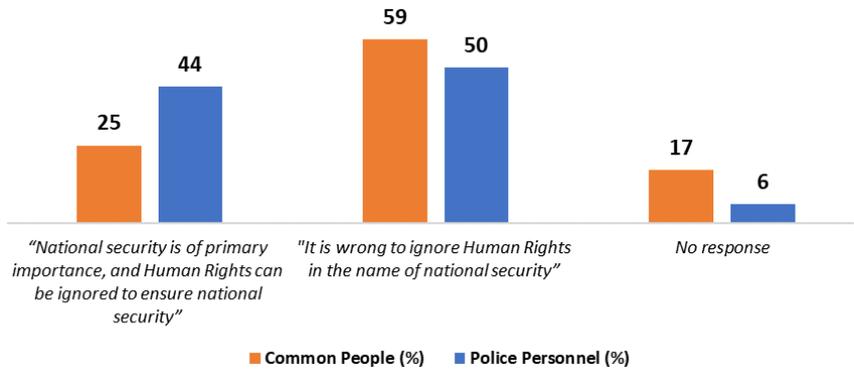
- Thirty-seven percent common people fear physical assault by the Naxalites/insurgents; 35 percent people fear physical assault by the police; 32 percent people fear physical assault by the paramilitary/Army.
- One out of five common persons as well as police personnel feel that killing a dangerous Naxalite/insurgent is better than a legal trial.



Note: All figures are rounded off.

Question asked: (1): For the greater good of the society sometimes, killing dangerous Naxalites/ insurgents is more effective than giving them a legal trial; (2): No matter how dangerous a Naxalites/insurgents is, police should try to catch them and follow proper legal procedures. Do you agree with 1 or 2?

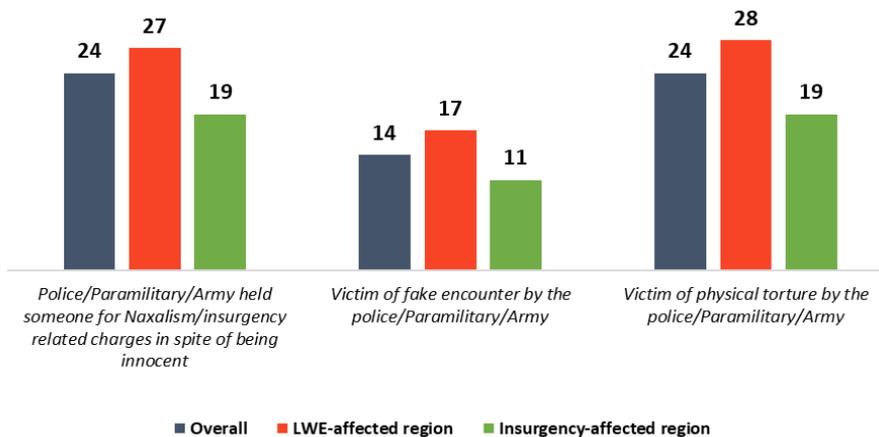
- Fifty-nine percent common people and 50 percent police personnel believe that it is wrong to ignore human rights in the name of national security. However, 34 percent common people and 42 percent police personnel also fully agree with the statement that the police should eliminate criminals while dealing with Naxalites/insurgents.



Note: All figures are rounded off.

Question asked: (1): National security is of primary importance, and Human Rights can be ignored to ensure national security; (2): It is wrong to ignore Human Rights in the name of national security. Do you agree with 1 or 2?

- Nearly one-fourth (24%) of the people knew someone who was a victim of physical torture either by the police or paramilitary/armed forces. The same proportion (24%) of people said that they knew about an innocent person being held by either the police or the paramilitary/Army for Naxalism/insurgency-related charges.



Note: All figures are rounded off.

Question asked: Do you know of anyone who was...?

- People living in the LWE-affected districts were more vulnerable to violence by the police and paramilitary forces, as compared to people living in the insurgency affected districts. One out of five people from the LWE-affected regions personally know of cases of physical torture by the police; one out of five people from LWE-affected regions also know of cases of minors being arrested/detained by the police or of police being violent towards minors.

