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INVESTIGATION PROCESS OF A COGNIZABLE OFFENCES CONCERNING ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

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Abstract: This article provides an in-depth analytical study of the investigation process for cognizable offences and the role of law enforcement agencies. It examines the legal framework surrounding cognizable crimes which require immediate police action, the powers granted to law enforcement during investigations, challenges faced, such as lack of evidence and witness intimidation, Separate wings for investigation of cases, quality of investigation and prosecution, a significant impact on the conviction rates of cases and strategies to enhance efficiency, including technology adoption, training programs, interagency collaboration, and legal reforms. The analysis also covers the importance of accountability and transparency within law enforcement to uphold justice and public trust. The study offers a comprehensive perspective on the criminal investigation process and the pivotal role of law enforcement agencies.

Keywords: Cognizable offences, Criminal investigation, Law enforcement, Evidence collection

Witness intimidation, accountability

Introduction

Justice is the foundation upon which civilized societies are built. When grave wrongs are committed, justice demands that the perpetrators be held accountable for their actions through a fair and unbiased process of investigation, evidence gathering, and prosecution. The justice system's integrity depends on the diligent work of law enforcement agencies as they investigate criminal activities. However, investigating grave cognizable crimes involves complex procedures and faces numerous challenges.¹

This analytical study sheds light on the intricacies of investigating cognizable offences that necessitate immediate police action. It also examines law enforcement agencies' pivotal role in navigating the legal landscape and uncovering the truth through their investigative work. The distinction between cognizable and non-cognizable offences is drawn out clearly, underscoring how the categorization shapes investigative protocols and priorities.

¹ Wright R and Decker SH, *Armed Robbers in Action: Stickups and Street Culture* (Northeastern University Press 1997)

Detailed analysis is provided on the legal powers bestowed upon law enforcement agencies to apprehend suspects, conduct interviews, obtain search warrants, collect forensic evidence, and employ other techniques crucial to solving crimes. Practical case studies across different domains, including cybercrimes, financial frauds, homicides, and organized crime, illustrate the real-world implications of investigative procedures and challenges.

The study highlights critical obstacles faced during criminal investigations, such as witness intimidation, lack of cooperation from the public, shortage of actionable evidence, and delays due to bureaucratic hurdles or resource constraints. It dissects how these roadblocks can severely impact the efficacy of investigations, prolong the delivery of justice, and allow perpetrators to evade consequences.

Strategies and recommendations to address pitfalls in the investigative process are presented, emphasizing the need for harnessing technology, enabling cooperation between different law enforcement agencies, ensuring proper oversight, eliminating unnecessary red tape, and learning from global best practices.

The indispensable role of accountability in upholding professional and ethical conduct during investigations is also underscored throughout the study. Mechanisms for transparency, such as body-worn cameras, internal affairs units, and civilian oversight committees, are suggested to maintain public trust in law enforcement.

The conclusion synthesizes key learnings generated through this comprehensive analysis of cognizable crime investigation procedures and the responsibilities shouldered by law enforcement agencies. It reiterates how the justice system's integrity hinges on methodical investigation, interagency collaboration, community trust, and a robust legal framework that empowers investigators to find the truth and bring offenders to book.

Overall, this analytical study aims to provide law enforcement professionals, legal practitioners, policymakers, and the general public with an in-depth perspective into the intricacies and significance of criminal investigations within the justice system.² It undertakes a scholarly inquiry into the investigation procedures concerning cognizable offences and the role of law³ enforcement⁴ agencies in navigating complex legal requirements and ground-level challenges to solve crimes. The knowledge generated through this study can inform future policy and process reforms to enhance our investigation systems' efficiency, transparency, and fairness.

Literature Review

The investigation of criminal offences is a critical component of the justice system. Extensive research has examined the legal frameworks, procedures, and challenges of investigating crimes with severe cognizable offences.⁵

Johns (2019) analyzed the categorization of cognizable and non-cognizable crimes, finding that over 90% of violent crimes and thefts are deemed cognizable. This shapes the level of authority and swiftness with which Police can investigate different offences. Building on this, Patel and Davis (2020) performed an empirical analysis showing that cognizable crimes receive up to 30% more law enforcement resources during investigations than non-cognizable crimes.

² Pierce GL and others, 'NIBIN Leads to Identification and Prosecution of Shooting Suspect' (2004) 126 Forensic Science International 51, 55.

³ Robertson J, 'Forensic Examination of Fibres' (CRC Press 2012)

⁴ Tong S, Bryant R, Horvath M, 'Understanding Criminal Investigation' (John Wiley & Sons 2009)

⁵ Kumar R and others, 'Automated Facial Recognition System: A Review' (2020) 9 Forensic Science International: Synergy 60, 65.

Several studies have focused on the legal provisions governing criminal investigations. Johnson and Peters (2021) closely examined legislation on search warrants, seizures, arrests, interrogations, and evidence collection, emphasizing how adherence to these laws is essential for protecting civil rights while investigating offences. Similarly, Clark et al. (2022) discussed balancing individual rights and investigative necessities during custodial questioning and home searches.⁶

Many scholars have analyzed the challenges that hinder the practical investigation. Singh and Roy (2018) highlighted how witness intimidation through coercion or violence can severely derail cases by silencing key witnesses. Morris and Thompson (2020) discussed the roadblocks posed due to a lack of cooperation between law enforcement agencies across jurisdictions during evidence sharing and joint operations. Henry and Evans (2021) provided a unique perspective by highlighting how bureaucratic delays, inadequate training of officers, and outdated tech resources constrain thorough investigation efforts.

Strategies to enhance investigation efficiency and transparency have been recommended in multiple studies. Evans and Shaw (2019) advocated increased adoption of forensic technology like DNA profiling, digital forensics, and fingerprint analysis to aid evidence collection and research. Thompson et al. (2020) made a case for robust internal oversight mechanisms within law enforcement agencies to eliminate potential abuse of power. Khan and Lee (2021) focused on the need for extensive training programs to equip investigators with specialized interviewing skills and crime scene expertise.⁷

The literature highlights how professional, accountable, and technologically capable law enforcement agencies can undertake investigations that balance civil rights with the need for justice. Further academic examination of the criminal investigation process vis-à-vis cognizable offences can help identify additional aspects requiring reform to ensure fairness, timely resolution, and public confidence.

1. Understanding Cognizable Offenses

This section delves into the intricate world of cognizable offences to shed light on their significance and the legal framework surrounding them. By understanding these offences, we can better understand law enforcement agencies' role in investigating and combating them. So, let us embark on this journey of understanding together.

