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A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.

The HINDU
Analysis
9th March
The mystery of police reform

That police reforms are long overdue is not an issue. The issue is whether the reforms are genuine or just a facade. Police reform is a complex issue, and it is necessary to have a clear plan of action and committed leadership to make it a success. The government needs to take a comprehensive approach to police reform, which includes issues such as training, accountability, and transparency. Without a clear plan of action and committed leadership, police reform will remain just an illusion.

Guns and guards, a lonely vigil

The police have been under pressure from the media and the public for many years. The police need to be more proactive in their approach to crime prevention. The police need to be more transparent in their dealings with the public. The police need to be more accountable for their actions. The police need to be more professional in their approach to their work. The police need to be more focused on their core mission of protecting and serving the public.

The clarity the secret ballot enables

To include the Direct Market in the electoral process is a step towards democratization. The direct market enables voters to have a direct say in the selection of candidates. It is a step towards a more democratic process. It is a step towards a more representative government. It is a step towards a more accountable government. It is a step towards a more transparent government. It is a step towards a more just government.
Staying cool

- **Intro:** India has launched the 2nd phase of the programme to eliminate the use of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) [Q-Replace by & WHY-?] as part of its commitment under the Montreal Protocol, which requires the complete removal of chemicals that result in ozone depletion and aid global warming.

- These are used mainly in the air conditioning, refrigeration, polyurethane foam manufacturing and cold chain sectors, and must be replaced with better alternatives.

- All these sectors are in high growth mode as emerging economies witness greater urbanisation and higher agricultural productivity.

- The data 2015- by the European Union show that in the developing world, split air-conditioning units, car ACs and commercial refrigeration record the highest use of these chemicals.

- It is imperative the Central government ensures that its efforts to upgrade industries- using the $44.1 million in funding available under the Protocol are scaled up to meet the need fully.

- Modernising the technology + complemented by policy changes that encourage adoption by consumers.
Systemic change requires the active participation of State governments, which can enact and enforce new building codes and purchase regulations that are envisaged in the current phase.

Newer refrigerants with lower global warming potential are available to industry, and there are some early adopters, while research on chemicals with greater energy reduction and very low contribution to global warming has to continue.

Credentialed training of service technicians in the newer technologies is welcome as it will bring about change of refrigerants used in the repair and replacement market and create additional employment.

It is important to make consumers aware of green options among products in terms of the underlying technologies, and incentivise adoption through tax structures.

The Environment Ministry’s proposal to prescribe energy-efficient temperature limits for air-conditioning units in public facilities is promising.

A lot of energy is wasted because of poor infrastructure and lack of understanding of efficiency metrics.
Conclusion...

- Equally, the Centre should conduct audit of public buildings to determine whether they are suitably designed.
- Ask all major buildings to incorporate solar panel roofing or suitable green cover.
- The continued success of the Montreal Protocol in its goal to eliminate HCFCs by 2030 will depend on reducing the acquisition costs of cleaner technologies.
- The greater affordability of solar photovoltaic power and its rapid adoption at various scales is a clear pointer.
- More people will have access to air-conditioning and refrigeration in coming years, and the focus of government policy must be to make them energy-efficient and eco-friendly.
Montreal Protocol- Canada- International treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances that are responsible for ozone depletion.

- It was agreed on 26 August 1987, and entered into force on 26 August 1989
- Followed by a first meeting in Helsinki- Finland, May 1989- Since then, it has undergone eight revisions, 2016 (Kigali, adopted, but not in force)- capital and largest city of Rwanda
- As a result of the international agreement, the ozone hole in Antarctica is slowly recovering

- Climate projections indicate that the ozone layer will return to 1980 levels between 2050 and 2070
Be Happy, Share & Help Each Other!!!
Q-Why We Need Police Reforms and Why We Don’t have them yet?
The mystery of police reform

