



Survey on Police

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Recently, a survey conducted by Common Cause and Lokniti – Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), has found police personnel to be under **stress due to workload, poor work-life balance, and deficiency of resources.**

Highlights of the Survey

- More than **one-third of police** personnel would be **willing to give up their profession** if they were given a chance to join another job with the same salaries and perks.
- Three in four personnel said the **workload** made it difficult for them to do their job well and was affecting their physical and mental health.
 - An **average police officer works for 14 hours a day**, while the **Model Police Act recommends an 8-hour duty.**
 - Every second police personnel reported not getting any weekly off day.
- Other than poor work-life balance, the police personnel also have to work with **limited resources at their disposal.**
 - Some police stations **lack basic facilities** such as drinking water, clean toilets, transport, staff and funds for routine purchases.
 - The police personnel also reported the **absence of basic technological facilities** such as computers and storage facility.

- The survey highlights the **casual attitude of many in the police force towards judicial processes.**
 - About **three in five police personnel** believed that there should be a **preliminary investigation** done before registering a first investigation report (FIR), no matter how serious the reported crime is.
 - This is in **contradiction to a 2013 Supreme Court ruling** which made it mandatory for the police to register an FIR if a victim discloses information about a cognisable offence.
 - This contributes significantly to the **police's failure in developing a people-friendly image** is its inability to perform one of its core functions i.e. register crimes.
 - Every third police personnel surveyed agreed, for minor offences, a minor punishment handed down to the accused by the police was better than a legal trial.
 - A three-fourths majority believed it was alright for the police to adopt a **violent attitude towards criminals.**
 - The survey also found that a significant proportion of police force has a **casual attitude towards mob violence.**
- The survey also found that while the police personnel were sufficiently trained on physical parameters, weaponry and in crowd control, **many lacked training on modules of new technology, cybercrime or forensic technology.**
- This poor state of policing is reflected in India's dismal ranking in the **Rule of Law Index by the World Justice Project, wherein India ranked 68th out of 126 countries.**

Way Forward

Policing in India is becoming more and more difficult, in this context, there is the need for **Police reforms**. Since, Police, law and order are subjects of state list, the government can start from urging all the states to implement recommendations given by the supreme court in **Prakash Singh case**.

Source: HT