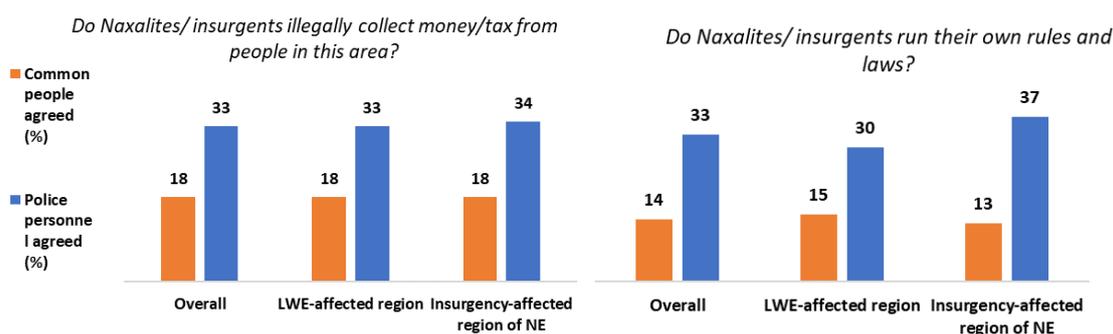
Violence towards minors	Common People (%)		
	Overall	LWE-affected region	Insurgency affected region
Arrested/detained by the police	16	18	13
Violence by the police	15	20	7
Detained by the Army/paramilitary	7	8	6
Faced violence by the Army/paramilitary	6	8	4
Abduction by the Naxalites/Insurgents	10	12	6
Faced violence by the Naxalites/Insurgents	10	13	5

Note: All figures are rounded off.

Question asked: Do you know of any child below 18 years who has....?

Chapter 3: Controlling the Conflict: Challenges in Policing

- A big majority of the police personnel surveyed (60%) believe that strict laws like UAPA, NSA etc. are important for controlling Naxalite/insurgent activities. Significantly, however, only 30 percent of the common people believe so.
- Forty-two percent of the common people from the insurgency-affected areas of Northeast believe that security laws such as UAPA are very harsh and should be repealed.
- One in three police personnel believes that Naxalites/insurgents run a parallel taxation or justice system. However, only 18 percent and 14 percent common people respectively believe that Naxalites/insurgents run a parallel taxation system and a parallel justice/law and order system.



Note: Rest of the respondents either said 'Perhaps it happens', No or did not answer. All figures are rounded off.

Question asked: In this area, do the Naxalites do the following? a. Illegally collect money/tax from people b. Run their own rules and laws

Chapter 4: Relationship between the police and people in conflict regions

- Thirty-six percent common people believe that police discriminates against the poor in their drive against Naxalites/insurgents

Police discrimination against...	Common People (%)		
	Yes	Not much	Not at all
Poor	36	17	42
Adivasi	24	17	48
Non-literate	31	18	45
Rural	29	21	45
Dalit	20	17	50
Muslims	16	17	55
Christians	12	18	58

Note: Rest of the respondents did not answer. All figures are rounded off.

Question asked: Often people say that while taking action against the Naxalites/Insurgents/militants, the police discriminate against some people. In your opinion, how much do the police discriminate against the following: poor, non-literate, ST, rural, SC, Muslim, Christian - a lot, somewhat, not much, not at all?

- More than one out of four (27%) common people believe that Adivasis are likely to be falsely implicated in Naxalism/insurgency-related charges.

How likely are the following groups to be falsely implicated in Naxalism/insurgency related cases?	Common People (%)			
	Very	Somewhat	Not much	Not at all
Dalit	9	13	19	46
Adivasi	8	19	18	44
Muslims	3	12	15	52
Indigenous People*	2	11	12	39

Note: Rest of the respondents did not answer. All figures are rounded off. *Asked only in Assam, Manipur, Nagaland.

