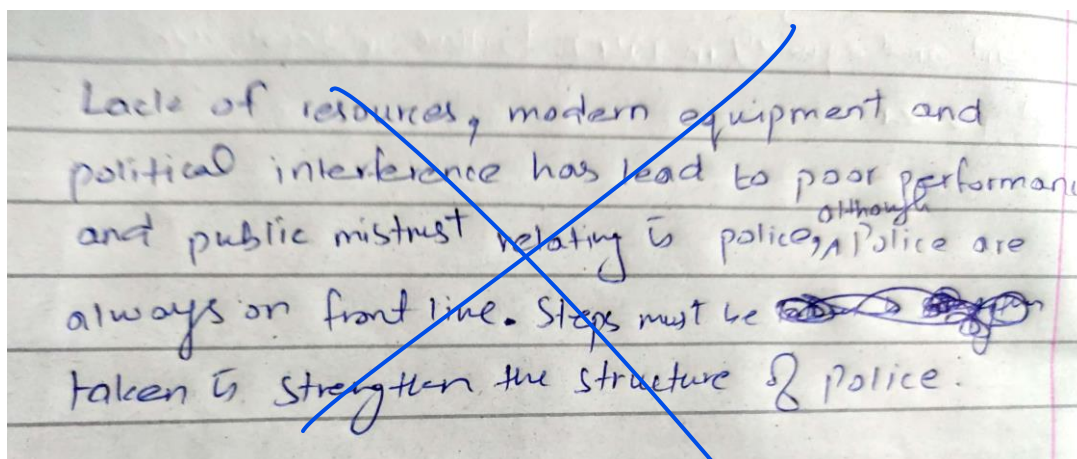


Funding for the police force in Pakistan has historically been inadequate. Across the country, there are reports that police personnel lack modern equipment and are struggling with resources. This undoubtedly has a direct impact on their performance, as many officers are unable to effectively carry out their duties due to the lack of motivation. Low incentives do not do anything to boost the morale of officers. Some are left to explore alternative means of survival; in other cases, they indulge in practices such as accepting bribes. The combination of corruption, political interference and limited resources results in a police force that the public looks at with mistrust, even though it is a force that has been on the front line, defending citizens against major terror attacks. Earlier this year, a brazen militant attack on a mosque in Peshawar's police compound left scores dead. Police officials escorting polio teams have been attacked multiple times. In Sindh, the upper riverine areas are plagued by criminal gangs that have outsmarted and outnumbered the area's police force. There are many such stories in big and small cities, where crime is high and citizens are sitting ducks in the face of armed robbers. Our authorities must do more to strengthen the police monetarily and in terms of equipment. It is unconscionable to send ill-equipped, poorly paid men and women to fight under these circumstances.



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