



TATHASTU ICS



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S.NO. TOPIC

1.	PRISON REFORMS
2.	SEVEN YEARS ON, MISSION TO CLEAN THE GANGA REMAINS A WORK IN PROGRESS
3.	KOKBOROK, TRIPURA'S LANGUAGE WITHOUT A SCRIPT

PRISON REFORMS

SOURCE: [THE INDIAN EXPRESS](#), [THE ECONOMIC TIMES](#), [MoHA](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- According to the **Supreme Court Committee on Prison Reforms**, the conditions in prisons all over the nation's housing areas were in a "pitiful state of affairs," underscoring the fact that **quick trials can** be a useful instrument in resolving the **issue of overcrowding in jails**.
- A **committee headed by former Supreme Court Justice (Retd) Amitava Roy** stated in its final summation of reports that **living conditions in jails** fall short of what is envisioned in the **2016 Model Prison Manual** and demand immediate and result-driven correction.

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS RELATING TO PRISONS IN INDIA?

- **Overcrowding:** Indian jails frequently house more inmates than they were built to house, resulting in overcrowding causing **poor living conditions**.
 - The committee (Amitav Roy) reported in the chapter titled "Overcrowding in Prisons" that "overall, an overcrowding rate of 139% was observed in the male prisons of 12 states but spans jail-wise around 104 percent to 181 percent."

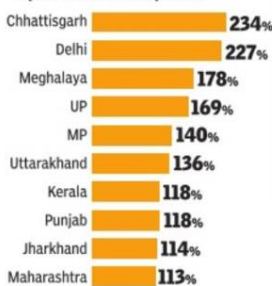
- **Understaffing:** Understaffing impacts **security, supervision, and the ability to offer convicts educational and rehabilitative programs** in many jails in India.

- Each jail must have a welfare officer and a law

No wonder India's prisons are so overcrowded

Most prisons in India are overcrowded, avg occupancy rate in Indian prisons is 114%

Top 10 overcrowded prisons



Undertrials are those awaiting trial or whose trials were still ongoing, and who have not been convicted

Poor state of legal aid

The home ministry agrees that only "the poor and indigent... have continued to languish as under-trials" and notes "the lack of adequate legal aid" is the principal reason for "continued detention ... where bail is a matter of right" Although an accused in criminal case has the right to free legal aid, but here, too, a sorry picture...

Among states with largest undertrial populations...

Haryana has highest number of legal aid lawyers, but avg prison visits by them is 0.22 times a month...



What is Sec 436A?

It says that where an undertrial has been detained for a period equal to half of the maximum sentence specified for the offence for which he/she is charged, they are eligible for release on personal bond, with or without sureties

But despite home ministry's guidelines, many prison officials across states are still unaware of how section 436A CrPC is to be applied

*Amnesty International India filed nearly 3,000 RTI applications to gather the data for the study

officer, but these positions have not yet been filled, despite requirements under the **Prison Act of 1894 and the Prisoner Act of 1900**.

- **Poor infrastructure:** India has a large number of jails with **obsolete infrastructure, subpar amenities, and poor sanitation**, which can cause **health issues and cruel living conditions** for inmates.
 - Adequate **budgetary support** has not been allocated for prison administration.

- **Legal and judicial backlogs:** The **lengthy pretrial custody** of many prisoners in India is a result of the **protracted judicial proceedings**. There may be **overcrowding** and **more demand for resources** as a result of this backlog in the legal system.
 - Trial prisoners make up 67.2% of the total prison population in India, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)-Jail Statistics India, undertrials serve longer terms than they would have if a trial had gone place.
 - Obsolete laws like the Evidence Act of 1872, and the Prison Act of 1894 cause many delays.
- **Women prisons: Inadequate facilities** and a lack of **gender-sensitive programs** are two issues that women prisoners frequently confront.
- **Mental health issues:** There is a **paucity of mental health support** and **treatment services** within the prison system.
 - In India, roughly 1 in 7 prisoners reported having a mental health illness, according to a survey done by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2018–19.
- **Ineffective rehabilitation measures:** It is difficult to **successfully reintegrate** into society since there **isn't enough attention paid** to their rehabilitation and reintegration, and there aren't enough **educational and vocational programs** available.
 - Juveniles are not provided enough care and rehabilitation opportunities.
- **Human rights violations:** Human rights organizations are alarmed by reports of **abuse, neglect,** and other **human rights breaches** in several Indian prisons.
 - The National Human Rights Commission reported 1,569 deaths in judicial custody in the year 2020.

