



Abolition of Revenue Police System in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

Recently, the **Uttarakhand High Court** has directed the state government to totally **abolish the system of revenue police** within a year and hand over areas under its jurisdiction to regular police.

- **Uttarakhand** is the **only state in the country** where the system of **revenue police coexists alongside regular police**.

Key Points

- Revenue police, which is manned by **revenue department officials**, has **limited powers** with only remote rural areas of the hill state coming under its jurisdiction.
- The high court had ordered removal of the nearly a **century-old practice of revenue police** from the state also in 2018.
- The **state cabinet also passed** a resolution in **October 2022** for **abolishing the revenue police system** in a phased manner.
- In **2004**, [the Supreme Court](#), in the case of **Navin Chandra vs State Government**, had felt the **need to abolish this system**.
 - The SC had observed that the revenue police are not given training like the regular police.
 - **Lack of basic facilities** makes it **difficult for the revenue police to review a crime**.

Revenue Police System

- The **revenue police system in Uttarakhand** came into existence **in the 1800s** when the **rulers of Tehri lost their territories to Gurkhas**.
 - They **requested the British to expel the Gurkhas** from Garhwal in exchange for payment. After the war, the **rulers were unable to pay** and in exchange, the British kept the western part of Garhwal.
 - In order **to collect revenues** from the natural resources and minerals found in present-day Uttarakhand, the **British put in place a revenue system** with the posts of patwari, kanungo, lekhpal, etc., similar to the Mughal administration.
 - It was decided that no special police was needed in the hill parts of Uttarakhand because the hills saw little crime, and it was therefore deemed unnecessary to have a dedicated police force.