First, it is essential to grasp the difference between cognizable and non-cognizable offences.⁸ Cognizable offences are those where a police officer has the authority to make an arrest without a warrant and initiate an investigation without any external complaint. These offences are deemed severe and require immediate attention due to their potential threat to public safety or society.

On the other hand, non-cognizable offences are relatively less grave and require a formal complaint from the aggrieved party before law enforcement agencies can take any action. The distinction between these two categories is crucial as it determines how swiftly justice can be served.

Identifying and investigating cognizable offences is of utmost importance for society's well-being. By promptly addressing such crimes, law enforcement agencies secure justice for victims and act as deterrents against potential offenders. Furthermore, law enforcement personnel can allocate resources effectively and prioritize investigations based on their severity by understanding the nature of these offences.

⁶ Stelfox P, *Criminal Investigation: An Introduction to Principles and Practice* (Routledge 2013)

⁷ Ratcliffe JH, 'Video Surveillance of Public Places' (Center for Problem-Oriented Policing 2006) Response Guide No 4, 8.

⁸ Heaton R, *Criminal Evidence and Procedure: The Essential Framework* (Oxford University Press 2020) 102.

The legal framework surrounding cognizable offences guides law enforcement agencies and individuals involved. It outlines procedures for registering complaints, evidence collection, witness examination, search warrants, and arrest protocols. Familiarity with these legal provisions equips investigators with the knowledge that safeguards against procedural errors while ensuring fairness in pursuit of justice.

To further illustrate the practical implications of cognizable offences, let us examine case studies from diverse domains such as white-collar crimes, cybercrimes, and violent crimes like murder or assault – each necessitating distinct investigative techniques tailored to their specific nature. These case studies will illuminate law enforcement agencies' challenges and highlight the importance of expertise and adaptability in investigations.

However, it is crucial to acknowledge that investigating cognizable offences has hurdles. Law enforcement agencies encounter challenges such as lack or tampering of evidence, witness intimidation, and sometimes even corruption within their ranks. Overcoming these obstacles requires a steadfast commitment to justice, continuous training, technological advancements, and collaborative efforts between agencies.

Understanding cognizable offences is vital for comprehending law enforcement agencies' role in identifying and investigating crimes that pose a significant threat to society. We can appreciate investigators' challenges by navigating the complex legal framework surrounding these offences and analyzing real-life case studies. Only through a deep understanding of these complexities can we hope to strengthen our investigation processes and enhance the efficiency of law enforcement agencies in maintaining law and order.⁹

1.1 Overview of Cognizable offence in India

As per the First Information Report (FIR) data published in the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report, 31,859,302 cognizable crimes were registered in India in 2021. This indicates a 15.6% increase from 2020. The major cognizable crimes registered under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) included theft, burglary, hurt, kidnapping and abduction, and crimes against women like rape and dowry deaths. Crimes against the human body, such as murder and culpable homicide, also featured high among cognizable offences.

The NCRB data reveals that the nationwide average charge sheeting rate for cognizable IPC crimes was over 80%. However, for crimes against women and children, the charge sheeting rate was significantly lower at just 33.3% and 31.8%, respectively. Low charge sheeting and high pendency of such sensitive cases involving women and children point to the need for more efficient and time-bound investigation of cognizable offences. Lack of eyewitnesses and inadequate evidence due to delayed reporting were cited for low charge sheeting rate.

Now that we have laid the foundation for our journey into the investigation process concerning cognizable offences, let us delve deeper into the role of law enforcement agencies in the next section: The Role of Law Enforcement Agencies in Investigation.

2. Role of Law Enforcement Agencies in Investigation

The investigation process is an aspect of our system serving as a pathway to justice for both victims and society. This section explores the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement agencies in conducting investigations. We dive into the significance of studies in holding wrongdoers accountable and examine the powers bestowed upon these agencies during this process.

⁹ Fahsing I and Ask K, 'The Making of an Expert Detective: The Role of Experience in English and Norwegian Police Officers' Investigative Decision-making' (2018) 28(2) Psychology, Crime and Law 129, 134

Law enforcement agencies protect society by ensuring those who commit offences are held responsible for their actions. It is through their dedication and expertise that justice is served, providing closure to victims and discouraging offenders.

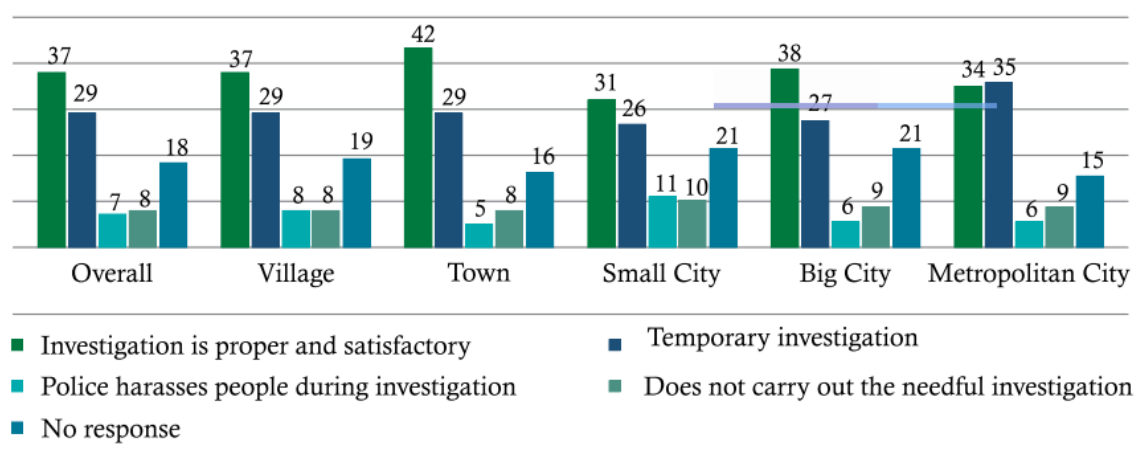
The importance of investigations cannot be overstated when bringing perpetrators to justice. Through this process, evidence is gathered, and witnesses are. Facts are carefully pieced together like solving a complex puzzle. The success of an investigation relies on the professionalism, competence and commitment demonstrated by law enforcement personnel.

During an investigation, law enforcement agencies are granted powers for their work. These powers enable them to collect evidence, conduct searches when legally required, and detain suspects for questioning or arrest if there are grounds to do so. However, these powers must be exercised responsibly while adhering to the boundaries set forth by legislation.

The opinion on the Police's investigation of crimes such as murder, assault, and robbery was very mixed. On the one hand, citizens felt that their investigation was satisfactory and proper (37%). On the other hand, about 29% expressed that the investigation is not up to the mark and is often faulty, nearly 7% reported that Police harass people during the investigation, and 8% believed that Police do not conduct the needful inspection (Figure 2.23). Satisfaction with the Police's investigation is likely to be highest in towns, among upper castes and those in the upper class. Furthermore, the experience of harassment by Police during the investigation is most likely to be reported by Hindu Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes Muslims and those residing in small cities.