- **Intro:** “Police reforms are going on and on. Nobody listens to our orders.” - This is how a Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice J.S. Khehar reacted last week.
- The Police Act of 1861 still guides and governs our police system. The colonial mindset of the police, the distrust people had for the police in British India has continued to date.
- It is sad that the highest court of the land is so helpless in the matter.
- National Police Commission (1977-79), set up by the Janata government that displaced the Congress government led by Indira Gandhi, kick-started reforms.
- The credit for keeping the debate alive and taking it to the highest judicial forum goes to a colleague of mine, Prakash Singh, former Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttar Pradesh and a former Border Security Force chief, who filed a PIL in 1996 and sought major changes to the police structure.
- His accent was on autonomy and more space for police professionalism by giving a fixed tenure for police officers in crucial positions.
The apex court gave its nearly revolutionary directions in 2006, a decade after Mr. Singh first filed his petition.

While it is easy to blame the court for such an inordinate delay, one must remember that ‘police’ being a State subject under the Constitution.

The SC’s directions to the States included:

1) A field tenure of two years for top police officers in crucial positions,
2) Setting up of a State Security Commission (in which the leader of the Opposition party also had a role, and would give policy directions to the police),
3) The clear separation of law and order and crime functions of the police and
4) Creation of a Police Establishment Board to regulate police placements.
5) It also mandated a new Police Act on the basis of a model Act prepared by the Union government and circulated to the States.

Policemen across the country were excited over this development and believed that an end to gross political interference in police routine was in sight. - Baba Ji Ka Thullu
Finding that the court had stepped in mainly because there was no law on the subject, many States brought in quick hotchpotch legislation to water down the essentials of the Supreme Court direction.

A few States have made officers temporarily in charge of the post of DGP without having to obey the SC direction.

The objectives of the Police Establishment Board, conceived only to depoliticise appointments and transfers, have been set at naught by the DGPs getting informal prior political approval from the Chief Minister/Home Minister with a view to placing politically amenable officers in vital places in the police hierarchy.

In their view, mere autonomy to the police and job security, without upgrading the quality of recruits and ensuring dedication and honesty in the day-to-day delivery of service to the public, will be of little avail(लाभ).
Politicians as scapegoats

- Many dishonest policemen - The pathetic state of police stations and their culpable(to blame) tardiness in responding to the common man.
- Policemen either ignore complaints, or when they do take cognisance of them, side with the aggressors.
- I recently took up the cause of a junior worker in the IT industry, who was beaten black and blue by a few policemen on duty in a public resort for absolutely no fault of his.
- He was further deprived of a gold chain he was wearing at the time of the outrage.
- I took up the matter with the District Superintendent who, in turn, directed a young IPS officer to inquire into the unconscionable conduct of the police.
- Several months have passed by with no relief for the victim - Such callousness(बेरहमी) towards the common man’s simple
Scope for improvement

- Is there hope of a measurable improvement in the quality of policing? I would like to say ‘yes’, but I am reluctant, because sections of the police leadership are not contributing enough to the cause of consumer-sensitive policing.
- They are either selfish or dishonest.
- It is equally true that many young IPS officers lose their idealism early in their careers, because of fear of vengeful politicians or disloyal subordinates—become deadwood.
- But how long will the citizen be satisfied with a non-performing police force?
- This is the question we should ask ourselves while discussing police reforms.
- Unless there is self-correction within the police, a process initiated by the DGP and his aides, we cannot see a perceptible change in the manner.
- Just as there are many bright spots in the police forces, there are an equal number of enlightened elements in our polity, who are willing to listen to police woes.
- There is here a symbiotic relationship without activating which our police forces will remain condemned and shunned by the law-abiding citizen.
Guns and guards, a lonely vigil

- **Intro:** ‘Killing for Conservation’, a recent documentary film on the Kaziranga National Park in Assam by the BBC, has seen the government serving a show cause notice to the BBC and suspending their filming in tiger reserves for five years.

- In the documentary, the BBC asserts Kaziranga holds a “dark secret”, that forest guards and staff are “given extraordinary powers”, they learn “ruthless patrolling strategies” and “ambush” — in short, that people are being killed for the conservation of the highly poached flagship species, the Indian one-horned rhino.

