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Critical Analysis of Police Administration in British India and Modern India

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ABSTRACT

This research examines the evolution of police administration in British India and its transformations in modern India. The British police system was centralized, authoritarian, and brutal, focusing on maintaining order and controlling local populations. Despite India's independence in 1947, colonial legacies persist in modern policing. The study examines key issues like politicization, corruption, and the need for reforms. It also explores potential pathways for developing a more transparent, effective, and community-oriented police force.

Keywords*: police administration, law enforcement, British India, modern India, police force, research, colonial.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The police administration has played a vital role in maintaining peace and order throughout India's history, with its organization and operation evolving considerably from colonial to modern times. Under British rule, the police force was meticulously constructed to meet imperial goals like as population control, repression of dissent, and the protection of colonial assets. This period witnessed the institutionalization of a police force focused primarily on intimidation and repression, as seen by the enactment of legislation such as the Indian Police Act of 1861, which established the police's role in consolidating British rule throughout India. In contrast, post-independence India has seen various changes aimed at converting the police force from a tool of colonial oppression to a service-oriented institution that upholds democratic ideals

Despite these attempts, political interference, antiquated colonial laws, and structural inefficiencies continue to stymie modern police management. The purpose of this study is to examine the evolution of police administration from British India to present-day India, comparing the two eras' organizational structures, rules, and objectives, as well as to investigate the lasting influence of colonial policing in modern India's law enforcement system. By

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exploring these historical and present trends, the study hopes to provide insights into the current issues confronting Indian police reforms, as well as the steps required to construct a more effective and accountable police force in the twenty-first century.

(A) Research Methodology:

The research methodology for comparing police administration in British India and modern India includes a comparative historical analysis, a qualitative approach, data collection from primary sources like colonial records, government reports, and official documentation, sampling key time periods, analyzing themes like colonial influence, bureaucratic control, accountability, and reforms, and evaluating the effectiveness, challenges, and reforms of police systems in both. The study also looks at the shift from colonial to modern policing techniques, highlighting similarities and variations in administrative control, public relations, and accountability procedures.

II. HISTORY OF POLICE ADMINISTRATION IN INDIA

The history of police administration in India goes back to ancient times, with mentions of law enforcement in the Vedic and Mauryan periods. During the Mauryan Empire (321-185 BCE), the king Chandragupta Maurya and his advisor Kautilya emphasized the necessity of law enforcement and a well-organized police force. The "Artha shastra," Kautilya's book, defined the police's functions and responsibilities, which included preserving law and order, suppressing insurrection, and protecting the state's resources. However, India's contemporary police system was founded during the British colonial period. In the early 18th century, the British East India Company began to shape India's law enforcement system in order to consolidate control over the country. Initially, zamindars (landowners) played a significant role in preserving law and order in rural areas.

Initially, zamindars (landowners) played a significant role in preserving law and order in rural areas, but their inefficiency and bias forced the formation of an official police force. Following the 1857 uprising, the British Crown established direct rule over India and sought to cement its influence on the country. The Indian Police Act of 1861, a watershed moment, established a standardized police structure throughout British India. The act established the cornerstone for the police system, which remained essentially oppressive and authoritarian in nature, with the primary goal of protecting British interests. Under this system, the police were organized into a highly centralized organization, with the district Superintendent of Police (SP) serving as the primary authority.

This system, while effective in quelling unrest and revolt, lacked an emphasis on public good

and responsibility. The police frequently served as a tool of coercion, especially at pivotal events in the Indian independence movement, such as the Civil Disobedience and Quit India Movements. Following India's independence in 1947, the police system was maintained with slight changes. Various committees, including the National Police Commission (1977–1981), were founded to reform the force, with the goal of making it more accountable, people-friendly, and free of political interference. Despite these advances, the colonial history of policing, which prioritizes order above justice, is still evident in many sections of the country.

III. PROS AND CONS OF POLICE ADMINISTRATION IN BRITISH INDIA

The police administration formed in British India played an important role in maintaining law and order during a time of political turmoil, colonial exploitation, and broad societal change. While the system included some modern organizational elements, it also represented the British colonial state's overall goal of consolidating authority over the Indian subcontinent. The following are the advantages and disadvantages of police administration in British India.

