



PUBLIC CONCERN FOR GOVERNANCE TRUST

Promoting honesty, transparency and accountability in governance

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September 22, 2016

Dear Shri Fadnavis,

At the Weekly Trustees meeting of the Public Concern for Governance Trust (PCGT) the Trustees decided to communicate to you our views on the unrest in the police force over the increasing number of assaults on policemen and women on duty. The signals are very ominous.

Analyzing the causes of this disrespect for authority which is spreading and is a threat to law and order, we concluded that the authority of the Director General of Police, the Commissioners of Police and Superintendents of Police in the districts has been severely eroded over the past decades because of interference by politicians in transfers, promotions and punishments as well as in the investigations of crime.

The dilution of authority to post and transfer officers on merit and discipline subordinates by the unit commanders has led to increased corruption at police stations. As aptly pointed out by R. K. Raghvan and D. Shivanandan in an article, "There are very few police stations where a citizen can get his complaint registered without greasing the palm of the station house officer." This goes unchecked because of the graft at supervisory levels. Choice of officers to head district police forces is often on the basis of their political contacts and pliability, rather than on their professional competence." The prevalence of unchecked corruption alienates the common man from the police force and the police has lost its moral authority. All this has made the policemen vulnerable to violence.

We appeal to you Sir, to restore the chain of command and stem the rot before it turns worse.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

JULIO RIBEIRO

To
Shri Devendra Fadnavis,
Chief Minister
Govt. of Maharashtra,
Mantralaya, Mumbai - 32