

What are the recent changes made in appoin. of ECs.
How it impacts EC

The Election commission of India is a permanent body established by the constitution to ensure the conduct of free and fair elections.

The Election commission appointment act was passed recently ~~for~~ framework to select and appoint election commissioners.

Changes made in appointment The act has come at ~~this~~ as a response to the Supreme Court in the Anup Basumatia case wherein the apex court recommended choosing of election commissioners based on a collegium.

SC proposed	- Prime minister + Leader of opposition + Chief Justice of India
Government's framework	- Prime minister + Leader of opposition + Union Minister

The new act has omitted the presence of Chief justice with union minister in the collegium. Previously Drish Goswami committee and 25th law commission reports recommended inclusion of Chief justice of India.

The move can have impacts on both side of the election commission.

Pro The act has prescribed the qualifications of the election commissioners - such as secretary level officer and knowledge and experience in conduct of elections.

This can improve the professionalism of the institution.

Cons Autonomy of the commission can be at stake as the commissioners are appointed on the recommendations of executives and the leader of opposition vote can be outward vetoed easily.

Opporunity persists as the selection committee can pick any person other than the name given by the search committee headed by the Cabinet secretary.

The salary is not at par with Supreme court judge which is voted by the parliament. Now, salary will be equivalent to cabinet secretary which is at the will of the executive.

Vacancy - The selection committee can still recommend the names even if there is vacancy within the committee.

The independence of Election Commission is paramount to the conduct of free and fair elections which is the basic structure doctrine. The sanctity of the commission can be upheld with complete reliance to judicial pronouncements and constitutional underpinnings.