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CURRENT AFFAIRS

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NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "National Commission for Women". The topic "National Commission for Women" has relevance in the "Indian Polity and Governance" section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

What is the National Commission for Women? | Composition? Functions?

For Mains:

GS2: Statutory, regulatory and quasi judicial bodies

Why in the news?

National Commission for Women (NCW) has condemned incidents in Manipur and Rajasthan, takes suo-motu cognizance, and directs respective state's DGP to act promptly.

National Commission for Women (NCW)

Established in 1992 through the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, it functions as a statutory body with the following objectives:

1. To assess the Constitutional and Legal protections for women.
2. To propose necessary legislative actions for improvement.
3. To assist in resolving women's grievances.
4. To provide guidance to the Government on policies impacting women.

NCW AT A GLANCE

Constitution of NCW	The Union Government shall establish the under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 Act.
Composition of the Commission	Chairperson
	Five Members nominated by the Union Government
	Inclusive of individuals with expertise in various fields such as law, trade unionism, management, women's organizations, administration, etc. At least one Member each from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
Term of Office	Chairperson and Members' tenure not exceeding three years , as specified by the Union Government.
	Members can resign by notifying the Union Government in writing.
Conditions of Service	The terms and conditions of service for the Chairperson and Members shall

	be determined by the Union Government.
Functions	<p>Investigate and examine women's safeguards under laws and the Constitution. Present regular reports to the Central Government on safeguard functioning. Recommend legislative measures to improve women's conditions. Review and suggest amendments to laws affecting women. Take up cases of women's rights violations with appropriate authorities. Address women's complaints and non-implementation of laws. Conduct special studies on discrimination and propose strategies. Research to promote women's representation and identify barriers. Advice on socio-economic development planning for women. Evaluate women's progress under the Union and States. Inspect jails, remand homes, women's institutions for remedial actions. Fund litigation on issues affecting many women. Submit periodic reports to the Government on women-related matters. Address other matters referred by the Central Government. Reports presented to Parliament with actions on recommendations. NCW has civil court powers for investigations.</p>

Significance of NCW

- **Providing legal aid to women:** The NCW offers legal aid to women who have been victims of violence or discrimination. This includes providing them with free legal advice and representation in court.
- **Monitoring the implementation of laws and policies:** The NCW monitors the implementation of laws and policies that affect women, ensuring they are being applied in a gender-sensitive manner.
- **Advocating for women's rights:** The NCW advocates for women's rights at both the national and international levels. This includes raising awareness about women's issues and advocating for changes to laws and policies.
- **Conducting research:** The NCW conducts research on issues affecting women, which informs their advocacy work and provides valuable insights into the challenges facing women in India.
- **Providing training and capacity-building:** The NCW offers training and capacity-building programs to organizations and individuals working on women's issues, thereby enhancing the skills and knowledge of those promoting women's rights.

Specific examples of how the NCW has tackled problems faced by women:

- In 2005, the NCW played a key role in the passage of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act. This law has provided much-needed protection to women who are victims of domestic violence.
- The NCW has also been involved in the fight against human trafficking. In 2012, the NCW launched a national campaign to raise awareness about human trafficking and to provide support to victims.
- The NCW has also been working to improve the representation of women in decision-making positions. In 2015, the NCW launched a campaign to encourage women to run for office.

Challenges Faced by the National Commission for Women (NCW) in India:

- **Silence on Sexual Violence in Militarized Areas:** The Commission's limited action regarding the use of sexual violence against women by police and army personnel in Jammu and Kashmir, north-east, and Chhattisgarh has raised concerns and criticism.
- **Ineffectiveness in Tackling Women's Issues:** Criticism has been directed at the NCW for its perceived inability to strategize and effectively address problems faced by women in both public and private spheres.

- **Controversy over Reports:**NCW faced controversy over its handling of the report on the Mangalore pub attacks, leading to the removal of a member on disciplinary grounds.
- **Criticism of Recommendations:**Recommendations concerning section 497 of the Indian Penal Code, which deemed women as victims rather than offenders in adulterous cases, came under fire.
- **Influence of Patriarchy on Members:**Instances of bias and prejudice within the Commission have been attributed to the prevailing patriarchy in society.
- **Limited Enforcement Power:**Critics describe the NCW as toothless and spineless since it lacks the authority to enforce its decisions. Its role is largely recommendatory.
- **Lack of Control over Internal Complaint Committees:**NCW is unable to take legal actions against Internal Complaint Committees with lax attitudes towards addressing women's workplace harassment grievances.
- **Financial Constraints:**The Commission's functions are reliant on grants from the central government, which have been insufficient to meet its needs adequately.
- **Political Interference in Member Selection:** NCW's inability to choose its own members exposes it to politicisation due to the nature of India's volatile political scenario.
- **Absence of Constitutional Status:** NCW's lack of constitutional status restricts its legal powers, preventing it from summoning police officers or witnesses when required.

To empower the National Commission for Women (NCW) in India, essential steps include granting constitutional status, ensuring financial independence, unbiased member selection, collaboration with civil society, prompt implementation of recommendations, and increased outreach. These reforms can strengthen the NCW's advocacy for women's rights and foster a more inclusive society.

