

Police Reform in India**Why in News?**

- The Supreme Court recently observed that the 2022 incident of 4 Gujarat Police officers publicly flogging Muslim men after tying them to a pole in Kheda district for allegedly disrupting a garba event amounted to an “atrocious”.
- In this context, we will try to analyse the status of police reforms in India.

Status of Police Reforms in India

- Police reforms have been on the agenda of Governments almost since independence.
- But even after decades since India’s independence, the police are seen as selectively efficient, unsympathetic to the underprivileged.
 - It is further accused of politicisation and criminalisation.
- In this regard, one needs to note that the basic framework for policing in India was made way back in 1861, with little changes thereafter.
- However, society has undergone dramatic changes. The public expectations from police have multiplied and newer forms of crime (like cybercrimes) have surfaced.
- Therefore, the policing system needs to be -
 - Reformed to be in tune with present day scenarios and
 - Upgraded to effectively deal with the crime and criminals, uphold human rights and safeguard the legitimate interests of one and all.

Issues in the Implementation of the Police Reform in India

- Constitutional limitations of central govt: “Police” being a State subject in the 7th schedule to the Constitution of India, it is primarily the State govts who have to implement the various police reforms measures.
- Accountability to the political executive vs operational freedom.
- Significant vacancies within the state police forces, causing the remaining workforce to be overburdened.
- Issues related to qualifications and training, promotions and working conditions, etc.
- Inferior crime investigation: Crime investigation requires skills and training, time and resources, and adequate forensic capabilities and infrastructure.
- Inadequate police infrastructure: Modern policing requires a strong communication support, state-of-art or modern weapons, and a high degree of mobility.
- Unsatisfactory level of police-public relations: Police requires the confidence, cooperation and support of the community to prevent crime and disorder.

Committees/Commission on Police Reforms

- The National Police Commission (1978-82): The NPC recommended to amend the Code of Criminal procedure 1973.
- The Padmanabhaiah Committee on restructuring of Police (2000): It suggests structural changes (to recruitment, training, involvement of public in crime prevention, etc) in the police to meet the new challenges.
- The Malimath Committee on reforms in Criminal Justice System (2002-03): Its recommendations pertain to -
 - Strengthening of training infrastructure, forensic science laboratory,
 - Enactment of new Police Act,
 - Setting up of Central Law Enforcement agency to take care of federal crimes,
 - Separation of investigation wing from the law-and-order wing in the police stations,
 - Improvement in investigation by creating more posts,
 - Establishment of the State Security Commission, etc.
- The Ribero Committee: It was constituted in 1998 on the directions of the SC (in Prakash Singh vs Union of India case) to -
 - Review action taken by the Central Government/State Governments/UT Administrations in this regard, and
 - Suggest ways and means for implementing the pending recommendations of the above Commission.
- The 7 Directives by SC (2006): The apex court gave its nearly revolutionary directions in 2006 (like constitute a State Security Commission, set up a Police Establishment Board, etc).
 - The states and union territories were directed to comply with seven binding directives that would kick-start reform.

Way Ahead to Implement Police Reforms in India

- The Model Police Act 2015 emphasised on - Functional autonomy, Encouraging professionalism, Accountability paramount, Improved service conditions, etc.

- The Act provided for social responsibilities of the police and emphasised that the police would be governed by the principles of impartiality and human rights norms, with special attention on weaker sections including minorities.

News Summary on the SC's Observation in the Kheda Flogging Incident

- Background:
 - The police officers had appealed to the SC against a Gujarat HC order sentencing them to 14 days' imprisonment for contempt of court.
 - The conduct of the four officers were found to be in contempt of the directions of the SC in the D.K. Basu judgement of 1996 against police abuse and custodial violence.
- The D.K. Basu verdict: It emphasised the strong need in a free society to protect individuals from torture and abuse by police and other law enforcement agents.
- SC's observation in the Kheda flogging incident:
 - Police is, no doubt, under a legal duty and has the legitimate right to arrest a criminal and to interrogate him during the investigation of an offence.
 - But it must be remembered that the law does not permit use of third-degree methods or torture of accused in custody during interrogation and investigation with a view to solve the crime.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Maldives rule out Research by Chinese Vessel in its waters

Why in News?

- As per the foreign ministry of the Maldives Government, diplomatic request was made by the Chinese government for the necessary clearances to make a port call, for rotation of personnel and replenishment.
- The ministry said that the Chinese research vessel Xiang Yang Hong 03 will not be carrying out research in Maldivian waters, but will arrive for a port call.
- Reports of Chinese vessel heading to Maldives have drawn considerable attention in India.
 - This was significant especially in the wake of Sri Lanka announcing a one-year moratorium on foreign research vessels calling at the island's ports.
 - This was after India voiced concerns over visits by a Chinese vessel.
 - In October 2023, the Chinese research vessel Shiyan 6 had docked at the port of Colombo for replenishment and to undertake joint military scientific research in Sri Lanka's EEZ.
- The Ministry said the Maldives has always been a welcoming destination for vessels of friendly countries and continues to host both civilian and military vessels making port calls for peaceful purposes.

