

зарубіжних країнах, на які Україна орієнтується в своїх європейських напрямках розвитку; визначено повноваження поліцейських по застосуванню даних заходів впливу на порушників в цих країнах, оцінено їх ефективність, виокремлено передові європейські практики діяльності поліції в цьому напрямку та виокремлено окремі пропозиції для підвищення ефективності діяльності поліції України.

Здійснивши аналіз особливостей застосування поліцейськими заходів адміністративної відповідальності за вчинення правопорушення в Україні та зарубіжних країнах ми прийшли до такого висновку. Повноваження поліції України щодо оформлення та розгляду справ про адміністративні правопорушення та щодо застосування заходів відповідальності за їх вчинення є значно ширшими, порівняно з деякими аналогічними поліцейськими підрозділами інших країн. В той же час як певний орієнтир для удосконалення діяльності поліції України може слугувати діяльність поліції Австрії щодо наділення досить широкими повноваженнями щодо застосування суттєвих штрафних стягнень до осіб, які вчинили адміністративні правопорушення, які за своєю сутністю наближені до кримінальних проступків.

**Ключові слова:** заходи адміністративної відповідальності, порядок їх застосування поліцейськими, особливості оскарження рішення поліцейських, зарубіжний досвід, напрямки впровадження.

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### **ROLE OF PUDUCHERRY POLICE SPECIAL TASK FORCE IN CRIME CONTROL**

**Abstract.** The article is devoted to the study of the effectiveness of special police units on the example of STF. Some crimes require the police to change their usual process and accept something out of the ordinary so that they can effectively reach the real culprits or solve a complex case that has a wide network. This led to the creation of a new police unit. In Puducherry, India, the Special Task Force (STF) is a unit of the state police that deals with tasks beyond the control of the ordinary criminal police. They are a specialized unit with jurisdiction across the state and often use the means they want to solve crimes. Thus, the most heinous crimes, which often involve sophisticated gangs, are considered by the STF. In this way, the STF has become the type of unit needed to investigate crimes and solve impossible cases with maximum devotion and perseverance.

**Keywords:** crime control, Special Task Force, concept of STF, Puducherry Police, STF officers, efficiency.

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**Relevance of the study.** It is a well-known fact that police are keepers of law and order in all the countries. Though different countries have different standards for their police teams, including uniforms, they all address the same mission- Protection of Law of the land. However routine the task of the police can be, certain crimes requires the police to change their normal process and adopt something out of the box so that they can effectively reach the true culprits or solve a complicated case that has a wide network. This has given rise to a new entity in the police force called "The Special Task Force". In Puducherry, India, the Special Task Force (STF) is a branch of the State Police that is engaged with tasks that are beyond the means of the regular crime police force. They are a specialized division that has jurisdiction all over the state and often use coveted means to solve the crimes. Hence, the most heinous crimes often involving sophisticated gangs are dealt with by STF.

**Resent publications review.** The concept of STF is not new. It has been used by various agencies across the globe to enforce law and order as reported in many studies. A. Ruotolo Jr. conducted a study titled "MDTs Aid Auto Theft Task Force" wherein a special theft task force was formed to control and stop series of automobile thefts in New Jersey, USA [1]. The task force worked with a team of 26 police officers and in just five months of their operation they recovered 160 vehicles worth USD 1.5 million. They arrested 80 adult auto theft suspects and 101 juvenile suspects. The promising results of the special task force managed to stem the number of auto thefts. It also benefited eastern New Jersey residents by increased police visibility that also ensured adequate protection in high-crime risk neighborhoods. The usefulness of this task force had decreased the auto theft and gave a sense of security for the citizens.

Drug menace is a serious problem in many cities and the city of Kansas was no exception. In order to control the menace, the police there formed a task force as highlighted in the study by D. Barton titled "Kansas City Experience: "Crack" Organized Crime Cooperative Task Force" [2]. The study clearly illustrated the impact of organized gangs on drugs related crimes from the Jamaican or Caribbean basin. The task force in due course of its operations had charged, indicted, or deported many Jamaican nationals. It also managed to seize huge quantities of cocaine, currency, and other valuable assets. The task force has also recovered numerous firearms from the operatives. This study shows how a dedicated force can achieve much more than what a regular police force could do.