HOW TO OVERCOME THIS SITUATION?

The need for jail reforms in India has long been felt, which has prompted the creation of numerous committees and commissions to study the problem and provide recommendations for systemic changes.

COMMITTEES	RECOMMENDATIONS
1. Justice Mulla Committee 1980	The committee concluded that the government had a responsibility to offer convicts respectable living conditions .
2. Justice V R Krishna Iyer Committee 1988	It suggested changes for the care and rehabilitation of juveniles , including the creation of observation homes and other institutions specifically for them.
3. Justice Malimath Committee 2003	The committee proposed changes including the death penalty being replaced with a sentence of life in prison without commutation or remission.
4. Justice Amitava Roy Committee 2018	It suggested a number of solutions to the overcrowding problem , such as the granting of parole to particular prisoner groups.
5. Law Commission 268 th Report	The Commission recommended releasing those who had been arrested for offenses that carried sentences of up to seven years in prison after serving one-third of those terms and releasing those who had been charged with crimes that carried longer terms of imprisonment after serving half of those terms.

GOVERNMENT EFFORTS FOR PRISON REFORMS IN INDIA

INITIATIVE	OBJECTIVE
1. Modernisation of Prisons scheme	In order to improve the conditions of prisons, inmates, and prison staff , the scheme was introduced in 2002–2003.
2. E Prisons project	Improving jail administration efficiency through digitization .
3. National Legal Services Authority	To provide free legal aid to weaker sections of the society.
4. Model Prison Manual 2016	It tries to establish uniformity across the nation in the laws, rules, and regulations governing the management of prisoners and the operation of prisons .

WAY FORWARD:

- **Assess the state of Prisons:** To comprehend the **current situation** of the Indian prison system, conduct thorough **evaluations and studies**.
- **Continuous monitoring of laws and regulations:** The Union Home Minister has introduced three bills in the Lok Sabha with the aim of repealing and replacing the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and the Indian Evidence Act. These three acts were enacted during the British rule in India.
- **Effective rehabilitation measures:** The post-release **support and societal stigma reduction** of ex-convicts through rehabilitation and reintegration.
- **Mental Health Services:** Promote the addition of mental health services to the prison system to meet the inmates' mental health requirements.
- **Adhere to international obligations:** Like implementing the provisions of the **United Nations Convention against torture**.

SEVEN YEARS ON, MISSION TO CLEAN THE GANGA REMAINS A WORK IN PROGRESS

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- Since the government announced its ambitious **20,000 crore National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** seven years ago, **just 20% of the anticipated sewage generated** in the five major

★ Main pillars of the Namami Gange Programme are:-



Sewerage Treatment Infrastructure



River-Front Development



River-Surface Cleaning



Bio-Diversity



Afforestation



Public Awareness



Industrial Effluent Monitoring



Ganga Gram

- States that border the river can be treated in treatment facilities already in place.
- Only 20% of the sewage entering the Ganga is now being treated by Sewage Treatment Plants; NMCG intends to enhance this to 33% by 2024 and 60% by 2026; Only 7,000 Minimum Liquid Discharge capacity will be built, according to the Centre; The rest must be established by States.

ABOUT NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA:

Aspect	Description
Mission Objective	To rejuvenate and clean the Ganga River and its tributaries.
Launch Year	2011 (formerly known as the National Ganga River Basin Authority - NGRBA).
Governing Body	Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.
Geographic Focus	Primarily focuses on the Ganga River and its basin, covering several states.
Key Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring the uninterrupted and clean flow of the Ganga. 2. Reduction of pollution in the river. 3. Conservation and rejuvenation of the river's ecosystem. 4. Promoting sustainable sanitation practices. 5. Enhancing public participation and awareness.
Implementation Mechanism	NMCG acts as the apex body coordinating various programs and projects.
Notable Programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Namami Gange: A comprehensive program with multiple components to address pollution, infrastructure development, and biodiversity conservation. 2. Ganga Gram Yojana: Focusing on improving sanitation and hygiene in villages along the Ganga. 3. Industrial Effluent Monitoring: Regulating and monitoring industrial discharge into the river.
Funding	Supported by both the central and state governments, as well as international organizations and funds.
Key Achievements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduction in the discharge of untreated sewage into the Ganga.

2. Progress in the construction of sewage treatment plants and sewage infrastructure.
3. Initiatives for riverfront development and biodiversity conservation.

