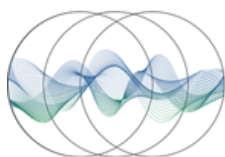


2026-27

PRIMER

POLICE ADMINISTRATION |
PUNJAB



PANJ

Policy Advisory and
Network for Joint Progress

SUMMARY

Punjab's police administration, being a border state and having undergone several tense periods beginning the partition itself to the 1990s, poses a crucial study. An overview of the topic of police administration shows the diverse components that constitute the body. Firstly, the everyday police officer we see is just the 'civil police'. The police body itself constitutes of other elements like district armed force and special armed force.

Studying the police administration in Punjab reveals dual facts. At one hand, one civil police personnel is responsible for manning 504 Punjabi citizens; on the other hand, Punjab's police personnels are better off compared to other states in terms of the area under each (0.59 sq km). At the same time, Punjab's ranking improved from 13th to 7th in the India Justice Report's 'police' indicator. While improvements have been made, the numbers also indicate a slowly changing story. Punjab's police modernisation efforts have not recorded great success.

The budget estimates of Rs 556 crore in FY 2025-26 for police administration was revised to actuals of Rs 292 crore. This indicates government's actual expenditure turned out to be lesser, nearly 50% lesser than the planned expenditure. This may be due to lesser recruitments, underspent, etc.

Given the crucial role attached to the police, regulation and reforms to the force become essential. Following Supreme Court's judgement in *Prakash Singh & Ors. v. Union of India & Ors.* (2006), the Government of Punjab formed the Punjab Police Act, 2007 focused on the creating police boards, fixing tenures, creating complaints authorities. Four committees have been major contributors in shaping police reforms across the nation and Punjab.

12 roles constitute the organisational structure across state police. According to the Bureau of Police Research and Development's data, 12,395 vacant posts exist across different police position openings/sanctioned posts. Further, Punjab falls short of other states when it comes per personnel training expenditure (Rs 9,722). With nearly Rs 20,000 expenditure in training, Bihar tops the list. With an evolving landscape with the rapid technological developments, police administration poses further questions of a need for reform and adjusting to the modern realities.



Overview

Article 246 + Seventh Schedule

The Punjab Police integrates frontline Civil Police for everyday law enforcement with armed tactical units such as District Reserves, SAP, and IRBs for emergency containment. *Specialised arms like the*

Intelligence, Crime Investigation, Anti-Gangster Task Force, and NRI wing

handle cybercrime, organised syndicates, and diaspora-specific legal protection

State area (sq. km.) per police personnel

0.59

Population per police personnel in Punjab

361.51

1 per 504

Civil police personnel to people ratio



8.85



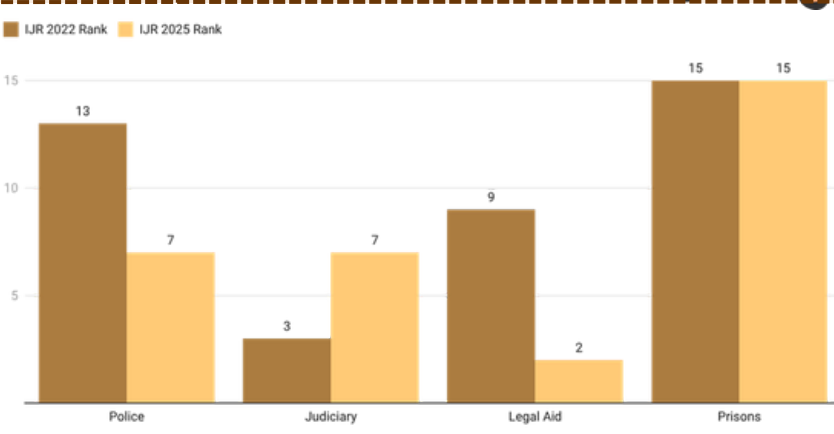
Transport Facility per 100 police personnel

12.8%

of the total Civil Police in Punjab are females



Administrative Unit	Count
Police Zones	3
Police Ranges	8
Police Districts	28
Police Sub-Divisions	90+
Police Stations (Thanas)	424
Police Posts / Outposts	700+



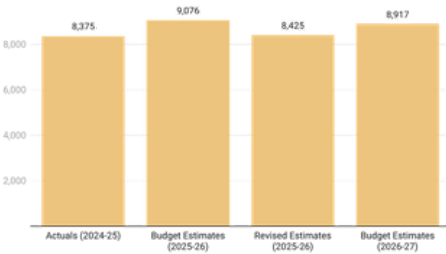
Budget Allocation

Punjab's total police budget for 2026-27 is estimated at

Rs 8,917 crore

Increase of **5.8%** from the previous FY

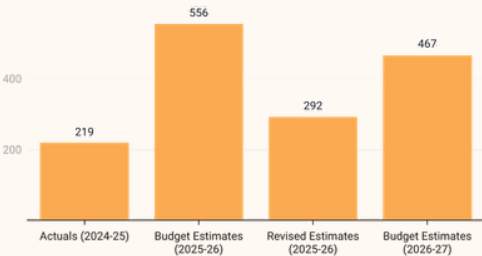
Total Grants to Police under Budget 2026-27