Another study related to organized gangs, titled "The Violent Gang Task Force" (VGTF) was conducted by B. Nicholl [3]. The VGTF engaged 130 special officers from 16 large cities and an additional 20 special officers were deployed in smaller urban areas. From the 95 criminal investigations, 2843 members of the gangs were arrested. The task force seized drugs worth USD 156.6 million. They also recovered U.S. currency and property valued at over \$8 million. VGTF primarily focused on drug smuggling into the United States through South Florida and the Caribbean. They also targeted 54 different street gangs and rounded up over 1,600 of its members and associates. The study concluded that VGTF initiative was a successful nationwide program which enhanced cooperation among law enforcement agencies and prevented growth of gangsters.

The formation of such task force and also help deal with disaster management and legal issues connected with such incidents. This study showed how law and disaster management agencies namely the Judicial Police system, and Special Fire Police could work together in protecting life and property. Due to swift growth and development in Korean society, there was a marked rise in fire incidents and accidents. Therefore, in the interest of safety a special task force comprising of people with excellent investigative power, such as lawyers, professional veterans in the fire and police department, personnel from firefighting headquarters and frontline fire departments was set up. The study suggested that a STF should be set up in the above agency where planned investigation, judicial cases and enforcement work can be solved more effectively because the local fire stations had a lot of difficulties in handling them [4].

Similarly, S. Hart and his team of researchers depicted the functions and benefits of a fire/police arson task force [5]. This study suggested that the key to the success of this task force was the wealth of experience and resources they had at their disposal. The fire department had the tools and manpower, while the police could process the information. The police officers were able to analyze "how" and "who" of the arson, while the firefighter could pinpoint "where" and "why" of the fire and its origin. The study concluded that an increased percentage of arrests and convictions for arson were observed in communities where such task forces were established.

The establishment of such specialized forces can be of significant help during traffic accidents too. It is not uncommon to see looting and burglary at an accident scene. This largely goes unnoticed and unaccounted for in some places. The study conducted by H. Runyon analyzed the functioning of a specialized traffic task force to deal with traffic accidents and control in New Jersey, USA [6]. The study suggested that the success of the force depended on strong support of the administration. The study describes the importance of a specific organizational structure, selection and training of officers and use of volunteer personnel. They also used varied methods of enforcement. The study suggested that the task force officers reported a higher degree of respect from the motorists. Moreover, there was also a marked decrease in burglary and larceny incidents in the area. Hence, the study concluded that setting up a specialized task force produces greater achievement at no added cost to the police department budget in addition to involving the community volunteers in aiding the law.

Extremism and insurgencies are also serious issues in many places that requires dedicated force to deal with it. Studies have revealed the usefulness of such dedicated forces in dealing with such situation. T. Muhammad highlighted the role of the National Police in Countering Insurgencies in Indonesia through his study [7]. He suggested that there was a significant rise in insurgencies in Indonesia which included radical groups which could do anything to fulfill their religious goals. This forced the Government of Indonesia to set up multiple task forces to control and eliminate the insurgents. The measures suggested for the Police in the study included increasing the effectiveness in countering radical Islamist and separatist insurgents. Inclusion of intelligence and community policing functions, detection and prevention were among many ideas suggested by the author for dealing with armed insurgents. National Police role was very critical to the safety of the Indonesian citizens.

In another counter terrorism related study conducted by Muhammad Faizal bin Abdul Rahman, suggested that to effectively manage the security situation of Singapore, many teams of Special Forces were formed which acted as a hard and thorny armor of the City-State [8]. The study concluded that the special security forces of Singapore played a very crucial role in protecting its people, economy and infrastructure. He added that the special forces of the police force and armed forces have an important role in the intelligence collection to neutralize terrorist threats in cities. Further, the author added that because the setting are by and large civilian in nature, it should essentially be treated as asymmetric warfare which required unconventional methods of engagements.

The bulletin in the United States' Department of Justice B. Reaves reported that a most of large Police departments had full-time specialized forces to deal with a range of crimes such as child abuse, juvenile crime, gangs, domestic violence, tactical operations, terrorism or homeland security, fugitives or warrants, impaired driving and cybercrime [9].

**The article's objective** is to investigate the role of Puducherry Police Special Task Force in crime control and features of STF activity.

**Discussion.** India being a federal structure each state is bestowed with powers to constitute its own STF to deal with problems unique to that region. Such forces are constituted to deal with major criminal or criminal network issues or as a counter insurgency or anti-terrorism measure. Such a special task force was created in the state of Uttar Pradesh in North India through a government order with the following objectives. Intelligence gathering about gangs and mafia gangs and act on such gangs. Prepare action plans for disruptive elements in the state. To take action in coordination with the district police on organized crimes. Take effective action against gang of dacoits and inter-district gangs.