- The documentary alleges there is a ‘shoot at sight’ order in Kaziranga, due to which a host of people have been shot dead by forest guards.

- Documentary claims, there is no ‘shoot at sight’ policy in any Indian tiger reserve.

- The park has a policy of giving limited immunity to guards — the idea is that they should be able to defend themselves in Kaziranga while carrying out their duties.

- ‘Killing for Conservation’ also says villagers, not poachers, have been killed for conservation.
Conclusion...

- In February this year, 28-year-old Murigeppa Tammangol was fighting a fire in Bandipur National Park.
- Forest guard Murigeppa died while trying to douse the flames- He didn’t appear to have equipment.
- The forest guard needs support.
- He or she needs guns, but also an institutional mechanism that will empower her more than a token arm.
- As it is wrong to judge Kaziranga’s conservation efforts only on the numbers of rounds fired, it would also be wrong to imagine just a gun empowers a forest guard.
India
States and Union Territories

- State Capital
- Union Territory Capital

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Q-1-What is the Article 50 Bill?
ANS- The Withdrawal from the European Union (Article 50) Bill or "Brexit Bill" is legislation that is currently being considered by the U.K. Parliament to authorise the British government to invoke Article 50 -notification of the country’s exit from the European Union (EU)

Q-2- Where does the Bill currently stand?
ANS-The Brexit Bill was passed without amendment by the elected House of Commons.
In separate votes, each with a large majority, the House of Lords backed two amendments to the Bill.
1)-The first amendment required the U.K. to unilaterally preserve the existing rights of EU citizens already resident in the country, and
2)-The second gives Parliament a veto on the final terms of the Brexit deal.
Q- 3-What are the arguments for and against the EU citizens’ rights amendment?
ANS- Those who support preserving the EU-derived rights of some 3.2 million EU citizens resident in the U.K. argue that there is a strong moral case for it – not making bargaining chips out of people.

There is an economic argument as well — uncertainty over their futures could mean workers leaving the U.K., adversely impacting businesses and the economy.

The government does not want EU citizens’ rights guaranteed before the rights of Britons resident in the EU are secured.

Q- 4-What are the arguments for and against the amendment regarding the Brexit deal’s terms?
ANS- The Prime Minister has said she would give Parliament a vote on the final deal.
Parliament would then have to take it or leave it.
They also say it subverts the will of the people which was ascertained via the referendum.
Process and protects the interests of the 48% who voted to remain in the EU in last year’s referendum.
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Compassion International to wind up India operations

Govt. denies U.S. NGO is leaving due to ‘ideological’ reasons

SUHASINI HAIKAR
NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday dismissed a statement by American Christian NGO Compassion International that it is being forced to shut down its operations in India next week because of “ideological” reasons, while the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) that was also accused by the NGO distanced itself from the issue.

“We have responded to the report (quoting Compassion International),” an MEA official told The Hindu, pointing to the MEA statement calling the allegation that an RSS activist in the U.S. had suggested that the Christian NGO re-route some of its funding through the RSS, “totally extraneous to the law enforcement action.”

On the way out

The developments that led to Compassion International’s exit

**MARCH 21** Ministry of Home Affairs puts it on prior referral list for 344 NGOs

**JUNE 7** U.S. Congressmen write to government on behalf of CI

**AUGUST 31** U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry raises issue in a meeting with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj

**OCTOBER** Ministry of Home Affairs lifts restrictions on funding to 10 NGOs by CI

**DECEMBER 6** U.S. Congress conducts hearing on CI chaired by Ed Royce of the U.S.-India Caucus

**JANUARY 3** CI lawyer, U.S. Deputy Ambassador meet Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar

**MARCH 16** CI makes final announcement to shut down India operations on March 15

We still hope that Compassion can one day resume working on behalf of children in India

TIM GERNIK, USA communications director, Compassion International

Odisha village that clothes ‘kings’

Narasimhapur in Jajpur district is where all royal jatra costumes are born

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
NARASINGHPUR

Mythological and historical plays across Odisha countryside have various protagonists and themes. However, all are bound by a common thread – the skilled hands that made the glittering costumes in which they’re exiled, fighting or ruling.

