

Permanent Commission and Command positions to Women Army Officers

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Recently the Supreme Court of India has ordered the permanent commission to women in Indian Army

What is the permanent commission?

A Permanent Commission means a career in the Army until one retires unlike short service commission

Background:

- In 2010, Delhi High Court had held that women Short Service Commission (SSC) officers in Indian Army and Air Force should be awarded permanent commission at par with male SSC officers.
- The defence ministry had contested this ruling.
- In February 2019, the Centre had issued a notification in this regard where it allowed permanent commission to SSC women officers of Indian Army.



SC judgment on permanent commission:

- The SC has declared that SSC women officers are eligible for permanent commission and command posts in the Army irrespective of their years of service.
- The verdict came on the appeal filed by the government against the March 12, 2010 decision of the Delhi High Court.
- The court dismissed the government's stand that only women officers with less than 14 years of service ought to be considered for permanent commission and those with

- over 20 years' service should be pensioned immediately.
- Applying the judgment retrospectively, the court declared that all serving women officers would be eligible for permanent commission.
 - The court found the remarks in the center's note as constitutionally invalid and discriminatory, thus affecting the dignity of women officers.
 - It countered the center's remarks by stating that 30% of women officers were deputed in conflict zones.
 - The SC bench has quoted that the members of the Indian Army – both men and women, serve as equal citizens in a common mission and women officers in the Army are not adjuncts to a male-dominated establishment.
 - However, the bench has held that this judgment will not be applicable to the combat roles.
 - It has ordered the government to implement its judgment in three months.

