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NON-CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES

NITI Aayog

- On the 13th of August, 2014 Government of India scrapped the 65-year-old Planning Commission and announced that it would be replaced by a new body.
- On January 1, 2015, the NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) was established.
- It is a non-constitutional or extra-constitutional body and a non-statutory body.
- NITI Aayog is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India providing both directional and policy inputs.
- The Prime Minister of India is ex officio chairman of NITI Aayog.
- Governing Council comprises the Chief Ministers of all the States, Chief Ministers of Union Territories with Legislatures (Delhi and Puducherry) and Lt. Governors of other Union Territories.
- Vice-Chairman is appointed by the Prime Minister. He enjoys the rank of a cabinet minister.

National Human Rights Commission

- The National Human Rights Commission is a statutory and not a constitutional body.
- It was established in 1993 under a legislation enacted by the Parliament namely, the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. This Act was amended in 2006.
- The chairman and members of National Human Rights Commission are appointed by the president of India.
- The chairman and members hold office for a term of five years or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.
- The chairman should be a retired chief justice of India, and members should be serving or retired judges of the Supreme Court

State Human Rights Commission

- The Protection of Human Rights Act of 1993 provides for the creation of State Human Rights Commission at the state level.
- Twenty-five states have constituted the State Human Rights Commissions through Official Gazette Notifications.
- The chairperson and members hold office for a term of five years or until they attain the age of 70 years whichever is earlier.
- The chairperson and members of a State Human Rights Commission are appointed by the governor, they can be removed only by the President.
- The chairperson should be a retired Chief Justice of a High Court.

Central Information Commission

- The Central Information Commission was established by the Central Government in 2005.
- It was constituted through an Official Gazette Notification under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005). It is not a constitutional body.
- The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners. They are appointed by the President of India.
- Right to Information Act (RTI Act) was passed by Parliament of India on 15 June 2005 and came fully into force on 12 October 2005.
- The Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner hold office for a term of 5 years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

State Information Commission

- The Right to Information Act of 2005 provides for the creation of a State Information Commission at the state level.
- All the states have constituted the State Information Commissions through Official Gazette Notifications.
- The Commission consists of a State Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten State Information Commissioners. They are appointed by the Governor of respective states.
- The State Chief Information Commissioner and a State Information Commissioner hold office for a term of 5 years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Central Vigilance Commission

- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government.
- Its establishment was recommended by the Santhanam Committee and established in 1964.
- The CVC was neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body. Later in 2003, the Parliament enacted a law conferring statutory status on the CVC.
- The CVC is a multi-member body consisting of a Central Vigilance Commissioner and not more than two vigilance commissioners. They are appointed by the president of India.
- They hold office for a term of four years or until they attain the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.

Central Bureau of Investigation

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- CBI was founded on 1 April 1963.
- The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.
- The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

- The CBI Academy is located at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh and started functioning in 1996.

Lokpal and Lokayuktas

- The Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) of India (1966–1970) recommended the setting up 'Lokpal' and 'Lokayukta' for the redressal of citizens' grievances.
- Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013) Bill as passed by both Houses has received the assent of the President on 01.01.2014. The Act has been brought into force with effect from 16th January, 2014.
- The institution of lokayukta was established first in Maharashtra in 1971.

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