Whether it’s the magnificent crowns worn by demon king Ravana, the plain white cloth worn by Lord Rama during his exile or even the costumes worn by emperor Akbar’s courtiers, the tiny village of Narasinghpur in Jajpur district is where all royal jatra costumes are born. Jatra is a popular form of melodrama: the turnover of this industry is much bigger than that of the Odisha film industry.

In fact, modern plays have forced traditional and historical plays to wait in the wings, costume-making skills are still being passed on seamlessly from one generation to another in this village.

“About 200 households in the village are engaged in costume making. Everybody in the family contributes towards the making of these glamorous outfits for the characters,” says septuagenarian Sridhar Nayak while instructing young tailors about the finer details of dressing up at his Nayak Chitratalaya at Haripur market, located about 50 km from the capital city of Bhubaneswar.

What motivates him to keep making these costumes despite fewer takers these days?

“We’re doing what we’re best at. Although the volume of orders for mythological costumes has dried up drastically, theatre groups still approach us,” he adds.

Bold colours

Costumes for royal mythological characters are bold in colour and full of embroidery. Sometimes, it takes up to a month to make one outfit – from cutting the cloth to the finished product. One piece of royal garments costs between Rs 2,000 to Rs 20,000. The costume-makers depend on markets in Kolkata, Mumbai and Surat for raw materials used to put together an outfit.

“Mythological plays are still in demand in western Odisha and parts of West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. Managers of jatra parties look to Narasinghpur for the costumes due to our good work,” boasts Mr. Nayak.
Assam govt to make Sanskrit compulsory

Only after general consensus: Minister

The Assam government on Wednesday said it will implement the Cabinet decision to make Sanskrit compulsory in Class VIII only after having “general consensus” and removing “practical difficulties”.

Making a statement on the recent decision which has evoked sharp reactions from all sections of society, Assam Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said, “The decision was taken in principle but implementation will happen after consultation with all concerned.”

Hemanta Biswa Sarma

50% quota demanded in Bihar Assembly

There are only 27 women legislators in the 243-member House

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT PATNA

On International Women’s Day, women legislators of Bihar, cutting across party lines, on Wednesday demanded 50% reservation for women in State legislatures and in Parliament as well.

In the 243-member State Assembly, there are only 27 women legislators. As soon as the House convened on Wednesday, the women legislators from all the parties rose from their seat and demanded 50% reservation in Parliament and State legislatures of the country.

Move appreciated

While appreciating their move, Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Chaudhary said such a legislation can only be brought in Parliament. State Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shrawan Kumar, too, welcomed the demand but said “this could only be done through legislation in Parliament.”

“Considering the fact that women form nearly half of the country’s population we should be given half representation in State legislatures and Parliament,” said Ranju Geeta, ruling party JD(U) MLA from Buxar.

Male members of the Assembly smiled when the women MLAs were making their demand.

Committee to resolve grievances

Women power: Vijay Goel with eminent sportswomen on International Women’s Day.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Union Sports Minister Vijay Goel addressed a congregation of top women athletes of the country on International Women’s Day at the Dhyanchand National Stadium and assured them of the Government’s equality of right and all support.

Goel, while addressing the conference on “Women and Sports in India” organised by the Union Sports Ministry, said, “A high-level committee would be constituted to resolve the grievances and complaints of women sportspersons.

The committee, expected to be all women, will function under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Sports) and will comprise athletes, sports administrators, senior officers of the Sports Ministry and sports journalists.

Goel stressed that the ministry provided equal assistance and incentives to both male and female athletes and there was no gender discrimination for training etc.
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2 more tiger reserves soon in Uttarakhnad

People being apprised of plan

KAUTA UPADHYAY
DEHRAUN

With the Uttarakhnad forest department focusing on tiger conservation, the State is soon to get two new tiger reserves, work towards which is under way. The Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary, which falls under the Terai Arc Landscape spanning across India and Nepal, and the Sural Range in the Terai East division of the Uttarakhnad forest department are the two proposed tiger reserves.

