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Subhash C. Kashyap — Constitutional Scholar and Ex-Lok Sabha Secretary-General — Passes Away at 97

5 June 2026

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

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Subhash C. Kashyap — Constitutional Scholar and Ex-Lok Sabha Secretary-General — Passes Away at 97

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WHY IN NEWS

Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap, one of India’s foremost constitutional scholars and a former **Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha**, passed away on **June 4, 2026** at his Delhi residence, aged **97**. A **Padma Bhushan** awardee who authored more than 100 books on the Constitution and parliamentary practice, he served the Indian Parliament across nearly four decades. **President Droupadi Murmu** and **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** were among those who expressed grief.

WHO WAS SUBHASH C. KASHYAP?

Subhash Kashyap was an institution in himself within Indian parliamentary democracy. Key facets of his career:

ASPECT	DETAIL
Lok Sabha Secretary-General	1983-1990
Service to Parliament	~37 years, from the first Lok Sabha (Nehru era) to the 9th Lok Sabha
Honour	Padma Bhushan
Authorship	100+ books on the Constitution and parliamentary practice
Recent role	Member, Kovind Committee on One Nation, One Election
Died	June 4, 2026 (aged 97), Delhi

He was widely regarded as a definitive authority on constitutional interpretation and parliamentary procedure, frequently consulted on questions of constitutional convention.

THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE LOK SABHA

Understanding Kashyap’s most significant office is itself a high-yield Polity topic.

The **Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha** is the **administrative head of the Lok Sabha Secretariat** — the permanent bureaucracy that supports the functioning of the House. Key features:

- **Appointed by the Speaker** of the Lok Sabha
- Holds a status and rank **equivalent to the Cabinet Secretary** (the senior-most civil servant)
- Acts as the **principal adviser** to the Speaker on parliamentary procedure, rules, and precedent
- Is a **non-political, permanent functionary** — providing institutional continuity across governments

The **Lok Sabha Secretariat** itself derives from **Article 98** of the Constitution, which provides for a separate secretarial staff for each House of Parliament, independent of the executive.

HIS LEGACY AND ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION

In his later years, Kashyap served on the **High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections** chaired by former President **Ram Nath Kovind** — the body whose recommendations underpin the “**One Nation, One Election**” proposal.

What Is One Nation, One Election?

The proposal seeks to **synchronise elections to the Lok Sabha and all State Legislative Assemblies** (and potentially local bodies), so they are held together rather than staggered across the five-year cycle.

ASPECT	DETAIL
Committee	Kovind Committee (constituted 2023; reported 2024)
Constitutional route	Proposed via Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill
Rationale	Cut election costs, reduce Model Code of Conduct disruptions, free governance from “permanent campaign mode”
Concerns	Federalism (Article 1 — “Union of States”), the anti-defection and no-confidence dynamics, premature dissolution of assemblies, and the logistical burden on the Election Commission

Kashyap’s involvement reflected his lifelong engagement with parliamentary reform — and his death is a reminder of the deep constitutional questions the proposal raises.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Prelims

- **Subhash C. Kashyap:** Lok Sabha Secretary-General, **1983-90**; Padma Bhushan; died June 4, 2026 (aged 97)
- Member, **Kovind Committee on One Nation, One Election**
- **Secretary-General, Lok Sabha:** appointed by the **Speaker**; rank of Cabinet Secretary; heads Lok Sabha Secretariat
- **Article 98:** separate secretarial staff for each House of Parliament
- **One Nation, One Election:** via **Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill**; Kovind Committee reported 2024

Mains Angles

- ① **GS2 — Parliamentary Institutions:** Discuss the role of the Secretary-General and the Lok Sabha Secretariat in safeguarding the independence and continuity of parliamentary functioning.
 - ② **GS2 — Electoral Reform:** Critically examine “One Nation, One Election” — its benefits for governance and the federal and constitutional concerns it raises.
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FACTS CORNER

FACT	DETAIL
Name	Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap
Died	June 4, 2026 (aged 97), Delhi
Lok Sabha Secretary-General	1983-1990
Honour	Padma Bhushan
Books authored	100+ on Constitution/Parliament
Recent role	Member, Kovind Committee (One Nation, One Election)
Secretary-General appointed by	Speaker of Lok Sabha
Secretary-General rank	Equivalent to Cabinet Secretary
Lok Sabha Secretariat basis	Article 98
One Nation One Election Bill	Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill
Kovind Committee report	2024

Sources: *Business Standard, PIB, The Hindu*

Source: Subhash C. Kashyap — Constitutional Scholar and Ex-Lok Sabha Secretary-General — Passes Away at 97 — Ujyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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