Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the constitutional safeguards for the independence of the Election Commission of India. How can allegations against high constitutional functionaries be investigated without undermining institutional autonomy or the rule of law?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 04/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Article 324; appointment and removal safeguards; institutional independence; accountability and due process; impartial investigation; separation of allegations from proven guilt

Model Answer

Introduction

The Election Commission of India (ECI), established under Article 324, is responsible for conducting free and fair elections. Its independence is essential to democratic legitimacy.

Constitutional Safeguards

The President appoints the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) under the applicable legal framework. The CEC enjoys protection against arbitrary removal and can be removed only in the same manner and on the same grounds as a Supreme Court judge. These safeguards protect the institution from political pressure.

Accountability and Due Process

Independence does not mean immunity from investigation. Allegations involving public officials should be assessed through lawful procedures, credible evidence and impartial investigation. A vigilance inquiry must not be treated

as proof of guilt. Equally, allegations should not be suppressed merely because they concern a senior constitutional functionary.

Way Forward

Investigations should follow jurisdictional requirements, preserve documentary evidence, disclose conflicts of interest and provide a fair opportunity to respond. Transparent procedures and judicial scrutiny, where appropriate, can help balance accountability with institutional autonomy.

Conclusion

A credible democracy requires both an independent Election Commission and meaningful accountability. Constitutional safeguards must protect the office from arbitrary interference without placing any individual beyond the law.

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