Question asked: It is alleged often that some people are falsely implicated by the police on Naxalism/Insurgency related charges. In your opinion, how likely is it for the following groups to be falsely implicated in such cases by the police - very, somewhat, not much or not at all?

- Amongst the common people from the LWE-affected regions, 40 percent believe that during criminal investigation the police would favour a rich person against a poor person, 32 percent feel that they would favour an upper caste against a Dalit; 22 percent feel that they would favour a non-Adivasi against an Adivasi; and 20 percent feel they would favour a Hindu against a Muslim.
- About one out of three common people are afraid of being beaten up by the police or being arrested or detained by the police for no reason; Nineteen percent of the people from the insurgency-affected regions have a lot of fear of the police.

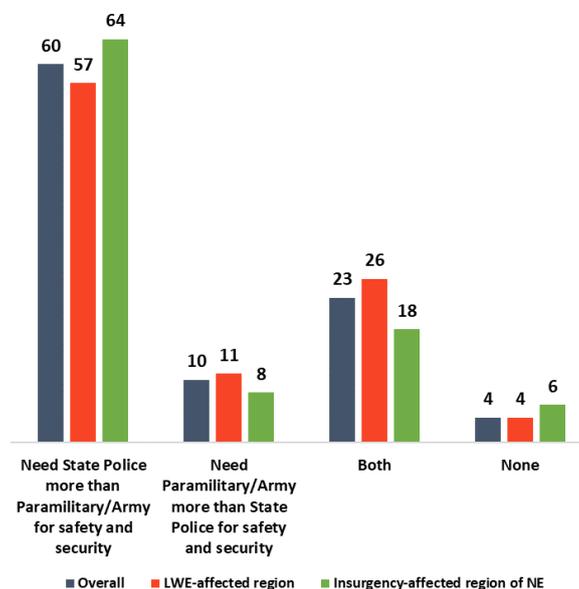
Fear of...	Common People (%)		
	Yes	Not much	Not at all
Being beaten up by the police	35	20	39
Being arrested/detained by the police for no reason	33	19	43
Police coming to your house	27	19	46
Being falsely implicated in Naxalism/insurgency cases by police	24	17	49
Police destroying your belongings or property	21	14	56
Being killed by the police	20	15	55
Sexual harassment by the police	19	16	54

Note: Rest of the respondents did not answer. All figures are rounded off.

Question asked: Often people have fear of police for what they might do on the pretext of searching for Naxalites/Insurgents. What about you how much do you fear of the following- a lot, somewhat, not much or not at all?

Chapter 5: Perceptions about police vis-à-vis paramilitary forces or the Army

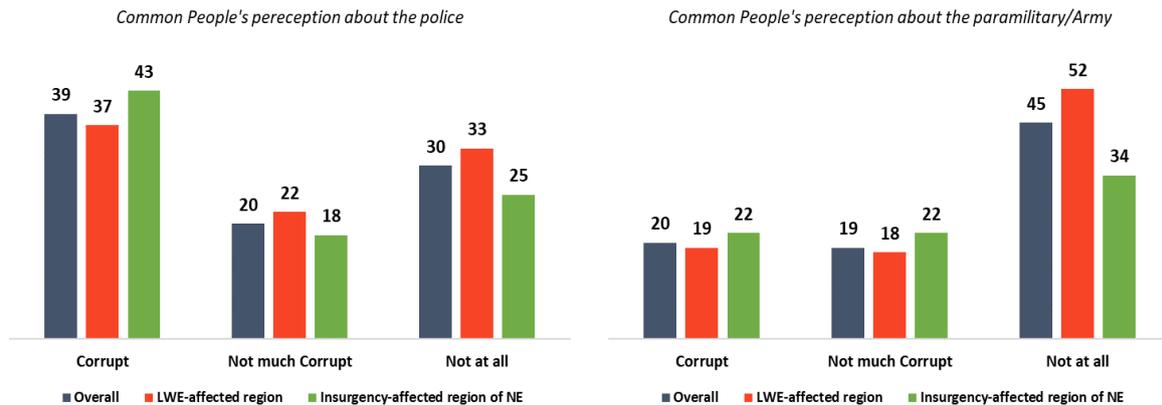
- A significant majority of the common people (60%) believe that for their safety and security, they need the state police more than the paramilitary/Army; Common people who feel unsafe living in the region are more likely to believe so.



