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Daily PIB summary**National Commission for Safai Karamcharis**

UPSC Civil Services · 24 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

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WHY IN NEWS

- The **National Commission** for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) celebrated its 33rd Foundation Day with a focus on sanitation mechanization and worker welfare.

WHAT IS THE NCSK?

- Established in 1994 under the **National Commission** for **Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993**, to evaluate welfare programs and investigate grievances.
- Currently functions as a non-statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, extended periodically through executive notifications.

MANDATE AND FUNCTIONS

- Recommends specific programs to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities, and opportunities for sanitation workers.
- Monitors implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.
- Inquires into complaints regarding non-implementation of protective gear and compensation provisions.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Acts as the primary federal body overseeing the transition from hazardous manual sewer cleaning to 100% mechanized sanitation.

KEY TERMS

- **Manual Scavenging:** The practice of manually cleaning, carrying, disposing, or handling human excreta from dry latrines and sewers.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- NCSK is currently a non-statutory body functioning under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Evaluate the institutional effectiveness of NCSK in achieving total mechanization of sewer cleaning across urban local bodies.

KEY DATA

- **NCSK Legal Status:** Non-statutory body (originally statutory under 1993 Act) - Frequently tested distinction in Polity regarding statutory versus non-statutory bodies.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment - Administrative ministry governing welfare commissions for marginalized categories.

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