Rs 390 crore

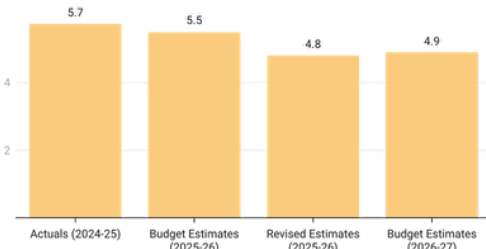
has been allocated to modernising technologies and upgrading infrastructure in FY 2026-27

Capital Outlay



Under the 2026 notified 'Reward Policy for the Arrest of Wanted Criminals', rewards for span from **Rs 1 lakh** upto **Rs 10 lakhs**.

Grants as % of Gross Expenditure



Regulatory Framework



Punjab Police Act, 2007

The Punjab Police Act, 2007 in response to Supreme Court's judgment in *Prakash Singh & Ors. v. Union of India & Ors.* (2006)

The Act established a **State Police Complaints Authority (SPCA)** and **District Police Complaints Authorities (DPCAs)** and fixed tenures for key police officers including the DGP

Key Provisions:

1. State Police Board
2. Tenure Protection
3. Separation of investigation from law & order
4. Complaint authority
5. Continuity of prior rules

STATUTORY BODIES

State Security Commission

(Section 27-29, Punjab Police Act, 2007)

Lays down guidelines for police functioning, evaluate performance, insulation from political interference.

Police Establishment Committee

(Section 32, Punjab Police Act, 2007)

Decides postings, transfers, and promotions of officers up to the rank of DSP.

Police Complaints Authority

(Section 54, Punjab Police Act, 2007, (Amendment) Act, 2014, Complaint Authorities Rules, 2019)

Complaint redressal of misconduct against officers by State-level PCA and Division-level PCA respectively.

Police Reform Commissions

National Police Commission (1981)

First attempt at a thorough review of Indian police system. **Submitted 8 reports and provided 291 actionable recommendations**

Ribeiro Committee on Police Reforms (1998)

Submitted 5 recommendations on issues such as State Security Commission, selection of DGP, complaints against police, etc.

Padmanabhalah Committee on Police Reforms (2000)

Examined police training, infrastructure, politicisation & criminalisation of police. **Submitted 99 recommendations** on police in new millennium

Malimath Committee on Reforms of the Criminal Justice System (2001-03)

Dealt with principles of the Criminal Justice System, investigation, prosecution, crime & punishment. **Submitted 158 observations & recommendations.**



Organisational Strength

PERSONNEL STRENGTH OF PUNJAB POLICE IN 2024

Post	Sanctioned	Actual	Vacancy
DGP/Spl. DGP	14	14	0
ADGP	23	20	3
IG	24	12	12
DIG	15	15	0
AIGP/SSP/SP	216	212	4
ASP/ DSP	612	495	117
Inspector	989	717	272
SI	2,693	2,221	472
ASI	4,563	3,558	1,005
Head Constable	10,064	7,588	2,476
Constable	50,446	42,947	7,519
Others	1,812	1,297	515
Total	71,491	59,096	12,395

Policy Initiatives

Saanjh Platform

Punjab Police’s flagship community-policing and citizen-service delivery architecture. The initiative combines physical service centres (Saanjh Kendras) with a centralised digital platform. Under this the Yuva Saanjh Initiative seeks to transform community policing by active participation among the youth.



Yudh Nasheyan Virudh (War against Drugs)

Flagship anti-drug campaign since March 2025. State-level Cordon and Search Operations style enforcement drives. A three-pronged strategy of strict enforcement, community participation and preventive education



Punjab Road Safety and Traffic Research Centre

The centre manages data-driven traffic technology and academic framework through the Punjab Road Safety and Traffic Research Centre (PRSTRC) located at the Punjab Police Complex



Sadak Suraksha Force

India’s first highway road-safety force (January 2024). SSF teams operate under a ‘Platinum Minutes’ mandate (within 15 minutes of the incident). Road accident mortality rates fell by 45.55% between February and October 2024

