Supreme Court Refers Election Commissioner Appointment Law to Larger Bench

The Supreme Court referred petitions challenging the 2023 law governing the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners to a larger bench.

It is a constitutional debate regarding the decision-making powers of the Election Commission of India and the statutory appointment process of election commissioners.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Supreme Court** referred petitions challenging the 2023 appointment law on **23 September 2026**.
- Until **2023**, the President appointed the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners on the advice of the **Union Council of Ministers**.
- The legal challenge stems from concerns over the executive's role in handpicking **election commissioners**.
- Election Commission members **Sukhbir Singh Sandhu** and **Vivek Joshi** raised objections during the rollout of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Article 324 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of the Election Commission of India.

Gyanesh Kumar assumed charge as the 26th Chief Election Commissioner of India in **February 2025**.

Electronic Voting Machines were used in all state elections across India by **2003**.

The **Election Commission of India** originally functioned as a single-member body until **October 1989**.

The multi-member Election Commission system was made permanent through the Election Commission Amendment Act of **1993**.

Chief Election Commissioners and Election Commissioners hold office for a term of **six years** or until they attain the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Article 324 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of the Election Commission of India.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for questions on constitutional bodies, Article 324, and electoral reforms.

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