Background



The Chinese Vessel Xiang Yang Hong 03

- The research vessel Xiang Yang Hong 03 is expected to arrive in Male on 8 February, following a planned exploration of the southern Indian Ocean from January to May 2024.
- The arrival of Xiang Yang Hong 03, which marine traffic portals describe as a research or survey vessel, is expected early next month.
- The vessel had earlier called at Sri Lankan ports, but did not obtain clearance for a visit early this year.

Deteriorating Ties between India & Maldives

- The visit of the Chinese vessel to the Maldives is the latest source of tension for India, during a challenging phase of its ties with the Maldives.
- Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu, who was elected to office in September 2023, has demanded that Indian troops be withdrawn from the Maldives.
- He did not renew a joint hydrographic survey exercise with India.
- During his recent state visit to China, Mr. Muizzu also pledged to elevate strategic ties with the Chinese.
 - Besides holding bilateral talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Muizzu's China visit was marked by signing 20 agreements, an aid of \$130 million to Maldives.
- Despite sustained pressure from the Indian government, Mohamed Muizzu granted permission on 3 January for Chinese research vessels to dock in the Maldives.
 - India had previously expressed objections to the Sri Lankan and Maldivian governments regarding the docking of the Xiang Yang Hong 03.

Growing Chinese Presence in the Indian Ocean

- In April 2023, a representative from the Indian Navy briefed the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence, revealing that China had experienced a significant naval expansion over just a decade.
- Importantly, they noted that China's naval fleet had grown from 250 to over 350 ships, solidifying its position as the world's largest navy.
- The representative highlighted further concerns about the nature of the data generated by Chinese research activities in international waters.
- While regulations permit research in these waters, the representative pointed out that the data collected often has both civilian and military applications.

PRELIM FACTS

1. Mpemba effect

- The Mpemba effect continues to captivate scientists with its complex interplay of physical mechanisms.

About Mpemba effect:

- It is named after Tanzanian student Erasto Mpemba, who brought attention to this counterintuitive phenomenon in 1969, makes for curious observation.
- The effect is that hot water can freeze faster than cold water in similar conditions.
- While Aristotle, Francis Bacon, and René Descartes had noticed the effect centuries earlier, the Mpemba effect caught scientists' attention only more recently.
- Different Experiments
 - Researchers have conducted numerous experiments to determine the causes of this confusing phenomenon, but a consensus conclusion remains wanting.
 - One cause, they have posited, is microbubbles left suspended in water that has been heated by boiling.
 - These cavities promote convection and transfer heat faster as the water cools.
 - Evaporation: as warmer water evaporates more, it also takes away some heat (evaporation is inherently endothermic, which is how sweat cools your skin). Both convection and accelerated heat transfer are enhanced in warmer water because such water is less dense.
 - Yet another factor could be the presence of frost in cold water. Frost is an insulator and could slow the loss of heat.
 - Scientists have also considered whether compounds in water like calcium carbonate could be precipitated by boiling, and then dissolve, thus increasing the water's freezing point.

2. Insat-3DS

- Indian Space Research Organisation has completed all key tests on Insat-3DS satellite before the final review which will be followed by its shipping to the spaceport in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

About Insat-3DS:

- It is a collaborative effort between ISRO and the India Meteorological Organisation (IMD).
- It is part of a series of climate observatory satellites aimed at enhancing climate services. Comprising three dedicated Earth observation satellites, including INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR already in orbit.
- It will launched by using the Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F14).

What is GSLV-F14?

- It is a more advanced rocket utilising liquid propellant.
- The rocket, distinguished by its higher capacity and the use of cryogenic liquid propellants in all three stages, presents a more complex engineering challenge but allows for a substantially higher lift-off weight capacity.

Key facts about INSAT-3DR:

- It is an advanced meteorological satellite of India configured with an imaging System and an Atmospheric Sounder.
- The significant improvements incorporated in INSAT-3DR are:
 - Imaging in Middle Infrared band to provide night time pictures of low clouds and fog
 - Imaging in two Thermal Infrared bands for estimation of Sea Surface Temperature (SST) with better accuracy
 - Higher Spatial Resolution in the Visible and Thermal Infrared bands
- Payloads: INSAT-3DR carries a multi spectral Imager, 19 channel Sounder, Data Relay Transponder and Search and Rescue Transponder.

3. End-to-end encryption

- End-to-end (E2E) encryption protects information in a way that has transformed human rights organisations', law-enforcement agencies', and technology companies' outlook on their ability to access and use information.