(A) Pros of Police Administration in British India:

1. **The British established a formal and centralized police system in INDIA** which was a significant contribution. The Indian Police Act of 1861 established a standard administrative framework, introducing notions like as hierarchy, division of labour, and centralized management. The district Superintendent of Police (SP) was appointed as the district's police chief, in charge of law enforcement operations. This structure set the groundwork for India's future police systems, which have mostly followed the same format.

2. **Professionalism in Policing**: The British police administration promoted professionalism within the law enforcement system. Recruitment procedures grew more standardized, and formal training began to play an important part in officer preparation. Although this professionalism primarily benefited colonial interests, it did result in a systematic approach to crime prevention, investigation, and public order enforcement.

3. **Introduction of Modern Crime Control Techniques:** Under British authority, the police force developed modern crime control measures including as surveillance, investigation, and intelligence collection. The establishment of criminal records and the archiving of criminal history were an early type of organized policing. These developments contributed to more efficient law and order enforcement than previous zamindari or feudal institutions

4. **Maintaining Order in a Large and varied Country:** The British colonial administration successfully maintained law and order in a vast, ethnically varied, and frequently politically

turbulent country. The police were effective in resolving local issues, avoiding dacoits (banditry), and suppressing communal violence, albeit with a bias toward retaining colonial power rather than providing justice.

(B) Cons of Police Administration in British India:

1. **Repressive and Authoritarian Approach:** Under British administration, the police were primarily concerned with protecting colonial interests rather than serving the Indian community. The force was intended to repress dissent, particularly during times of mass mobilization, such as the 1857 rebellion, the Non-Cooperation Movement, and the Quit India Movement. The police frequently used severe techniques to crush political opposition, including violence, intimidation, and incarceration without trial. This restrictive attitude harmed the connection between police and the broader populace, leaving a legacy of distrust that persists today.

2. **Lack of Public Accountability:** The British police force was heavily centralized, with little consideration for public welfare or accountability. Officers were selected by and accountable solely to their British superiors. As a result, the police operated with impunity, frequently participated in acts of violence, exploitation, and corruption. Public grievances were often ignored, as the police were more concerned with protecting the interests of the ruling British administration.

3. **Discrimination and Bias:** The British Indian police force frequently discriminated against different groups of society. While British officers held higher ranks, Indians were frequently assigned to lesser positions. Furthermore, the police frequently discriminated against rural and poorer members of society, particularly during tax collection, land disputes, and resistance to colonial policy.

4. **Limited Focus on Crime Prevention and Social Justice:** In British India, the police were more concerned with quelling political unrest and preserving order than with preventing crime or guaranteeing justice for the people. Crime prevention techniques were basic, and the police rarely addressed topics like social justice, equitable law enforcement, or public welfare. This shortcoming resulted in a system that was primarily punitive rather than preventive or reformative.

5. **Legacy of Colonial Policing:** The repressive methods and organizational structure of the colonial police left a lasting impact on modern policing in India. Many of the colonial-era practices, such as the lack of accountability, excessive force, and corruption, continued to

persist post-independence, making it difficult to reform the police system into one that is more democratic and people-oriented.

IV. POLICE BRUTALITY IN BOTH BRITISH AND MODERN INDIA

(A) In British India:

Police Brutality was a major issue during British administration in India, particularly as a means of suppressing political activities and maintaining colonial power. The following are some prominent cases of police violence in British India, with full explanations:

A. Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919):

Background: This is one of the most well-known cases of police violence in India during British rule. Following World War I, the colonial authority enacted harsh legislation (such as the Rowlatt Act of 1919) to prevent any anti-colonial activity. The Rowlatt Act empowered the British to arrest and imprison any Indian without a trial, resulting in significant protests. On April 13, 1919, a large crowd assembled at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar, Punjab, to peacefully protest the laws. Men, women, and children gathered to celebrate the Punjabi holiday of Baisakhi. Police Action: Without warning, British Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer ordered his forces to fire on the unarmed mob. The soldiers fired for around ten minutes.

The soldiers fired for almost five minutes, aimed directly at the crowd. The massacre resulted in almost 379 officially documented deaths (though the true figure is likely far higher) and more than 1,200 wounded. The cruelty stunned the Indian people and the international society. It marked a watershed moment in India's independence struggle, fuelling broad hatred of British rule and resulting in an increase in nationalist activity.

