

## The Push for Police Reforms

### Why in news?

\n\n

\n

- DGPs from all over the country have currently gathered for an annual conference in Gwalior, and significantly, the PM would be participating.

\n

- Despite the importance given, significant police reforms hasn't caught up.

\n

\n\n

### What is needed?

\n\n

\n

- There are about 24,000 police stations and outposts across the country, and the total strength of the state police forces is nearly 2.26 million.

\n

- Manpower and infrastructure shortages and lack of functional autonomy are the major challenges, and calculated structural changes are needed.

\n

- The force needs to modernize and become accommodative of the democratic aspirations of the people.

\n

- The country's democratic structure and economic progress is largely reliant on neutrality and efficiency of the police forces, which needs to be preserved.

\n

\n\n

### What is the current situation?

\n\n

\n

- After Supreme Court's directives, union government piloted the draft of a "Model Police Act" for reforming the force in 2006, but it was never legislated.

\n

- While more than a decade has passed and SC's monitoring of the case has cooled off, the states continue to drag their feet in this issue.  
\n
- Due to the absence of a model law, most states issued directives that ensured status quo in violation of the spirit of Supreme Court's 2006 directives.  
\n
- This result is utter confusion at the ground level as most state governments had issued executive orders and passed laws that weren't very different.  
\n
- Resultantly, the internal security situation continues to be grim and the police performance leaves are also very low.  
\n
- While the current PM has been regularly engaging with police leaders, initiatives to reform the colonial police structure has been lacking.  
\n
- Notably, steps that are absolutely essential to strengthen the security apparatus are not being taken and only cosmetic improvements are made.  
\n

\n\n

### **How has the recognition for policing been?**

\n\n

- \n
- Despite constraints, police forces had significant successes in the past.  
\n
- Notable among them is the crushing of multiple insurgencies in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Tripura and the Terai regions.  
\n
- While police duties are tough in any country, India is an exceptional case as more policemen die on the line of duty here than in the entire of Europe.  
\n
- Yet, there has been a lack of recognition for these efforts, which is demoralising and severely constrains their performance.  
\n
- If the police force is to meet expectations in upholding law and order, it must be insulated from external pressures and rewarded accordingly for its work.  
\n

\n\n

### **What are the challenges?**

\n\n

\n

- The failures of police reforms has largely been attributed to “law & order” falling under the state list.  
\n
- As tremendous changes has take place in the domain of internal security, a concurrent role for the Centre in police matters has arisen.  
\n
- Hence, a constitutional arrangement in this regard has to be pushed through for better centre-state coordination in policing.  
\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Indian Express**

\n

