



DAILY EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

TOPIC

**CHALLENGES IN MAINTAINING
ADEQUATE POLICE FORCES**

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CHALLENGES IN MAINTAINING ADEQUATE POLICE FORCES

Context

- Many Indian states face significant challenges in maintaining adequate police forces due to insufficient funding and resource allocation.

About

- 'Police' and 'Public Order'** are **State subjects** as per the **Seventh Schedule of the Constitution**.
 - India's policing system is **primarily funded by state governments**, with the **central government** providing **additional support** through schemes like the **Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF) programme**.
- The allocation of resources varies across states, leading to disparities in infrastructure, manpower, and technology.

Current State of Police Expenditure

- Effective law enforcement is crucial for maintaining internal security and public order.
- Across many states, police departments face severe financial constraints, limiting their ability to recruit, train, and equip officers adequately. Budgetary restrictions lead to:
 - Understaffed police forces, resulting in longer emergency response times.
 - Outdated equipment and technology, reducing efficiency in crime prevention and investigation.
 - Inadequate training, increasing the risk of excessive force and legal disputes.
- The combination of these factors erodes public trust and weakens law enforcement's ability to deter crime effectively.

Budgetary Trends in India

- Key Budget Allocations (Recent Trends): Union Budget 2025-26** allocated ₹1,60,391.06 crore (₹1.27 lakh crore in Union Budget 2023-24) to the MHA for police expenditure.
 - A significant portion is directed towards central police organizations responsible for internal security, border guarding, and security of vital installations.
- Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF) scheme** received ₹2,750 crore, aimed at upgrading weapons, forensic infrastructure, and surveillance technology.
- State governments** collectively spend over ₹1.2 lakh crore annually on policing, with significant variations across regions.

Challenges in Resource Allocation

- Understaffing and Overburdened Personnel:** Many states face a significant shortage of police personnel, with vacancy rates as high as 24% in some regions.
 - India has only 152 police officers per 1 lakh people, lower than the United Nations' recommended 222 officers.
 - It leads to overburdened officers, reduced efficiency, and delays in addressing crimes.
- Low Per Capita Spending:** On average, states spend only ₹2,056 per person annually on the justice system, including police.
- Skewed Priorities:** A large share of funds goes to **salaries and pensions (over 80% in some states i.e. revenue expenditure)**, leaving little for modernization and operational costs.
- Unequal Funding Across States:** Richer states like Maharashtra and Karnataka allocate more funds, while poorer states like Bihar and Jharkhand struggle with police modernization.
- Lack of Technology Integration:** Many states lag in adopting AI-driven crime analytics, cyber forensics, and GPS-enabled patrolling systems.

- **Inadequate Training:** Limited budgets often result in insufficient training programs, leaving officers ill-equipped to handle complex situations.
- **Rising Crime Rates:** The increasing incidence of cybercrime, organized crime, and communal violence demands a more robust and well-equipped police force.

Recommendations for Better Resource Allocation

- **Increase Capital Expenditure:** At least 30% of the police budget should be allocated to modernization, infrastructure, and technological upgrades.
- **Performance-Based Funding:** The central government should offer incentives to states that implement effective policing reforms.
- **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP):** Collaboration with the private sector can enhance surveillance technology, cybersecurity, and training.
- **Skill Development and Training:** More funds should be allocated to de-escalation training, community policing, and forensic capabilities.
- **Better Utilization of Funds:** Strict audits and performance tracking should be implemented to prevent fund misuse and corruption.

Conclusion

- Adequate investment in police forces is not just a matter of governance but a necessity for societal well-being.
- By addressing the challenges of understaffing, outdated infrastructure, and inadequate training, states can build a law enforcement system capable of meeting contemporary demands.
- Ensuring public safety requires a collective commitment to empowering those who protect and serve.

Source: BS

Mains Practice Question

[Q] How can increased state spending on police forces address challenges such as understaffing, inadequate training, and outdated infrastructure, while ensuring accountability and fostering public trust in law enforcement?

