GS-II: The Morbidity of Jihad.

News

The absence of exact data on crime could pose serious problems. In India, crime is under-reported and under-registered.

Problems with crime data:

- The manner in which crime data are collected and compiled.
- Crime data in India are collected and published by NCRB.
- The data reported in this publication is based on the crime reported to local police stations.
- Police stations getting information about the crime is one thing and such incidents being recorded as an FIR is another.
- Challenges of a complainant – All kinds of pressures and obstacles are put on a complainant, especially when the nature of crime is that of sexual assault, domestic violence or when it involves family members, relatives or powerful people.
- There is enormous resistance put up by the police station personnel in registering such crimes or reducing the seriousness of the incident.
- The NCRB data fall short of expectations in many respects.
- It is short on information about crime victims and witnesses.

The potential of a victimisation survey:

- A victimisation survey is often seen as a solution to such shortcomings.
- Many countries have conducted victimisation surveys to supplement their official crime data, India has yet to make a start.
- Such surveys reveal details that are missed out by the local police.
- They describe how crime has impacted the lives of victims and convey their safety concerns.
- These surveys gather information through personal or telephonic interviews with a set of people who represent the geographical and social correlates of a city or state over a period of time.
- The information may detail the victimisation suffered by a person but not recorded by the police for a variety of reasons.
- The other data include risk and vulnerability, perceptions about the local police and the views of people about the criminal justice system.

Indian crime data – road ahead:

- India-specific yardsticks, which the NCRB does not cover, could be evolved.
- There could be several challenges to such surveys. People might not reveal more than what they have divulged to the police.
- There are several methodological innovations to overcome bottlenecks.
- It should be assigned to an institution that specialises in criminology, victimology and criminal justice administration.