



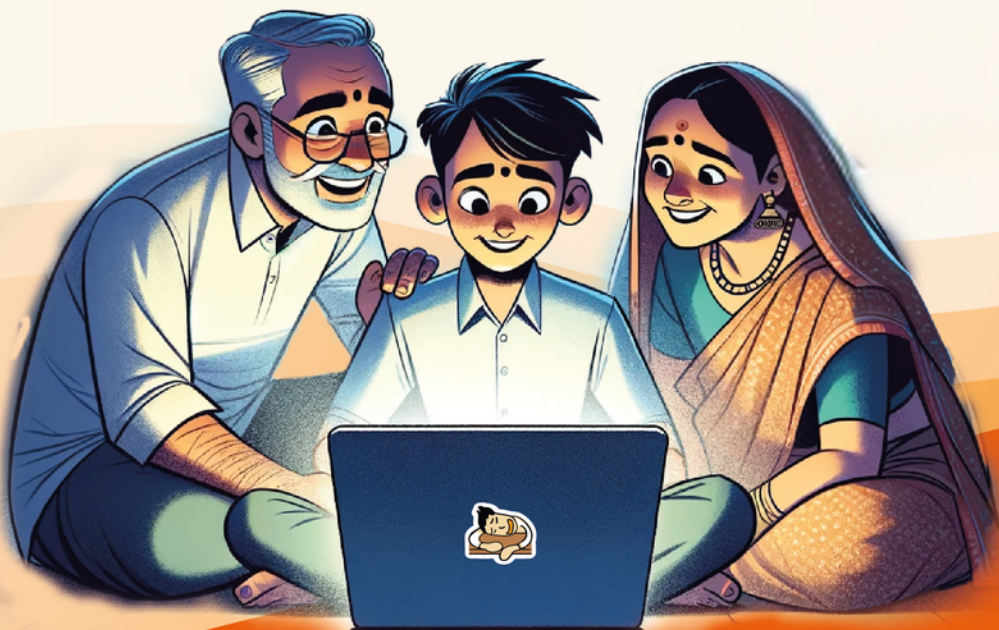
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UPSC MAINS

Solved PYQs

2022

General Studies Paper 2



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Address: Sleepy Classes, E-42, Phase-8, Industrial Area, Mohali, Punjab, India.

How to Maximize Your UPSC Mains Score Using These PYQs

Transform Your Preparation into Your Success Strategy

✗ "I solve PYQs but still struggle in mock exam"

Your Problem: You're treating PYQs like MCQs - solving for the sake of solving without strategic analysis.

Strategic Solution: After solving each question, spend 10 minutes analyzing: What was the examiner testing? Which keywords were crucial? How can I improve my answer structure? Create a "mistakes point list" to track recurring weaknesses.



"I can't finish questions within time limits"

Your Problem: You know the content but struggle with time management and answer structuring under pressure.

Time-Bound Practice: Set strict timers - 7 minutes for 10-mark questions, 12 minutes for 15-mark questions. Practice writing concise, impactful answers. Use bullet points and subheadings to save time while maintaining clarity.



"My answers lack depth and examples"

Your Problem: Your answers are generic and don't stand out among thousands of similar responses.

Content Enhancement: For each PYQ, create a "example bank" - collect 2-3 specific case studies, data points, or contemporary examples. Practice weaving these naturally into your answers to demonstrate comprehensive understanding.



"I don't know which topics to prioritize"

Your Problem: Without pattern analysis, you're studying everything equally instead of focusing on high-weightage areas.

Smart Analysis: Create a frequency chart of topics from last 7 years. Identify recurring themes and question patterns. Allocate 60% of your time to high-frequency topics, 40% to emerging trends. Also Sleepy Classes has a video on complete pattern analysis of UPSC mains.

⚠ Critical Mistake to Avoid

Don't just read solved answers and move on. The real learning happens when YOU attempt the question first, then compare with model answers to identify gaps.



