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# What Is The Model Prisons Act – Reforms In Indian Prisons System

## Why In News?

- The Ministry Of Home Affairs (MHA) Announced That It Has Finalised The Preparation Of The Model Prisons Act, 2023, To Replace The Existing 130-year-old Colonial Law On The Recommendations Of The Bureau Of Police Research And Development (BPRD).
- Intending To Provide Guidance And Address Gaps In The Existing Prison Laws, The 2023 Act Seeks To Bring In The Use Of Technology In Prison Management, Make Provisions For The Grant Of Parole, Furlough, And Remission, And Introduce Special Provisions For Women And Transgender Inmates.



## Bureau Of Police Research And Development

- It Is A Multifaceted, Consultancy Organisation Which Works For The Modernisation Of Police Forces.
- Established In: 1970,
- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Parent Agency: Ministry Of Home Affairs



## पुलिस अनुसंधान एवं विकास ब्यूरो, गृह मंत्रालय Bureau of Police Research and Development Ministry of Home Affairs

### Which Government Is Responsible For Prisons Administration?

- Along With The Prisons Act, 1894, The Prisoners Act, 1900, Transfer Of Prisoners Act, 1950' & The Repatriation of Prisoners Act, 2003 Have Also Been Reviewed By The MHA, And Their Relevant Provisions Have Been Assimilated Into The Model Prisons Act, 2023

### What About Previous Prisons Acts?

- **Gross Domestic Product** Is A Monetary Measure Of The **Market Value** Of All The **Final Goods And Services** Produced And Sold In A **Specific Time Period** (Generally 1 Year) By A Country Or Countries.



### The Current Status Of Indian Prisons

- The Total Number Of Prisons At National Level Is 1,319 In 2021 As Per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- It Consist Of 564 Sub Jails, 424 District Jails, 148 Central Jails, 88 Open Jails, 41 Special Jails, 32 Women Jails, 19 Borstal Schools & 3 Other Than The Above Jails.
- The Highest Number Of Jails Are In Rajasthan.

## Challenges In Indian Prisons System

- **Overcrowding Issue In India:**
- Indian Jail Suffer From Serious **Overcrowding**. The Actual Capacity Of Prisons Was **4,25,609** In 2021, Whereas The Number Of Prisoners Lodged In Various Jails Was **5,54,034** In 2021.
- **Problems With Existing Laws In India:**
- The Existing Act Mainly Focuses On Keeping The Criminals In Custody And **Enforcement Of Discipline And Order In Prisons**.
- There Is **No Provision For Reform And Rehabilitation** Of Prisoners In The Existing Act.
- **Violation Of Basic Human Rights:**
- The Situation In Many Prisons To Be Considered A **Violation Of Human Dignity** As Well As The **Basic Human Rights** Of The Inmates.
- Convicts Are Imprisoned For Long Periods In **Crumbling Buildings** With **Inadequate Accommodation And Sanitary Facilities**.
- **Privileges For Powerful People:**
- A Few Individuals, Who Are Powerful Are Allowed To **Enjoy Extraordinary Facilities** Not Permitted Under The Rules.
- **Misuse of Parole:**
- The Issue Of Misuse Of The Provisions For **Parole And For Remission** Of Sentences Has Significant Implications For **Public Order** Because Indiscriminate And Reckless Grant Of Parole Or Remission Of Sentences Can **Impact Public Order Adversely**
- **Staff Strength & Training:**
- The Sanctioned Strength Of Jail-staff Was **89,479** While The Actual Strength Was **64,449** Due To Vacancies Not Being Filled Up.
- Out Of The **64,449 Jail Staffs**, **20.0% (12,903) Staffs Were Trained** Under Various Refresher/Specialised/Re-orientation Courses During 2021

## What Are The New Provisions Being Proposed?

- To Create Provisions For The Grant Of **Parole, Furlough, And Remission To Prisoners** To Encourage **Good Conduct**.

- To Provide **Separate Accommodation For Women & Transgender**, Ensure The **Physical And Mental Well-being** Of Prisoners, And Focus On The **Reformation And Rehabilitation** Of Inmates.
- To Bring “**Transparency In Prison Management**” And Includes Provisions For **Security Assessment And Segregation Of Prisoners, Individual Sentence Planning; Grievance-Redressal, Prison Development Board, Use Of Technology** In Prison Administration, **Open, Semi-open Jails** Have Also Been Inserted.
- New Measures For Prisoners To **Video Conference With Courts** Have Also Been Introduced. If A Prisoner Is Using **Prohibited Items Like Mobile Phones** In Jail, They Will Be **Punished For It**.



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