

## Candidates on policing in India...

### VIEWPOINT

**SUSHIL MANAV**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SIRSA, JANUARY 11

Nishan, a Delhi-based organisation conducting a survey on shortcomings in the Indian policing system, today elicited the views of major candidates in fray for the Ellenabad byelection on the subject.

In collaboration with a Sirsa-based organisation, Urja, Aridamanjit Singh, a former deputy commandant of the BSF, who is director, Nishan, accompanied by Melissa Gordon, a former special police officer with the Hampshire county police and Manisha Singh, an advocate, today sought the views of the common people on the subject.

Most candidates were candid in their response.

While INLD candidate Abhey Singh Chautala advocated the western system



**Aridamanjit Singh, Manisha Singh and Melissa Gordon of Nishan, an NGO, in Sirsa on Monday.** Photo: Amit Soni

of policing, bringing the local police under municipal chiefs, Congress nominee Bharat Singh Beniwal and Samast Bharatiya Party nominee Kusum Chaudhary maintained that senior officers in the police could bring about

reforms in the force, if they so desired. "Popular perception that political interference is responsible for all evils ailing the police is not correct according to studies undertaken by us," said Aridamanjit Singh.

He maintained that the police in India was reasonably independent in its functioning. Melissa said the basic difference between the police in India and the West, as she observed, was the structure of the constabulary.

"In the UK and other western countries, the police is imparted training to deal with civilians, but in India it is almost akin to military training," she observed.

"We need a single-window recruitment system in the police and admission through the Indian Police Service needs to be scrapped," opined Aridamanjit Singh.

"Officers from one state are posted in some other state where they are unable to understand the language of the local people, what to speak of understanding their problems."

He said the NGO had already conducted a survey in 21 cities of Haryana. Roshan Suchan, Kavita Jindal, Surjeet Nehra and Vikrant Rathi, members of Urja, accompanied the Nishan team.

“ Popular perception that political interference is responsible for all evils ailing the police is not correct show studies undertaken by us

— Aridamanjit Singh, Nishan

Bring local police under municipal chiefs

— Abhey Singh Chautala, INLD

Senior police officers can bring about reforms

— BS Beniwal, Congress

