Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)

At present, the Election Commission of India (ECI) is a three-member body, with one Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two Election Commissioners (EC).

- **Under Article 324(2)** of the Constitution of India, the **President of India is empowered** to appoint the CEC and the ECs.
- Article 324(2) also empowers the **President of India to fix from time to time the number of Election Commissioners other than the CEC**.
- When any other election commissioner is so appointed the CEC shall act as the chairman of the election commission.
- All Election commissioners have equal powers and receive equal salary allowances and other perquisites which are similar to those of a judge of the Supreme Court.
- **If the CEC and other ECs differ in opinion on any matter, such matter shall be decided by according to the opinion of the majority**
- **The CEC or an EC holds office for a term of six years from the date on which he assumes his office or until he attains the age of 65 years before the expiry of six years term.**
- Apart from other election commissioners CEC is provided with security of tenure he can be removed from his office only on the basis resolution passed in parliament with special majority in both the houses (Impeachment process).

**Key points to remember**

- The constitution has not prescribed the qualifications (legal, educational, administrative or judicial) for the CEC or any other members of Election commission.
- The constitution has not debarred the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government.