“We [in the forest department] are currently undertaking a public consultation exercise to apprise people residing in the two areas [of the Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary and the Sural range] about the plan to get the areas notified as tiger reserves, and to take their consent,” State chief wildlife warden Digvijay Singh Khati told The Hindu.

State has 2 reserves

Uttarakhand now has two tiger reserves - the Corbett Tiger Reserve and the Rajaji Tiger Reserve. According to the tiger census data released in 2015, Uttarakhand has 340 tigers making it a State with the second highest tiger population in the country after Karnataka.

“With the two new tiger reserves, Uttarakhand, would become the first State in North India to get four tiger reserves,” Mr. Khati said.

Fewer migratory water birds sighted at Ropar

‘Due to threat and unavailability of food, the number of some species has dwindled’

VIKAS VASUDEV
CHANDIGARH

Fewer winter migratory water birds from central and north Asia were sighted at the Ropar Wetland in Punjab this season, apparently because of increasing human interference.

Asian Waterbird Census 2017, conducted by Wetlands International, South Asia, and Punjab’s Wildlife Preservation Department on January 16 this year, revealed that the number of water birds this season stood at 2,302 as against 3,314 last year.

The birds that came up this year included oriental darter and river parrwing, both put on the red list by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Ropar has been declared a wetland by the Ramsar Convention.

Bar-headed geese are among the birds whose numbers have dwindled at the Ropar Wetland.

‘Human disturbances’

“Due to local disturbance such as threat and unavailability of food, the number of certain species decreases on many wetlands. At Ropar, boating, fishing and human disturbances along the riverbanks seem to drive away the water birds,” AWC Delhi State co-ordinator T.K. Roy told The Hindu.

Mr. Roy said some vegetarian ducks or geese preferred certain safe wetlands for their stay but moved during daytime to nearby grasslands or farmlands for feeding.

“Ropar is a riverine wetland with hardly any vegetation but there are farmlands along the riverbanks where geese and ducks go for feeding. However, farmers try to keep them away from their land. This explains the dip in the number of bar-headed goose and ruddy shelduck which could have moved to other areas,” he said.

With seasonal wetlands getting dry because of global warming, migratory birds going to a particular wetland switch to nearby wetlands, lakes, reservoirs with a large open area for seasonal congregation. Hence, the number of certain species increased.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
UNITED NATIONS

In a bid to get the U.N. reform process moving, India and other G4 nations have said they are open to innovative ideas and willing to not exercise veto as permanent members of a reformed Security Council until a decision on it has been taken.

In a joint statement delivered by India’s Permanent Representative to the U.N. Syed Akbaruddin at an inter-governmental negotiations meeting on Tuesday, the G4 nations – India, Brazil, Germany and Japan – emphasised that an over-
Take up border fencing: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court asked the Union government on Wednesday to release funds for fencing the India-Bangladesh border to check illegal migration into Assam. A Bench of Justices Ranjan Gogoi and Rohinton F. Nariman perused the Centre’s status report on the matter and inquired about the worsening of the situation relating to securing and fencing the international border.

“Without going into the merits of the submissions, we are of the view that the task of border fencing and physical manning of the border [where fencing could not be done] has to be undertaken and concluded,” the court observed.

General P.S. Puriwala said some tenders had been finalised and work orders issued to successful bidders to undertake the exercise of border fencing.

The court was hearing the plea of the Assam Sammilata Mahasangha, the Assam Public Works and the All Assam Atom Association filed in the aftermath of the riots.

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A day without women

Powerful message: People photograph the ‘Fearless Girl’ statue in New York on the International Women’s Day. The statue, installed by an investment firm, has an inscription that reads: “Know the power of women in leadership. She makes a difference.” Thousands of women in the U.S. have pledged to stage a strike for a day by missing work or refusing to spend their money.

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‘Confident about plan to reduce domestic violence’

Baroness Scotland says other countries can emulate U.K.