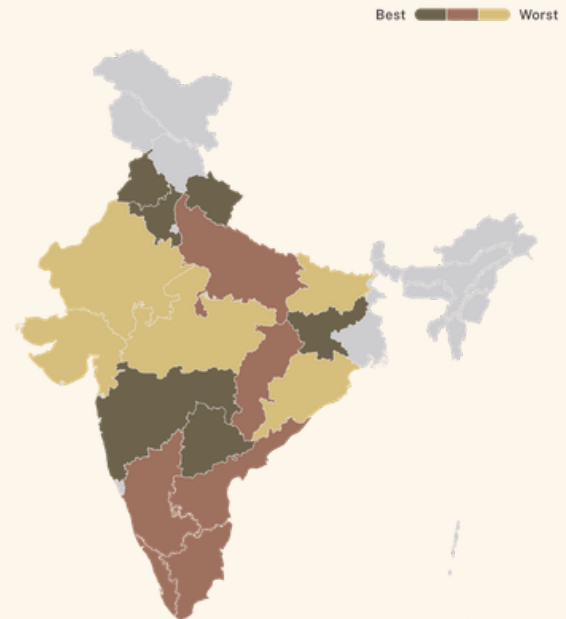


State-wise Comparison

Comparison of states in spending per police person

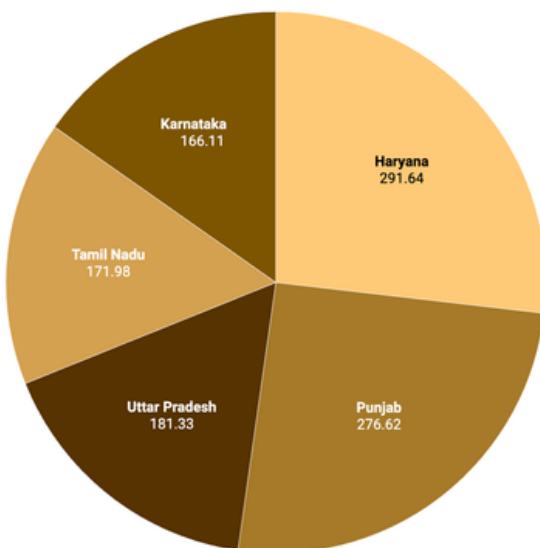
Punjab ranks first among large and mid-sized states (population 10 million+) in spending per police person, followed by Telangana (2nd) and Haryana (3rd)

Bihar was the leading state to spend the most on training per police personnel (Rs 20,530);
Punjab spent Rs 9,722



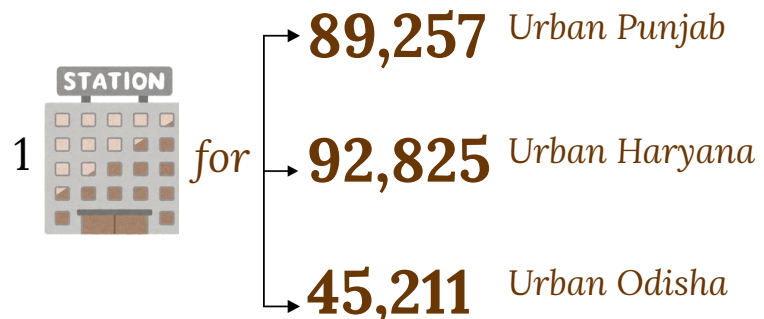
Total Police Per Lakh of Population (Sanctioned)

Haryana Punjab Uttar Pradesh Tamil Nadu Karnataka



Punjab has one of the highest sanctioned police strength among these states with **277 personnels per lakh population**, trailing behind only Haryana (292)

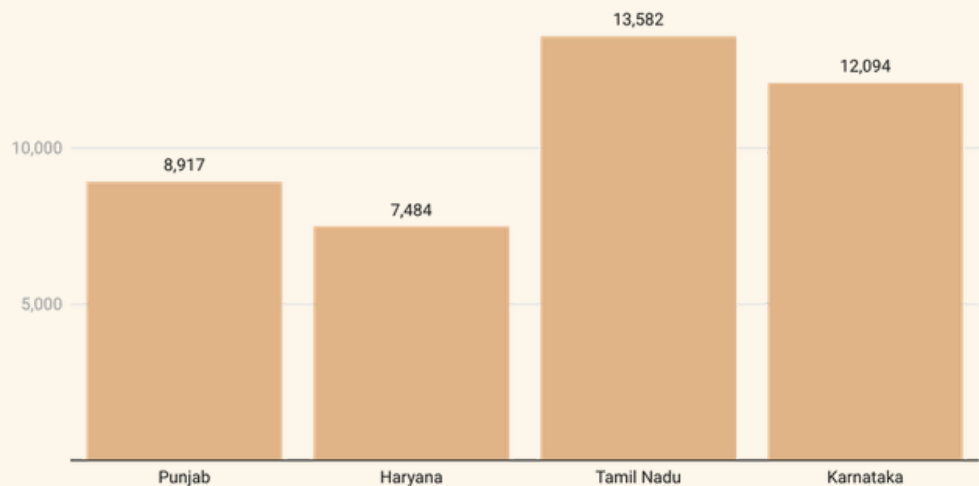
Population per police station



DID YOU KNOW?

The **16-member** team of the Punjab Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF), constituted in April 2022 under Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's directives, was awarded the prestigious Union Home Minister's **Special Operation Medal** for the year 2022.

Inter-state Comparison of Budget Allocation for Police



Figures in crores

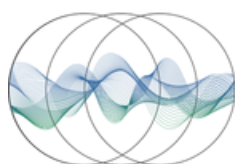




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