

## Restructuring the District Collector's Role

### Why in news?

The Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy has brought out a book, "From Rule by law to the Rule of Law", with a sub-title "25 Reforms to Decolonise India's Legal System".

### What does a District Collector (DC) or District Magistrate (DM) do?

*The position of District Collector was created by Warren Hastings in 1772.*

- **Functions** - As per the 15th report of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC), a DC or DM has the following roles.
- **Revenue**
  - Chief revenue officer - Assessment, collection and recovery of land rent dues
  - Manager of land - Rent, acquisition, tenancy and tenure
  - Decides on revenue land disputes
- **Keeper of the peace**
  - District head of the executive magistracy
  - Overall supervision of law and order and security
  - Licensing and Regulatory Authority (such as Arms Act)
  - Conduct of elections
  - Disaster management
  - District Magistrate
  - Issue detention orders/custody warrants under special security or anticrime laws
  - Supervisory authority responsible for proper management of jails and remand/juvenile homes
  - Appointment of public Prosecutors
- **Development**
  - District Development Officer
  - Coordinates between all departments
  - Public service delivery
  - Chief Information and Grievance Redressal Officer
  - Coordination between political representatives in the district
- **Interface between the political and the executive**
  - Eyes and ears of the Government
  - Keeping balance between political groups
  - Interaction with civil society
  - Balance between PRI structure and MLA/MP structure
  - Called upon to arbitrate in matters of unrest and conflict
- **Article 50** of the Constitution states that the State shall take steps to separate the





**SHANKAR**  
**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*