Note: Rest of the respondents did not answer. All figures are rounded off.

Question asked: For the safety and security of the people living in this area, who do you need more - State Police OR Paramilitary/Army?

- Nearly two out of five people (39%) believe that the police is corrupt in conflict-affected regions, while 20 percent believe that the paramilitary/Army is corrupt in such regions.

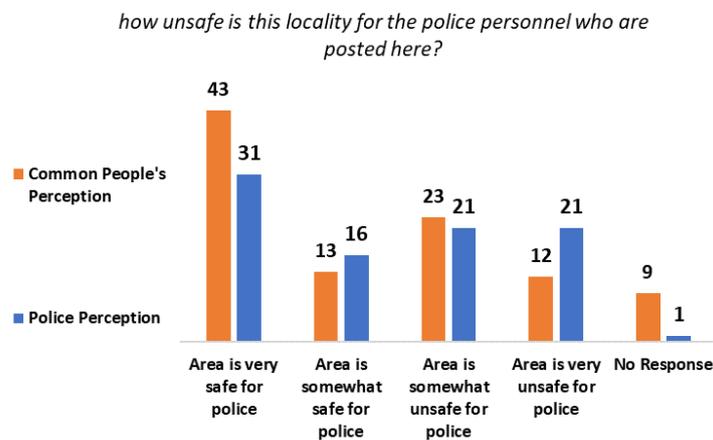


Note: Rest of the respondents did not answer. All figures are rounded off.

Question asked: In your experience, in such Naxalism/insurgent affected areas, how corrupt are the following - very, somewhat, not much or not at all? a. Police b. paramilitary/Army

Chapter 6: Posting to a conflict region: Opinions of police and common people

- Common people living in conflict regions are more likely to consider the area as being safe for police, as compared to the perception of safety of the police personnel themselves. At the same time, common people are also more likely to consider the region as being safe for their own living— 70 percent believe that the area is very safe for living.



Note: All figures are rounded off.

Question asked: (To civilians) In your opinion, how unsafe is this locality for the police personnel who are posted here – very, somewhat, not much or not at all? (To police personnel) Considering your own safety and your family's safety, how risky do you find this area – very, somewhat, not much or not at all?

- Adivasis, particularly those from the LWE-affected areas, are less likely to consider the place as safe for living.
- A majority of the people (53%) believe that lack of development is the biggest problem in the region.

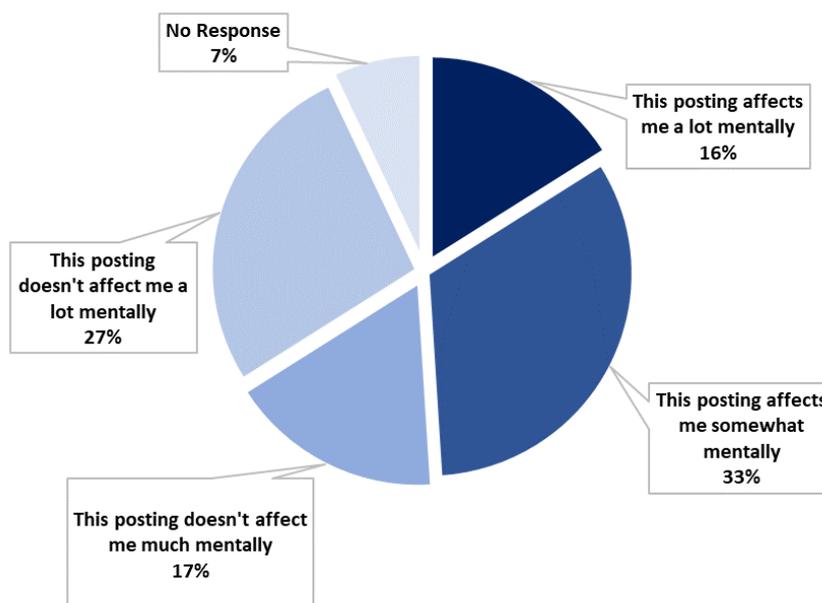
Biggest problem in their area of residence	Common People (%)		
	Overall	LWE-affected regions	Insurgency affected regions
Lack of development (school, roads, water, hospitals etc.)	53	54	53
Unemployment	13	13	14
Naxalism/Insurgency/Underground cadres	7	10	1
Poor law and order/crime/theft/lack of safety/poor policing	3	4	2
Inefficient/corrupt government and police	4	3	4
Other reasons<1% each	9	8	9

