



National Security: Bureau of Police Research and Development

For Prelims: [Bureau of Police Research and Development \(BPR&D\)](#), **Kavach 2023**, [Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children \(CCPWC\) scheme](#), [Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia \(CICA\)](#), **Anti-Terrorism Assistance (ATA)**

For Mains: Current Scenario of the Police Force, Challenges Related to BPR&D, Solutions to Improve the Condition of BPR&D

What is the Context?

In the holistic concept of national security, **internal security is an extremely important part of the country's overall national security matrix**. The internal security environment in India is **highly complex and challenging**. Despite these challenges, **India has become stronger and is emerging as a global leader today**. The evolution of the [Bureau of Police Research and Development \(BPR&D\)](#) over the last 50 years is testimony to the success of the organisation, **striving to fulfil the objective of professionalising the Indian police, to serve the citizens, diligently**.

What is BPR&D?

Evolution

- The BPR&D was **formed in 1970 and replaced the Police Research Advisory Council which was formed in 1966**.
- It was **established with the aim to identify the needs and requirements of the police in the country**, take up research projects and come up with suggestions to overcome the challenges faced by the police.
- It **comes under the administration of the Ministry of Home Affairs**. The emphasis of the government is to **have a modern effective and sensitive security architecture that can inspire a sense of safety among all sections of society**.
- The **Bureau was initially started with 2 divisions**: Research, Publication & Statistics Division & Development Division.
 - In **1973 the Training Division was added on the recommendation of the [Gore committee \(1971\)](#)** on police training.
 - In 1995 the **correctional division** was started to study the issues of prisons and prison reforms.
 - In 2008 **the National Police mission** was added, and **the Development Division was restructured** as a modernisation division.
- There are **five divisions of the bureau headquarters and five central detective training institutes** at Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Ghaziabad, Jaipur, and the **Central Academy of Police training at Bhopal**.
- In December 2022, the union home minister **laid the foundation stone of the newest Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI) in Bengaluru**.

- Two **additional CDTIs are being considered for establishment**—one in Srinagar and another in Agartala.

Objectives

- BPR&D **analyses the general causes of crime, preventive measures** and methods of improving the investigation, administrative structure and also juvenile delinquency.
- The **mandate of BPR&D has provided meaningful space for all stakeholders in policing and correctional administration.** The collective wisdom of the practitioners, the academia and the civil society has culminated in inputs for policy imperatives in policing and prisons.
- It **provides the assistance of police research programs in States.** It also takes a regular assessment of equipment used by the police forces in India and **ensures that new and modified pieces of equipment are provided in the fields of arms and ammunition.**

What is the Need for BPR&D?

- **Evolving Landscape of National Security:** Previously, the challenges primarily revolved around **specific geographical regions** such as [Jammu and Kashmir \(J&K\)](#), and areas affected by **left-wing extremism.**
 - However, **the nature of these issues has shifted to thematic concerns like cyber security and data security.** Additionally, the problems have acquired a **multi-dimensional character with the emergence of threats like Narco Terror and the Fourth Generation War.**
- **From Imperial Stabilizers to Citizen-centric Guardians of Rights:** Earlier the primary function of the police was to maintain the stability of the **British Empire.** However, [Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel](#) brought forth a **new paradigm for the Indian police system after Independence.**
 - Today the primary **objective of the police is to serve people and protect their rights.** For reforms and policing a complete transformation of mindset is essential and only **a citizen-friendly responsive forward-looking and accountable police force would lead the way in positioning India in the top three global economies.**
- **Efficient Intelligence Network and Smart Policing:** Better coordination among various Departments of the police and other Security Forces **is making India's security sheet impregnable.** A country that has an efficient intelligence network does not need arms and ammunition. **It only needs smart police.**
- **Collaboration for Policy Development:** The mandate of the BPR&D has created an inclusive platform for stakeholders in policing and correctional administration to contribute meaningfully.
 - The **combined expertise of practitioners, academia, and civil society has resulted in valuable insights and recommendations for policy development** in the areas of policing and [prisons.](#)

What is the Current Scenario of the Police Force?

- The data collected in 2021 and published in 2022 pointed out **that the total sanctioned police force in the country stood at 26,88,938.** While the **total actual police force stood at 20,93,833.**
- The **strength of women in the police force is 11.75%.** The **percentage increase of women in the police force over the previous year was 13.40%.**
- The **total sanctioned strength of central armed parliamentary forces was 11,10,804 while the actual total strength was 10,21,501.**
- The **strength of women police in the [Central Armed Police Force \(CAPF\)](#) was 3.98%.**

What are Some of the Related initiatives?

- **National:**
 - The **Kavach 2023** is scheduled to be held in August and **was launched in February earlier this year.**
 - It is a **national-level hackathon to address cyber security challenges and**

[cybercrimes](#) in the country.

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** has sanctioned a [Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children \(CCPWC\) scheme](#) which comprises an online cybercrime **reporting portal for cases of Child Pornography/ Child Sexual Abuse Material, rape/gang rape imageries or sexually explicit content.**
- **Global:**
 - In 2023, two conferences were organised in **collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs for the [Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia \(CICA\)](#)** member states.
 - The CICA is an **intergovernmental forum aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and ensuring peace, security, and stability in Asia.**
 - A **strategic partnership** between the Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT) and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS), **the Anti-Terrorism Assistance (ATA) Program serves as a primary provider of US government antiterrorism training and equipment to the partner nations**, building capacity to investigate, detect, deter, and disrupt terrorist activities while bolstering foreign civilian law enforcement counterterrorism skills.
 - **India has been associated with this program since 1995.**

What are the Challenges Faced by the BPR&D?

- **Limited Resources:** BPR&D operates within budgetary constraints, which can limit its capacity to carry out extensive research and development activities, as well as provide adequate training and infrastructure support.
- **Diverse and Dynamic Policing Landscape:** Policing challenges in India are complex and ever-evolving, with diverse geographical, socio-cultural, and demographic factors. **BPR&D needs to address these diverse challenges and develop solutions that cater to different regions and contexts.**
- **Bridging the Research-policy Gap:** While BPR&D conducts research and provides recommendations, **effectively translating those findings into actionable policies and practices within the police forces can be a challenge.** Bridging the gap between research and policy implementation requires sustained efforts and collaboration.
- **Technological Advancements:** With the rapid advancement of technology, BPR&D faces the challenge of keeping pace with emerging trends such as cybercrime, digital forensics, and data analytics. **It needs to continually upgrade its technological capabilities and expertise** to address these evolving challenges effectively.

What can be the Way Forward?

- **Increased Funding:** Providing adequate financial resources to BPR&D will enable it to carry out extensive research, development, and training activities. **Increased funding will facilitate the hiring of skilled researchers, upgrading infrastructure,** and conducting comprehensive studies on emerging policing challenges.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** BPR&D should actively engage in partnerships and collaborations with academic institutions, think tanks, international organizations, and civil society groups.
 - Such collaborations **can help leverage expertise, share best practices, and promote knowledge exchange**, thereby enriching the research and policy development efforts of BPR&D.
- **Capacity Building and Training:** BPR&D should prioritise the development of comprehensive and specialized training programs for police personnel at various ranks. These programs **should address the evolving challenges in policing, including technology, community engagement, and crime prevention.**

Conclusion

The police station stands as a sacred temple of justice, where citizens arrive with unwavering confidence in its power to deliver them much-needed justice. In numerous ways, it assumes the role of the highest court, providing a haven of fairness and solace for the voiceless in society. Moreover, it serves as a bastion

of hope, striving to safeguard the rights and security of every individual within its jurisdiction.

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