B. Chauri Chara Incident, 1922:

Background: This incident occurred during Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement, which tried to fight British rule through nonviolent measures such as boycotts and civil disobedience. On February 4, 1922, in the small village of Chauri Chara in the United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh), a group of demonstrators clashed with police. The police attempted to break up the protest by opening fire on the demonstrators, killing three of them. In retribution, outraged demonstrators set fire to the police station, killing 22 officers inside. Impact: This violent turn of events prompted Gandhi to call off the Non-Cooperation Movement, believing that the Indian people were not prepared to follow his nonviolent path.

This episode emphasized both the colonial government's ruthless policing and the possibility of bloodshed during the Indian independence war.

C. Salt March and the Dharasana Satyagraha (1930):

Background: The Salt March, also known as the Dandi March, was a watershed moment in Gandhi's Civil Disobedience Movement against the British salt monopoly. Indians were barred from producing or selling salt on their own, prompting Gandhi and his followers to issue a symbolic challenge. Event: After marching to Dandi and producing salt, the movement expanded throughout the country. On May 21, 1930, over 2,500 volunteers attempted to take over a government-controlled salt storage at Dharasana, Gujarat. Police Action: The British police used excessive force. The nonviolent demonstrators, led by Gandhi's close companion Sarojini Naidu, were severely thrashed with steel-tipped lathis.

Despite the violence, the protestors did not respond. Impact: The event was widely covered by worldwide media, and the graphic depictions of the violence perpetrated on peaceful protesters sparked global sympathy for the Indian cause. Police brutality was interpreted as a symbol of the restrictive nature of British administration.

D. The Quit India Movement (1942):

Background: On August 8, 1942, Gandhi launched the Quit India Movement, which demanded an end to British rule. Fearing that the movement would hamper their operations during World War II, the British responded with widespread arrests and harsh repression. Event: In reaction to huge protests and acts of defiance, the British colonial police used severe tactics including as lathi charges, open gunfire, mass arrests, and torture. Gandhi, Nehru, and Patel were promptly detained, as were thousands of demonstrators. Police Action: The police utilized ruthless techniques to quell the movement, particularly in rural areas where violent clashes occurred. In Bihar and Bengal, police opened fire on protesters and used excessive force to disperse them.

Though the Quit India Movement was suppressed within months, the ruthless repression alienated Indians even more from the British administration. The pervasive cruelty left an indelible mark on the Indian mentality, contributing to the eventual decline of British authority in India.

In British India, police brutality was frequently used as a political instrument to quell dissent and reinforce colonial control, rather than just to keep the peace. The ruthless suppression of peaceful rallies, which frequently resulted in massacres, left a significant mark on the Indian independence movement, influencing its direction and the techniques used by its leaders. These episodes were highly condemned both in India and abroad, and they played an important part in delegitimizing British rule and organizing international opinion against colonialism.

(B) In Modern India:

In modern India, police brutality remains a major concern, frequently erupting during protests, communal violence, or custodial interrogations. While the Indian Constitution guarantees the protection of human rights, structural flaws in law enforcement have resulted in several cases of police misconduct. The following are detailed details of significant incidents of police violence in modern India:

1. **The Hathras Gang Rape Case (2020):**

Background: In September 2020, upper-caste men viciously assaulted and raped a young Dalit woman in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh. She later died from her injuries, and the story received national attention owing to caste relations and a perceived lack of justice. Event: The police's involvement in this incident was heavily scrutinized. Despite the family's petition, the Uttar Pradesh police delayed filing a FIR and were later accused of mishandling the probe. Later, in a highly controversial move, authorities forcibly burned the woman's remains in the middle of the night without her family's permission. Police conduct: The police conduct in the case was perceived as a ploy to hide the accused, who came from a dominant

Police Action: The police action in the case was interpreted as an attempt to protect the accused, who belonged to a dominating caste. The forced cremation sparked significant protests since it was viewed as an attempt to destroy evidence and minimize public outcry. Impact: The Hathras case became a symbol of police brutality and impunity in caste crimes. It showed the police system's deep-rooted caste inequality, prompting calls for greater accountability.

