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MOVE TO REMOVE CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER GYANESH KUMAR

- Opposition parties belonging to the INDIA alliance have, for the first time, submitted a notice in both Houses of Parliament seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.
- The notice reportedly levels several allegations against him, including partisan conduct, biased approach, functioning of the Election Commission under government influence, depriving a large number of voters of their voting rights, and obstructing inquiries into alleged electoral irregularities.
- » Fresh Controversy over the SIR Issue
 - A fresh controversy has emerged in connection with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.
 - According to a report published by an English daily, serious differences of opinion have arisen between Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi over several decisions relating to the revision of electoral rolls.
 - The Election Commissioners reportedly raised objections regarding issues such as : Large-scale deletion of voters' names. Bulk deletions carried out through Form 6. Changes made in Form 6-related procedures. Centralisation of voter-data platforms. Certain administrative and control-related measures.
 - The report further stated that, during the last 10 months, the two Election Commissioners had raised objections on at least 14 occasions, alleging that some decisions were taken without their knowledge or adequate consultation.
- » Renewed Demand for Removal
 - Opposition parties have strongly demanded that Gyanesh Kumar be removed from office, accusing him of functioning in an authoritarian manner.
 - They have also demanded that he be arrested and imprisoned.
 - The opposition has further called for the Assembly elections conducted under his supervision to be cancelled and fresh elections to be held.
 - These demands are being strongly raised by opposition parties amid the continuing controversy surrounding the Election Commission and the electoral-roll revision process.