

General Studies – 2; Topic: Role of civil services in a democracy.

Evidence-Based Policing (EBP) and Police Reforms

1) Introduction

- The police are the first responders in any event of crime, backbone of our intelligence, investigation and anti-corruption agencies.
- Evidence-based policing was a movement launched in the U.S and the U.K.
- Evidence based policing refers to an improved decision making and action on the basis of real time data and analytics.
- It is critical in prediction and prevention of crime.
- Evidence based policing is gaining credibility day by day – Indian police force must be exposed to it.

2) How EBP Works?

- Identifying hotspots of crime, monitoring patterns of behavior of individuals and level of citizen participation are crucial to predict and prevent crime.
- It seeks to raise awareness and increase the application of scientific testing, targeting and tracking of police resources
- Have knowledge about what tactics and strategies work best to fight crime so that they can make good decisions while carrying out investigations.
- Crime analysis in everyday policing so that police can become more effective in addressing the specific crime, disorder, and traffic problems they face.
- EBP work based on statistics, changing practices and measuring the success of those changes with risk-adjusted outcomes.
- One strategy is identifying ‘hot spots’ of crime and spotting problematic individuals in a community.

3) Challenges faced by the police

- Lack of effective means to collect and analyse the intelligence data.
- Deteriorating quality of state investigation departments.
- Many apex organizations continue to have huge vacancies.
- Lack of coordination within the police departments.
- Political interference.
- The long working hours as well as the isolation of police force from the public. There are instances of policemen living in sub-human conditions.
- Outdated arms and equipment.
- For an average policeman there is lack of knowledge about Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and Indian Evidence Act
- He/ she do not get a chance to develop and refresh his professional skills in service.
- Lack of investment in basic infrastructure and human resources in policing.
- Cyber-crimes pose a serious threat.
- Maoist insurgency, militancy in the Northeast and separatist elements in J&K.

4) Need for police reforms

- To instil the confidence of the people in the institution of police by making police more people friendly.

- The security of the society and the welfare of the people is dependent on the efficiency of the police.
- To eliminate the undue political interference. The police of today are victims of politicization as well as criminalization.
- To prevent the highhandedness of police in the form of extra-judicial killings.
- To continue security and high economic growth, the maintenance of law and order plays a vital role.
- The three greatest problems confronting the country today are: the challenge of international terrorism, the spread of Maoist influence over Central India and the cancer of corruption.
- To tackle this we need professional police force, well trained and equipped, highly motivated, and committed to upholding the law of the land and the constitution of the country.
- The police have continued to be authoritarian which was presented in Pink and Akira films.

5) Way Forward

- Supreme Court, in the Prakash Singh case, ordered that police must be made functionally autonomous and accountable by enacting new police laws.
- Implementation of SC's direction for fixed tenure of two years for top police officers in crucial positions
- Clear separation of law and order and crime functions of the police
- All states must create Police Establishment Board to regulate police placements.
- Police should be a SMART Police - a police which should be sensitive, mobile, alert, reliable and techno-savvy.
- The Gujarat model in forensics needs to be replicated in other states.
- The government must consider bringing police/public order in the Concurrent List of the Constitution.
- Second ARC recommended that the government should declare certain crimes as "federal" and entrust their investigation to a Central agency.
- Investment in management techniques, soft skills, new technology, and building of databases to allow for seamless access to information.

6) Conclusion

- Good internal security is essential to sustain the momentum of economic progress and provides the foundation for success and prestige in external relations.
- It's time that the nation needs people's police.