POLITY & CONSTITUTION 24 September 2026

Contempt Petition Filed Against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar

A petition was filed in the Supreme Court seeking contempt action against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar for allegedly violating SC orders on the multi-member functioning of the Election Commission.

A legal challenge addressing the constitutional functioning and decision-making process of the Election Commission of India as a multi-member body.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Advocate **Brajesh Singh** filed a petition in the **Supreme Court** seeking contempt action against **Chief Election Commissioner** Gyanesh Kumar.
- The petition alleges wilful disobedience of **Supreme Court** judgements that mandate the Election Commission to function as a **multi-member constitutional body**.
- The petitioner argues that unilateral decision-making by the **Chief Election Commissioner** violates the principle of **collective responsibility**.
- The case highlights the ongoing legal scrutiny over the administrative and decision-making **autonomy** of the **Election Commission of India**.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Article 324 of the Indian Constitution provides for the establishment, powers, and functions of the **Election Commission of India**.

The Election Commission was made a **multi-member body** for the first time on **October 16, 1989**, but was reverted to a single-member body in January 1990.

On **October 1, 1993**, the Election Commission was permanently converted into a **three-member body** consisting of one CEC and two Election Commissioners.

In the landmark **T.N. Seshan v. Union of India (1995)** case, the Supreme Court upheld that the CEC and other Election Commissioners enjoy **equal power** and decision-making authority.

The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners are appointed by the **President of India** for a tenure of **6 years** or up to the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier.

The **Dinesh Goswami Committee (1990)** and the **Tarkunde Committee (1975)** are key committees associated with electoral reforms in India.

Gyanesh Kumar took charge as the **26th** Chief Election Commissioner of India on **February 19, 2025**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Article 324 governs the Election Commission, which became a permanent multi-member body on October 1, 1993.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for Unit 5 (Polity) questions on constitutional bodies, Article 324, and landmark judgements.

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