

District Collector

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Introduction

- ▶ The District Collector, who is also the District Magistrate is the chief and key person in district administration.
- ▶ This post was first created in 1772 in Bengal by Warren Hastings to collect revenue. Next year it was abolished and recreated in 1787 with magistrate powers of criminal administration.
- ▶ **Ralph Sheldon** is considered as first district collector in India.
- ▶ This post was known as '**Kirori fauzdaar**' during Mughal period. Now in some states this post is also known as '**Deputy Commissioner**'.
- ▶ It is generally said that in Indian administration the powers are vested in three offices- **PM, CM and DM**.
- ▶ Generally this post is held by an IAS officer.

Roles and Responsibilities

- ▶ All the executive tasks (POSDCoRB) of a district are under the control of District Collector.
- ▶ Primarily the post of District Collector and his office (Collectorate) are meant to accomplish and implement Land – revenue law and rules and disposal of litigations.
- ▶ About 50 union and state legislations give powers to DC.
- ▶ He /she is chairperson of about 60-70 district level committees.
- ▶ Every administrative activity of a district is controlled, coordinated and supervised by DC.
- ▶ He/she is the chief administrative leader of almost all the civil servants in a District.

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- ▶ His/her main roles are –
 - As a Collector in Revenue administration.
 - As a Development administrator.
 - As a controller and coordinator between line depts., union and state govt. and various agencies.
 - As a District magistrate and law and order maintainer.
 - As an officer in special operations like- Census, general elections and disasters.
 - As a king pin in district and main supporter and information provider to the Divisional Commissioner and the state govt.

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- ▶ Some of the concerned legislations and policies e.g.- Cr.P.C., Petroleum, Disaster Management, Epidemic control, Forest, Wildlife, Police, Jail, Probation, Health, Women Empowerment, Local bodies, Social Security, Education, Transport, Welfare of Weaker Sections, Minorities' affairs, Visa and foreign person registration, Unlawful activities, Sports, Cyber security, Industrial development, Pollution control, Mining, Drinking water, General elections, Land acquisition, Infrastructure development, Culture, tourism and heritage, religious places, VIP movement, Excise and narcotics etc. give ample powers to DC.
- ▶ Article – 50 of the Constitution of India puts an obligation over the state to separate the judiciary from the executive.
- ▶ Also the Panchayati Raj Institutions have limited the traditional development powers of DC.