

**07– 02 – 2023**

**News:** ‘ST commission functioning with less than 50% of its approved strength’

- Data presented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in the Lok Sabha revealed that the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) is currently functioning with less than 50% of its sanctioned strength.

## **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)**

- Article **338A** of the constitution provides for the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (after the **89<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment in 2003**).
- **President appoints by a warrant under his hand and seals** the members of NCST.
- NCST consists of **5 members including a Chairman and a Vice-Chairperson of which at least one is a woman**.
- Members are appointed for **3 years** who are **ineligible for appointment for more than 2 terms**.
- **NCST works under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, NCSC works under Ministry of Minority Affairs and NCBC works under the Ministry of Social Justice.**

## **Powers**

- To investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the STs under the Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the Government.
- Chairman is given the rank of Union Cabinet Minister.
- The Vice Chairperson has the rank of a Minister of State and other Members have the rank of a Secretary to the Government of India.
- There are over 700 notified tribes, of which 62 communities are found in Odisha, whereas No tribes are identified in Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi & Puducherry.
- To **present to the President, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of the safeguards** given to the Scheduled Tribes.