

3. Modernisation of Police- Polity

PM Modi chairing 60th All India Conference of Directors General and Inspectors General of Police at Raipur in Chhattisgarh. Prime Minister Modi chaired the 60th All India DGP/IGP Conference in Chhattisgarh, focusing on the theme "Viksit Bharat- Security Dimensions" and emphasizing the need to modernize India's police force. The discussions centered on overcoming colonial legacies, addressing emerging threats like cybercrime and Left-Wing Extremism, and leveraging technology through initiatives like the ASUMP scheme.

Context and High-Level Overview

Event Details- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 60th All India Conference of Directors General and Inspectors General of Police (DGP/IGP).

Location- The conference was held in Chhattisgarh.

Theme- The conference was conducted under the theme "Viksit Bharat- Security Dimensions".

Core Objective- The focus was on strengthening internal security. Developing next-level policing frameworks to effectively counter new-age threats.

Constitutional and Structural Framework

Constitutional Status- 'Police' and 'Public Order' are subjects listed in the State List (List II) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Therefore, the primary responsibility for maintaining law and order rests with the State Governments.

Financial Constraints- Despite being a state subject, many State Governments struggle to modernize their forces due to budgetary limitations.

Central Intervention- To bridge this gap, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) supplements state resources.

Scheme- This is done through the "Assistance to State & UTs for Modernization of Police" (ASUMP). Note- This was formerly known as the scheme of Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF).

Need for Police Modernisation

The shift from traditional methods to modern systems is driven by the following factors-

Overcoming Colonial Legacy- The current police system is largely governed by colonial-era structures. These structures are often ill-equipped to handle modern threats like cybercrime, terrorism, and organised crime.

Demographic and Urban Challenges

Population Pressure- A rapidly growing population requires more efficient policing.

Urbanisation- Rapid expansion of cities has led to complex law-and-order situations that manual policing cannot handle.

Restoring Public Trust- Public perception of the police remains low. There is an urgent need for reforms in training, accountability, and community engagement to transform the police into a citizen-centric force.

Shift from Traditional to Modern Policing

Change in Focus Area

Traditional- Historically focused on the maintenance of the status quo and basic public order.

Modern- Must shift to addressing dynamic threats like Cybercrime, Terrorism, and Organized Crime.

Evolution of Methodology

Traditional- Relied heavily on manual, manpower-intensive surveillance.

Modern- Requires technology-enabled, data-driven, and predictive policing methods.

Upgradation of Infrastructure

Traditional- Characterized by outdated equipment and limited mobility.

Modern- Necessitates the adoption of **advanced forensic tools, drones, and modern weaponry.**

Transformation of Public Relations-

Traditional- Often viewed with low trust as a coercive force.

Modern- Needs to be viewed as a **service-oriented provider** with high accountability.

Merging Security Issues

Digital and Financial Threats- Sharp rise in cybercrime and digital frauds. Immediate need for specialised units and advanced forensic tools to trace digital footprints.

Strategic Security Concerns-

Left Wing Extremism (LWE)- Remains a critical internal security challenge.

Coastal Security- Vital for preventing infiltration and smuggling.

Drug Trafficking- A growing menace requiring inter-state coordination.

Operational Bottlenecks-

Manpower- Acute shortage of police personnel compared to the population ratio.

Logistics- Reliance on outdated equipment.

Skills- Inadequate training hinders the effective execution of duties.

Steps Taken by The Government

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Initiatives- Implementation of the ASUMP Scheme (Assistance to States for Modernization of Police).

Funding Focus- Procurement of modern weapons, advanced communication systems, upgrading forensic labs, and improving mobility solutions (vehicles).

Role of BPR&D- The Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) acts as the nodal agency.

Function- It serves as a bridge between the police and scientific institutions to drive innovation, training, and technology adoption.

Recent Directives (from the Conference)- PM Modi emphasized the need to strictly monitor banned outfits. Renewed focus on strengthening coastal security. Adoption of a holistic approach towards disaster management.

Conclusion and Way Ahead

Vision- To transform the Indian police into a professional, citizen-centric, and technologically empowered institution.

Technological Integration- Adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and predictive policing to anticipate crimes. Use of drones and surveillance systems for real-time monitoring. Strengthening cyber forensics capabilities.

Capacity Building- Regular and updated training modules. Creation of specialized units specifically for cyber and financial crimes

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