

**GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND INTERVENTIONS**

**Prison Reforms**

**In News-**Recently, the Prime Minister suggested prison reforms at the annual police meet in New Delhi.

**More about the news**

- **Prison reforms:** The PM recommended Prison reforms to improve jail management and suggested repealing obsolete criminal laws.
- **Police Reforms:** He also suggested making the police forces more sensitive and training them in emerging technologies.
- **Enhancing cooperation:** He also emphasized on enhanced cooperation between the State Police and Central Agencies to leverage capabilities and share best practices.
- **National Data Governance Framework:** He emphasized on the importance of the National Data Governance Framework for the smoothening of data exchange, across agencies. He suggested that while we should further leverage technological solutions like biometrics etc., there is also a need to further strengthen traditional policing mechanisms like foot patrols etc
- **Strengthening Security:** He discussed strengthening of border as well as coastal security by organising frequent visits of officials to these locations.

**Prison Reforms**

**Issues faced by prisoners in India:**

- ✚ Overcrowding-According to the National Crime Records Bureau's 2021 statistics, there were 5, 54,034 people in prisons across India, as against a capacity of 4, 25,609. A similar trend of overcapacity was seen in 2020 and 2019 as well.
- ✚ Prolonged detention of under-trial prisoners- A poor man remains in jail for over a year without trial for minor offences such as theft. Many inmates can't even afford the bail amount.

**Other issues include:**

- ✚ Unsatisfactory living conditions.
- ✚ Lack of treatment Programs.
- ✚ The allegations of the indifferent and even inhuman approaches of prison staff have repeatedly attracted the attention of critics over the years.

**Model Prison Manual:**

- ✚ For this reason, the government in 2016 introduced the 'Model Prison Manual' to replace the existing prison manual.
- ✚ In the manual, the government has considered aspects such as human rights, the rehabilitation of prisoners in society, the rights of female prisoners, laws for prison inspection and the right to education even for death row convicts.

**Recommendations on Jail reforms:**

- ✚ Recommendations of Law Commission of India in its 268th report:
- ✚ The Commission recommended that those detained for offences that come with a punishment of up to seven years of imprisonment should be released on completing one-third of that period and for those charged with offences that attract a longer jail term after they complete half of that period.
- ✚ It also recommended that the police should avoid needless arrests, while magistrates should refrain from mechanical remand orders.
- ✚ Justice Amitava Roy Committee Recommendations: In 2018 The Supreme Court constituted a three-member committee, to be headed by former apex court judge Amitava Roy, to look into the aspect of jail reforms across the country and make recommendations on several aspects, including overcrowding in prisons.

It recommended:

- ✓ Special fast-track courts should be set up to deal exclusively with petty offences which have been pending for more than five years.
- ✓ Further, accused persons who are charged with petty offences and that granted bail, but who are unable to arrange surety should be released on a Personal Recognizance (PR) Bond.
- ✓ Launching a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms.

**Police Reforms**

**Need for police reforms:**

- ✚ Lack of confidence in the police: People, in general, do not have confidence in the police. This is particularly true of the lower strata of society, who feel that there is one law for the poor and another for the rich and powerful.
- ✚ Complex law and Order problem: law and order problems are becoming more complex with every passing year. Organized crime has acquired international dimensions. Arms trafficking and drug trafficking do not observe any borders. Cybercrimes are increasing in geometrical progression.

- ✚ Poor infrastructure: The police are not able to deliver partly because of poor infrastructure. There is huge scope for improvement in transport, communications and forensics as well. There are huge deficiencies in human resources. Overall, there is a vacancy of more than 5,00,000 personnel.
- ✚ Work load: According to the Status of Policing in India Report, 2019, an average policeman works for 14 hours a day and does not get any weekly off. This takes a heavy toll on his mental and physical health. Poor housing conditions and long working hours have an adverse impact on police performance.
- ✚ Technological up gradation: There is enormous scope for technological inputs into the functioning of the police. These inputs would act as a force multiplier.

**Supreme Court's Prakash Singh judgement on police reforms:**

- ✚ In a landmark judgement, the Supreme Court in September 2006 had directed all states and Union Territories to bring in police reforms.
- ✚ The ruling issued a series of measures that were to be undertaken by the governments to ensure the police could do their work without worrying about any political interference.

**Fixing the tenure and selection of the DGP:**

- ✚ Fixing the tenure and selection of the DGP to avoid situations where officers about to retire in a few months are given the post.
- ✚ In order to ensure no political interference, a minimum tenure was sought for the Inspector General of Police so that they are not transferred mid-term by politicians.

