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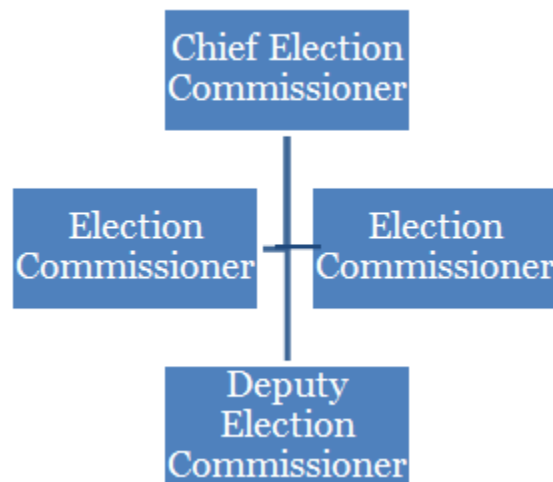
# Election Commission of India – Major Roles & Functions

The Election Commission of India is a constitutional body. It is an independent body to oversee free and fair elections throughout the country. Read the article to know all about this important constitutional body to gear up your preparation for competitive exams like Railways RRB, IBPS, SSC CGL, and Banking exams. This static GK capsule will help you fetch quick and easy marks. Download and keep this PDF for revision.

## Election Commission of India

The Election Commission was **established on 25th January 1950** in accordance with the Constitution. It oversees the entire election and nomination procedures of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislatures as well as the President and Vice President while the Panchayat and Municipality elections are not supervised by the Election Commission. Article 324 of the Indian Constitution deals with the powers of the Election Commission of India.

## Composition and Appointments



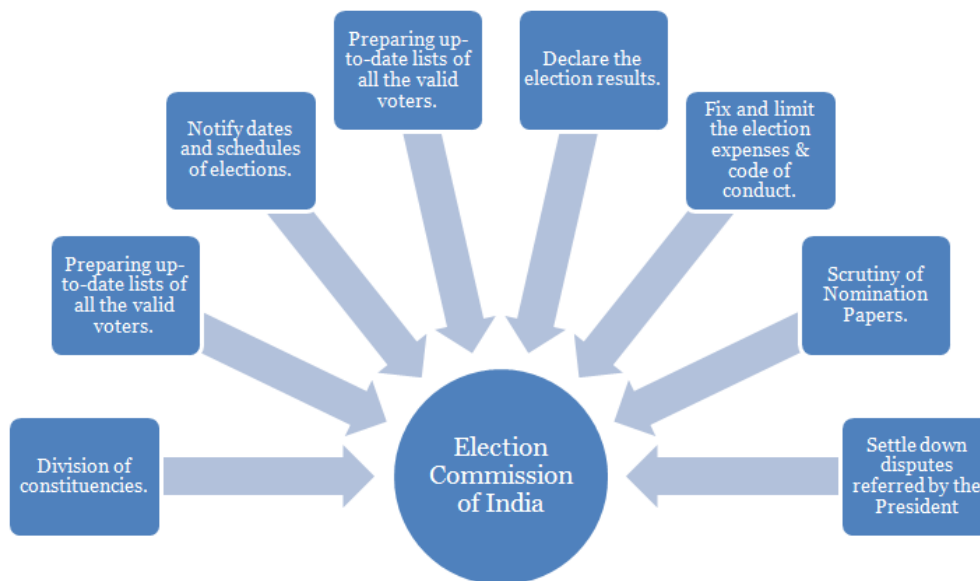
1. The body is comprised of a **Chief Election Commissioner** and **two Election Commissioners**.





2. The President appoints the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners.
3. The concept of multi-member Commission has been in operation since 1993, before that the commission only had a Chief Election Commissioner.
4. The Election Commissioner is assisted by the Deputy Election Commissioner at the time of the election.
5. They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges of the Supreme Court of India. The salary is drawn from the Consolidated Fund of India.
6. They have a tenure of 6 years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

## Key Functions and Powers of Election Commission of India



Adding to these main responsibilities, the Election Commission of India also looks after the following:





1. Determine territories of the electoral constituencies and allot seats to each of them.
2. Recognition of political parties and party symbol allocation.
3. Determine the number of polling booths required.
4. Conduct and supervise elections and by-elections.
5. Scrutinize election expenses accounts submitted by the contestants.
6. Advising the President on the question of disqualification of any Member of Parliament or advising the Governor on the question of disqualification of a member of a State legislature.
7. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through impeachment by Parliament.

## New Initiatives and Reforms

Over the years, the Commission has brought several reforms in the electoral processes. A few are summarized below:

1. Use of state-owned Electronic Media for broadcast/telecast by political parties.
2. Checking criminalization of Politics.
3. Computerization of electoral rolls.
4. Providing voters with Identity Cards.
5. Simplifying the accounts maintenance and filing procedures by candidates.
6. A variety of measures for strict compliance of Model Code of Conduct to conduct fair elections.
7. **“None of the above” button:** In 2013, SC passed a landmark judgment, approving the ‘Right to Negative Vote’ by exercising the NOTA option in EVMs (Electronic Voting Machines) and ballots. The NOTA option is being used since November 2013.

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<a href="#"><u><b>Know the Types of Election</b></u></a>	<a href="#"><u><b>Facts about Presidential Elections in India</b></u></a>
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