It must be noted that Uttar Pradesh is also the most populous state of the India. The police system India was following the Police Act enacted in the year 1861. This is in force even today. The act at that time was comprised of police forces to cover Provincial Police, Government Railway Police, Municipal Police, Cantonment Police, Town Police, Rural and Road Police, Canal Police, Guards to protect the courts. Since then the Police has maintained communal and social harmony, Law and Order, crime control and security of the state. As crimes and criminals become more sophisticated, a range of specialized branches for combating organized crimes, economic offences etc. have come into being. Modernization has given emphasis to training, technical aids like computers, telecommunications, Forensic science, latest gadgetry, modern weapons and new vehicles [10].

Another northern state of Punjab in India is troubled by serious drug menace. A study was instituted by R. Arora to analyze the challenges that the government faced to control the serious issue [11]. The study suggested many measures including setting up of Special Forces

to gather, share and act on intelligence to effectively counter the menace. The study highlighted the need for coordination from various bodies ranging such as the government, law enforcement agencies, intelligence agencies, sports and youth development and Non-Governmental Organizations and the local community. The study concluded that crimes were closely related to economic status of the border areas.

India also supports a STF Jungle School located in Tamil Nadu, a Southern State of India. This school focused on landmine detection, countering guerrilla warfare, identifying booby traps. They had also trained STF from other states of India, such as the Maharashtra Police. They also trained several law enforcement bodies too. In an interview to an India National Newspaper, a STF Superintendent of Police said that special training involved imparting precision firing and reflex action, detecting landmines. He further highlighted the strenuous training that was given in survival tactics, night movement and camping on unknown terrain. The forces should have the capacity to survive without supplies for weeks by tapping natural food and water. The interview with the Inspector General of Police and the Ex STF chief, highlighted that the training module professionally equipped the forces to stay, fight and finish the enemy in the jungle. They had to complete the task by moving quickly in the night without disturbing wildlife or natural vegetation, observing villages or villagers and bunker making which were some crucial requirements in jungle warfare [12].

All the studies above highlight how with the setting up of STF the law enforcement agencies were able to coordinate better in gathering intelligence inputs and were able to respond in a better and much effective manner to protect the general public from different types of crimes. Hence, Puducherry Police too went in for a customized STF to bring about better enforcement of law and order for the peace loving people of Puducherry as confirmed by a study in France by Cheng Chenga entitled "Improving police services: Evidence from the French Quarter Task Force" that provided evidence that increased police presence tends to reduce crime and that there was a need to properly monitor and employ innovative strategies in order to further improve police services [13].

There are specific fitness requirements for the STF based on their area of operation. In fact many STF bodies globally and in India too specifies certain fitness norms to be selected to the elite group. However, Puducherry is a peaceful coastal town which has not seen any extremist or terror related activities so far and it does not have any jungle or mountains in its geography to warrant such highly fit forces. The nature of crimes that requires STF personnel to get involved in Puducherry is more related to local issues, gangs and drugs rather than any terrorism or cross border activities. This can be confirmed from the Daily Dairy data of STF Puducherry (Table 1) which contains do case of extremism or terrorism. Hence, it is learnt that high standards of physical fitness is not a hard and fast norm here. The annual training programs are deemed fit enough for the STF personnel in the Union Territory of Puducherry. Moreover, STF requires its officers to blend in with the public in reaching areas where a person appearing fit and strong may arouse suspicion. This may constrain the general people from sharing critical information due to inherent fear of police. Hence, the prime factor considered for the STF selection in Puducherry is the officer's integrity, passion to solve crimes, dedication and teamwork.

The mission of STF is to eradicate all organized crimes from society (Puducherry, India). Their objective is to prevent any major law and order problem in Puducherry by collecting intelligence and reporting such information to the concerned police station. They deal with the control and eradication of the illegal sale of narcotics. They continuously monitor movements of criminal or rowdy elements through coveted means and take action wherever necessary. They are tasked with solving crimes like murder, dacoits, kidnappings, extortion, rape, illegal arms and explosives, and such other crimes. They maintain records of all the budding and hardened criminals and monitor them so that any crime if possible can be prevented. For this purpose, they even monitor the activities in the central prison looking for some cues on crimes that were committed and to be committed.

