Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Multiplicity of various commissions for the vulnerable sections of the society leads to problems of overlapping jurisdiction and duplication of functions. Is it better to merge all commissions into an umbrella Human Rights Commission? Argue your case.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2018	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Institutional coordination; vulnerable sections; specialised mandates; overlapping jurisdiction; human rights protection; administrative efficiency; constitutional autonomy; accountability

Model Answer

Introduction

India has several commissions to protect vulnerable groups, including the National Commissions for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, as well as bodies concerned with women and children. Their multiplicity can create coordination challenges.

Arguments in Favour of an Umbrella Human Rights Commission

1. **Reduced duplication:** Common administrative and investigative functions could be coordinated.
2. **Resource efficiency:** Shared legal, research and administrative facilities could reduce costs.
3. **Integrated grievance redressal:** Individuals facing multiple forms of discrimination could access a coordinated mechanism.

4. **Policy coherence:** Consolidated data and recommendations could support comprehensive human rights policies.

Arguments Against Complete Merger

1. **Specialised expertise:** Different communities face distinct historical, social and legal disadvantages requiring focused attention.
2. **Constitutional mandates:** Certain commissions have specific constitutional status and functions that cannot simply be absorbed through ordinary administrative restructuring.
3. **Risk of dilution:** A broad umbrella institution may overlook group-specific concerns or become overburdened.
4. **Representation and autonomy:** Separate institutions may provide stronger visibility and dedicated advocacy for historically marginalised groups.

Way Forward

Rather than merging every commission, India should establish common grievance-tracking systems, shared research facilities, joint investigations where appropriate and clear protocols for jurisdictional coordination. Adequate staffing, independence and enforceable follow-up mechanisms must be ensured.

Conclusion

Coordination is necessary, but complete merger is not automatically the best solution. A network of specialised, independent commissions supported by common administrative mechanisms can combine expertise with efficiency.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP