



**Full Length Research Article**

**ROLE OF POLICE VIZ-A-VIZ LAW AND ORDER; AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE**

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**ABSTRACT**

Peace is Pathway to Prosperity; Public order is in fact necessary for the very existence of a nation. Chaos and anarchy have always led countries to disintegration. Given the essence of tranquility, govt. provides an institutional mechanism to serve the purpose of restoring public peace, police forms one of the most important part whereof. This Paper is an attempt to examine the role of police in maintaining public order, to analyze the working, discuss the problems & workout possible solutions.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Tranquility & Harmony are sine-qua-non for the very existence of every nation state. To maintain public order, many stake holders are involved, police, however is at the helm of affairs as for as maintenance of public order is concerned. Police is a part of ancient Indian history; Moryan's did have a police force, Mughal's, set up Kotwali system to monitor the activities of subjects and, British rule organized modern police by enacting police act of 1861. Indian Independence marked a paradigm shift towards a Welfarist State, thereby guarantying protection to person & property of citizen's, along with other rights. Constitution of India adopted in 1950 vested the power of maintaining public order with respective state govt.'s under seventh schedule of the constitution. To ensure public order, the state govt.'s have organized police forces who act as eyes and arms of the govt. Police administration forms the bedrock of social, political and economical justice. Given the importance of police administration it is imperative to introspect the actual working of police system. Police is often labeled as most corrupt institution of the govt. Police public relation is highly strained and often people assert that they are more scared of police than of criminals. Time & again police resorts to unwarranted use of force indiscriminately against public under the guise of maintenance of public order which is evident from recent

incidents of brutal beating of women in Punjab & UP. This kind of an approach on the part of police is not acceptable in any democratic country. Independent India must choose whether we will have a people's police or a ruler police, the constitution has laid down that people should rule so, police must also be people's police (khosla commission 1968). Babari masjid demolition at Ayodhya, UP, Massacre of Minority Muslims during Gujarat Carnage of 2002, Attacks on Christain Minority in different parts of the country, (Madhav Godbole 1996, 2000, 2006), Mumbai terrorist attacks (2008), Communal Riots of Muzaffar Nagar, UP (2013), highlighted, crisis of insensitivity at the heart of police administration.

It would be cynical however, to hold police responsible for entire state of affairs. Given the fact that Indian police is still governed by the Act of 1861 is a British legacy. This Act gives priority to collection of political intelligence, punitive policing at the cost of local population in the event of 'disturbances'. There are only 12809 Police Stations in India, We have only 125 Police Personnel's for every 1 lakh of population as against UN standards of 230/lakh, one, of the lowest police/population ratio in the world. Women constitute just 5% of the total police force of the country. Pay & Working conditions especially, of constabulary are not very promising; chances of promotion are also very limited due to the system of horizontal entry into the higher grades. Police operations become even more complicated in areas of North East, Central India and J&K because, of the Insurgency, Naxalism &

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Separatist Movements respectively. For the last several years local police has been the prime target of terrorists in the state of J&K which is evident from attacks on police in Srinagar and Shopian court complex etc., highlights, the inherent lacunas in police intelligence & non-availability of modern weapons to counter such incidents. This factual situation necessitates reforms of police administration and therefore, to reform police system, I propose following Suggestions, most of which have been discussed and deliberated largely by various committees, commissions & working groups over the decades.

- New legislation, governing, Police must, replace the Police Act of 1861 in all states after due consultations with all stake holders including general public to, address concerns of contemporary India.
- Pay and working conditions of constabulary must be improved, so as to keep them motivated & dedicated to their duties.
- Better chances of Promotion must be ensured to, boost the morale of the police which will go a long way in curbing the menace of corruption prevalent in police system.
- From the last several years crime, against women in India has increased, thereby making it imperative to have more representation of women in police force to, ensure greater sensitivity towards women related issues.
- To address the rapidly deteriorating law & order situation, it would be prudent to Segregate Crime Investigation from Maintenance of law & order, along with this; necessary Ammendments in Criminals laws should also be worked out.
- Political pressure in the matters of Postings, Promotions and transfers must be eased to ensure impartiality in Performance; higher officials should be given a fixed tenure of 2-3 years to enable them to work effectively & efficiently.
- Union Home Ministry owes, a duty to compel States to be self reliant in discharging their constitutional obligation of maintaining law & order ,given the fact that states have shown a declining concern over internal security management which, necessitates more and more paramilitary forces being pushed to states to meet deteriorating law & order. (N. N. VOHRA 1993).
- Police should be equipped with sophisticated weapons & modern intelligence system, especially in the areas of North- East, Central India and J & K, to counter growing threat of Naxalism & Extremism respectively.

- To rebuild and repose public trust in police administration, pro-active steps need to be taken like public-police meetings, Community policing, as has been initiated, by the states of Kerala, T.N, Maharashtra and J & K etc .This would certainly ensure public cooperation in police operations including effective enforcement of laws.
- Culture of deployment of maximum police force for the VVIP security should be done away with, to, ensure their availability for the performance of other functions.
- Training system should be re-devised, and made more inclusive by including chapters on Human Rights, Professional Ethics, Moral education & Tolerance.
- A thorough survey of suicidal cases on the part of Police Personnel's should be conducted; compulsions behind the same searched and a possible solution to counter the problem must be arrived at.

Police administration indeed forms one of the vital department of govt. & the very life line of governance, if, it is defective, incompetent & inefficient then, Rights will be in Jeopardy, Economy in Distress, Peace in Peril and Society would come to a Halt. Attainment of the Goal of Social, Economic and Political Justices would be rather impossible in absence of a sound Police System, thereby rendering reorganization of police system Indispensable.

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