

## Need for an Effective Tourist Police

### Why in news?

With optimistic predictions of about 13.34 million foreign tourists arriving by 2024, there is a pressing need to upgrade security systems to provide a flawless security blanket cover to foreign tourists.

### How about the picture of crime against foreigners in India?

- **Tourism in India** - Tourism happens to be one of the biggest foreign exchange earners for India.
- Tourism sector
  - Contributes around **5.02%** of India's GDP
  - Supported around **14.87%** of total direct & in-direct employment during 2018-19
  - Contributed Foreign Exchange Earnings of Rs. 2.12 lakh crore (USD 30 billion) during 2019
- India's earnings through tourism declined in 2020 due to COVID-19 and the resultant restrictions in foreign tourists entering the country.
- **Crime against foreigners** - According to data of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB),
  - As many as 29 foreigners were murdered in the last three years
  - 14 foreigners fell victim to rape last year
  - As many as 15 cases of assault to outraging modesty of foreign women were registered last year
  - 23 cases of theft were lodged last year
- States such as Delhi and Rajasthan have shown a sharp reduction in registration of crimes last year, which could be attributed to the sharp decline in tourist arrivals due to COVID-19.
- **Impact** - Crime against foreigners not only dents our image globally but could also adversely affect the inflow of foreign tourists, which is a vital source of income for our country.

*India's ranking in the global Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) is 54th in 2021.*

### What efforts were taken regarding the safety of the tourists?

- The Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD), organised a conference for effective implementation of Uniform Tourist Police Scheme.
- **The Tourist Police Scheme** - As many as 25 popular tourist spots have been

identified in the country where the tourist police necessarily need to be deployed to help foreigners.

- The gender ratio of Policemen in Tourist Police is proposed to be 50:50.
- The deputation term should last from 2 to 3 years.
- As an incentive, 30% deputation allowance has been recommended for the police personnel who joins the tourist police on deputation.

*The States that have tourist police are Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Rajasthan and Kerala.*

### **What is the need of the hour?**

- There is a need to instil a sense of security in the foreign tourists even before they leave their countries for India.
- With theft being the most common crime committed against foreigners, all criminals in and around tourist spots need to be identified and kept under constant surveillance.
- Fast track courts should be set up immediately to try cases of crime against foreigners and the culprits punished speedily.

### **References**

1. [The Hindu | Need for an effective tourist police](#)
2. [PIB | National Conference on Tourist Police Scheme](#)
3. [PIB |Tourist Police Scheme](#)

