

# BSF ex-officer calls for revamping of police system

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SIRSA, JANUARY 4

"It is high time that instead of wasting time on cosmetic changes, the country goes for a major surgery of its ailing and archaic police system. A thorough revamping of the system that has loads of colonial burden on its shoulders is the need of the hour".

Human rights activist and former BSF Deputy Commandant Aridaman Jit Singh said this while speaking at CDLU Radio's "web-varta" programme.

In the backdrop of the Ruchika case, where a former Haryana top cop appears to have misused his powers and position in collusion with other pillars of the democratic system, the discourse focused on locating the root-cause of the problem.

Aridaman Jit Singh runs Nishan, an organisation dedicated to human rights and justice.

When asked to suggest how to deal with the crisis, he said the recruitment system must be changed.

He said officers of the Indian Police Service (IPS) were enjoying unlimited powers under the present

IPS officers are enjoying unlimited powers under the present system while their subordinates are handling the real work. Cut off from the ground realities and lack of training and orientation to deal with real life situations, they often wreak havoc

system while their subordinates were handling the real work.

Cut off from the ground realities and lack of training and orientation to deal with real life situations, they often wreak havoc, he said, adding that Rathore and others like him are products of this colonial legacy that India must act.

Presently associated with NATO for its High Readiness Land Forces as trainer on international training exercises, Aridaman Jit Singh demanded revamping of the IPS route of entry into the police system.

"All recruitments should be direct from a single route so that everybody, including those rising to the ranks

of district and state police chiefs, should be made to pass through the same route".

He said while it was a fashion these days to accuse the political leadership for the failure of the police to deliver in most of the cases, including the glaring ones (Ruchika, Jessica, Priyadarshini Matoo, Nithari etc), the elitist IPS was the real culprit.

Disclosing that his organisation was working on a pilot project against corruption in Nilokheri block of Karnal district and under this project, Nishan would be releasing a corruption level report on the lines of the reports of the Transparency International.

"We would strive to declare this block as zero tolerance area so far as corruption is concerned," he said.

He said the organisation was trying to use social action as a tool for the eradication of corruption and did not want to wait for the government to act.

Responding to a query raised by Sunil Nehra, an LLB student and former IAF personnel, Aridaman Jit Singh said the corruption bug had already infected the armed forces and judiciary as well.

He said while collective action would certainly help in rooting out this evil, this action itself would originate at the level of individuals.

The guest speaker congratulated the department for its efforts to initiate a debate on various issues of social and national importance. He said media students with pro-public orientation might become effective catalysts of change as and when they entered the media industry.

Others who participated in the discussion included Roshan Suchan, Chetan Singh, Surjeet Singh, Mukul Monga and Pravin Dhoon.

Jhajar to have park dedicated