2. **Anti-CAA Protests (2019–2020):**

Background: The Indian Parliament enacted the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in December 2019, sparking widespread protests. The law was viewed as discriminatory, particularly against Muslims, because it allowed a path to citizenship for refugees from specific nations while excluding Muslims. Protests against the CAA broke out across India, especially in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Assam. The police response to these rallies, particularly in BJP-ruled areas, was brutal. Police Action: In Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and other areas, police were accused of employing excessive force on protesters. According to reports, police fired live bullets, used tear gas, water cannons, and applied lathi charges (baton-charging) on unarmed civilians. In Uttar Pradesh, approximately 23 people were reported.

In Uttar Pradesh, approximately 23 individuals were killed, the majority of whom were shot by police. - At Jamia Millia Islamia University in Delhi, police invaded the campus without permission, used batons and tear gas on peaceful protesters, and destroyed property. Several

students sustained severe injuries. - In Mangalore, Karnataka, police opened fire on protesters, killing many people. Human rights organizations strongly condemned the heavy-handed police intervention. Amnesty International and other organizations criticized the violence and called for an investigation into the police's participation in crushing peaceful protests. The events sparked alarm about India's decreasing space for dissent.

3. Jayaraj and Bennix Custodial Deaths (2020):

Background: In June 2020, two men, P. Jayaraj and his son J. Bennix, were detained in TamilNadu's Thoothukudi district for allegedly violating COVID-19 lockdown laws by keeping their shop open beyond curfew. The father and son were seized by the Sathankulam police and brutally tortured. They were badly battered and suffered internal injuries, resulting in their deaths a few days after being released from police custody. Police Action: According to reports, the two guys were repeatedly beaten and subjected to serious physical abuse while in detention. The custodial torture was so severe that it caused internal hemorrhage and ultimately death. Despite the family's requests and

Despite the family's appeals and obvious symptoms of torture, local authorities originally failed to act. The deaths of Jayaraj and Bennix sparked a national uproar against custodial violence. The event also highlighted the widespread abuse of authority by Indian police officers. The Tamil Nadu government turned over the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and numerous police officials were detained. The event has sparked renewed calls for police reform and improved oversight measures.

4. Tutikorin Anti-Sterlite Protests (2018):

Background: In 2018, locals of Tuticorin (Thoothukudi) in Tamil Nadu protested against Vedanta Resources' Sterlite Copper project, citing environmental pollution and health risks. The plant was accused of generating air and water pollution, which resulted in an increase in health problems among the local community. Event: The protest against the facility intensified on May 22, 2018, as it entered its 100th day. Thousands of demonstrators, including women and children, marched to the district collectorate to demand the shutdown of the factory. The Tamil Nadu police, acting on orders from the state administration, opened fire on the demonstrators without warning. The police action resulted in 13 deaths and over 100 injuries. Videos surfaced showing

The police action resulted in 13 deaths and over 100 injuries. Videos emerged showing police officers firing live rounds at protesters and spraying tear gas indiscriminately. The police shooting in Tuticorin was criticized as a heinous act of state violence. Human rights

organizations and activists chastised the government and police for their excessive use of force. The episode also aroused concerns about the role of corporate influence in governmental policy and law enforcement.

5. **Muzzafarnagar Riots (2013):**

Background: The Muzaffarnagar riots in Uttar Pradesh were among the deadliest examples of sectarian violence in modern India, particularly between the Hindu and Muslim communities. The violence was sparked by an allegation of sexual harassment and swiftly escalated into large-scale fights. The riots killed more than 60 individuals, injured hundreds, and displaced thousands. During the violence, police were accused of either being complicit with the rioters or failing to do anything to prevent it. Police Action: Several reports suggested that the Muzaffarnagar police were discriminatory toward Muslims. There were numerous claims that police either failed to protect the Muslim community from mobs or actively participated in the violence.

Instead of controlling the mobs, police officers allegedly indulged in excess, allowing the riots to worsen. Impact: The Muzaffarnagar riots showed serious weaknesses in Indian law enforcement, notably in cases of communal violence. The police's lack of neutrality in handling the riots drew significant criticism. Several investigations were undertaken, and several cops were suspended, but the episode exposed systemic flaws in dealing with communal tensions.