Note: Rest of respondents did not answer. All figures are rounded off.

Question asked: What is the biggest problem for the people living in this area?

- Nearly one out of two police personnel (49%) feel that their current posting affects their mental well-being adversely.

Extent of impact of the posting on mental well-being of police personnel

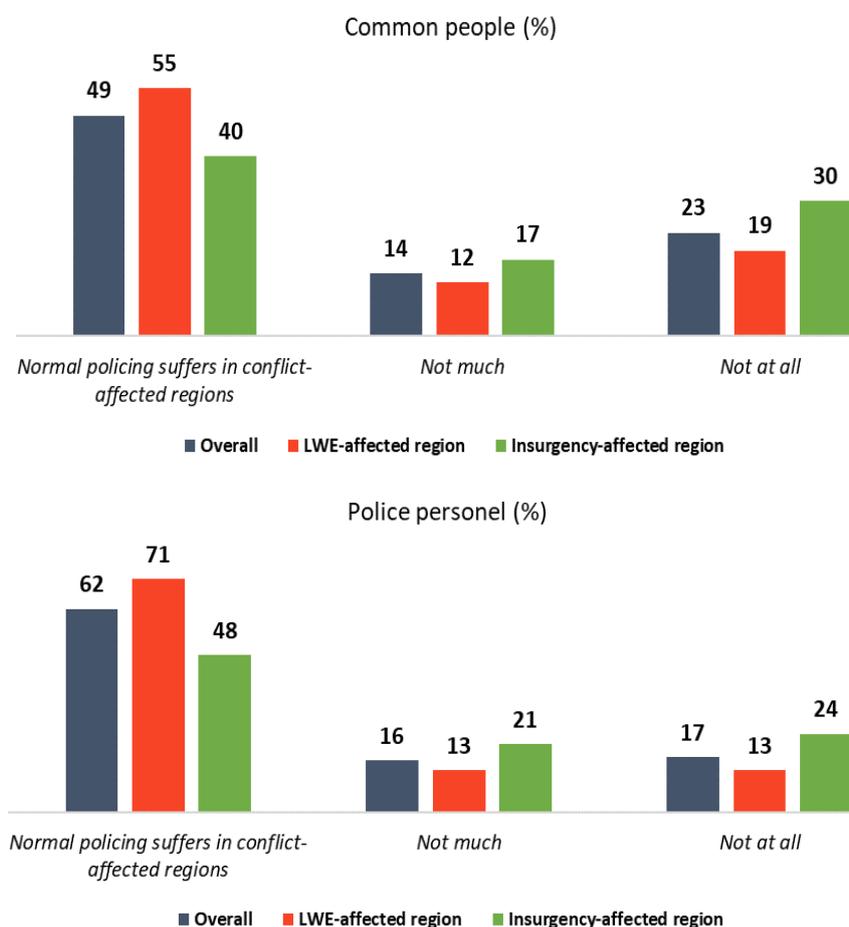


Note: All figures are rounded off.

Question asked: Considering that this is a Naxalism/insurgency affected area, how much does being posted here affect you mentally - a lot, somewhat, not much or not at all?

