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Before the evolution of State there used to be a mechanism for rendering Justice in the form of kingship, religious heads, panchayats etc. Every society, according to the pattern of social structure in which it exists, the models of criminal justice are devised to suit its social conditions. It can be well said that the criminal justice system could be a barometer to gauge or measure the civilization of a society at a given point of time. Criminal Justice Process is the litmus test and an indicator of the prevailing societal conditions. Since 1967, the term 'criminal justice system' came into preponderant usage.

The Criminal Justice System (CJS) is a systematized from, to render justice; it also represents the organized societal response to crime. In the eyes of the general public, criminal justice is viewed as a glittering landmark in the annals of crime history and portrays the sanctum sanctorum of justice. It is perceived as a monument of divinity and sanctity. An unimpeachable faith is reposed in the Criminal Justice System as an institution, which renders social welfare, equality, morality and highly adorned doctrines and dogmas.

Buckley defines Criminal Justice System as "a complex of elements or components directly or indirectly related. in a casual network such that each component is related at least to some others in more or less suitable way within any particular period or time." It is at this altar, the presiding officer - a Magistrate or a Judge is perceived as a custodian and symbolic representation of fairness and justice. A Judge is extolled as an embodiment of justice and his pronouncements and verdicts are the manifestations of divine commands. As Krishna Iyer J. quotes Felix Frankfurter "a judge should be compounded of the faculties that are demanded of the historian, the philosopher and the prophets". In
the criminal justice process more often than not the truth is so cleverly and inextricably maneuvered and interwoven with lies that a magistrate or judge finds it extremely difficult to arrive at a conclusion with certainty in which way the truth lies. It is at this juncture; the criminal justice system follows the "due process" of law as envisaged under the regulations, laws, precedents, customs, case laws and so forth.

The law of criminal procedure is complimentary to criminal law. The process of its administration is looked after by the law of criminal procedure. To fulfill this objective, the criminal procedure envisages the machinery for prevention of crime, registration and detection of crime, arrest of suspicious persons, surveillance on criminals, investigative techniques, collection of evidence, determination of guilt or innocence of suspected persons, safeguards of freedom guaranteed under the constitution and the infliction or imposition of the quantum of punishment on the guilty person. The criminal justice system is equipped with immense powers so as to nullify the misuse or abuse of power from non-criminal and to punish the guilty and to give the 'benefit of doubt' to the accused where fool-proof evidence has not come up. The judiciary sails even in rough weather to arrive at the justice-rendering forum. The criminal procedure code defines, explains, regulates and above all demarcates the jurisdictional exercise of power, which plays a vital role in the criminal justice system. An equilibrium is maintained by giving wide powers to the functionaries for investigative and ad judicatory processes to be strong and effective but at the same time enforces reasonable restrictions on jurisdiction for probable misuse or abuse of powers. As pronounced in a prominent case by the Supreme Court of India. "The object of the code of criminal procedure is to ensure for the accused a full and fair trial in accordance with the principles of natural justice".

In as much as the rules of law natural justice demand that the quantum of punishment inflicted is proportional to the gravity of the crime committed.
**Major Stages Of Criminal Justice Process**

The criminal justice system comprises of the following six stages:

1. Legislation
2. Law enforcement, i.e., the police
3. Courts and the judicial procedures
4. Correctional institutions, i.e., prisons

**Objective of CJS**

1. The motivation and compulsions of the direct and indirect partners engaged in the task of prevention and control of crime may vary.
2. The prevention and control strategy calls for a coordinated approach, which at times may be lacking diffused to absent.
3. The challenge of crime is to be tackled in a comprehensive manner.
4. The ongoing modifications in the social system call for an innovative approach by different sectors engaged in assisting adjudication process.
5. Criminal justice does not distinguish or discriminate. It is protect the cherished social values and procedurally to ensure fairplay and justice.
6. It is to humanize the process of adjudication, control arbitrariness, guarantee as well as translate the notion of liberty, promote a sense of security amongst the members of a given set-up, ensure the rights of the victim and the accused.

Police is the most visible sub-system of the criminal justice system. In the event of a crime, the criminal law is set in motion, only through lodging of an FIR in the police station. But today, common man does not feel confident to go to police station to lodge and FIR due to a variety of reasons. Often, there is reluctance shown by the officers at the police station in registering a case, even when an aggrieved individual makes such a complaint. The process of registration of cases, investigation, prosecution and trial by judiciary are all hampered by a series of handicaps. As a result, most of the criminals go
scot-free and the trust and confidence of the common man in the efficacy of the system to deliver justice is largely lost. And most of the blame for all the ills of the system is ultimately, placed at the doors of the police since they are the initiators of the process.

The criminal justice system has, indeed come to the brink of collapse causing serious disillusionment among the public. This is an extremely unhealthy trend for democratic governance, and needs to be arrested forthwith. Much of the lack of faith of the public in the police functioning emanates from several serious infirmities in our legal system and the dilatoriness of our judicial process. What ails our criminal justice system and what are the most crucial reforms including legal reforms needed in the system form the standpoint of efficient delivery of police service to the people deserves attention.

This systematic study of criminal justice administration system encompasses all the major players involved. The basic principle underlying the CJS are explored as well as their working in practice. The reforms needed in this study starts with the examination of the rationale or underlying principle of the CJS, i.e. the adversarial model of law and its alternatives. The following chapters will deal with the various process of the CJS is a chronological fashion. Thus police investigation is dealt with first followed by prosecution and judicial procedures. The problem of perjury that has wrought havoc with the conviction rate is dealt with next. Justice to victim comes next followed by a study of some antiquated laws including those related to women that are plaguing the legal system.

As police is a very crucial player in the CJS, the necessity of insulating it from extraneous pressures is dealt with at length in a separate chapter. Specialized crimes like terrorism and organized crimes, economic offense and communal violence are dealt with in separate chapters. Urban and Rural policing which directly affect the delivery of CJS are discussed in separate chapters. Corruption is police which has acquired inimical proportions is studied as a separate chapter. Last but not the least, the correctional institutions, i.e. the prison and prison reforms are studies is detail.