Puducherry is a very popular tourist place, is frequented by hundreds of people not only from India but all over the globe. Further, It has a very cosmopolitan flavor with a widely mixed population, both local and floating. With such a broad mix of people, the possibility of illegal activities in a clandestine manner is quite high. Hence, to gather quick intelligence inputs and solve sophisticated crimes, setting up STF became critical. STF personnel is not like any typical police officer. They have the knack to blend in and look very much like any other civilian. The STF officers have a keen eye for criminals and are very sharp to gather

information about any criminal activities as mentioned above. They keep a continuous tag on known criminals, their associates, their leaders, or handlers. They also regularly follow up on some special clues and trace/track down the individuals wanted/concerned in cases. They collect details, take action, and can also arrest the person or persons, who involve in the crimes that are illegal in Puducherry. The illegal activities include the sale of lottery tickets, gambling, possession/sale or transporting narcotic drugs & psychotropic substances, immoral trafficking, fake and counterfeit currencies, extortion by cargo loading/unloading associations or groups, etc. They wield significant control over the rowdy elements or bad characters or criminal gangs, residing in the state of Puducherry, including those persons indulging in land grabbing (stealing real estate documents or property). Further, they keep every activity of those criminal elements under their surveillance.

STF monitors the active local and non-local ex-convicts to check their criminal activities. They additionally keep watch on suspected persons and supply intelligence to the officer at the level of Superintendent of Police concerned. They perform their patrolling duties in plain clothes in sensitive areas of the town. The officers in plain clothes deputed shall observe the suspects or criminal characters secretly. They take up the specific task of searching and apprehending the accused persons. After the arrest of the accused person, they are required to hand the apprehended person over to the investigating officers concerned with a special report. They are required to keep a keen watch at busy places such as the Bus Stand, Railway Station, market places, and liquor shops.

In the cases where rowdies, criminals, or their associates /relatives are found frequenting the jail and courts, secret surveillance is launched as the release and surrender of the accused are done in such places. The criminals released from jail, often join hands with other criminals who they befriended or join other gangs to commit more heinous crimes. Such people are also shadowed and watched by the STF. They maintain the details of such criminals with photographs. STF also engages in any other work assigned by the senior police officers of Puducherry.

Clear and definite instructions are expected to be given to the STF by the Senior Superintendent of Police (Law & Order) (SSP (L&O)). The movement of the members of the STF team is supervised by the Inspector in-charge, who is empowered to issue passports, wherever necessary with written instructions. The Inspector of the team shall brief the SSP (L&O) daily regarding the STF activities. The Sub Divisional Police Officers in Puducherry Region are expected to utilize the services of STF effectively. Whenever any heinous crime is reported, the STF Team shall also be informed forthwith, so that the members of the team will be aware of the incident and act swiftly in apprehending the criminals. All Police forces have more or less the same powers but the responsibilities to the STF officers are more since they deal with hard-core criminals and habitual offenders. Usually, most of the rowdy elements have strong connections with the big shots in the society which they are more than happy to exploit. The local police work in their area of jurisdiction and also have fixed hours of duty. The local police are also more in numbers and deputed for different types of duties. The local police can also be easily visible in their looks and uniform. STF on the other hand is dealing with crimes that are committed or waiting to be committed. They solve the case using intelligence inputs and work in small teams to get to the bottom of the case. They are often engaged in coveted operations and give solid leads to the local police to arrest a criminal.

They do not look much different from the local public and sometimes alter their personality and looks to suit the type that will help them solve the case. They even have powers to arrest or confine the actual criminal even if he is outside the state. STF officers are often working under severe pressure to solve the cases because of the intrusive media. Sometimes when high profile people are involved the pressure to deliver or act in a certain manner becomes higher. Even when very difficult cases or cases pending for a long time are cracked by STF, they remain in the background, unseen and waiting for the next assignment.

The operations data for the past three years that is from 2019 till date is given above (Table 1).

STF was formed in the year 2004 in Puducherry by Puducherry Police to curtail the increasing illegal activities of rowdies & bad elements. There was also a need to solve many sensitive cases reported throughout Puducherry. Since, its formation, the STF team has solved and closed several sensitive and blind cases. To this day STF is doing its best to keep control over crimes and illegal activities in Puducherry. Special task force functions under Senior Superintendent of Police Law and Order. Officers and personnel with good integrity and interest in crime-solving are selected to work in this team.