Chapter 7: General policing amid conflict

- Police personnel and common people from LWE-affected regions more likely to believe that normal policing suffers because of conflict



Note: Rest of the respondents did not answer. All figures are rounded off.

Question asked: Because of the presence of Naxalites/Insurgents in your area, how much does the normal policing, such as maintaining law & order and crime investigation suffer- a lot, somewhat, not much or not at all?

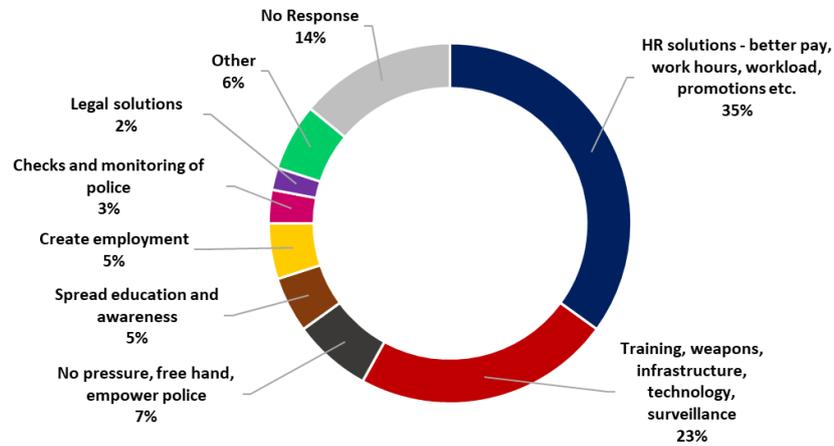
- Hindu upper castes and OBCs were more likely to contact the police, while Adivasis were more likely to be contacted by the police.

Chapter 8: Ensuring better policing: the way forward

- An overwhelming majority of police personnel (75%) and common people (63%) felt that addressing development and providing better facilities in the area would be very useful for reducing the conflict.
- Nine out of ten police personnel believe that increasing the number of police personnel would be a useful measure for reducing Naxalism/Insurgency activities, whereas only about 75 per cent common people agreed with this.

- More than one out of three police personnel (35%) feel that the government should improve the working conditions of the police. Almost a quarter also said that the government should ensure that they receive adequate training and facilities to be able to handle conflict situations.

One step that the government must take to ensure that police can do its job in a better way in Naxalism/insurgency affected areas

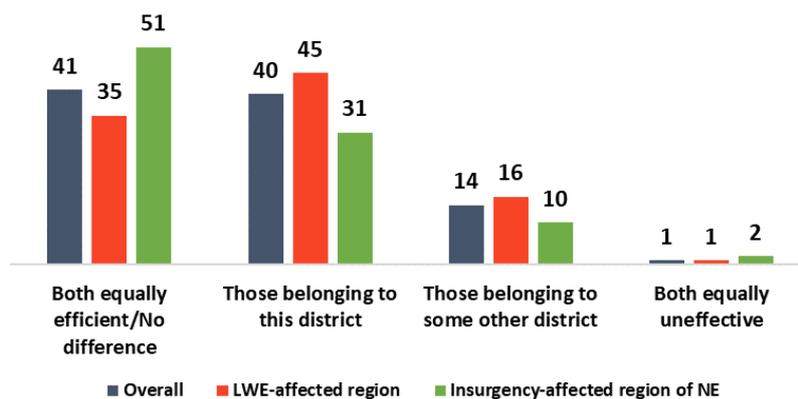


Note: Rest of the respondents did not answer. All figures are rounded off.

Questions asked: In your opinion, what is the one step that the government must take to ensure that police can do its job in a better way in Naxalism/insurgency affected areas?

- Police personnel are three times more likely to believe that personnel from the same district are more effective in conflict-affected areas when compared to those from the other districts.

Which police personnel are best suited for conflict affected areas?



Note: Rest of the respondents did not answer. All figures are rounded off.

Question asked (to police personnel): In your opinion, who is more effective in controlling the Naxalism/Insurgency-related activities -Police personnel belonging to this district itself OR police personnel who have come here from some other district?