

LOKPAL AND LOKAYUKTAS

Lokpal

Establishment

- **Legislation:** The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act was enacted in 2013.
- **Objective:** To establish an ombudsman (Lokpal) at the central level to address complaints of corruption against public officials.

Composition

- **Members:** The Lokpal consists of a chairperson and up to eight other members.
 - The chairperson must be a retired Chief Justice of India or a retired judge of the Supreme Court.
 - The members must include individuals of integrity and expertise in areas such as law, public administration, and social service.

Functions and Responsibilities

1. **Investigate Complaints:** The Lokpal has the authority to investigate complaints against public functionaries, including the Prime Minister, Ministers, and Members of Parliament.
2. **Inquiry and Prosecution:** It can conduct inquiries into allegations of corruption and recommend prosecution in cases where it finds sufficient evidence.
3. **Public Grievances:** The Lokpal can also address grievances related to corruption from the public and take appropriate action.
4. **Powers of Summons:** It has the power to summon witnesses and documents, and its proceedings are deemed to be judicial in nature.
5. **Recommendations:** It can recommend disciplinary action against public servants found guilty of corruption.

Significance

- The Lokpal serves as a key institution in combating corruption at the highest levels of government, promoting accountability, and restoring public confidence in governance.
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Lokayuktas

Establishment

- **Legislation:** The concept of Lokayuktas was introduced in India through the Lokayukta Act in various states, inspired by the model of the Lokpal.
- **Objective:** To investigate allegations of corruption against state-level public officials.

Composition

- **Members:** The composition of Lokayuktas can vary by state but generally includes:
 - A chairperson, often a retired High Court judge or an individual of similar stature.
 - Other members with expertise in law, public administration, or social work.

Functions and Responsibilities

1. **Investigate Corruption:** Lokayuktas are responsible for investigating complaints of corruption against state officials, including Ministers and bureaucrats.
2. **Conduct Inquiries:** They can conduct inquiries into allegations of misconduct and corruption and recommend actions based on their findings.
3. **Public Complaints:** Lokayuktas can accept complaints from the public regarding corruption and maladministration.
4. **Powers of Inquiry:** They have the authority to summon documents and witnesses during investigations.
5. **Recommendations:** They can recommend disciplinary actions against officials found guilty of corruption.

Significance

- Lokayuktas play a crucial role in enhancing transparency and accountability at the state level, helping to address corruption in local governance.
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Key Differences Between Lokpal and Lokayuktas

1. **Jurisdiction:**
 - **Lokpal:** Operates at the national level, dealing with corruption in the central government.
 - **Lokayuktas:** Operate at the state level, addressing corruption in state governments.
 2. **Composition:**
 - **Lokpal:** Comprised of a chairperson and up to eight members appointed at the national level.
 - **Lokayuktas:** Composition varies by state; typically includes a chairperson and additional members.
 3. **Powers:**
 - Both have the power to investigate and recommend actions against corrupt officials, but the Lokpal has a broader jurisdiction over central officials.
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