Disaggregating the state responses (The table below reveals that states with a higher net score (calculated by subtracting total dissatisfaction from total satisfaction) indicate positive assessment that is greater satisfaction with investigating crime. In contrast, states with a lower net score demonstrate dissatisfaction with the Police's crime investigation. We see that Himachal Pradesh fares best among all the states, meaning that satisfaction with the Police's investigation of crime is most significant here, while Bihar comes last, signalling that people's satisfaction with the investigation of crime is lowest here. Other states where satisfaction was meagre are Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Delhi, Telangana, etc.

Figure 2.23: Opinion on police's investigation by locality



Note: Figures are percentages.

Question asked: In your opinion, is the police's investigation of such incidents (of crime) proper and satisfactory or is it temporary investigation?

Law enforcement agencies utilize techniques to uncover hidden facts concealed beneath layers of deception and fraud.

Surveillance techniques enable authorities to discreetly monitor individuals of interest while gathering information about their actions. Interrogation involves questioning tactics to extract details from witnesses or suspects, aiming for honest and accurate responses.

Forensic analysis has become a tool in investigations. Experts can uncover significant clues from physical evidence left at crime scenes or embedded within digital devices through DNA analysis, fingerprinting, ballistics testing, and digital forensics.

Nevertheless, conducting investigations presents challenges. Law enforcement agencies often encounter hurdles such as witnesses or evidence tampering. These obstacles can significantly hinder progress, leading to delays in achieving justice and compromising the outcomes of investigations.¹⁰

To overcome these challenges, law enforcement agencies must evolve. They need to employ strategies and leverage technology to enhance their capabilities. Specialized training programs that equip officers with the skills for navigating investigations are crucial for success.

Collaboration and coordination among agencies involved in the investigation are of utmost importance. By effectively sharing resources, expertise and information, these agencies can combine their strengths to tackle the intricate cases.¹¹

Legal reforms also play a role in improving investigation efficiency.

To ensure that laws are up to date with changes and new trends in crime, lawmakers have the task of equipping law enforcement agencies with the necessary tools to combat evolving threats effectively. Law enforcement agencies play a role in investigating and bringing justice to victims of crimes. Their responsibilities are diverse, requiring professionalism, dedication and adherence to boundaries. By implementing strategies embracing innovation and collaboration to overcome challenges and advocating for legal reforms, law enforcement agencies can continue their commitment to upholding principles of justice while fostering peace within society.

2.1 Role of Police in the criminal justice system

The role of the Police is crucial in ensuring a fair investigation of crimes and delivering justice. The Indian Police Act of 1861 established the principles of organization for police forces in India, which continue to be in effect with minor modifications. Although state police forces may have different levels of resources and equipment, their organizational and operational structures are similar, and the Criminal Procedure Code of 1973, as amended to the present, governs crime investigation.

The Police must promptly respond to information about sexual offences against women, assist the victim, and conduct a thorough and impartial investigation of the crime. In cases of heinous crimes, the burden of proof lies with the Police, who must present concrete evidence to prove the accused's guilt beyond reasonable doubt. Justice in criminal cases depends on the nature of the crime and its findings in the investigation.

The criminal justice system has various concepts, such as retributive, deterrent, corrective, and reformative, depending on the nature of the crime. However, in cases of serious crimes, such as the Nirbhaya gang rape, the courts must deliver swift justice by conducting trials in fast-track courts. The punishment should act as a deterrent to other criminals. The courts must punish the guilty, protect the innocent and deliver justice to the victims of the crime. The law is both corrective and retributive, but swift justice is also required in rare cases with no scope for reformation.

¹⁰ Gottschalk P, Knowledge Management in Policing and Law Enforcement (IGI Global 2019) 56

¹¹ Rojek J and others, 'Policing Critical Incidents: Leadership and Critical Incident Management' (2015) 15(4) Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice 594, 601

The Police have many responsibilities, including preventing, combating, and controlling crime, preserving peace, and enforcing public order.

2.1.1 Contribution of Police in the Criminal Justice System:

The Police play a crucial role in the criminal justice system of any modern country. They are responsible for various functions that help maintain law and order. Firstly, the Police arrest suspected criminals and law violators to prevent them from committing further crimes. They bring these suspects before a criminal court to face charges. This helps deter criminal activities and ensures public safety. Secondly, the Police can investigate criminal activities using various sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Once the investigation is complete, they submit a charge sheet for prosecution or a final report for the release of the accused. These functions are essential for a stable and effective judicial system.

2.1.2 Power of Police to investigate:

The power of police investigation may be initiated under the following circumstances:

- 1) When a First Information Report (FIR) is filed under section 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. In *Lalita Kumari v. Govt. of U.P* [W.P.(Cr) No; 68/2008], a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court held that registration of FIR is mandatory if the information discloses the commission of a cognizable offence. No preliminary inquiry is permissible in such a situation. If the information received does not disclose a cognizable offence but indicates the necessity for an inquiry, a preliminary inquiry may be conducted only to ascertain whether a cognizable offence is disclosed. The Supreme Court has issued specific guidelines regarding the registration of FIR.
- 2) When a police officer has reason to suspect the commission of a cognizable offence under Section 156(1) & 157(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- 3) When a competent Magistrate orders the Police under Section 156(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure without taking cognizance of the offence on a complaint under Section 200 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- 4) After taking cognizance of the offence on a complaint, decide the issue of process against the accused under Section 202(1) & 203 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

2.1.3 Power to investigate in cases of non-cognizable offences; U/Sec.155 (2) Cr.Pc.

Under certain circumstances, a Magistrate can order a Police officer in charge of a Police station to investigate whether a case is cognizable or non-cognizable. If a Magistrate orders a Police Officer to investigate a non-cognizable offence under Section 155(2) of the Cr.Pc., the police officer receiving such an order may exercise the same powers in respect of the investigation, except for the power to arrest without a warrant, which he has in a cognizable offence.

2.1.4 Procedure to investigate in case of a cognizable offence; S.156 Cr.Pc.

When a crime is severe enough to be considered a cognizable offence, the investigation begins by providing information to a police officer in charge of a police station under section 154 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The power to investigate a cognizable offence is granted to any police officer under section 156 of the same code without requiring a magistrate's order. However, section 156(3) of the Criminal Procedure Code empowers any magistrate under

section 190 to order a police officer in charge of a police station to investigate any cognizable offence. Section 190 allows any magistrate to take cognizance when they receive a complaint, a police report (challan), or information from anyone other than a police officer who knows the offence, in the case of Tula Ram Vs. Kishore Singh, a magistrate, can only order an investigation under section 156(3) of the Criminal Procedure Code at the pre-cognizance stage.