About End-to-end encryption (E2EE):

- Encryption is a way of protecting data from unauthorized access or tampering.
- It works by transforming the data into a secret code that only the intended recipient can decipher. This comes in useful for various cases, such as securing online communications, storing sensitive information, and verifying digital identities.
- There are two main types of encryption:
 - Symmetric: It uses the same key to encrypt and decrypt the data. In symmetric encryption, the key used to encrypt some information is also the key required to decrypt it.
 - Asymmetric: It uses a pair of keys: one public and one private. The public key can be shared with anyone, but the private key must be kept secret.
- The term encryption is generally used when referring to the privacy of stored data, while end-to-end encryption protects data as it's transferred between a location – which is crucial wherever there's a rapid exchange of information.
- In an E2EE-enabled app, only the person on each end – the sender and receiver – can read any exchanged messages.
- This is because messages get encrypted on your device before being sent and only are decrypted when they reach your intended recipient.

Issues with End-to-end encryption:

- Some potent malware can also 'snoop' on your messages by infiltrating your device via other means – an SMS and reading them before they are encrypted.
- The company that installs E2E encryption on its products can install a backdoor or an exception that allows the company to surmount the encryption and access the messages.

4. Lake Retba

- The Lake Retba's waters are virtually devoid of life is on the verge of disappearing due to pollution and mining.

About Lake Retba:

- It is also known as Lac Rose (the Pink Lake).
- Location: It is located north of the Cap Vert peninsula of Senegal, northeast of Dakar.
- The lake is isolated from the sea by sand dunes.
- Its fresh water comes from the seasonal water table in the dunes, which are higher than the lake. Thus the sea provides most of the lake's water and all of its salt.
- The Pink Lake is one of the main tourist destinations in the Dakar region, primarily because of the pink colour of its waters.
- Why it is pink?
 - The pink coloration is due to the proliferation of halophilic green algae (living in a salty environment), *Dunaliellasalina*, which contain red pigments.
 - The alga is associated with halophilic bacteria of the genus *Halobacterium*.
 - This microscopic alga's resistance to salt comes from its high concentration of carotenoid pigments, which protect it from light, and its high glycerol content.
 - In fact, *Dunaliellasalina* contains at least four antioxidant pigments (beta-carotene, astaxanthin, lutein and zeaxanthin), which are rich in vitamins and trace elements.
 - When salinity is high, algae with red pigments thrive, and when salinity is low, they give way to other algae rich in green pigments.

5. Batadrava Than

- Recently, one of the Indian politicians was prevented from visiting Batadrava Than.

About Batadrava Than:

- Location: It is located in Nagaon district of Assam,
- It is also known as the Bordowa Than, is one of the most sacred sites for Assamese Vaishnavites.
- It is a temple complex at the birthplace of revered Vaishnavite reformer-saint Srimanta Sankardeva.
- Sankardeva founded the first-ever KirtanGhar at Bordowa in 1494 AD to practise and preach the neo Vaishnavite faith during the fifteenth century in Assam, and propagated the Ek Saran Naam Dharma.”
- Features
 - It is enclosed by a brick wall and has two entrances.
 - The KirtanGhar, a capacious prayer house, was initially built by Sankardev using temporary materials.
 - Connected to the KirtanGhar is the Manikut, a place dedicated to housing sacred texts, scriptures, and manuscripts.
 - The campus encompasses diverse structures such as Natghar (Drama hall), Alohighar (Guest room), Sabhaghar (Assembly hall), Rabhaghar (Music room), Hatipukhuri, Aakashi Ganga, Doul mandir (festive temple), and others.
 - Additionally, a mini museum is present, showcasing historical articles and artifacts.
- A very big festival "Doul Mohotsava" (Holi) is a yearly attraction for the devotees in Bordowa.

Key facts about Sankardeva and his philosophy:

- Sankardeva espoused a society based on equality and fraternity, free from caste differences, orthodox Brahmanical rituals and sacrifices.
- The Ek Saran Naam Dharma focussed on worship in the form of bhakti (devotion) to Lord Krishna, through singing and congregational listening of His name and deeds.
- His teaching focused on prayer and chanting (naam) instead of idol worship.
- His dharma was based on the four components of deva (god), naam (prayers), bhakats (devotees), and guru (teacher).
- The Neo-Vaishnavite reformist movement that Sankardeva started is behind the monastic institutions called Thans/Sattras that dot Assam.
- As the saint travelled across Assam, spreading his teachings, these Sattras/Thans were established as centres of religious, social and cultural reforms in the 16th century.
- Today, the Sattras promulgate Sankardeva's unique “worship through art” approach with music (borgeet), dance (xatriya) and theatre (bhauna).

ANSWER WRITING

Q. There is a view that Citizen Charter has failed to achieve their intended objectives. Lack of awareness among the public, outdated information and no legal enforcement are cited as reasons for the failure of citizen charters in India. Discuss.

