POLITY & CONSTITUTION 05 October 2026

SC Issues Notice to ECI and Centre over CEC Unilateral Decisions

The Supreme Court issued notices to the Election Commission of India and the Centre on a plea challenging unilateral decisions taken by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar without consulting two Election Commissioners.

A judicial scrutiny on the statutory and constitutional protocols governing decision-making in India's multi-member Election Commission under Article 324.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Supreme Court** issued a notice to the **Election Commission of India** and the Union Government seeking responses within **one week**.
- The petition challenged decisions made by CEC **Gyanesh Kumar**, alleging they were taken without approval from the two **Election Commissioners**.
- The **Supreme Court** bench emphasized that decisions of the **Election Commission** must be taken either unanimously or by majority.
- The legal challenge focuses on institutional protocols and the multi-member character of India's election body under **Article 324**.
- Chief Election Commissioner **Gyanesh Kumar** took charge as the **26th CEC** of India in **February 2025**.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Article 324 of the Constitution provides for the superintendence, direction, and control of elections vested in the **Election Commission**.

The Election Commission of India was set up on **January 25, 1950**, which is celebrated as **National Voters' Day**.

The ECI became a multi-member body in **October 1989** and was permanently made a three-member commission in **October 1993**.

Section 10 of the **Election Commission Act, 1991** mandates that business should be transacted unanimously or by majority vote.

The **Chief Election Commissioner** and other Election Commissioners receive equal pay and conditions as a **Supreme Court Judge**.

The CEC can only be removed from office through impeachment in Parliament under **Article 324(5)**, similar to a **Supreme Court Judge**.

Gyanesh Kumar, a 1989-batch IAS officer, assumed office as the **26th Chief Election Commissioner** on **February 19, 2025**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Under Election Commission Act 1991, poll panel decisions must be taken unanimously or by majority vote.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for Group 1, Group 2, and Group 4 exams under Unit 5 (Article 324, Multi-member Election Commission).

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