How to Make City’s Older Areas Safer

‘Recruit More Policemen’

Jayanagar, HSR Layout and Koramangala have high incidence of crime because of their demography, Ramesh points out. “These areas have affluent and educated citizenry. So there’s more awareness.”

ST Ramesh, former Director General of Police

**STEPS:**

- A back-of-the-envelope calculation shows that there’s one policeman for 833 citizens in the city. We are terribly under-policed. Crimes can be prevented only with physical presence of police personnel.
- The police force must be augmented methodically in phases.

**OFFICIAL LINE**

Additional Commissioner of Police (West) Malini Krishnamurthy said the city police has improved on various fronts since the Indiaspend.com study. “Our detection is much better, crime reporting has become more open and our response to public complaints is increasing. We’re seeing a lot of action from our end. There’s no cause for concern,” she said.

‘Win the Trust of Citizens’

It is necessary for the police to take citizens into confidence if crimes rates are to come down, says Prasad. “Law and order does not mean controlling people. Community policing is an established method to bridge the gap between police and citizens,” he says.

**STEPS:**

- The biggest challenge is that people fear the police. The fear must be turned into respect.
- Door-to-door visits by beat constables is the most effective mechanism. Citizens are aware when a policeman visits their house to enquire about their well-being.
- The mindset of the police needs to change. Police stations should not refuse to lodge complaints citing jurisdiction. The notion that fewer FIRs mean better performance is flawed.
- Involving citizens in policing, as in Area Suraksha Mitras, can curb crime. For example, chain-snatching in JP Nagar reduced from 822 in 2015 to 22 in 2016.
- Senior citizens need special care.