

Effects of better law & order now evident in UP

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Law and order is the hallmark of any governance. The perception of one's safety is so critical and treasured that it calls for no further elaboration. It is reflected not only in a victim-oriented policing approach or evidence-based delivery of police services but also in the sense of freedom one desires to enjoy. It is imperative to have the freedom to avail equal opportunities. Having a facilitating environment to take initiatives, to achieve and grow without any inhibitions or fear are some of the other necessary attributes one covets for. These are, therefore, the minimum expectations that any able governance must ensure.

The recently released data by National Crime Record Bureau for the year 2020 shows some of the remarkable facets of a state like Uttar Pradesh in this context. This prompts one to really take it as a case study, partly to understand the truth and partly to reassess the 'policy on policing'. One of the litmus tests of a strong Law & Order grid in a democratic set up is the safety of women. If we take the figure of crime against women, the national average is 55.9 per lakh population. UP, however, has a rate much below the national average at 45.1, whereas figures of the states such as West Bengal, Rajasthan, Odisha, Telangana are much higher at 76.2, 90.5, 95.14 & 112.9, respectively.

Though the statistics in itself cannot be an absolute yardstick but to initiate an analysis, such data are important and reflective of the character of governance. Observers have seen a better equilibrium in UP in the recent years. A further micro analysis of NCRB data shows that the cases of blatant assault on women with the intent to outrage their modesty have gone down in UP at @ 3.5 per lac population. This is much lower when compared with other states.

UP has reportedly also recorded the highest conviction rate in cases related to crimes against women and cyber-crime in the country as per NCRB. This has been made possible due to several steps taken to check crime against women which include UP-122 India App, night security cover scheme, women helpdesks and pink booths besides the enforcement of relevant criminal laws. Also, the hyper activation of cyber cells along with enhanced public awareness programmes was a timely act.

UP Police has gone through multiple ups and downs. It has, however, proved its mettle when the right leadership is provided at the apex level in terms of an appropriate policy and congruent support. The outcome in the present era is reflective of the role and goal clarity of those at the helm of affairs. The doctrine of 'Zero tolerance towards Crime & Criminals' upheld by the Chief Minister is quite evident right to the cutting-edge level. Not only the 'Mafia Raj' seems to have shrunk to its lowest ebb but,

even the second and third-line criminals have been largely neutralized within the 'Rule of Law'.

The ensuing sense of security has opened vistas for development too in terms of investments. UP's economy has reportedly doubled from Rs 11 lakh crore to Rs 22 lakh crore in the past four years. It is glaringly manifested by the infrastructural development in the state including the new institutions, both in health & education sectors. Development has its own positive impact on the Law & Order Grid. Both are complimentary as well as supplementary to each other. The top man at the helm of affairs enjoys a clean image with respect to his integrity and enforces the same down the line.

Wiser and concerned leaders would like to create an oasis of statesmanship rather than otherwise. Yogi Adityanath has rapidly adopted technologically empowered governance tools that are free from any biases. This ensures a professional outcome. UP model reflects upon the visionary view to policing in terms of a holistic approach. Police Commissionerate system is one of the visionary steps taken by the CM in this regard. He is seen to have emerged as a committed leader with a fast-rising learning curve. That he holds a respectable stature in various circles has generated a positive response in the form of a strong Law & Order grid. Leadership impacts!

The behavioral change in police is also very prominent. It is indeed satisfying to observe the humane side of policing whether it is the Kanpur Police Commissioner or a SHO ready to outreach the harassed senior citizens or women in distress in real time. It speaks volumes that the police as the first responder have moved closer to the community.

Nature thrives on mutual synergy of all its sub-elements and we are all a part of this. Hence, the way we imbibe Nature becomes our Culture. So, for our long-term sustainability there is no rule other than the rule of 'Holistic-Sustenance'. To me the principle of 'Vasudhev-Kutumbakam' stands for the same. And that finally brings us to the dictum, "Only those who know how to merge will finally re-emerge!"

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