MAJOR CAUSES FOR RIVER POLLUTION IN INDIA:

- **Deforestation and soil erosion: River sedimentation and siltation** are caused by deforestation and soil erosion in the **catchment basins of rivers**.
 - This impacts **aquatic animals**, decreases water quality, and **disturbs aquatic habitats due to increased biological demands**.
 - Aquatic animals like **Gangetic dolphins** are facing a **risk of extinction** due to excessive river pollution.
- **Mining activities:** Pollutants from mining operations, including **heavy metals, sediment, and chemicals**, are released into rivers.
- **Industrial effluents:** River pollution is primarily caused by the discharge of industrial effluent that has either **not been properly treated** or has been **treated insufficiently**.
 - Approximately 72,368 million litres per day (MLD) of sewage were produced in 2021, but only 26,869 MLD could be treated operationally, according to the **CPCB study National Inventory of Sewage Treatment Plants 2021**.
- **Sewage and domestic waste: Domestic trash and raw sewage** are **directly dumped** into rivers in many cities and towns due to **inadequate sewage treatment equipment**.
 - This trash is full of **dangerous bacteria, pathogens, nutrients**, and organic material that **lowers water oxygen levels** and increases **the risk of waterborne diseases** spreading.
- **Agricultural runoff:** When **agricultural chemicals** like **fertilizers, insecticides, and herbicides** run off fields into neighbouring bodies of water, they pollute rivers.
 - **Eutrophication**, which results in **algal blooms** and **the depletion of oxygen**, can be brought on by excessive nutrients like **nitrogen and phosphorus**.
- **Urbanization and construction activities:** Increased flow of pollutants, including **silt, construction waste**, and oil from roads and buildings, into surrounding rivers is frequently a side effect of rapid urbanization and construction projects.
- **Population pressure:** India's **population density** and sheer size put **tremendous strain on its water supply**. High population density may result in increased waste production and excessive water use, which may worsen river pollution.
 - **Socio-religious practices** like the **immersion of idols** in the rivers have severely impacted the quality of river waters.
- **Climate Change:** By **changing precipitation patterns**, resulting in droughts or floods, and altering water temperature, climate change can worsen river pollution.

CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH RIVER CONSERVATION IN INDIA:

- **LACK OF COMPREHENSIVE RIVER-BASIN MANAGEMENT:** It might be difficult to **coordinate river conservation** activities across many administrative boundaries. A more comprehensive strategy that takes into account entire river basins is required.
- **LACK OF ADEQUATE SEWAGE TREATMENT:** There are **insufficient sewage treatment facilities** in numerous towns and cities along the rivers in India. As a result, untreated sewage is dumped directly into rivers, creating health concerns and lowering the quality of the water.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:** By **outcompeting native species and changing food webs, invasive species** can disturb the natural ecosystems of rivers. Invasive species management and control is a difficult task.
- **ENCROACHMENT AND HABITAT DESTRUCTION: Unauthorised building projects and encroachments** on riverbanks obstruct the flow of rivers **and harm aquatic animals' habitats**. The management and restoration of these sites is difficult.
- **REGULATORY AND ENFORCEMENT CHALLENGES:** Effective efforts to conserve rivers can be hampered by inconsistent environmental regulatory enforcement and lax fines.
- **LACK OF FUNDING:** Various schemes like **Namami Gange** have been ineffective due to **poor funding** from the government.
- **LACK OF PUBLIC AWARENESS:** It is essential to **educate the public** about the value of river protection and the part that **people and communities** may play in it. Many people might not fully comprehend how their actions affect the health of rivers.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR RIVER CONSERVATION IN INDIA:

INITIATIVE	OBJECTIVE
1. NATIONAL RIVER CONSERVATION PLAN 1995	The National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is a centrally financed program that was established in 1995 with the goal of reducing river pollution.
2. RIVER BOARDS ACT 1956	In order to coordinate and control the development and use of interstate river waters, this legislation calls for the creation of River Boards. These boards have a part to play in protecting and managing river basins.
3. NATIONAL GANGA RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY	The Ganga Action Plan and afterwards the Namami Gange programme were both implemented by NGRBA. It is essential for organising and carrying out conservation measures for the Ganga River.
4. NAMAI GANGE MISSION	The Namami Gange programme, which was established in 2014, is a leading effort to purify and revitalise the Ganga River (commonly referred to as the Ganges). Construction of sewage treatment facilities, riverfront development, and public awareness campaigns are only a few of the varied tasks involved.
5. WATER (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION ACT)1974	The framework for preventing and managing water contamination is provided by this law.
6. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986	The central government is given the authority to act to conserve and enhance the environment thanks to this legislation. It contains regulations for controlling actions that could harm the environment, especially those that affect rivers.
7. CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD	River water pollution is prevented and controlled by the Central Pollution manage Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), who establish and enforce water quality standards, manage industrial discharges, and take other actions.
8. NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL	The National Green Tribunal was created under the National Green Tribunal Act of 2010 and began functioning in 2011. Its main goal is to offer a specialized venue for the quick and efficient resolution of