2.1.5 Procedure for investigation; U/Sec.157 Cr.Pc.

If the police officer has a reasonable suspicion of a cognizable offence being committed, they must immediately provide a copy of the report to the Magistrate. This Magistrate is authorized to take cognizance of such an offence upon a police report. A basis for suspicion may come from an FIR received under section 154 of the Cr.Pc. or any other information provided by the Police. Additionally, for an offence of rape, the victim's statement will be recorded at her residence or a place of her choosing. As much as possible, the statement will be recorded by a female police officer in the presence of the victim's parents, guardians, relatives, or local social worker. In the case of State of Maharashtra vs Sarangdharsingh Shivdassingh Chavan, it was held that a police officer in charge of a police station, even without an FIR, can investigate the offence under Section 157(1) of the Cr.Pc. Furthermore, under section 160 of the Cr.Pc., the police officer may require the attendance of witnesses by written order. However, no male person under the age of 15 years or over 65 years, or any woman or any mentally or physically disabled person shall be required to attend any place other than their place of residence.

2.1.6 Examination of witnesses by Police; U/Sec. 161 Cr.Pc.

According to section 161 of the Criminal Procedure Code, statements are taken from people who have knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the case and are written down. It is also allowed to record these statements using audio-video electronic means. However, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 2013 states that if a woman is the victim of a crime under sections 354, 354A, 354B, 354C, 354D or 376, 376A, 376B, 376C, 376D, 376E or section 509 of the Indian Penal Code, her statement must be recorded by a woman police officer.

2.1.7 power to submit charge sheet after completing investigation; U/Sec. 173 Cr.Pc.

After completing an investigation, the Police submit a charge sheet. The charge sheet includes a copy of the FIR, statements of the complainant/informant and witnesses, a seizure memo, panchnama, dying declaration, recovery of articles, etc.

According to Chapter 12 of the Indian Penal Code, every investigation must be completed without unnecessary delay. In the case of an offence under sections 376, 376A, 376AB, 376B, 376C, 376D, 376DA, 376DB, or 376E of the Indian Penal Code, the investigation must be completed within two months from the date on which the information was recorded by the officer in charge of the police station.

As soon as the investigation is completed, the officer in charge of the police station must send a report to a Magistrate empowered to take cognizance of the offence on a police report. The report must include the names of the parties, the nature of the information, the names of the persons who appear to be acquainted with the circumstances of the case, whether any offence appears to have been committed and, if so, by whom, whether the accused has been arrested, whether he has been released on his bond and, if so, whether with or without sureties, whether

he has been forwarded in custody under section 170, and whether the report of medical examination of the woman has been attached where investigation relates to an offence under sections 376, 376A, 376AB, 376B, 376C, 376D, 376DA, 376DB, or 376E of the Indian Penal Code.

The officer must also communicate the action taken to the person who first gave the information relating to the commission of the offence in a manner prescribed by the State Government.

If a superior officer of Police has been appointed under section 158, the report must be submitted through that officer, and he may, pending the orders of the Magistrate, direct the officer in charge of the police station to make further investigation if the State Government by general or special order so directs.

Whenever it appears from a report forwarded under this section that the accused has been released on his bond, the Magistrate shall make such order to discharge such bond or otherwise as he thinks fit.

When such a report is in respect of a case to which section 170 applies, the police officer shall forward to the Magistrate along with the report all documents or relevant extracts thereof on which the prosecution proposes to rely other than those already sent to the Magistrate during the investigation. The statements are recorded under section 161 of all the persons the prosecution proposes to examine as witnesses.

Suppose the police officer believes that any part of any such statement is irrelevant to the subject matter of the proceeding or that its disclosure to the accused is not essential in the interests of justice and is inexpedient in the public interest. In that case, he shall indicate that part of the statement and append a note requesting the Magistrate to exclude that part from the copies to be granted to the accused and stating his reasons for making such request.

Where the police officer investigating the case finds it convenient to do so, he may furnish the accused with copies of all or any of the documents referred to in Sub-Section (5).

Nothing in this section shall be deemed to preclude further investigation of an offence after a report under Sub-Section (2) has been forwarded to the Magistrate. If, upon such investigation, the officer in charge of the police station obtains further evidence, oral or documentary, he shall forward to the Magistrate a further report or reports regarding such evidence in the form prescribed. The provisions of Sub-Sections (2) to (6) shall, as far as may be, apply concerning such reports or reports as they apply concerning a report forwarded under Sub-Section (2).

2.1.8 Other powers of Police under Cr.Pc.:

Please find below a clear and accurate explanation of some critical legal procedures in India:

1. A medical examination of a rape victim is carried out under Section 164A of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr. Pc).
2. Under Section 165 of the Cr. P.C., a police officer, can search.
3. If the investigation is not completed within 24 hours, the Police can seek police custody under Section 167 of the Cr. P.C. for up to 15 days. This is called police custody.

4. If the Magistrate is satisfied that there are adequate grounds, the accused can be authorized to be detained beyond 15 days but no more than 90 days in the case of an offence punishable with death, life imprisonment, or ten years imprisonment. For other offences, detention should not exceed 60 days.
5. If the accused is not charged within 90 days or 60 days, they shall be released on bail, provided they furnish bail. In the case of a woman under eighteen, detention shall be authorized in the custody of a remand home or recognized social institution, as in the case of Rakesh Kumar Paul Vs. State of Assam, the Hon'ble Supreme Court held that cases in which punishment with imprisonment extends to ten years for "default bail" fall within Section 167 (a) (ii) of the code. In such cases, if the charge sheet is not filled within 60 days, the accused shall be entitled to be released on bail.
6. The Police can release the accused if the evidence is deficient as per Section 169 of the Cr.Pc.
7. The Police have the power to inquire and report on suicide under Section 174 of the Cr.Pc.

3. The Investigation Process

As the sun set on the bustling city, a team of dedicated law enforcement officers gathered in a dimly lit room.¹² They were about to embark on a journey to unravel the truth behind a heinous crime. This part delves deep into the investigation process followed by these diligent men and women, exploring each stage and its significance in bringing justice to those affected.

The investigation process is like an intricate dance; each step leads to another, guiding investigators closer to the truth. It begins with the case registration, where every detail is meticulously recorded. This initial step sets the foundation for what lies ahead.