**Police Establishment Boards (PEB):**

- ✚ The SC further directed postings of officers being done by Police Establishment Boards (PEB) comprising police officers and senior bureaucrats to insulate powers of postings and transfers from political leaders

**State Police Complaints Authority (SPCA):**

- ✚ There was a recommendation of setting up the State Police Complaints Authority (SPCA) to give a platform where common people aggrieved by police action could approach.

**State Security Commissions (SSC):**

- ✚ The SC directed separation of investigation and law and order functions to better improve policing, setting up of State Security Commissions (SSC) that would have members from civil society and forming a National Security Commission.

**PRELIMS**

**1. BSF camel contingent to have women personnel at Republic Day Parade:**

- In a first, women personnel will be part of the Border Security Force (BSF) camel contingent at the Republic Day parade (RDP) this year.
- Also, the ceremonial 21-gun salute during the parade will be given using 105 mm Indian Field Guns (IFGs) which will replace the vintage British 25 mm Pounder guns. Since Independence, the 21-gun salute has been accorded by seven vintage Quick Fire 25 Pounder guns which fire blank rounds as the national anthem is played.
- There will be 16 marching contingents from the armed forces, Central Paramilitary Forces, the Delhi Police, the National Cadet Corps and the NSS along with 19 military pipes and drum bands while 27 tableaux of various States, departments and armed forces will take part.

**2. World Economic Forum 2023**

- **In News-**The World Economic Forum's (WEF) Annual Meeting 2023, held in Davos, Switzerland, has concluded.

**About Annual Meeting**

- It was the 53rd edition of the Annual meeting of the WEF.
- The meeting has brought together 2,700 leaders from 130 countries including 52 heads of state/government.
- The theme of this year was 'Cooperation in a Fragmented World' which is in the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war, Climate Change, and changing global political scenarios.

**New Initiatives Launched**

- **Giving to Amplify Earth Action (GAEA):** It is a global initiative launched by WEF with support of more than 45 partners to fund new and existing public, private and philanthropic partnerships (PPPPs) to help unlock the \$3 trillion of financing needed each year to reach net zero, reverse nature loss and restore biodiversity by 2050.
- **Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate:** It brings together countries to boost international cooperation on climate, trade and sustainable development. It is currently co-led by the trade ministers of Ecuador, the European Union, Kenya and New Zealand and so far consists of ministers from 27 jurisdictions.
- **Global Collaboration Village:** It was launched by WEF in collaboration with Accenture and Microsoft as the first global, purpose-driven metaverse platform to create a new virtual space for strengthening international cooperation.

**Other Key Takeaways from the Annual Meeting**

- Global Economic Outlook: Most business leaders were upbeat about the economy, with the US and the European Union (EU) seemingly beyond the risk of a recession now. However, Central banks of the major economies cautioned that concerns still remained, and would keep interest rates high to check inflation.
- Reopening in China: China ending its Zero-Covid Policy and reopening its business has added to the positive outlook. However, this would mean a rise in its energy consumption, thereby driving up energy prices.
- Friendshoring: The World Trade Organisation has warned the economies to be careful of friendshoring, as the big three trading powers of the United States, Europe and China pushed their new industrial policies. The term refers to the practice of relocating supply chains to countries where the risk of disruption from political chaos is low.
- Ukraine-Russia War: Ukraine demanded more military aid to fight its war against Russia, and more financial aid to rebuild after the war.
- Climate Change: Everyone agreed upon the need for green energy and the need for more money to fight climate change.

**Critical Analysis of WEF**

- The persistent criticism of WEF annual meetings is that it is an event where the uber-rich and powerful fly in on private jets to talk about poverty alleviation and climate action.
- However, despite its flaws, the conference is an opportunity for key decision-makers to interact with each other. More conversation and communication is better than less contact and less communication.

**3. Ahom Burial Mounds in Assam**

**In News-**Recently, the Union Government has decided to nominate Assam's Charaideo Maidams for the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

**About**

**Nomination:** It has been selected from among 52 sites across the country seeking the World Heritage Site tag.

**Charaideo Maidams:**

- Assam's Charaideo Maidams are the Ahom equivalent of the ancient Egyptian pyramids. The maidams represent the late medieval (13th-19th century CE) mound burial tradition of the Tai Ahom community in Assam.
- The Charaideo Maidams enshrine the mortal remains of the members of the Ahom royalty, who used to be buried with their paraphernalia.
- Out of 386 Maidams or Moidams explored so far, 90 royal burials at Charaideo are the best preserved, representative of and the most complete examples of mound burial tradition of the Ahoms.
- After the 18th century, the Ahom rulers adopted the Hindu method of cremation and began entombing the cremated bones and ashes in a Maidam at Charaideo.

