

22nd Law Commission of India

November 9, 2022

In news—Recently, the Union Government has constituted the Law Commission of India with Justice (retd) **Rituraj Awasthi**, former Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court, **at its head**.

22nd Law Commission-

- The **Law Commission of India had been remaining vacant since August 31, 2018**, after the retirement of the Chairperson of the 21st Commission, former Supreme Court judge Justice **BS Chauhan**.
- The **22nd Commission was constituted two and a half years** after it was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2020.
- Other five members on the panel are former Kerala High Court judge Justice K T Sankaran, M Karunanithi, and law professors Anand Paliwal, D P Verma, and Raka Arya.

Law Commission of India-

- **It is a non-statutory body that is constituted by a notification of the Government of India**, with definite terms of reference to carry out research in the field of law.
- The Commission makes recommendations to the Government (in the form of Reports) as per its terms of reference.
- It provides excellent thought provoking and vital review of the laws in India.
- The **Commission's function is to research and advise the Government of India on legal reform**, and is composed of legal experts, and headed by a retired judge.
- The commission **is established for a fixed tenure and works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice**.
- **The first Law Commission was established during colonial rule in India**, by the **East India Company under the Charter Act of 1833**, and was presided by **Lord Macaulay**.

- **Few of the most important recommendations made by this First Law Commission were those on, Indian Penal Code** (first submitted in 1837 but enacted in 1860 and still in force), Criminal Procedure Code (enacted in 1898, repealed and succeeded by the Criminal Procedure Code of 1973), etc.
- Thereafter three more Law Commissions were established which made a number of other recommendations, the Indian Evidence Act (1872) and Indian Contract Act (1872), etc. being some of the significant ones.
- **The first Law Commission of independent India was established in 1955** for a three-year term. Since then, twenty one more Commissions have been established