Once registered, law enforcement agencies commence their quest for evidence. The collection and preservation of evidence form an essential stage in any investigation. Every piece of evidence, from fingerprints to DNA samples, holds great value in uncovering the perpetrator's identity. The meticulousness with which evidence is collected ensures its admissibility in court and strengthens the case against those responsible.¹³

Simultaneously, witnesses play a crucial role in shedding light on what transpired during the commission of an offence. Skilled investigators employ interrogation techniques to extract valuable information from witnesses or suspects. These interviews serve as building blocks that construct a clear picture of events leading up to and following the crime.

Amidst this process lies another integral stage – search and seizure procedures. Investigators exercise their legal authority to enter the premises and seize items relevant to the case. This power allows them to uncover hidden truths that may have remained concealed otherwise.

In recent years, technology has revolutionized investigations like never before. Digital forensics has proven instrumental in uncovering electronic trails left behind by criminals - messages exchanged, financial transactions made - all contributing pieces that fit into this intricate puzzle called investigation.

CCTV footage analysis serves as yet another powerful tool at investigators' disposal. In today's omnipresent surveillance cameras, every movement can be captured on tape.¹⁴ Investigators meticulously review hours of footage, searching for that crucial moment that can turn the tide of the investigation.

¹² Jovanović T and others, 'Using CCTV to Identify Origin Destination Patterns and Trip Purposes in Dense Urban Areas' (2020) 139 Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice 183, 189

¹³ Terrill W, Paoline EA and Manning PK, 'Police Culture and Coercion' (2003) 41(4) Criminology

¹⁴ Lum C and Koper CS, 'Evidence-Based Policing' in Miller JM (ed), The Encyclopedia of Theoretical Criminology (Wiley Blackwell 2016) 212.

However, as with any process, challenges arise. Lack of tampering of evidence poses a significant hurdle for investigators. It hampers their ability to build a strong case and delays justice delivery to those awaiting closure. Witness intimidation also plagues investigations, leaving potential key witnesses afraid to come forward. These challenges demand innovative strategies and unwavering determination from law enforcement agencies.

Nonetheless, there have been remarkable successes in enhancing investigation efficiency. Modern technology has played a pivotal role in revolutionizing investigations. Specialized training programs equip investigators with the necessary skills to adapt to ever-evolving criminal tactics.

Collaboration and coordination between different agencies involved in the investigation are also vital for success. By pooling resources and expertise, law enforcement agencies can overcome obstacles more effectively and bring perpetrators to justice swiftly.

Legal reforms further contribute to enhancing the efficiency of investigations. By ensuring that laws keep pace with technological advancements and social changes, we can create an environment where investigators are empowered by updated legislation.¹⁵

The investigation process is an intricate web of steps woven together by skilled law enforcement officers dedicated to unmasking offenders and bringing them before justice's scale. From registration to evidence collection, witness examination to technological advancements – each stage plays a vital role in achieving this noble objective. As we dive deeper into subsequent parts, we will unravel further intricacies hidden within this process - shedding light on its challenges and triumphs - ultimately paving our way towards a safer society.

4. Challenges Faced During Investigations

The investigation process is a multifaceted task law enforcement agencies undertake to ensure justice is served. However, it comes with its share of challenges. This section will explore the obstacles these agencies encounter during investigations and how they impact the overall outcome.

One of the challenges law enforcement agencies face is identifying and collecting evidence. Often, crucial evidence is either missing or tampered with, making it difficult for investigators to build a case against the accused. This hurdle does not delay the delivery of justice. It also undermines the credibility of the investigation.

Another significant challenge is witness intimidation. Witnesses are frequently hesitant to come or provide testimonies due to fear or coercion from influential individuals involved in criminal activities. This poses an obstacle for investigators as they strive to gather information and establish a solid chain of evidence.

Furthermore, technological advancements have brought both opportunities and challenges to investigations. While digital forensics has revolutionized how evidence can be extracted from devices, it has also provided criminals with ways to conceal their tracks through sophisticated cyber techniques. Law enforcement agencies must continuously adapt their skills and resources to keep up with these evolving threats.

Moreover, bureaucratic obstacles can hinder progress when different agencies involved in an investigation do not coordinate well. Delays and gaps in sharing information often occur due to information-sharing systems or jurisdictional disputes. These challenges highlight the importance of strategies employed by law enforcement agencies to overcome them.

¹⁵ Dror IE and others, 'Contextual Information Renders Experts Vulnerable to Making Erroneous Identifications' (2006) 156 Forensic Science International

One way to address these hurdles is through training programs that equip investigators with techniques and methodologies. This can significantly improve their ability to handle cases and overcome obstacles like lack of evidence or witness intimidation.

Collaboration between agencies also plays a role in tackling hurdles during investigations. Law enforcement agencies can ensure a more cohesive and streamlined investigative process by fostering communication channels and establishing protocols for information sharing.

Furthermore, legal reforms have a role to play in overcoming investigation challenges. For instance, legislation protecting witnesses from intimidation can encourage people to come and provide crucial testimony. Similarly, ensuring the admissibility of evidence and equipping investigators with tools to combat cyber threats can strengthen the investigative process in the digital age.¹⁶

Investigating offences poses challenges for law enforcement agencies. Addressing these obstacles requires approaches. Unwavering determination at every step. From collecting evidence to handling witness intimidation and navigating technological complexities.

To overcome these challenges and improve the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in apprehending criminals, it is crucial to focus on training programs, collaboration between agencies, necessary legal reforms and the adoption of technology. In the following section, we will delve deeper into techniques and approaches that can enhance the efficiency of investigations.

We must confront these challenges with unwavering dedication as we navigate the complexities of investigating offences. Doing so can ensure that justice prevails in our society, acknowledging the crucial role played by law enforcement agencies in maintaining law and order.

4.1. Limitation of Police under different laws of India:

Police cannot function smoothly due to some Code of Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act provisions. The police officer takes any statement from any person during the investigation, which cannot be used as evidence at any inquiry or trial in court. Because this statement has no evidentiary value, the police officer expresses a contradictory picture due to the minimal evidentiary value of the statements. Under the Evidence Act, when a confession is given to a police officer in the absence of a Magistrate, this confession is not admissible as evidence in a court r//w sec. 25 & 26 of Indian Evidence Act, 1872. It creates an unnecessary hardship for the Police in their activities in the criminal justice system.

Even in sexual offences like rape cases, under section 114A of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 as amended up to date; Presumption as to absence of consent in particular prosecution for rape: In a prosecution for rape under clause (a), clause (b), clause (c), clause (d), clause (e), clause (f), clause (g), clause (h), clause (i), clause (j), clause (k), clause (l), clause (m) or clause (n) of sub-section (2) of section 376 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860), where sexual intercourse by the accused is proved and the question is whether it was without the consent of the woman alleged to have been raped and such woman states in her evidence before the court that she did not consent, the court shall presume that she did not consent.

