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ECI's Constitutional Mandate Under Strain

The Election Commission of India's conduct raises serious questions about its legality, accountability, and constitutional propriety.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a permanent and independent constitutional body responsible for conducting elections in India.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Election Commission of India's** (ECI) **constitutional mandate** is currently **under strain**.
- Its recent **conduct** has raised serious questions regarding **legality**, **accountability**, and **constitutional propriety**.
- The **constitutional body** has been subjected to **public opprobrium** in recent times.
- Historically, the **ECI** enjoyed **global admiration** for its competence, **impartiality**, and unwavering commitment to **democratic norms**.
- Its **reputation** is currently **damaged** due to its **recent actions**.
- The article was authored by **P.D.T. Achary** and published on **October 5, 2026**.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The **Election Commission of India** (ECI) is established under **Article 324** of the **Constitution of India**.

It is responsible for the **superintendence, direction, and control** of elections to **Parliament**, **State Legislatures**, the **President**, and the **Vice-President**.

The **ECI** currently consists of a **Chief Election Commissioner** and **two Election Commissioners**.

The **President of India** **appoints** the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.

Their tenure is **six years** or until they attain the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier.

The **Chief Election Commissioner** can be **removed** from office only through a process similar to that of a **Supreme Court Judge**.

The **61st Constitutional Amendment Act of 1988** reduced the **voting age** for Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections from **21 to 18 years**.

The **ECI** became a **multi-member body** with **three Election Commissioners** in **1993**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

The Election Commission of India's constitutional mandate is under scrutiny due to recent concerns over its conduct.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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