



Community Policing

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Why in News

Recently, the **Delhi Police** Commissioner inaugurated a **Community Policing Programme 'Ummeed'**.

Key Points

- **About:**

- The Basic Principle Underlying Community Policing is that **'A Policeman is a Citizen with Uniform and a Citizen is a Policeman without Uniform'**.
The essence of Community Policing is to **minimize the gap between policemen and citizens** to such an extent that the policemen become an integrated part of the community they serve.
- It is defined as a **law enforcement philosophy that allows police to continuously operate in the same area** in order to create a stronger bond with the citizens living and working in that area.
- It **helps in reducing the trust deficit between police and public** as it requires the police to work with the community for prevention and detection of crime, maintenance of public order, and resolving local conflicts, with the objective of providing a better quality of life and sense of security.

- **Benefits:**

- ❑ **No government funds are required**
- ❑ **Enhances immunity against crime and disorder**
- ❑ **Assists traditional policing**
- ❑ **Bridges the gap of trust**
- ❑ **Encourages social interactions**
- ❑ **Police and public share credit and discredit**
- ❑ **Police officer feels safe in his area of responsibility**
- ❑ **Reliable and workable information is available**
- ❑ **Inculcates sense of responsibility in the public**
- ❑ **Police and the public are accountable to each other**
- ❑ **Promotes democratic values in the society**

- **Challenges:**

- **Poor public image of the police force.**
- **Poor customer service** procedures within the police force.
- It might **lead to vigilantism and mob justice.**
- Belief by the residents that **crime is a source of livelihood for some people.**

- **Other Examples:**

- **Janamaithri Suraksha Project:** Kerala
- **Joint Patrolling Committees:** Rajasthan
- **Meira Paibi:** Manipur
- **Community Policing Project:** West Bengal
- **Maithri:** Andhra Pradesh
- **Mohalla Committees:** Maharashtra
- **Friends of Police:** Tamil Nadu

Way Forward

- Any **volunteers** under the Community Policing **should be allowed to help police, but not to take the role of police.** The criminal background of the volunteers must be checked before their deployment.
- Community policing **is a philosophy, not a program.** If the philosophy of community policing is not understood by all of those that are involved, then the programs will not succeed.
- The biggest obstacle that community policing and the community-based programs have to face is the idea of change. **Officers have to change the concept of policing and citizens** have to be willing to accept that change.

Source: TH