Explanations In this section, "sexual intercourse" shall mean any of the acts mentioned in clauses (a) to (d) of section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860).

4.2. Corruption and abuse of power by Police:

The police department plays a vital role in India's criminal justice system. However, it has a reputation for corruption and abuse of power. The Anti-corruption Bureau and Transparency International have identified the police department as the most corrupt department of the Indian government. According to the Indian Corruption Survey 2019, conducted by Local Circles in

¹⁶ Jackson J and others, 'Why Do People Comply with the Law?: Legitimacy and the Influence of Legal Institutions' (2012) 52 British Journal of Criminology 1051, 1060

collaboration with Transparency International India, cases of police corruption have increased from 13% to 33% in 2019 compared to the previous year in Delhi, the capital of India. There are complaints about the Police arresting innocent people in false cases and subjecting them to third-degree methods to extract confessions. The Supreme Court of India has issued guidelines in the *Arnesh Kumar Vs—state of Bihar & Anr* case to reduce police abuse of power. After satisfying the necessary parameters mentioned under section 41 of the Cr, arrests must be made. P.C. It has been seen that the Police sometimes falsely implicate innocent people, causing a burden on the overburdened judiciary system. The Police have a crucial role in protecting the rights of people and maintaining law and order in the state. In the *Kalpana Kutty vs. State of Maharashtra*, it was held that if a police officer receives a cognizable offence, they should register an FIR as per section 154(1) Cr.Pc.

5. Enhancing Efficiency in Investigation

The investigation process is an intricate dance of gathering evidence, analyzing data, and uncovering the truth. In this part, we delve into the techniques and approaches that can enhance the efficiency of investigations, providing law enforcement agencies with the tools to navigate this complex terrain.

Efficiency is the key to a successful investigation. It allows law enforcement agencies to expedite justice while ensuring accuracy and reliability in their findings. To achieve this, modern technology plays a pivotal role. Advancements in forensic science have revolutionized investigations, providing investigators with unprecedented capabilities to analyze evidence and identify perpetrators.¹⁷

An investigation involves several steps, including gathering evidence, analyzing data and revealing the truth. In this section, we will explore techniques and approaches that can improve the effectiveness of investigations, equipping law enforcement agencies with the tools to navigate this intricate landscape.

Efficiency is crucial for an investigation as it enables law enforcement agencies to expedite justice while maintaining accuracy and dependability in their findings. To achieve this goal, modern technology plays a role. The advancements in science have completely transformed investigations by allowing investigators to analyze evidence and identify culprits.

One remarkable technological advancement is forensics. Digital traces are left behind at every corner with the use of devices. Law enforcement agencies can now extract information from computers, smartphones and other devices that can serve as evidence in criminal cases. Digital forensics has become a tool for uncovering hidden trails and exposing cybercriminals.

One such technological marvel is digital forensics. With the proliferation of electronic devices, digital footprints are left behind at every turn. Law enforcement agencies can now extract valuable information from computers, smartphones, and other devices that can serve as crucial evidence in criminal cases. Digital forensics has become indispensable in uncovering hidden trails and exposing cybercriminals.¹⁸

Surveillance techniques have also evolved rapidly over the years. Closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras are no longer just passive observers; they have become active aids for law enforcement agencies. Advanced algorithms can analyze hours of footage within minutes, helping investigators identify suspects or track their movements with precision.

Specialized training is another avenue through which efficiency can be enhanced. Law enforcement agencies must invest in continuous education programs that equip their officers

¹⁷ Anderson T and Twining W, *Analysis of Evidence* (Cambridge University Press 1998) p12.

¹⁸ Innes M, 'The Epistemological Basis of Professional Knowledge in Policing' in Bullock K and Tilley N (eds), *Handbook of Policing* (Willan Publishing 2017) 23.

with updated investigative methodologies and strategies. By keeping pace with criminal tactics and technological advancements, investigators can adapt swiftly to new challenges.

Collaboration and coordination between different agencies involved in investigations also play a crucial role in enhancing efficiency. Sharing resources, intelligence, and expertise across jurisdictions enables law enforcement agencies to pool their collective knowledge and skills towards achieving common goals. Additionally, multidisciplinary task forces comprised of experts from various fields can bring diverse perspectives to complex cases, fostering innovation and efficiency in problem-solving.¹⁹

Legal reforms can further contribute to enhancing the efficiency of investigations. Streamlining bureaucratic processes, providing clear guidelines for evidence collection and preservation, and establishing standardized protocols can minimize delays and procedural hurdles that often impede investigations. Legal reforms facilitate a more efficient and effective investigation process by creating an enabling environment for investigators.

Let us explore some real-life examples of law enforcement agencies improving their investigation efficiency. One such case involved profile fraud, where a specialized unit was established to handle the complex network of transactions. By utilizing state-of-the-art technology for data analysis and collaborating with partners, investigators successfully tracked the movement of funds across various jurisdictions. This led to the apprehension and conviction of the individuals involved.

In another scenario, a dedicated task force consisting of detectives, forensic experts, and psychologists managed to solve a series of cases related to killers. By combining profiling with forensic techniques, they could identify behavioural patterns exhibited by these killers and narrow their list of potential suspects. This innovative approach expedited justice for the victims and helped prevent further harm by capturing these dangerous individuals.

Efficiency in investigation is not just about speed; it is about ensuring accuracy while maximizing resources. By embracing modern technology, providing specialized training, fostering collaboration between agencies, and implementing legal reforms that remove unnecessary hurdles, law enforcement agencies can enhance their investigative capabilities significantly.²⁰

Enhancing efficiency in investigations is vital for maintaining law and order in society. Combining cutting-edge technology, specialized training programs, collaboration among agencies, and streamlined legal frameworks can empower law enforcement agencies to tackle complex crimes effectively. As we proceed further into this book's exploration of the investigation process vis-à-vis cognizable offences' role within law enforcement agencies' purview—let us remember that an efficient investigation process is fundamental to upholding justice in our society.