*Table 1*

**How effective has the STF been in serving its objectives in Puducherry**

<b>Crimes</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>No of Arrests</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Murders	8 cases	6 cases	3 cases	78 persons	
Attempt to Murder	1 case	1 case		6 persons	
Prevention of Murder	2 cases	3 cases	3 cases	46 persons	
Explosives	1 case		4 cases	13 persons	9 country bombs
Narcotics	5 cases	18 cases	17 cases	96 persons	135.2 kilograms
Organized Crimes	7 cases	1 case	4 cases	100 persons	
COTPA (Gutka)		2 cases	3 cases	14 persons	8 million INR

*Source: Daily Dairy and Achievement Register of STF [14]*

With the widespread proliferation of the internet and easily accessible technology, criminals these days have also gone hi-tech. The use of a variety of gadgets and technology to commit a crime has only increased manifolds and sometimes the criminals are better versed in their use than the law enforcement officers. Though STF officers do not get any special training in dealing with such technology and gadgets, they rely on a team of cyber professionals who back them up with any required information to help solve the case.

The most striking characteristic of an STF officer is the look of a common man. He should be able to blend in with the public and at the same time be very observant of all the happenings around him. He should not do anything to get unwanted attention on himself. An STF officer demonstrates high intelligence and an eye for detail. The officer should be efficient in building networks, which will help them gather information. STF displays better teamwork as the relationship that they enjoy with each other is much better, the trust factor is much better and their goals are well defined.

The STF officers were of the view that the nature of this work had a profound effect on their routine family matters. The reason being the secretive nature of work which forbids the officers from sharing any information or experience with their family and friends. Further, their travel and moving about is determined by the case leads which often force them to travel out of their home town with very short notice or sometimes without any information. This type of secretive and unpredictable nature of the job puts severe strain on the STF officer's family and social health. Moreover, dealing with well-organized and hardened criminals poses an ever-threatening risk to their lives. To realize the seriousness of their threat to life, it can be said that the criminal has to succeed just once out of any number of attempts to put an end to the STF officer whereas the STF officer has to succeed each time if he has to crack the case or to even just survive.

The same has been brought to light in a study conducted by Ch. Le Scanff [15]. The author implemented a stress management program for the French police Special Forces units. The initial difficulties were overcome so as to successfully run the stress management program. 150 male police officers participated in the program which involved working in three different levels such as organizational, group and individual. The results revealed that the program was well received by the officers which prompted the police administration to extend the program to all the police units. Later, the program was even customized to suit the specific work characteristics like intelligence service or bodyguard detachments.

**Conclusion.** As criminals and crime get more and more sophisticated, many cases go beyond the means of the regular police force. More often than not, unconventional and coveted operations are required to crack the cases or corner the accused. Interestingly, STF can be customized to suit the needs of the area and the crime. Many STF's have a strict fitness norm and Puducherry STF does insist on strict fitness norms, it selects personnel with a criteria that is most suitable to be effective. Hence, STF was just the type of setup required to check crimes and solve impossible cases with utmost dedication and persistence. STF has been a great asset for Puducherry Police and its performance is well documented in the data provided. Perhaps if some help is extended to manage their family and social life, it would be most welcome given the risk and threats that they operate with. So far it is well-done STF.

*Conflict of Interest and other Ethics Statements*

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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### **Р. РАМ МОХАН СІНГХ, Г. САНДГОШ, Ірина СКРИПЧЕНКО РОЛЬ СПЕЦІАЛЬНОЇ ГРУППИ ПОЛІЦІЇ ПУДУЧЕРРІ У БОРОТБІ ЗІ ЗЛОЧИННІСТЮ**

**Анотація.** Стаття присвячена дослідженню ефективності діяльності спеціальних підрозділів поліції на прикладі STF. Деякі злочини вимагають від поліції змінити свій звичайний процес і прийняти щось нестандартне, щоб вона могла ефективно дістатися до справжніх винних або розкрити складну справу, яка має широкую мережу. Це призвело до створення нового підрозділу в поліції. У Пудучеррі, Індія, Спеціальна оперативна група (STF) – це підрозділ державної поліції, який займається завданнями, які не під силу звичайній кримінальній поліції. Вони є спеціалізованим підрозділом, який має юрисдикцію по всьому штату і часто використовує бажані засоби для розкриття злочинів. Отже, найжахливіші злочини, які часто за участю витончених банд, розглядаються STF. Таким чином, STF став саме тим типом підрозділу, який необхідний для перевірки злочинів і розв'язання неможливих справ з максимальною відданістю та наполегливістю.

**Ключові слова:** боротьба зі злочинністю, спеціальна група, концепція STF, поліція Пудучеррі, офіцери STF, ефективність.