6. **Kashmir Police Brutality (Post-2019):**

Background: Following the repeal of Article 370 in August 2019, the state of Jammu and Kashmir was placed under lockdown, with severe security measures implemented to avoid unrest. Event: There have been reports of significant police brutality in the region, primarily against demonstrators and civilians. The internet shutdown and curfews significantly limited communication, resulting in several human rights crimes going unreported. Police Action: Security forces, including police and paramilitary units, were accused of using excessive force, such as shooting pellet guns at unarmed civilians, resulting in significant injuries and the blinding of hundreds. International human rights organizations have regularly reported the use of arbitrary detentions, raids on civilian houses, and beatings.

Impact: The police and paramilitary forces' excessive use of force in Kashmir earned international condemnation. The United Nations and other human rights organizations have repeatedly urged the Indian government to stop deploying pellet guns and to respect the human rights of Kashmiri civilians.

Police violence remains a major issue in modern India, frequently linked to caste, religion,

political opposition, or legal system shortcomings. Lack of accountability, internal prejudices, and political intervention in law enforcement has allowed similar occurrences to continue. Various human rights organizations and activists continue to fight for police reform, highlighting the importance of better training, more accountability, and respect for human rights

V. REFORMS OF POLICE ADMINISTRATION IN BRITISH INDIA

The British colonial authority implemented various improvements to India's police administration, principally to consolidate power and maintain law and order, particularly in the face of political turmoil and burgeoning nationalist movements. However, these changes frequently prioritized improving the effectiveness of the police as a tool of colonial authority over addressing the welfare of the Indian population.

A. The Indian Police Act of 1861:

The Indian Police Act of 1861 marked a substantial improvement after the Revolt of 1857. The uprising exposed the flaws in the old police system, pushing the British to reform law enforcement. The act established a formal, hierarchical police force across the country, under the supervision of district magistrates. It established the district-level Superintendent of Police (SP) position, which remains a critical role in Indian policing. The act also established the structure for police levels, tasks, and responsibilities, making law enforcement a more structured and centrally managed agency. However, this statute primarily attempted to defend British interests, focusing on averting revolt and retaining colonial rule.

B. Formation of the Indian Imperial Police (IP):

In 1893, the British established the Indian Imperial Police (IP), a cadre of officers responsible for managing higher ranks. The officers, initially Europeans and later Indians, were in charge of managing law enforcement across provinces. This reform aimed to professionalize the police force by implementing standardized recruitment and training procedures. However, the IP remained an aristocratic institution, with British officers controlling the higher ranks and Indian officers receiving restricted roles.

C. Police Commissions and Reports:

Various commissions were created to analyze and improve police operations. One important commission was the Fraser Commission in 1902-03, which examined the situation of policing in India and identified concerns such as corruption, inefficiency, and popular distrust of the police. The commission proposed boosting police force strength, enhancing pay and training, and lowering district magistrates' authority over the police to increase their independence.

However, many of these proposals were not completely adopted since the emphasis remained on maintaining British control rather than building a more accountable system.

D. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID):

In reaction to nationalist movements and political upheaval, the British established the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in 1902 to enhance intelligence collection and investigation skills. The CID was entrusted with investigating political offenses, spying, and repressing revolutionary activity. This reform was critical for dealing with anti-colonial activities, but it also resulted in increased monitoring, repression, and political arrests.

While British reforms increased the efficiency and structure of India's police, they were primarily motivated by the desire to retain colonial rule. These reforms did little to address public criticisms or increase police accountability, and the system remained highly repressive, adding to the legacy of colonial policing methods in post-independence India.

VI. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICE ADMINISTRATION IN MODERN INDIA

Since India's independence in 1947, the police administration has undergone a number of reforms aimed at moving from a colonial system to one that supports a democratic and diverse population. While many aspects of the British system, such as the Indian Police Act of 1861, persisted, efforts have been made over time to reform, modernize, and adapt the police force to new social, political, and technological difficulties.

