Need for Police Reforms

Why in news?

- For the country to progress and emerge as a great power, we need radical police reforms. The future of India is linked to police reforms.

Why do we need Police Reforms?

- **Symbol of colonialism -** The Police Act of 1861, which governs the functioning of police even today is a symbol of colonialism.
- This follows the Irish model of executive having complete authority over the police than being accountable to law alone.
- **Effective law and economic growth -** A sound law and order reduces the challenges to our internal security which in turn, helps and aids in increasing the pace of the growth of our economy.

> *According to the Institute for Economics and Peace, violence cost the country 7 per cent of its GDP in 2020.*

- **Criminalisation of politics -** The police, under the circumstances, feel constrained in taking action against the segment of people in power and their supporters who have a shady background.
- They may one day devour the very system that has placed them in power.

> *According to the Association of Democratic Reforms, the percentage of such people in Parliament has been showing a steady upward trend.*

2004	*24%*
2009	*30%*
2014	*34%*
2019	*43%*

- The police are not able to deal with the internal security challenges as effectively as they should, as we do not have **internal security doctrine** to tackle these problems decisively.
- **Equality before law -** To gain people's confidence in the police of having same law for everyone. This can be achieved by insulating the police from the influence of those with political or financial clout.

- **Organised Crimes and expertise -** Organised crime, arms trafficking and drug trafficking have acquired international dimensions making law and order problems more complex.
- Cybercrimes are increasing in geometrical progression.
- These problems require a very high level of sophistication and expertise on the part of the police.
- **Infrastructure and resources -** The police are not able to deliver partly because of poor infrastructure.
- There are huge deficiencies in human resources and scope of improvement in transport, communications and forensics.
- **Mental health -** Poor housing conditions and long working hours have an adverse impact on police performance. This takes a heavy toll on mental and physical health.

> *According to the Status of Policing in India Report, 2019, an average policeman works for 14 hours a day and does not get any weekly off.*

- **Technological advancement -** There is enormous scope for technological inputs into the functioning of the police.
- Adopting future technologies for fulfilling grassroots policing requirements would act as a force multiplier.
- **The anomalous arrangement of different wings of police** - The CBI and Intelligence Bureau (IB) needs statutory basis.
- The CBI was created based on resolution and derives its power from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
- The IB was set up through an administrative order in 1887.

References

1. https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/how-to-fix-india-police-force-cbi-ib-8168723/

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