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Gandhis failed to co-operate with SPG

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The Special Protection Group included the PM, their immediate family, and former PMs & their immediate family. Its rules, however, have been changed from time to time. According to sources, there have been several instances when each of the three members of the Gandhi family failed to co-operate with the SPG by choosing to travel in non-bullet-resistant vehicles and undertook foreign visits unaccompanied by officers, often informing the force of their plans at the eleventh hour.

Sources indicated a proposal to limit eligibility for SPG — a highly-trained force that is self-sufficient with its own high-tech equipment and aids including cars like BMWs and sophisticated arms, and also with statutory backing to make the state police conform to its requirements — was initiated in 2012-13 itself.

The justification for trimming was that since SPG is expensive, it needs to factor in every contingency including terror threats and cannot leave anything to chance, and weeding out as many protectees as possible would gear the force to the task of protecting those with the highest threat

HOW GANDHIS DEVIATED FROM SPG NORMS

RAHUL GANDHI

18 Number of visits to different parts of the country between 2005 and 2014

1,892 Occasions since 2015 (till May 2019) when he travelled in a non-BR (bullet-resistant) vehicles

247 Occasions till June 2019 when he did not use BR car outside Delhi. Once, during a visit to Banaskantha in Gujarat in August 2017, his non-BR car was attacked by a stone-pelter and the SPG PSO injured

143 Foreign visits out of a total 156 undertaken since 1991 when Rahul did not take SPG officers. In most of these 143 visits, itinerary shared at 11th hour, preventing SPG officers from accompanying him



SONIA GANDHI

50 Occasions from 2015 to May 2019 when she did not use SPG BR vehicle in Delhi. On all but one of these occasions, Rahul drove her non-BR car

13 Unscheduled visits to various places in the country during which she used non-BR cars

24 Foreign visits of Sonia since 2015 when she did not take SPG officers along

PRIYANKA GANDHI

339 Times between 2015 & May 2019 when she didn't use SPG BR vehicles for travel within Delhi

64 Occasions when Priyanka used non-BR vehicles at other places in the country, against SPG's advice

78 Foreign visits out of a total 99 since 1991 when she refused SPG cover. On most occasions, shared plan at 11th hour. Priyanka has on several occasions since May 2014 alleged that SPG was collecting personal & confidential info & sharing with unauthorised persons. SPG has countered the allegations

perception, such as the Prime Minister:

"I am not privy to the sensitive inputs (on threat perception of the Gandhis) and cannot comment except that in the perception of security

and intelligence agencies, their threat quotient has gone down to the extent that such a removal is warranted," Yashovardhan Azad, a former IPS officer, said. Sources in the CRPF said takeover of the

Gandhi family's security from SPG may easily take a week to 10 days, with SPG likely to help out with men and material, including cars and jammers that are not readily available with CRPF