A. Post-Independence Period (1947-1960s):

Following independence, India preserved most of the colonial-era police system, owing to the immediate priority on stabilizing the new nation and preserving internal security. The police were largely viewed as a tool for maintaining law and order in the face of sectarian conflicts, refugee crises, and early insurgencies in places such as Kashmir and the Northeast. However, there was understanding of the need for reform, and the Indian government began to investigate ways to make the police more service-oriented. Commissions such as the Gore Committee on Police Training (1971-1973) emphasized the significance of upgrading police training, professionalizing the police force, and fostering more engagement between officers and the public. The early decades after independence saw a gradual transition from a colonial type of policing to a more public-service-oriented force.

B. Rise of National Police Commissions (1977-1981):

The establishment of the National Police Commission (NPC) in 1977 marked a watershed moment in modern India's police reform history. Over a four-year period, the NPC produced

multiple studies on various aspects of police administration, such as recruiting, training, accountability, and the connection between police and political authorities. The NPC's key recommendations included: Reducing political interference: It proposed for making the police force more independent of political demands, as politicians frequently impacted police appointments, transfers, and promotions for personal or party reasons. The NPC advocated establishing State Security Commissions to regulate police operations and enforce accountability.

Police Complaints Authorities: To improve accountability and handle complaints about the police, the panel advocated establishing Police Complaints Authorities at the district and state levels. While the NPC's proposals were heralded as significant advances toward police reform, many of them were not fully executed, and political involvement remained a problem for the police administration.

C. The 2006 Supreme Court Directives (Prakash Singh Case):

The Supreme Court's decision in the Prakash Singh vs. Union of India case in 2006 marked a watershed moment, attempting to address police inefficiencies and implement broad changes. The Court issued several important directives, including: The formation of a Police Establishment Board: To ensure that the police operate without undue political intervention. Fixed tenure for top police officers: The Court ordered that the Director General of Police (DGP) and other high-ranking officers should serve for at least two years to avoid frequent transfers.

Separation of law and order duties from investigation: The Court ordered that law and order and investigation tasks be separated to improve the efficiency and specialization of police work. Establishing State Security Commissions: The NPC suggested that this directive be reinforced to maintain transparency and accountability. However, the execution of these directives has been varied between states, with several governments opposing the revisions owing to political reasons.

D. Modernization and Technological Advancements:

In recent decades, the Indian police administration has prioritized modernization, particularly in the face of emerging threats such as terrorism, cybercrime, and organized crime. The development of technology, such as computerization, crime data analysis, and surveillance systems, has increased the police force's ability to manage crime effectively. Initiatives such as the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) and the National Emergency Response System (NERS) have increased coordination among law enforcement agencies and

delivered better public services. Furthermore, specialized agencies such as the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which was founded in 2008 following the Mumbai terror attacks, and the Rapid Action Force (RAF), have been established to address specific threats such as terrorism and sectarian violence.

The evolution of police administration in modern India represents a combination of colonial continuity and progressive reforms aimed at making the force more democratic and responsive to the requirements of a diverse population. While modernization initiatives and court interventions have resulted in some changes, much work remains to be done to address systemic issues and guarantee a more accountable, transparent, and effective police force in India.

VII. COMPARISON OF POLICE ADMINISTRATION IN BRITISH INDIA VS MODERN INDIA

The police administration in British India and modern India has evolved in a complex way, from a colonial weapon of oppression to a force created to serve a democratic community. Despite various post-independence reforms, British colonial policing continues to have a significant impact on modern police procedures. The following is a comparative analysis of police administration in both eras, emphasizing similarities and variations across multiple dimensions.

A. Objectives and Purpose:

British India: The major goal of the police during the British colonial period was to keep law and order for the benefit of the colonial administration. The police force was a tool of repression, used to quell uprisings, manage the populace, and safeguard British economic and political interests. The 1857 Revolt was essential in forming the colonial mindset, leading to the passage of the Indian Police Act of 1861, which aimed to create a strong, authoritarian police force that supported the Crown's interests.

Modern India: In post-independence India, the police's principal mission is to serve the public by upholding law and order, preventing crime, and providing justice in a democratic society. The emphasis has moved from defending colonial rulers to protecting people' rights. Modern Indian police are meant to function within the constitutional framework, protecting fundamental rights and serving as a service-oriented force, while political involvement and incompetence can jeopardize these goals

B. Structure and Hierarchy:

British India: The police force was extremely organized and hierarchical, with power

concentrated in the hands of British officers at the top. The Indian Police Act of 1861 established a centralized, uniform structure, with each district overseen by the Superintendent of Police (SP). British commanders held prominent positions, while Indians were hired for lower-level ones, indicating a significant power differential.

