Defence & Security · GS - III

How can mobile forensic units strengthen evidence-based policing in India? Discuss their potential and limitations.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 24/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Mobile forensic infrastructure, scientific investigation, evidence preservation, chain of custody, speedy investigation, technical capacity, procedural safeguards

Model Answer

Introduction

Mobile forensic units bring scientific investigation facilities closer to crime scenes. Their deployment, including in narcotics investigations, can improve evidence collection and reduce delays associated with transporting samples to laboratories.

Potential Contributions

1. **Faster Evidence Collection:** On-site screening and preliminary examination can help investigators identify relevant material and initiate appropriate procedures quickly.

2. **Scientific Investigation:** Forensic tools can supplement witness statements and conventional investigation with scientific evidence.

3. **Evidence Preservation:** Proper packaging, documentation and secure handling can reduce contamination and strengthen the chain of custody.

4. **Improved Operational Efficiency:** Mobile laboratories can support investigations in remote areas and reduce dependence on distant forensic facilities.

5. **Deterrence and Accountability:** Greater certainty of scientific detection may improve enforcement against organised criminal activities.

Limitations and Safeguards

1. **Preliminary Testing:** Screening results must not be confused with confirmatory laboratory analysis or treated as automatic proof of guilt.

2. **Technical Reliability:** Equipment requires regular calibration, validation and trained forensic personnel.

3. **Legal Compliance:** Searches, sampling, seizure and evidence documentation must follow applicable laws and procedural safeguards.

4. **Capacity Constraints:** Mobile units cannot replace specialised laboratories, independent forensic examination and judicial scrutiny.

Way Forward

1. Expand accredited forensic infrastructure and trained personnel.
2. Establish standard operating procedures for sample collection and digital documentation.
3. Ensure transparent evidence management and independent verification.
4. Integrate mobile units with state forensic laboratories and investigation databases.

Conclusion

Mobile forensic units can make policing more scientific, responsive and accountable. Their effectiveness ultimately depends on technical reliability, procedural legality and the credibility of evidence presented before courts.

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