



# 23rd Law Commission Set Up

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## Why in News?

Recently, the **Ministry of Law and Justice** set up the [23rd Law Commission](#) for a **three-year term**, from 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2027.

## What are the Key Details About 23rd Law Commission?

- **Mandate:** In line with the terms of reference of the [22nd Law Commission](#) established in **2020**, the newly constituted panel has been assigned the task of reviewing existing laws in the context of the [Directive Principles of State Policy](#).
- **Terms of Reference:**
  - Examine existing laws in relation to the [Directive Principles of State Policy](#) and suggest reforms to align with the Directive Principles and Constitutional [Preamble](#) objectives.
  - Examine the impact of [globalisation](#) on food security and [unemployment](#).
  - Recommend measures for the protection of the interests of the **marginalised**.
  - Review and enhance the **judicial administration** to make it more responsive and efficient.
    - The goals include reducing delays, simplifying High Court rules, and establishing a case flow management framework.

## What is the Law Commission?

- **About:** It is a **non-statutory body established** through a notification from the Government of India's Ministry of Law and Justice to carry out research in the field of law for [legal reforms](#).
  - It is established for a **fixed tenure** and works as an [advisory body](#).
- **History of the Law Commission:** The **first** law commission was established in **1834** under the [Charter Act of 1833](#) under the chairmanship of **Lord Macaulay**.
  - It recommended the codification of the [Indian Penal Code](#) and the [Criminal Procedure Code](#).
  - Subsequently, the **second, third, and fourth** Law Commissions were formed in **1853, 1861, and 1879**, respectively.
  - The **Indian Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, the Indian Contract Act, 1872, the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 and the Transfer of Property Act, 1882** were developed by the first four Law Commissions.
- **Formation of Law Commission After Independence:** The first Law Commission of Independent India established in **1955** with the then Attorney-General of India, **M. C. Setalvad**, as its **Chairman**.
  - Since then **23 Law Commissions** have been appointed, each with a **three-year term**.
- **Functions of the Law Commission:**
  - **Review/Repeal of Obsolete Laws:** Identify and recommend the repeal of obsolete and irrelevant laws.
  - **Law and Poverty:** Examines laws impacting the poor and conducts post-audits of socio-

economic legislation.

- **Propose New Laws:** Proposes new laws to implement Directive Principles and achieve the Preamble's objectives.
- **Judicial Administration:** Reviews and provides recommendations on law and judicial administration issues referred by the Government.
- **Important Reports:** The Law Commission of India has submitted **289 reports** so far on various issues, some of the important reports are:
  - **Report No. 283 (September, 2023):** Age of Consent Under The Protection of Children From Sexual Offences Act, 2012.
  - **Report No. 271 (July 2017):** Human DNA Profiling.
  - **Report No. 273 (October 2017):** Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Torture.
  - **Report No. 274 (April 2018):** Review of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971

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