	disputes and issues involving environmental preservation, resource conservation, and the application of environmental laws and regulations.
9. NATIONAL WATER POLICY 2012	The National Water Policy offers a thorough framework for managing water resources and emphasizes the necessity of sustainable water usage and river conservation. It supports the idea of maintaining environmental flows in rivers and coordinated river basin management.

WAY FORWARD:

- **PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE:** Encourage farmers to utilise sustainable farming methods that conserve soil and water, use less chemical fertilisers and pesticides, and limit soil erosion.
 - Government of Andhra Pradesh introduced zero budget natural farming for sustainable agriculture.
- **PROMOTE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE:** To enhance water quality and lessen urban runoff into rivers, promote the use of green infrastructure techniques including built wetlands and organic stormwater management systems.
- **AFFORESTATION AND RIPARIAN ZONES:** Encourage the planting of trees and the restoration of riparian areas along riverbanks to strengthen the banks, lessen erosion, and improve wildlife habitat.
- **STRICTER ENFORCEMENTS:** Ensure accountability and openness in the government organisations in charge of river conservation. Encourage public involvement and examination.
- **INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION:** To address problems with shared water resources and encourage river conservation at the regional level, cooperate with neighbouring nations on transboundary river management.
 - Example: India and Bangladesh Joint River commission for mutually solving problems related to transboundary river.

KOKBOROK, TRIPURA'S LANGUAGE WITHOUT A SCRIPT

SOURCE: [THE INDIAN EXPRESS](#) , [TRIPURA TRIBAL AREA AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCIL](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- During a 12-hour nationwide strike planned by the Tripura Students' Federation (TSF) to demand the adoption of the Roman script for Kokborok, the state's indigenous tongue, as well as other demands, more than 260 individuals were jailed in Tripura.

ABOUT KOKBOROK LANGUAGE:

- Kokborok (also known as Tripuri) is a **Tibeto-Burman language** spoken in Bangladesh's border regions and in the Indian state of Tripura.
- The Sino-Tibetan language Kokborok **belongs to the Bodo-Garo branch**.
- It has connections to the **Bodo and Dimasa languages** of the nearby Assam region.
- The **state of Meghalaya and Bangladesh** is home to **speakers** of the related **Garo language**.

CONTROVERSY OVER THE LANGUAGE'S SCRIPT:

- It has a lengthy history and was designated as **Tripura's official state tongue in 1979**.
- It is **presently taught at Tripura Central University in addition to the state's 22 degree-granting institutions**.
- There is **debate** about whether Kokborok should be **written in Bengali script or Roman script**, while the **language does not have its own script**.
- Two commissions were established by the former Left government to look into the matter.
- Both panels concluded that the **majority of the state's indigenous peoples preferred the Roman script**.

PRELIMS SPECIFIC:

• EIGHTH SCHEDULE:

- It includes a **list of India's official languages**.
- The official languages are covered in **Part XVII of the Indian Constitution in Articles 343 to 351**.
- The following are the constitutional provisions relating to the eighth schedule:
 - ✓ **Article 344:** According to Article 344 of the Indian Constitution, the **President** creates a **Commission and Committee on Official Language** that are tasked with **advocating for Hindi as the Union's official language**.
 - ✓ **Article 351:** According to Article 351 of the Constitution, it is the **Union's responsibility to encourage the Hindi language's growth** so that it can be used by all people as a medium of expression.

• OFFICIAL LANGUAGES:

- ✓ The **Constitution's Eighth Schedule** lists the following **22 languages**:
- ✓ Assamese, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili, Dogri, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu.
- ✓ **14** of these were **initially mentioned** in the Constitution.
- ✓ The **21st Amendment Act of 1967** added the **Sindhi language**.
- ✓ The **71st Amendment of 1972 Act** added **Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali**.
- ✓ The **92nd Amendment Act of 2003**, which went into effect in 2004, introduced the languages of **Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali**.