

India has got more than 4 lakh prisoners in 1,345 prisons in the country, a report published by National Crime Record Bureau in 2018. More than a century old prisons are in need of repairs and reforms.

Custodial deaths and deaths due to lack of medical facilities depicts the condition of the prisoners.

Key issue :-

Overcrowding of the prison is a concern.

A large number of prison in India holds more than its capacity.

Health : Lack of sanitation, medical facilities and nutritious foods are deprived. women prisoners in particular should be taken care

Adequate staff : Lack of adequate staff in prison due to which violence is witnessed among prisoners.

Corruption : A certain class of prisoners enjoy luxurious life by bribing officials.

Undertials : About 67% of people in prisons are undertials. This is due to a large number of pending cases, lack of legal aid and lack of awareness.

Inufficient security & monitoring system, custodial deaths are also affecting prisoners welfare.

Government initiatives :

Various steps like modernisation of prison scheme, E-prison policy are undertaken.

Further UN has issued guidelines in the Nelson Mandela Rules for the dignified treatment of prisoners.

SC judgements in various cases like

Menaka Gandhi case and Ramamurthy Vs State of Karnataka mentions that all prisoners are entitled to Human rights.

Way forward ::

There is a further need for the enhancement of the life of the prisoners like.

Improving infrastructure of the prisons, providing vocational training, speedy trial of cases, appointment of adequate judges, stringent punishment for abusing prisoners, checking the mental health of the people are necessary.

Conclusion ::

A person in prison donot become a non-person. Therefore a new set of rules and framework must be enacted for accessing legal aid and enhancing the welfare of prisoners.