



Chandigarh Sets Up Panels for Poor Prisoner Relief

Why in News?

Recently, the Chandigarh administrator has constituted **two committees for the implementation of a scheme to provide relief to poor prisoners who cannot be released from jail due to financial constraints** like non-payment of fines or bail amount.

Key Points

- The **Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme** has been finalised by the **Union ministry of home affairs** and for its implementation.
- Administration has constituted:
 - One **“Empowered Committee”** to be **headed by the district collector (DC) and district magistrate (DM)**, and its members will be the secretary, district legal services authority, superintendent of police (SP) and chief judicial magistrate.
 - **Oversight committee** will have a **legal remembrancer-cum-director of prosecution, and secretary (Home/Jail), state legal services authority, and registrar general, Punjab and Haryana high court** as its members; and **the Chandigarh inspector general of prisons** will be the member convener of the committee.
- The committee will assess the requirement of financial support in each case **for securing bail or for payment of fine, etc**, and based on the decision taken, the DC and DM will draw money from the **Central Nodal Agency (CNA) account** and take necessary action.
- The committee **may appoint a nodal officer and take assistance** of any civil society representative, social worker and district probation officer to assist them in processing cases of needy prisoners.

The Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme

- It is an initiative by the Government of India **to provide financial assistance to poor prisoners who are unable to pay fines or bail amounts**, preventing their release from jail.
- The scheme **aims to address the issue of overcrowding in prisons** and ensure that **no prisoner remains incarcerated solely due to financial constraints**.