Answer: A Citizen Charter is a document that outlines the services provided by a government agency, along with the expected standards for service delivery and the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

The objective of Citizen Charters is to improve the quality of public services and their delivery, increase transparency and accountability, and enhance citizen participation. However, citizen charters have not been able to achieve their potential due to some inherent issues.

Reasons for failure of Citizen Charters in India

- Lack of awareness: Many citizens are unaware of the existence of Citizen Charters due to poor advertising by the government officials.
- Outdated information: Citizen Charters often contain outdated information, which reduces their relevance and usefulness.
 - For example, the contact information provided in the Charter may no longer be accurate, making it difficult for citizens to reach the government agency.
- Lack of legal enforcement: Citizen Charters do not have any legal enforceability, which means that government agencies can ignore them without any consequences.
- Bureaucratic Apathy: Often, there's a lack of genuine commitment from the bureaucratic machinery towards the effective implementation of Citizen Charters. This renders them merely a formality, rather than a practical tool for public accountability.
- Inadequate Feedback Mechanisms: Many Citizen Charters do not have a robust feedback and grievance redressal system. Hence they fail to evolve and stay relevant to the public's needs.

Measures to improve Citizen Charters

- Raise awareness: Government agencies need to undertake awareness campaigns to inform citizens about the existence and contents of Citizen Charters.
- Regular updates: Citizen Charters need to be updated regularly to ensure that the information provided is accurate and relevant.

- Legal enforceability: Citizen Charters should be given legal enforceability to ensure that government agencies take them seriously and are held accountable for their performance.
- Citizen participation: Citizen Charters should be developed with active citizen participation, to ensure that the Charters reflect the needs and expectations of the citizens.
- Feedback Mechanisms: Establishing robust feedback and grievance redressal systems ensures that the concerns and suggestions of the public are continually integrated into the charters.
- Training for Officials: Continuous training and orientation sessions for government officials regarding the importance, implementation, and best practices of Citizen Charters can ensure its efficacy.

Conclusion

Citizen Charters needs a dedicated bureaucracy for its success. The civil servants should be guided by spirit of service and provide high quality public services to the citizens.

MCQs

- Consider the following statements with respect to 'Madhika Language':
 - Madhika is a language with Brahmi script, and is a blend of Telugu, Tulu, Kannada, and Malayalam.
 - The neglect of Madhika is attributed to the social stigma associated with the Chakaliya community.
 Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?
 (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
 (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- With reference to the Parakram Diwas, consider the following statements:
 - Parakram Diwas is an annual celebration commemorating the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
 - The Centre announced the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2024 to honour significant contributions in Disaster Management by individuals and organizations.
 Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?
 (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
 (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- When is National Girl Child Day celebrated every year?
 (a) 22 January (b) 23 January
 (c) 24 January (d) 25 January
- Consider the following statements:
 - The Fourth Industrial Revolution is the ongoing transformation of traditional industries through the integration of advanced technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, the Internet of Things (IoT), and big data.
 - Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) has been established by the World Bank.
 Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
 (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
 (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Regarding the Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme, consider the following statements:
 - It is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.
 - The primary focus of the Scheme is to strategically transition from high-volume tourism to high-value nature tourism at ecologically-sensitive wetlands.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
- With reference to the Veerabhadra temple in Lepakshi, consider the following statements:
 - Nagara is the primary architectural style of the Veerabhadra Temple in Lepakshi.
 - Chola dynasty is credited with the construction of the Veerabhadra Temple.
 - It is known for its exquisite sculptures depicting scenes from Mahabharata.
 How many of the above statements are correct?
 (a) Only One (b) Only two
 (c) All three (d) None
- Who is the chief architect of the construction of Ayodhya Ram temple?
 (a) Ram Sutar (b) Chandrakant Sompura
 (c) Arun Yogiraj (d) Jagan Mohan
- With reference to India and France relations, which of the following statements are correct?
 - Malabar is the flagship bilateral naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the French Navy.
 - The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was jointly launched by India and France in 2015 to promote the development and deployment of solar energy globally.
 - Both the countries have collaborated in Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.
 Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
 (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
 (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
- Which one of the following government policies may further contribute to a rise in 'food inflation' in India?
 (a) Investments in irrigation infrastructure and agricultural technology.
 (b) Implementation of minimum support prices for farmers.
 (c) Boosting domestic production of fertilizers and pesticides.
 (d) Promoting exports of agricultural surplus to earn foreign exchange.
- Term 'Urbicide' sometimes seen in news means:
 (a) an act of ritualised, premeditated violence on built infrastructures.
 (b) the murder of all the people of a particular race, religion.
 (c) an armed uprising of Palestinians against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
 (d) physical acts of disrespect towards the religious book.