VIDYA RAIN

A sharp fall in rates of domestic violence across Commonwealth states is eminently achievable, said Patricia Scotland, Secretary General of the Commonwealth. “I know it’s possible because I’ve seen it happen,” she said in an interview with The Hindu on International Women’s Day, ahead of the launch of the Commonwealth’s Peace in the Home initiative targeted at reducing domestic violence across member states by double-digit percentages.

Baroness Scotland pointed to the progress that had been made in the U.K. between 2003 and 2010, when rates of domestic violence were reduced by 64%.

“Anything the U.K. can do, the other 51 countries can do. If we pool our resources, our knowledge of what works and what doesn’t work, we can make a real impact on the rates of domestic violence,” she said.

Noble aim: Commonwealth chief Patricia Scotland wants to reduce domestic violence by double-digit percentages.

continuity and information... all our countries are common law countries and our judges are trained in similar ways, we interpret laws similarly, our parliamentary structures are similar, if we can work out what works for one of us, it’s highly likely it will work for the rest of us.”
Centre plumbs for rural FMCG e-sales

Move aimed at enabling sales of goods from firms like Patanjali, P&G at common service centres

YUKTINA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

The Centre has initiated talks with FMCG companies to sell their products online in rural areas through common service centres (CSCs) as it looks to increase the business for such centres.

While a deal has already been worked out with Baba Ramdev’s Patanjali Ayurveda, negotiations are underway with the likes of Procter and Gamble and Crompton Greaves, an official said.

"CSCs are designed to be the hub Centre of activities in rural India," the Minister for Electronics and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad said. "The government is focused on expansion of CSCs because of their inherent strength to transform rural India. With the sale of FMCG products, the door has been opened for popularising e-commerce through CSCs."

There are more than 2.5 lakhs CSCs across the country which enable people, particularly in rural areas, to access government services online. These services include ration card, birth certificate, train tickets and online form submission, among other things.

Going beyond delivery of public services through such centres, the Centre is now opening up tie-ups with private companies for their products to be sold through CSCs to increase profits for Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs). For example, CSC also has a tie-up with Videocon D2H and Reliance Jio to sell their connections.

"There is an increasing demand for FMCG products in villages, so it was decided to use the vast network of CSCs to sell these products. People in villages can come to these centres and place order for the products they want online," Dr. Dinesh Kumar Tyagi, CEO of CSC e-Governance Services India told The Hindu.

The move will help VLEs who run CSCs to earn commission on the products sold while also enabling access for customers in rural areas to these products. According to estimates, a VLE is likely to earn a commission in the range of 12-20% on FMCG products, which is far higher than less than 10% on other services offered.

Higher margins

Currently, by offering these online services, these centres together earn commission of more than ₹2 crore a day. The Centre is eyeing to ramp this up to ₹10 crore a day.

"The tie-up with FMCG companies will help them do more business as the margins are higher. Usually taking franchise for a brand like Patanjali costs a lot. But here we on behalf of the VLEs try to get the best deal for them," Mr. Tyagi said.

He added that all the back-end and logistics would be taken care of by the CSCs.
Produced mostly in developed countries, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) replaced CFCs and HCFCs. HFCs pose no harm to the ozone layer because, unlike CFCs and HCFCs, they do not contain chlorine. They are however greenhouse gases, with a high global warming potential (GWP), comparable to that of CFCs and HCFCs. At 28th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in Kigali amendment was adopted to eliminate planet-warming HFC gases. They also figure in the basket of six greenhouse gases under the Kyoto Protocol. Developed countries following the Kyoto Protocol report their HFC emission data to the UNFCCC.

Project Tiger is a tiger conservation programme launched in 1973 by the Government of India during Prime Minister Indira Gandhi’s tenure. The project aims at ensuring a viable population of Bengal tigers in their natural habitats.

Police is an exclusive subject under the State List (List II, Schedule 7 of the Indian Constitution).
The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is an international organization working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

- It is involved in data gathering and analysis, research, field projects, advocacy, lobbying and education.