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ARTICLE

New Challenges for the Police in the Context of National Security

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Overview

Seventy years have passed since India achieved Independence. Material Progress has become visible as manifested in multiple sectors. The country has become economically and militarily stronger than ever before. Scientific and technological progress has been impressive and these are visible signs of a grand take-off. But so are the signs of bewilderment of decay and disturbing trends that indicate a downward slide. We are unconsciously perusing the path of self-destruction. We are moving from a secular to a caste based society, from tolerance to intolerance, from liberal egalitarianism to narrow fundamentalism leading to orderliness and chaos. So a stock-taking has become essential. After independence, the nation finds itself at the cross roads. Never in the history of Indian Police, the challenges have been so numerous, so potent, so manifest, as we find them at the end of seventy decades of our freedom. The Indian Police is faced with tremendous new challenges, some of which can be identified and enumerated as under:

- 1- **Challenges posed by Terrorism:** The Problem of terrorism surfaced initially quite early in the eastern sector, yet it is spread in intensity and dimensions to other areas like Punjab and J&K. The fangs of terrorism are creating scare in other parts of the country too.
- 2- **Challenge to National Integrity and Security:** The security-related problems in the context of country's integrity have got aggravated and the Police has to be vitally concerned about its job of guarding the vital installations, water sources, key industries, banks, roads, bridges, surface transport and the public property. Even

crowded market places, hotels, social gathering and places of entertainment have become vulnerable.

- 3- **Challenge Posted by Espionage and Subversive Activities:** The espionage and subversive activities organized by neighboring countries and certain groups require a very imaginative and careful handling. The threats posed by large scale smuggling of sophisticated arms and ammunition from across the borders and infiltration of trained saboteurs, and agents provocations are very serious. The Police out of great necessity need to adopt a co-ordinate and well thought out approach to contain these highly dangerous activities. The executive wing of the Police consequently needs a solid support-base from intelligence and counter espionage wings, to strengthen its activities.
- 4- **Challenge Posted by some Other Factors:** The crime index is showing a phenomenal rise all over due to commutative effect of various factors like population expansion, unemployment, rapid devaluation of the rupee, social terrorism even economic depression, erosion of value system and inadequacies of the justice system and the legal work.
- 5- **Challenge Posed by Modern Technology:** Modern Science and technology have introduced a unique element of commission of activities. The Police must keep itself fully acquainted with every new development that can provide a promotional boost to take timely steps to improve its optional capability through updated training techniques and acquisition of sophisticated equipment.
- 6- **Challenge Posed by Criminality in Police:** The worst challenge to the Social system comes from direct involvement of Policemen in Criminal acts and their indirect involvement in some of the crimes against society. In one of the serious involvements of the Police, Justice A.N. Mulla assented that there was not a single lawless group in the whole country free of crime.
- 7- **Challenge Posed by Emergence of Tribes:** The emergence of the Indian version of the raids which are fast gaining in urban areas have added a diversion to the underworld activities. The ever increasing supply of liquor and other dangerous substances are posing threat to the quality of social life. Fixing of out of court settlements, organized prostitution, gambling, extortions, kidnaping for ransom, are among the areas that need to be liberated from the clutches of the professional dons and the organized crime-syndicates.

- 8- **Challenge Posed by Legal Lacunas and Inadequacies:** The distrust manifested in certain provision of the code of criminal procedure against the Police and one and half century old obsolete Police act which barely governs the organization and structure of the Police, need immediate replacement. With no peers to challan the anti-pollution laws and the land and sea customs act etc., the Police has to cut a very sorry figure before the general Public.
- 9- **Challenge to VIP Security:** In no other democratic country of the world the threat to the life of the VIPs' is as common as in our country. The infamous hit list system has not only adversely affected the free movement of the VIPs but has started casting shadows on gatherings both social and political in whose presence of the VIPs is expected to deliver their talks etc.

10-Challenge Posed by the Organisational Problems: Numerous anti-organizational problems are casting their shadow on the qualitative performance and combat-organizational performance and combat – steadiness of the Police. These problems include indiscipline, poor legal knowledge, poor-potential to work at lower levels, poor work culture, lack of initiative, and professionalism, lack of commitment to value based work, poor living conditions of the Police personnel. The image of Police due to excessive workload, poor mobility, poor equipment, inadequate working habits, poor response to public, unbecoming conduct at leadership level and inadequate training and reading facilities add to all that. With all these inadequacies, the Police will always find itself unequal and misfit to handle its work efficiently.

10. **Challenge of Installing Confidence in Public:** The sense of general insecurity is adversely affecting the morale of the Police. It is a real challenge for the Police to provide an effective and reliable security and to instill a sense of confidence in the general public so as to get public support. All these matters are highly important for the country's security as well as for the betterment of the Police image.

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