



Mains Practice Question

Q. Discuss the role of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in promoting transparency and accountability in the Indian administrative system. **(150 words)**

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Approach

- Introduce the answer with CVC and Santhanam Committee
- Delve into the role of CVC in promoting transparency and accountability
- Conclude suitably.

Introduction

The **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** was established in 1964 as a result of the recommendations of the **Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption**.

- It is the apex governmental body in India that is responsible for promoting **integrity, transparency, and accountability** in the country's public administration.

Body

Role of the Central Vigilance Commission:

- **Investigation and Inquiry:** Inquires or causes inquiries/investigations into allegations of corruption offenses under the **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988**, against public servants of the Central government and its authorities as upheld by the Supreme Court in the **Vineet Narain & Others v. Union of India (1998) case**.
 - Examines complaints against officials belonging to **All-India Services, Group 'A' officers**, and specified levels of officers of the Central government authorities.
- **Oversight and Superintendence:** Exercises superintendence over the functioning of the **Delhi Special Police Establishment (CBI)** concerning investigations into offenses under the **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988**.
 - Monitors the progress of applications pending for sanction of prosecution under the **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988**.
- **Advisory and Regulatory Role:** Tenders advice to the Central government and its authorities on matters referred to it.
 - Consults with the Central government in making rules and regulations governing vigilance and disciplinary matters related to **Central Services and All-India Services**.
- **Whistle-blower Protection and Complaints Handling:** Undertakes complaints received under the **Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers' Resolution**, and recommends appropriate action.
- **Appointments and Selection Committees:** The Central Vigilance Commissioner serves as the **Chairperson of the Selection Committees** responsible for appointing the **Director of Enforcement** and recommending officers for appointments above the level of Deputy Director of Enforcement.

Conclusion

By exercising its mandated functions, the CVC plays a crucial role in promoting **transparency, integrity, and accountability** within the Indian administrative system. In effect, it serves as a **vital watchdog**, ensuring good governance and fostering public trust

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