Sources:

National Commission for Women had been apprised of Manipur video incident on June 12 – The Hindu

Q1. With reference to National Commission for Women (NCW) , consider the following statements:

1. The National Commission for Women (NCW) was established in 1992 through the National Commission for Women Act, 1990. (Correct)
2. The Chairperson and Members of the NCW serve a tenure of five years, as specified by the Union Government, and they cannot resign before completing their term. (Wrong)
3. One of the functions of the NCW is to inspect jails, remand homes, and women's institutions for remedial actions to ensure the well-being of women in such establishments. (Correct)

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None

Answer: (c)

Q2. Consider the following bodies:

- National Commission for Women (NCW)
- National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)
- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
- Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)

How many of the above mentioned bodies are statutory bodies ?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All Four

Answer: (b)

Q3. Examine the constitutional and legal framework governing the National Commission for Women (NCW) in India.

Gaurav Nikumbh

TRIBAL EMPOWERMENT

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Tribal Empowerment". The topic "Tribal Empowerment" has relevance in the Social Justice section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

Recent Steps for Empowerment of Tribes in India?

Constitutional Provisions Related to Scheduled Tribes?

For Mains:

GS 2: Social Justice

Issues Faced by the Tribes in India?

Way Forward?

Why in the news?

Government has enlisted retired officials to monitor tribal welfare schemes

Recent Steps for Empowerment of Tribes in India:

Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs):

- Establishment of seven ZCCs to organize cultural activities and programs across the nation.
- ZCCs focus on conserving tribal languages and culture.

Regional Festivals:

- The Ministry of Culture organizes Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavas and regional festivals through ZCCs.
- These festivals promote and showcase tribal culture.

Promotion of Tribal Languages:

- Grants provided to State Tribal Research Institutes for promoting tribal languages.
- Development of bilingual primers and tribal literature.

Eklavya Model & Museums:

- Establishment of 750 Eklavya Model Residential Schools for tribal students' education.
- Creation of ten tribal freedom fighter museums to honor tribal heroes.

Adivasi Grants Management System (ADIGRAMS): Monitoring and tracking the utilization of grants provided by the Ministry to States.

Other Related Government Initiatives:

- **TRIFED:** Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India supports tribal livelihoods by promoting tribal products.
- **Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools:** Initiatives to introduce technology and improve education in tribal schools.

- **Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups:** Schemes and programs focused on upliftment and development of particularly vulnerable tribal groups.
- **Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana:** Scheme aimed at improving tribal livelihoods by value addition and marketing of minor forest produce.

Constitutional Provisions Related to Scheduled Tribes:

Constitutional Provisions	Description
Fifth Schedule	Setting up Tribes' Advisory Council in States having Scheduled Areas.
Article 15(4)	Special provisions for the advancement of other backward classes (includes STs).
Article 29	Protection of the Interests of Minorities (includes STs).
Article 46	State shall promote, with special care, the educational and economic interests of SCs and STs, and protect them from social injustice and exploitation.
Article 350	Right to conserve a distinct Language, Script, or Culture.
Political Safeguards	
Article 330	Reservation of seats for STs in the Lok Sabha.
Article 332	Reservation of seats for STs in State Legislatures.
Article 243	Reservation of seats for STs in Panchayats.
Article 275	Provides for the grant of special funds by the Union Government to the State Government for promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and providing them with better administration.

Issues Faced by the Tribes in India:

- **Land Rights:** Lack of secure land rights leading to displacement and land alienation.
- **Socio-economic Marginalisation:** Poverty, lack of access to education, healthcare, and basic amenities.
- **Education Gap:** Lower educational levels due to limited access and cultural barriers.
- **Exploitation and Bonded Labor:** Vulnerability to exploitation, bonded labor, and human trafficking.
- **Cultural Erosion:** Threat to tribal cultures, languages, and traditional practices.
- **Lack of Representation:** Inadequate political representation and limited participation in decision-making.

Way Forward:

- Secure Land and Resource Rights.
- Improve Education and Skill Development.
- Enhance Healthcare and Sanitation Facilities.
- Empower Women in Tribal Communities.
- Preserve and Promote Indigenous Culture.
- Encourage Participation and Inclusion in Governance.



SOURCE:

<https://theprint.in/india/governance/mp-govt-enlists-retired-officials-to-monitor-tribal-welfare-schemes-as-bjp-works-to-regain-votebank/1637221/>

Q.1 Which Article of the Indian Constitution provides for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Lok Sabha?

- (A) Article 330
- (B) Article 243
- (C) Article 46
- (D) Article 275

ANSWER: A

Q.2 Which of the following statements about TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) is/are correct?

1. TRIFED is an apex organization under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.
2. The primary objective of TRIFED is to provide financial assistance to tribal communities for setting up small-scale industries.

Select the correct answer from the options below:

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) None of the above

ANSWER: D

Q.3 Discuss the challenges faced by tribal communities in India and suggest measures to empower them for inclusive development.

Rishabh