

# 'Separate investigation and law & order wings'

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## KHAKI CONUNDRUM

**Ahmedabad:** A number of developing countries have adopted the model of separating police units that handle crime cases from those that handle maintenance of law and order. A study by Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) suggested the same if police were to win the confidence of people.

In a study titled 'Study On The Importance Of Police Accountability And Its Impact On The Governance Of Criminal Justice System In The State Of Gujarat,' researchers observed that it is necessary to separate crime investigators from police who maintain law and order without further delay.

"It would be difficult for the present police force to win the confidence of the people. The efficiency of the police will have a positive response if there is support from the public, hence reorganization and reorientation of the police force is es-

- Police should be split into two wings - those responsible for investigating crime and those maintaining law and order
- Functioning of police should be made free from political interference by creating an independent authority for transfer, posting and promotions
- Frequency and number of training programmes should be

- Increased to keep officers and personnel abreast of latest developments in their field, technology
- The state police complaint authority can be restructured
- Police recruitment should include psychological test
- Investigating officer should be made accountable if flawed investigation leads to acquittal

essential to sensitize them to the needs of society," mentioned the study.

The study is one of the 15 undertaken by the university in 2017-18 that was funded by the government of

### GNLU STUDY

Gujarat. The study had 469 respondents including 173 police officers and 296 judicial officers including public prosecutors from Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat and Rajkot.

Criticizing the current methods, the study mentioned

that compared to the conviction rate of about 85% in developed countries, India has a rate of 47%.

"Our polity has often put off important reforms because they do not pay off in time for the next election cycle, but the need to overhaul our criminal justice system has reached a volatile tipping point that must no longer be ignored," the report observed.

The report went on to state that transfer or suspension is used as a weapon to bend the police or his/her will.