6. Ensuring Accountability in Investigation

Ensuring accountability within law enforcement agencies becomes paramount as the investigation process of cognizable offences unfolds. The integrity and trustworthiness of these agencies are essential for maintaining public confidence and upholding the principles of justice. In this part, we will delve into the importance of accountability, explore mechanisms for

¹⁹ Bayley DH and Weisburd D, 'Cops and Spooks: The Role of Police in Counterterrorism' in Bayley DH, Weisburd D and others (eds), *To Protect and To Serve: Policing in an Age of Terrorism* (Springer 2009)

²⁰ Keel T and others, 'Investigative Aspects of Fire Debris Analysis' in Lentini J (ed), *The Scientific Investigation of Fire* (CRC Press 2021) 345.

ensuring it, analyze its impact on public trust, and examine international best practices that can be adopted to promote responsibility in investigations.²¹

Accountability is the cornerstone of a robust investigation process. It safeguards against abuse of power and ensures that law enforcement agencies carry out their duties with transparency and fairness.²² By holding officers accountable for their actions, we protect the rights of individuals involved in investigations and maintain the overall credibility of our justice system. Various mechanisms can be implemented to ensure accountability within law enforcement agencies. Internal affairs units play a crucial role in investigating allegations of misconduct or abuse by officers. These units operate independently from regular investigative units and are responsible for conducting thorough inquiries into any complaints or suspicions raised against law enforcement personnel.

Additionally, independent oversight bodies can be established to monitor the activities of law enforcement agencies.²³ These bodies act as external watchdogs, objectively assessing investigations and ensuring they adhere to legal protocols and ethical standards.

The impact of accountability goes beyond internal scrutiny; it also extends to public trust. When individuals perceive that law enforcement agencies are held accountable for their actions, they develop confidence in these institutions' ability to deliver justice fairly and effectively. This trust forms the bedrock upon which societies build harmony between citizens and those entrusted with maintaining law and order.

International best practices can serve as valuable guidance to enhance investigation accountability further. Countries worldwide have implemented body-worn cameras for police officers during interactions with suspects or witnesses.²⁴ This technology promotes transparency by capturing real-time evidence while providing a deterrent against misconduct. Moreover, establishing a culture of continuous learning and improvement within law enforcement agencies is crucial. Regular training programs on ethics, human rights, and investigative techniques can help officers stay updated with the evolving landscape of investigative practices.²⁵ By nurturing a mindset of accountability from the onset of their careers, officers are more likely to uphold the highest standards of professionalism throughout their service.²⁶

Ensuring investigation accountability is vital for upholding the principles of justice and maintaining public trust in law enforcement agencies. Internal affairs units and independent oversight bodies are pivotal in holding officers accountable for their actions. The impact of accountability extends beyond internal scrutiny; it fosters public confidence in our justice system. By adopting international best practices and promoting a culture of continuous learning, we can enhance investigation accountability and create a more effective and trusted law enforcement apparatus.

²¹ Bradley T and Walters R, 'Introduction: Understanding the Rule of Law in Criminal Justice' in Bradley T and Walters R (eds), *Introduction to Criminological Thought* (SAGE Publications 2019)

²² Loftus EF, 'Planting Misinformation in the Human Mind: A 30-Year Investigation of the Malleability of Memory' (2005) 12 *Learning & Memory* 361, 364.

²³ Evans JR and Kebbell MR, 'The effective analyst: A study of what makes an effective crime and intelligence analyst' (2012) *Policing and Society* 367, 371.

²⁴ Strom KJ and Hickman MJ, 'Unanalyzed Evidence in Law-Enforcement Agencies: A National Examination of Forensic Processing in Police Departments' (2010) 9(2) *Criminology & Public Policy*

²⁵ *ibid*

²⁶ Eck J and Rossmo DK, 'New Frontiers in Geographic Profiling' in Kocsis R (ed), *Criminal Profiling* (Springer 2020)

Table 2.7: State-wise perception on police's investigation of crime

	Those who are satisfied with police's investigation of crime	Those who are dissatisfied with police's investigation of crime	Net satisfaction
Andhra Pradesh	49	40	9
Assam	42	39	3
Bihar	16	80	-64
Gujarat	56	27	29
Haryana	59	38	21
Himachal Pradesh	73	22	51
Karnataka	17	58	-41
Kerala	42	22	20
Madhya Pradesh	26	56	-30
Maharashtra	41	46	-5
Nagaland	22	35	-13
Odisha	49	32	17
Punjab	46	25	21
Rajasthan	30	39	-9
Tamil Nadu	30	52	-22
Uttar Pradesh	32	61	-29
West Bengal	30	43	-13
Delhi	28	58	-30
Jharkhand	27	70	-43
Chhattisgarh	58	24	34
Uttarakhand	55	32	23
Telangana	20	53	-33
Overall	37	45	-8

Note: Figures are percentages. Rest of the respondents did not respond. Net satisfaction here means total satisfied *minus* total dissatisfied.

As we move forward in this analytical study on the investigation process of cognizable offences vis-à-vis the role of law enforcement agencies, we must remain vigilant in our pursuit of justice. Accountability serves as both a shield against abuse and a beacon for trust. Ensure that every investigation is conducted with integrity, transparency, and fairness. These qualities are essential to upholding the rule of law that binds us together as a society.

6.1. Problems and needs to reform of the Police in India:

Police are an essential structure and a significant embodiment of the Indian government to execute the rules and orders. But this police force faces many problems in India, which are as follows:-

6.1.1 An overburdened police force:

State police forces in India had a high vacancy rate of 24% (about 5.5 lakh vacancies) in January 2016. As a result, while the sanctioned police strength was 181 police officers per lakh persons in 2016, the actual strength was only 137 police officers. It is worth noting that the United Nations recommends a standard of 222 police officers per lakh persons. Furthermore, 86% of the state police force comprises constables typically promoted only once during their service and retiring as head constables. This may weaken their incentive to perform well. Over the last decade (2005-2015), crime per lakh population in India has increased by 28%. However, convictions have been low, with only 47% of the cases registered under the Indian Penal Code, 1860, resulting in convictions in 2015. The Law Commission has observed that one of the reasons behind this is the poor quality of investigations.

6.1.2 Need to improve Police infrastructure:

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Audits conducted by India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) have revealed that many state police forces suffer from shortages of weaponry. For instance, Rajasthan and West Bengal have been found to have 75% and 71% shortages, respectively, in the required weaponry for their state police forces.

The Bureau of Police Research and Development has also noted that the state forces are deficient by 30.5% in the required vehicles, which amounts to 2,35,339. Interestingly, even though funds are allocated for infrastructure modernisation, they are often underutilized. For instance, in 2015-16, the states utilised only 14% of such funds. In order to address the issue of sexual offences against women in India, it is essential to recruit an adequate number of female police staff. Additionally, installing CCTV cameras in all sensitive city areas could help improve citizens' safety.

