



Lokayukta

For Prelims: Lokayukta, Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF), Ombudsman, Administrative Reforms Commission, Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act in 2013.

For Mains: Issues Related to Lokayukta in India.

Why in News?

The [Kerala Lokayukta](#), has referred a case related to **alleged nepotism and anomalies** in the [Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund \(CMDRF\)](#) to a three-member full bench for investigation.

What is Lokayukta?

- **About:**
 - The Lokayukta is the **Indian Parliamentary Ombudsman**, executed into power, **through and for, each of the State Governments of India**.
 - It is an **anti-corruption authority**. The object of Lokayukta system in a state is to make **investigation of grievances, allegations against public servants**.
- **Origin:**
 - The origin of the Lokayukta can be drawn to the **Ombudsman in Scandinavian countries**.
 - In India, the [Administrative Reforms Commission, \(1966-70\)](#), had recommended the creation of the **Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayukta in the states**.
 - Before the passing of the [Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act in 2013](#), several states in India passed laws for creating the Institution of 'Lokayukta'.
 - Maharashtra was first in this respect with its **Lokayukta body established in 1971**.
- **Appointment:**
 - The **lokayukta and upalokayukta are appointed by the Governor** of the state. While appointing, the governor in most of the states consults **(a) the chief justice of the state high court, and (b) the leader of Opposition in the state legislative assembly**.
- **Tenure:**
 - **In most of the states, the term of office fixed for lokayukta is of 5 years duration or 65 years of age, whichever is earlier. He is not eligible for reappointment for a second term.**
- **Issues Related to Lokayukta:**
 - **No Clear Legislation:**
 - The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013 only has **one section on Lokayukta, which mandates that states must pass the Lokayukta Act within one year** and there is **no information about their makeup, powers, or other features**.
 - States, in fact, have **complete autonomy over how their own Lokayuktas are appointed**, how they work, and under what conditions they serve.
 - **Delay in Resolution:**
 - One of the major challenges faced by the Lokayukta is the **delay in the**

investigation and resolution of complaints.

- The Lokayukta is also **dependent on the state government for funding and infrastructure**, which can lead to interference and lack of independence.

Way Forward

- **Strengthening the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act:** The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act should be amended to provide **more powers to the Lokayukta, such as the power to investigate and prosecute cases of corruption against all public servants**, including the Chief Minister and the judiciary.
- **Ensure Adequate Resources and Staffing:** The Lokayukta offices across the country need to be **adequately staffed and resourced to enable them to effectively carry out their mandate.**
- **Enhance Accountability and Transparency:** The Lokayukta should be made more accountable and transparent in its functioning. It should **regularly publish reports on its activities, investigations, and outcomes.**

[Source: IE](#)

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