

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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