Internal Security Scheme

Why in news?

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The Union Cabinet has recently approved a Rs.25,000-crore internal security scheme.

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What are the highlights of the scheme?

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- The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) gave its approval for the implementation of the umbrella scheme, **Modernisation of Police Forces**.
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- The MPF scheme will be implemented between 2017 and 2020.
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- Out of the total financial outlay, the Central government's share will be about 75% and the rest will be that of the states.
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- The noteworthy provisions in the scheme cover the following diversified areas:
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1. Internal security.
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2. Law and order.
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3. Women's security.
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4. Availability of modern weapons.
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5. Mobility of police forces.
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6. Logistical support.
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7. Hiring of helicopters.

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8. Upgradation of wireless, satellite communications for police.
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9. Crime and criminal tracking network and systems (cctns)
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10. e-prisons.
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- The scheme also earmarks a specific sum for internal security-related expenditure for J&K, north-eastern states and states affected by Left-Wing Extremism.
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- The government’s grant for police modernisation would be followed by steps to grant the force autonomy from political masters.
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- Police stations would be integrated to set up a national database of crime and criminal records which will be linked with other criminal justice system machineries.
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- Besides, it also provides for:
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i. setting up a state-of-the-art forensic laboratory in Amravat
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ii. upgradation of the i) Sardar Patel Global Centre for Security, ii)Counter Terrorism and Anti-Insurgency in Jaipur, iii)Gujarat Forensic Science University in Gandhinagar.
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What are the objectives?

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- Following the 14th FC's recommendations, the Centre delinked from its support various centrally sponsored schemes which included modernisation of police.
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- The state governments showed little interest to make any investments, and thus police modernisation witnessed a setback leading to increased security

challenges.
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- The prime objective of the new scheme is thus to strengthen the law and order mechanism and mordernise the police forces.
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- The new initiatives aim at providing assistance to States for upgradation of police infrastructure, forensic science laboratories, institutions, etc.
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- It provides for the objective of a SMART Police who are expected to be strict, sensitive, modern, mobile, alert, accountable, reliable, responsible, tech-savvy and trained.
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- Very importantly, the scheme aims at granting police, autonomy from political masters.
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- This will help them render their service as 'People’s Police' rather than as present 'Ruler’s Police'.
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- The scheme can thus go a long way in ensuring a solid foundation of good law and order promoted by a structured and accountable police machinery.
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Source: Indian Express

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