Modern India: The British-introduced hierarchical system is mostly intact in modern India. The Director General of Police (DGP) leads the police force in each state, while the SP continues to manage districts. However, post-independence reforms have permitted Indians to advance through the ranks, and the force is currently wholly composed of Indian citizens. Recruitment is mostly through national and state civil service tests, making the force more diverse and merit-based.

C. Recruitment and Training:

British India: During the colonial era, recruitment was skewed, with British officers dominating the upper ranks and Indians holding lower-level, less powerful positions. Training was limited and aimed mostly at preserving power through force and repression, rather than public service.

Modern India: Recruitment in modern India is open to all citizens, and police officers are chosen through competitive examinations. Training curricula have evolved to incorporate legal studies, human rights, community policing, and crisis management. Institutions such as the National Police Academy instruct officers in professional ethics, public relations, and modern policing techniques, but the quality of training differs by state.

D. Public Relations and Accountability:

British India: The British police were largely unaccountable to the populace. Their role was to repress dissent, execute colonial laws, and maintain order by coercion. The population feared and distrusted the police since they were frequently employed to suppress nationalist groups and protests.

Modern India: While the police force in modern India is supposed to be accountable to the public and the law, problems with excessive force, corruption, and political meddling continue to plague its relationship with residents. Modern reforms have brought mechanisms to promote transparency and accountability, such as the Police Complaints Authority and judicial orders (e.g., Prakash Singh vs. Union of India, 2006), however these changes have been implemented inconsistently throughout states.

E. Laws and Legal Framework:

British India: The Indian Police Act of 1861 remains the primary legal underpinning for Indian policing. This colonial ordinance was intended to provide the police with broad powers to control the citizenry. The emphasis was on keeping order and protecting British interests, with little consideration for individual liberties.

Modern India: While the 1861 Act remains in effect, modern India has attempted to modify its legal system through a variety of committees, commissions, and judicial initiatives. The draft Model Police Act (2006) seeks to make the police force more people-centric, thereby improving conformity with democratic values, human rights, and accountability. However, important components of the colonial framework remain in place, resulting in a mismatch between democratic society expectations and policing realities.

F. Challenges and Reforms:

British India: The key problems for the police were to contain revolt, repress nationalist movements, and preserve colonial order. Reforms, such as the Fraser Commission (1902-03), attempted to increase efficiency but were mostly ignored because the major focus remained on repression.

Modern India: Political intervention, corruption, antiquated infrastructure, and a lack of accountability are some of today's concerns. While changes, like as the 2006 Supreme Court instructions, have attempted to professionalize the force and prevent political meddling, execution remains a major concern.

VIII. RESEARCH FINDINGS

Political meddling, corruption, antiquated colonial legislation, and excessive force are among the issues confronting modern Indian police administrations. The absence of proper infrastructure, funding, and training further undermines the police force's efficacy. Reforms such as the 2020 Model Police Act emphasize the need for a people-centred police force that prioritizes human rights, accountability, and transparency. The police administration in British India was a two-edged sword: it introduced a formal and contemporary policing organization while also functioning as a weapon of colonial repression. British India's heritage continues to affect current Indian policing, including crucial concerns such as public confidence, accountability, and structural reform. Despite efforts to turn the police force into a democratic, service-oriented agency, issues such as corruption, political manipulation, and insufficient implementation remain.

The police administration in India is at a crossroads between its colonial past and the need for modernization, demanding ongoing attempts to create a more accountable, transparent, and representative police force.

IX. CONCLUSION

The study of police administration in British India and modern India indicates major changes shaped by historical and socio-political contexts. Under British administration, the police force was centralized, authoritarian, and isolated from the local population. While modern India retains some colonial systems, it has also undertaken reforms to line with democratic values and defends citizens rights. However, issues such as politicization, corruption, and human rights violations persist. Addressing these concerns is critical for modern India to develop a service-oriented police force.

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