Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the constitutional safeguards for the independence of the Election Commission of India. Discuss the significance of accountability and institutional neutrality in maintaining electoral integrity.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 30/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Article 324; constitutional independence; security of tenure; removal safeguards; electoral neutrality; transparency; accountability; public confidence

Model Answer

Introduction

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

Constitutional Safeguards

- **Security of tenure:** The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed only through the same procedure and on the same grounds as a Supreme Court judge.
- **Protection of other Commissioners:** Other Election Commissioners cannot be removed except on the recommendation of the CEC.
- **Institutional authority:** Article 324 empowers the ECI to supervise, direct and control elections to Parliament, State Legislatures and the offices of President and Vice-President.

Need for Accountability

- Transparent decision-making strengthens public trust.
- Impartial enforcement of election laws prevents arbitrary treatment of political parties.
- Accessible grievance-redressal mechanisms improve electoral confidence.
- Parliamentary scrutiny and judicial review help maintain constitutional accountability.

Conclusion

Institutional independence must be accompanied by transparency, impartiality and accountability. Public protests may express political concerns, but constitutional procedures alone determine the removal of the CEC.