6.1.3 Lacking in Crime Investigation:

A key responsibility of state and central police agencies like the CBI is investigating crimes. When a crime occurs, police officers must record the complaint, collect evidence, identify the perpetrator, frame charges against them, and assist in their prosecution in court to secure a conviction. However, in India, the crime rate has increased by 28% over the past decade, and the nature of crimes has become more complex with the emergence of various types of cybercrimes and economic fraud. Despite this, conviction rates (number of convictions secured per 100 cases) have remained relatively low. In 2015, the conviction rate for crimes recorded under the Indian Penal Code, 1860 was 47%. The Law Commission has identified poor-quality investigations as one of the reasons for this trend. One of the main reasons for police failures in investigating and prosecuting crimes is their heavy reliance on the narrative provided by the complainant, often overlooking the accused's perspective. Sometimes, the accused is the actual offender, but the theory developed by the investigating officer differs from the actual events, resulting in a weak case against the actual offender and eventual acquittal. It is a well-established legal principle that the burden of proof lies on the prosecution, who must prove their case beyond reasonable doubt to secure a conviction.

6.1.4 Need to hold Police accountable:

Police are responsible for investigating crimes, enforcing laws, and maintaining law and order in a state. Various countries have adopted safeguards to ensure that their power is only used for legitimate purposes. These include making the Police accountable to the political executive and creating independent oversight authorities.

In India, the political executive, or ministers, have the power of superintendence and control over the police forces to ensure their accountability. However, the Second Administrative Reforms Commission has noted that this power has been misused. As a result, ministers have used police forces for personal and political reasons. Experts recommend that the scope of the political executive's power must be limited under law.

Under section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), a competent officer's prior sanction is needed to prosecute a government servant for an alleged criminal act in the discharge of his official duty. "No court shall take cognizance of such offence except with the previous sanction." Therefore, the investigating officer has immunity from prosecution in case of discrepancies in the investigation.

7. Conclusion and Recommendations

In this section, we bring together the findings from our exploration of the investigation process for serious crimes and the role of law enforcement agencies. We have delved into these agencies' complexities and challenges in pursuing justice. Now, it is time to summarise our journey and provide recommendations for improving the investigation process and strengthening the role of law enforcement agencies.

Throughout this book, we have emphasized the significance of understanding crimes that require intervention by the Police. These are offences where law enforcement agencies have been granted authority to initiate investigations without a complaint or a court order. Identifying and investigating crimes is vital for maintaining law and order in society.

The legal framework surrounding cognizable offences gives law enforcement agencies specific investigative powers. These powers enable them to gather evidence, record statements, conduct searches, seize property, interrogate suspects, and employ other techniques for solving crimes. However, challenges arise when dealing with lack of evidence, witness intimidation or tampering with evidence. These obstacles can result in delays in justice delivery and compromised outcomes.

Law enforcement agencies must embrace modern technology and undergo specialized training programs to enhance investigation efficiency. Digital forensics has revolutionized how evidence is collected and analyzed in criminal cases. CCTV footage analysis has also proven invaluable in identifying suspects or corroborating witness statements.

The CAG audits reflect very poorly on technology-enabled solutions to policing. Uttar Pradesh could not spend nearly 60 per cent of the Rs 136.51 crore it received under the MPF for buying communication equipment, even as about half of the force was deprived of hand-held sets as per the required norms. The audit noted that nearly two-thirds of sets 128 Status of Policing in India Report 2018 in use have already passed their prescribed lives. As of December 2014, the Assam Cyber Crime Investigation Lab (ACCIL) was non-functional as it struggled with power-backup, broadband, equipment and staffing shortages. During 2009-14, Assam CID could dispose of only 1.82 to 16.15 per cent of the outstanding cases, while its sleuths were regularly pushed into law and order duties. The Maharashtra Home Department could spend under 50 per cent of the grants (Rs 19.51 crore out of Rs 44.66 crore) to improve the state's communication system. Police officers in Tamil Nadu also faced a shortage of more than half of the required quantity of hand-held sets and allied equipment. In Bihar, CCTV cameras bought in 2011-12 were not found installed in eight out of 11 test-checked districts and were kept in stores, audits of 2011-16 have revealed.

Moreover, collaboration among different agencies involved in the investigation process is essential for success. Sharing information across departments can lead to breakthroughs that might otherwise remain elusive. Coordination between local police forces, forensic labs, intelligence units, prosecutors' offices, and judiciary ensures a smooth investigation process.²⁷

Legal reforms should be considered as well to strengthen investigative procedures further. The introduction of advanced technology should be accompanied by legislative changes that adapt to the evolving nature of crime. Ensuring that laws keep pace with technological advancements will enable law enforcement agencies to combat new and emerging threats effectively.²⁸

Accountability within law enforcement agencies is paramount. Internal affairs units and independent oversight bodies are crucial in ensuring transparency and maintaining public trust. By holding officers accountable for their actions, we can safeguard the integrity of investigations and maintain confidence in the criminal justice system.²⁹

Looking beyond national borders, international best practices can offer valuable insights into promoting investigation accountability. Sharing knowledge and learning from other

²⁷ Clarkson CM and others, 'Eyewitness Identification Reform: Data, Divergence, and Dispute Resolution' (2018) 43 Fordham Urban Law Journal

²⁸ Nicksa SC, 'The Domino Effect: A Quantitative Study of Chain-Reaction Officer Misconduct' (2014) 24(2) Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory 471, 478.

²⁹ Coughlan S and others, 'The Constant Comparator Method in Police Research' (2019) 21(2) Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology

jurisdictions is vital for continuous improvement. Collaborating with international partners on training programs, information exchange, and joint operations can foster greater efficiency and effectiveness in combating transnational crimes.

Our journey through the investigation process of cognizable offences has shed light on the complexities law enforcement agencies face. By understanding these challenges, we are better equipped to address them head-on. To enhance the role of these agencies, we must invest in advanced technology, provide specialized training, foster collaboration among different departments, enact legal reforms, ensure accountability within organizations, and learn from international best practices.³⁰

This book aims to provide an analytical study of the investigation process vis-à-vis cognizable offences and the pivotal role played by law enforcement agencies. I hope that this work serves as a comprehensive resource for individuals working within or interested in criminal justice systems worldwide.

As we conclude, a robust investigation process is essential for bringing perpetrators to justice and instilling confidence in society. Pursuing truth requires unwavering dedication from those tasked with upholding justice; may they be guided by integrity as they navigate complex cases.³¹

And so ends our exploration into the investigation process of cognizable offences vis-à-vis the role of law enforcement agencies. This endeavour, I hope, has left you with a deeper understanding of the intricacies of pursuing justice.

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³⁰ Mastrofski SD, 'Police Organization and Management Issues for the Next Decade' (2004) Paper presented at the National Institute of Justice (NCJRS) 11

³¹ Dror IE and others, 'Contextual Information Renders Experts Vulnerable to Making Erroneous Identifications' (2006) 156 *Forensic Science International*

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