

4. Glaring Security Lapses at Eminent Schools Across India, Reveals CISF Audit

Prelims: Governance - Institutional Reforms

Mains: GS-II- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector or Services relating to Education.

Why in News?

- ▶▶ Following the murder of seven-year-old Pradyumna Thakur at a school in Gurgaon in 2017, the paramilitary force had written to various schools offering consultancy services through a security audit. Nearly two dozen schools agreed to the proposal and CISF conducted the audit at nine.

Key Lapses Revealed:

- ▶▶ Some of the most prestigious schools in the country do not provide secure spaces to their students, safety audits conducted by the CISF have revealed.
 - ✓ Inadequate number of CCTV cameras.
 - ✓ Lack of background verification of security guards.
 - ✓ Non-installation of CCTV cameras at proper locations.
 - ✓ Poor quality of cameras that are not able to recognize individuals and vehicles.
 - ✓ Lack of fire safety measures in some schools like a non-functional fire hydrant and insufficient fire-fighting gadgets.
 - ✓ The absence of security gadgets and insufficient lighting.

Consequences:

- ▶▶ The absence of these measures shows that unauthorized entry of individuals and vehicles, smuggling of objectionable items is a big possibility in the schools, making students susceptible to threats.

Way Ahead:

- ▶▶ CISF has given some key recommendations and few of them are:
 - ✓ The cameras should cover entry and exit gate corridors, lobbies and parameters of the building which was missing in most schools.
 - ✓ Schools have been asked to procure X-ray Baggage Machines in their canteens to ensure that snacks and other food materials make way to the canteen only after proper inspection.

- ✓ CISF has recommended schools to put in place an electronic key management system that will maintain a record of rooms being used.
- ✓ Proper installation of fire safety measures like a proper functional fire hydrant and sufficient Fire-Fighting Gadgets.

