Police Reforms

What is the issue?

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- The Supreme Court issued directives for police reforms in 2006
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- Strong public opinion is needed to push for its implementation.
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How did these proposals come up?

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- A writ seeking police reforms was filed in the SC in 1996.
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- In that regard, the court issued several directives in 2006.
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- The Indian Police Foundation was inaugurated in 2015 to mount pressure on state governments to implement these changes.
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- Despite all this, States thus far have taken only few grudging steps.
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Why reform is needed?

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- **Politicising -** Political authorities have a stronghold over police.
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- So, the trustability of the force among the public has reduced.
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- This has led to frequent demand for CBI probe into crimes which can be handled by the state police.
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- **CBI –** Even the CBI is not free off political control.
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- A few years back, the Supreme Court had called CBI a “caged parrot” with little autonomy.
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- Hence, in recent times, the demand for a CBI probe is usually accompanied by a request for Supreme Court monitoring the same.
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- **Lokpal -** The problem would have considerably subsided if the ‘Lokpal law’ had been implemented.
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- The Lokpal would have had the powers to oversee the CBI’s work and ensure its independence.
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- Presently, vested interests across the political spectrum have succeeded in keep the institution of Lokpal in dormancy.
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How does the future look?

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- Criminal justice system cannot function without a healthy police force and investigative agency.
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- Hence, responsible police officers from within the force, should in their capacity - embrace reformist ideals to win public trust.
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- We might also have to fall back on the judiciary to ensure a strong, impartial and professional police force.
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- Importantly, we need to build a strong public opinion – as it has the potential to force the political class take up reforms seriously.
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Source: The Hindu

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