



## Mains Practice Question

### Case Study

As the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) in a metropolitan city, you oversee the implementation of an AI-based Facial Recognition System (FRS) designed to track criminals and prevent crimes. The system, installed across public spaces, has been instrumental in reducing theft, identifying suspects, and solving pending cases. However, concerns have emerged regarding false positives, privacy violations, and potential biases in the AI's algorithm.

Recently, the system flagged Ravi, a 22-year-old college student, for allegedly being present at a protest that turned violent. Based on the AI-generated report, Ravi was briefly detained for questioning, despite his insistence that he was not involved. His family and civil society groups argue that he was misidentified due to a technical error in the AI system. Investigations reveal that multiple individuals from marginalized backgrounds have been disproportionately flagged, raising concerns about bias in AI-driven policing.

The city's administration is now divided. Some officials advocate for pausing the AI project for an independent review, citing privacy concerns and wrongful detentions. Others argue that the benefits outweigh the risks and that AI errors can be rectified over time. Meanwhile, public outrage over Ravi's case is growing, and the police department's credibility is at stake.

### Questions:

- A. How can law enforcement balance the benefits of AI-driven facial recognition with concerns over false positives, privacy violations, and algorithmic bias?
- B. What ethical principles should guide law enforcement in deploying AI tools, particularly in ensuring non-discrimination and protecting marginalized communities?
- C. What legal, procedural, and technological safeguards should be implemented to ensure AI-driven policing remains transparent, fair, and accountable?

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### Introduction

The use of **AI-driven Facial Recognition Systems (FRS)** in law enforcement offers **efficiency in crime prevention** but also raises concerns about **false positives, privacy violations, and bias**. The misidentification of Ravi highlights the **ethical risks of AI in policing** and the **need for accountability, fairness, and transparency**. Law enforcement must balance **public safety with human rights** while ensuring that AI serves **justice without discrimination**.

### Body

- A. How can law enforcement balance the benefits of AI-driven facial recognition with concerns over false positives, privacy violations, and algorithmic bias?

- **Ensuring Accuracy and Human Oversight:** AI should **assist but not replace** human

judgment; officers must verify AI alerts before acting (e.g., manual review of flagged cases).

- **Proportional Use of AI:** AI should be used **only where necessary**, avoiding **mass surveillance** that may restrict **civil liberties**.
- **Regular System Audits:** The system should undergo **frequent accuracy tests** to **reduce false positives** and prevent **misidentification** of innocent individuals.
- **Transparency and Public Awareness:** Law enforcement must inform the public about AI surveillance policies to **foster trust** (e.g., open reports on AI performance).
- **Bias Detection and Correction:** AI must be tested for racial, gender, and socio-economic biases, with corrective measures implemented (e.g., diverse training datasets).
- **Independent Review Committees:** The AI system should be monitored by **ethics boards and human rights commissions** to ensure **fair and unbiased implementation**.
- **Grievance Redressal Mechanism** – Citizens must have a platform to challenge wrongful AI-based detentions.

B. What ethical principles should guide law enforcement in deploying AI tools, particularly in ensuring non-discrimination and protecting marginalized communities?

- **Justice and Fairness:** AI-based policing should be **fair and impartial**, ensuring that no community faces **disproportionate targeting** or wrongful detention.
- **Accountability and Responsibility:** Law enforcement agencies must **own up to AI errors** and establish **accountability mechanisms** to correct wrongful actions.
- **Right to Privacy:** AI should be used in a **manner that respects individual rights**, with strong **data protection measures** to prevent misuse.
- **Human Dignity and Autonomy:** No individual should be **falsely labeled a criminal** based on AI predictions alone. **Ethical policing** must ensure **dignity and fairness** in law enforcement.
- **Public Trust and Consent:** AI tools should be **transparent and publicly accountable**, allowing **citizen engagement in decisions** regarding their implementation.
- **Bias-Free Implementation:** Regular **equity audits and bias testing** must be conducted to **ensure AI does not reinforce existing societal inequalities**.

C. What legal, procedural, and technological safeguards should be implemented to ensure AI-driven policing remains transparent, fair, and accountable?

- **Legal Safeguards:**
  - Establish **strict laws governing AI in policing**, including **clear regulations on data usage, retention, and deletion**.
  - Require **judicial oversight** for AI-driven arrests and detentions to prevent **misuse of power**.
  - Implement **data privacy laws** that restrict the storage and use of facial recognition data beyond necessary limits.
- **Procedural Safeguards:**
  - Officers must receive **training in AI ethics, bias detection, and human rights** to ensure ethical AI use.
  - **Manual verification of AI alerts** should be mandatory before making **any arrests or detentions**.
  - Create a **public grievance redressal system** allowing citizens to challenge **wrongful AI-driven policing decisions**.
- **Technological Safeguards:**
  - Conduct **regular AI system audits** to identify and **eliminate bias in algorithms**.
  - Implement **Explainable AI (XAI)** so law enforcement can **understand and justify AI decisions** instead of relying on black-box predictions.
  - Use **alternative AI models** that incorporate **multiple verification layers** before tagging individuals as suspects.

## Conclusion

AI-driven policing must ensure **justice, fairness, and accountability** while balancing **public safety with individual rights**. The system should **help law enforcement** but **never replace ethical decision-making**. By implementing **legal protections, transparency measures, and bias control mechanisms**, AI can serve as a **tool for justice rather than oppression**. A well-regulated AI system will **enhance public trust** while ensuring that law enforcement remains **ethical, fair, and responsible**.

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