**Significance:**

- There is currently no World Heritage Site in the category of cultural heritage in the northeast.
- The nomination of the Charaideo Maidams has attained significance at a time when the country is celebrating the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit Barphukan.

**Ahom Kingdom:**

- The Ahom dynasty was founded by Chao Lung Siu-Ka-Pha in 1253.
- The Ahom rule lasted for about 600 years until the British annexed Assam in 1826.
- Charaideo, more than 400 km east of Guwahati, was the first capital of the Ahom dynasty.

**4. INS Vagir, fifth Scorpene submarine, commissioned**

- The fifth Scorpene class conventional submarine was commissioned into the Indian Navy as INS Vagir in the presence of the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R.Hari Kumar, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.
- The sixth and the last of the French-origin Scorpene-class submarines, Vagsheer, being built in India under technology transfer are currently undergoing sea trials and will be delivered to the Navy in 2024, the original manufacturer Naval Group said.
- With this, the Navy now has 16 conventional and one nuclear submarine in service. It includes seven Russian Kilo class submarines, four German HDW submarines, five Scorpene class submarines, and the indigenous nuclear ballistic missile submarine, INS Arihant.
- "Vagir will be the third submarine inducted into the Navy in a short span of 24 months. This is no small achievement, and underscores the coming of age of India's shipbuilding industry and the maturing of our defence ecosystem. It is also a shining testimony to the expertise and experience of our shipyards to construct complex and complicated platforms," Admiral Kumar said at the commissioning ceremony.

- “These aspects also serve to reinforce the Indian Navy’s unequivocal commitment and steadfast resolve to be a fully Aatma Nirbhar force by 2047,” he added.
- The Navy chief further complimented the submarine’s Commanding Officer and his team for pushing through “all major trials, including those of weapons and sensors, within a short span of just 11 months.

**5. Subhas Chandra Bose disaster management award for OSDMA**

- The Narendra Modi government has instituted an annual award, called Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar, to recognise and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organisations in India in the field of disaster management.
- For 2023, the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) and the Lunglei Fire Station (LFS) in Mizoram have been selected for the award in the institutional category, according to a statement issued by the Union home ministry. The award is announced every year on January 23 on the birth anniversary of the freedom fighter.
- It has been saving precious lives and established in the aftermath of 1999 super cyclone, which killed more than 15,000 people, OSDMA took initiatives such as of raising of the Odisha Disaster Response Action Force (ODRAF), Multi-hazard Early Warning Service (MHEWS) framework, and a cutting-edge technology-enabled web/smart phone-based platform called "SATARK" (System for Assessing, Tracking, and Alerting Disaster Risk Information based on Dynamic Risk Knowledge).
- OSDMA made effective response during cyclones Hudhud (2014), Fani (2019), Amphan (2020) and Odisha floods (2020). It conducted disaster preparedness initiatives in building community resilience in 381 tsunami prone villages and 879 multi-purpose cyclone and flood shelters located within 1.5 km from coastline.

**About OSDMA**

- Formed 1999
- Jurisdiction Government of Odisha
- Headquarters Rajiv Bhavan, Unit 5, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Agency executive Aditya Prasad Padhi, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt of Odisha
- Parent department Department of Revenue & Disaster Management (Odisha)

**ANSWER WRITING**

**Q. Discuss the various opportunities and challenges posed by globalization on working women in India.**

**Answer:**

- Globalisation has not only increased the economic opportunities but has also led to an increase in access to information, primarily through television and the internet. Globalisation has given women a new identity, financial independence, freedom of expression as well as a remarkable social status.

**Opportunities provided by globalisation for working women in India:**

- ✓ **Modern education and capacity building:** Globalization has created immense opportunities forcing economies to recognize and utilize their resources efficiently. Resultantly, females that comprise about half of our population are increasingly acquiring higher education and engaging in a productive workforce.
- ✓ **Increased employment opportunities:** Globalization has opened the scope for employment in sectors, which have global bearing, especially in the service sector, for instance, data processing, banks, insurance companies, software development etc. This has created opportunities for women in diverse sectors.
- ✓ **Development of entrepreneurial attitude:** Traditionally most women stayed at home taking care of domestic needs and children. Now with increased connectivity and exposure, we see a surge in enterprises led by women such as Nykaa.
- ✓ **Increase in social choices of women:** The increased opportunities for paid work have increased women’s social choices as well, giving them self-confidence and enhancing their decision making ability.

