

National Human Rights Commission – Central Vigilance Commission

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

Establishment

- **Year:** The NHRC was established in 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
- **Objective:** To promote and protect human rights in India as defined in the Constitution and international human rights instruments.

Composition

- **Members:** The NHRC consists of a chairperson, who is a retired Chief Justice of India, and other members, including:
 - A minimum of two members who are or have been judges of a High Court.
 - Two members with knowledge or practical experience in human rights.

Functions and Responsibilities

1. **Investigating Violations:** The NHRC has the authority to investigate complaints regarding violations of human rights by public servants.
2. **Inquiry Powers:** It can conduct inquiries into allegations of human rights violations and can summon and enforce the attendance of witnesses and documents.
3. **Recommending Measures:** The Commission can recommend measures for the effective implementation of human rights laws and policies.
4. **Advisory Role:** Advises the government on the formulation of policies related to human rights and recommends legislation.
5. **Awareness Programs:** Organizes workshops, seminars, and awareness programs to promote human rights education.
6. **Annual Reports:** Prepares and submits annual reports to the President of India regarding its activities and recommendations.

Significance

- The NHRC plays a crucial role in addressing human rights violations, promoting social justice, and holding public authorities accountable for their actions.
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Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

Establishment

- **Year:** The CVC was established in 1964 to address issues of corruption in public sector organizations.
- **Objective:** To promote integrity and transparency in the functioning of public authorities and ensure the effective enforcement of anti-corruption measures.

Composition

- **Members:** The CVC consists of a chairperson and two other commissioners, who are appointed by the President of India.
- **Eligibility:** The chairperson is usually a retired IAS officer of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.

Functions and Responsibilities

1. **Preventive Vigilance:** The CVC advises various organizations on how to implement systems and procedures to prevent corruption.
2. **Investigation:** It can investigate cases of corruption involving Central Government employees and make recommendations for prosecution.
3. **Overseeing Vigilance Administration:** The CVC oversees the vigilance administration of all central government departments and public sector undertakings.
4. **Public Awareness:** Conducts awareness programs to promote transparency and integrity in public administration.
5. **Review and Monitoring:** Reviews the functioning of the anti-corruption agencies and monitoring the implementation of the Vigilance Awareness Program.
6. **Advisory Role:** Provides advice to the government on the formulation and implementation of policies related to vigilance and corruption prevention.

Significance

- The CVC plays a vital role in promoting transparency, accountability, and integrity within the public sector, thereby strengthening governance and combating corruption.

Conclusion

Both the NHRC and the CVC are pivotal institutions in India aimed at protecting fundamental rights and promoting ethical governance. The NHRC focuses on human rights protection and advocacy, while the CVC is dedicated to preventing and addressing corruption within public services. Together, they contribute to a more just and accountable society.