While globalization has improved the socio-economic condition of women and has promoted equality between the sexes, there are still many challenges:

- ✓ **Double burden:** Women do both household work (like cooking, baby care, etc.) as well as professional work. This dual responsibility makes it difficult to leave their mark in their places of work.
- ✓ **Sexual harassment at work place:** Job opportunities have increased but safety at workplace and in public spaces remains an issue. The issue of women safety is of particular concern in new age industries that have opened as a result of globalisation and involve working at odd hours.
- ✓ **Gender inequality:** Gender differences in education, particularly scientific and technical education, have limited women’s access to new employment opportunities created in the globalised world.
- ✓ **Access to resources:** Issues related to property rights of women and limited access to productive inputs also constrain their capacity to benefit from trade opportunities that have opened up.

- ✓ Lower level jobs: Barring the IT sector, women are mainly employed in middle and lower managerial level jobs. Women's participation in the higher managerial level in the private sector is still limited (glass ceiling effect).

**Conclusion**

- Despite this, the advent of global communication networks and cross-cultural exchanges has led to change in the status of women albeit not to a very large extent. Globalization has indeed promoted ideas and norms of equality for women that have brought about awareness and acted as a catalyst in their struggle for equitable rights and opportunities.

**MCQs**

1. Consider the following statements:
  1. In 2023, OSDMA awarded with Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar.
  2. Odisha state disaster management authority has also won the IT Excellence award in 2019.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) **Both 1 and 2**
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. SEBI has tightened rules for P-Notes. What are P-notes?
  - a) Participatory notes
  - b) Instruments issued by FII to overseas investors
  - c) **Both of the above**
  - d) None of the above
3. Consider the following statement:
  1. Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric vehicles (FAME) scheme extended until March 31, 2024 to provide subsidies will aid electric vehicle adoption.
  2. The government has also set a target to achieve 30% electric vehicle penetration in the country by 2030.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) **Both 1 and 2**
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. Take a look at the following remark about the Keshavanand Bharati case (1973), the Supreme Court's declaration on basic structural elements.
  1. Supremacy of the constitution
  2. Separation of powers between the legislature the executive and the judiciary
  3. Mandate to build a welfare state
  4. Judicial review
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - a) **Only 1,2 and 3**
  - b) Only 2
  - c) Only 1,2 and 4
  - d) Only 1 and 2
5. Consider the following statement:
  1. INS VAGIR Submarine has been indigenously built at Mumbai's Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
  2. It has been built under Project-75, which includes the indigenous construction of six submarines of Scorpene design.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) **Both 1 and 2**
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. Consider the following statement:
  1. Revadi culture means the culture of distributing freebies.
  2. There is no single definition for what a "freebie" is, but a gift, by definition, is something given or provided without charge.
  3. The Election Commission said that gifts were a term that was subject to subjective interpretation and lacked precise legal definitions.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - a) Only 2 and 3
  - b) Only 2
  - c) **Only 1,2 and 3**
  - d) Only 1 and 3

7. Consider the following statement:
1. Recently, Odisha Governor has backed the entry of foreign nationals inside the world-famous Jagannath Temple in Puri,
  2. Lord Jagannath is also known as Patitabapan which literally means saviour of the downtrodden.
  3. It is one of the Char Dham pilgrimage sites.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) Only 3
  - b) Only 2
  - c) Only 1,2
  - d) All of the above**
8. Consider the following statement:
1. There is currently no World Heritage Site in the category of cultural heritage in the northeast.
  2. The nomination of the Charaideo Maidams has attained significance at a time when the country is celebrating the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit Barphukan.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2**
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
9. Consider the following statement:
1. The Union Budget is more technically called the Annual Financial Statement.
  2. Article 112 deals with the Annual financial statement.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2**
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
10. Consider the following statement:
1. The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar is a civilian honour.
  2. President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2023 on 11 children.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2**
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
11. Consider the following statement:
1. Recently, The World Economic Forum's (WEF) Annual Meeting 2023, held in Davos, Switzerland, has concluded.
  2. It was the 53rd edition of the Annual meeting of the WEF.
  3. The meeting has brought together 2,700 leaders from 130 countries including 52 heads of state/government.
  4. The theme of this year was 'Cooperation in a Fragmented World' which is in the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war, Climate Change, and changing global political scenarios.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) Only 1,2 and 3
  - b) Only 2
  - c) Only 1,2 and 4
  - d) All of the above**
12. Consider the following statement:
1. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport (MYAS) held its first Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) meeting outside Delhi and on the sidelines of the ongoing Hockey World Cup in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
  2. It was formulated in 2014.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2**
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2