Remember: PYQs are your blueprint, not just practice material

Every question tells you exactly what UPSC expects. Use this collection to decode the examiner's mindset, not just to test your knowledge. Your success lies in understanding the 'why' behind each question.

FREE - GS Mains PYQs Discussion

Date	Day	Topic	Year
02 June 2025	Monday	General Studies Paper 1	2024
03 June 2025	Tuesday	General Studies Paper 2	2024
04 June 2025	Wednesday	General Studies Paper 3	2024
05 June 2025	Thursday	General Studies Paper 4	2024
15 June 2025	Sunday	General Studies Paper 1 to 4	2023
22 June 2025	Sunday	General Studies Paper 1 to 4	2022
29 June 2025	Sunday	General Studies Paper 1 to 4	2021
06 July 2025	Sunday	General Studies Paper 1 to 4	2020



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Polity & Governance

1) The most significant achievement of modern law in India is the constitutionalization of environmental problems by the Supreme Court. Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws

Intro : SC as apex institution and interpretor of constitution.
DPSP and FD talk about wildlife conservation and environment protection.

Body Part 1 : MC Mehta v UOI 1986 + Vellore Citizen Welfare Association v Union of India – Polluter Pays principle + MC Mehta v Kamal Nath 1997 – Public Trust Doctrine + TN Godavarman Case 1996 – Dictionary definition of forest + MK Ranjit Singh v UOI 2024 – Climate Change and Adverse Effects

Issues – Judicial Overreach + Development versus Conservation Debate + Lack of constitutional amendment to include environmental concerns

Conclusion : While the judiciary has been a catalyst the next phase must involve a collaborative effort between the legislature, executive, judiciary and civil society to safeguard environmental rights for present and future generations.

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2) Right of movement and residence throughout the territory of India are freely available to Indian citizens, but these rights are not absolute. Comment

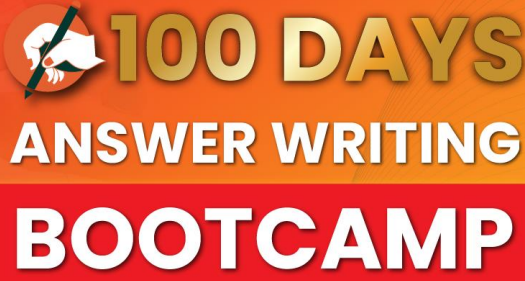
Start with Article 19(1)(d) and 19(1)(e)

Reasonable Restrictions on 19(1)(d) – public order, security, interest of scheduled tribes, health and morality

Reasonable restrictions on 19(1)(e) – Interest of Scheduled Tribes

Issues with Restrictions : Ambiguity of terms, Misuse, hamper integration of tribal communities, Quotas in jobs for locals

Conclusion – Concept of Balance between individual rights and public interest.



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3) To what extent in your opinion has the decentralisation of power in India changed the governance landscape at the grassroots?

Intro : 30 years of constitutionalisation of PRI and ULB

Impact of Local Bodies : Community participation, participatory planning, improved service delivery, socio economic development, grassroots innovation and entrepreneurship

Persistent issues

Way forward chart

Conclusion





4) Discuss the role of the Vice President of India as the chairman of Rajya Sabha.

Intro : Constitutional Article 63 and 64

Legislative Role : Preside over sessions, adjourn sessions, suspend members, decide on point of orders, disqualification of MP under 10th schedule, Casting vote, committee referral, head of secretariat,

Limitations : cannot set legislative agenda, not member house, no role in joint sitting, no role in money bill

Modelled on American VP but sui generis position and important functionary

5) Discuss the role of the National Commission for Backward Classes in the wake of its transformation from a statutory body to a constitutional body.

Introduction : Article 338B and 102nd Constitutional Amendment OR Recent Supreme Court Judgements OR Backward Classes Reservation demands in states

Functions of NCBC : Flowchart

Changes upon constitutionalisation : Enhanced authority and status+ Examine request of inclusion /exclusion of communities+Action taken report

Still Some improvements that can be made : Limited resources+positions vacant+annual reports periodicity

Conclude with vision for 2047 :

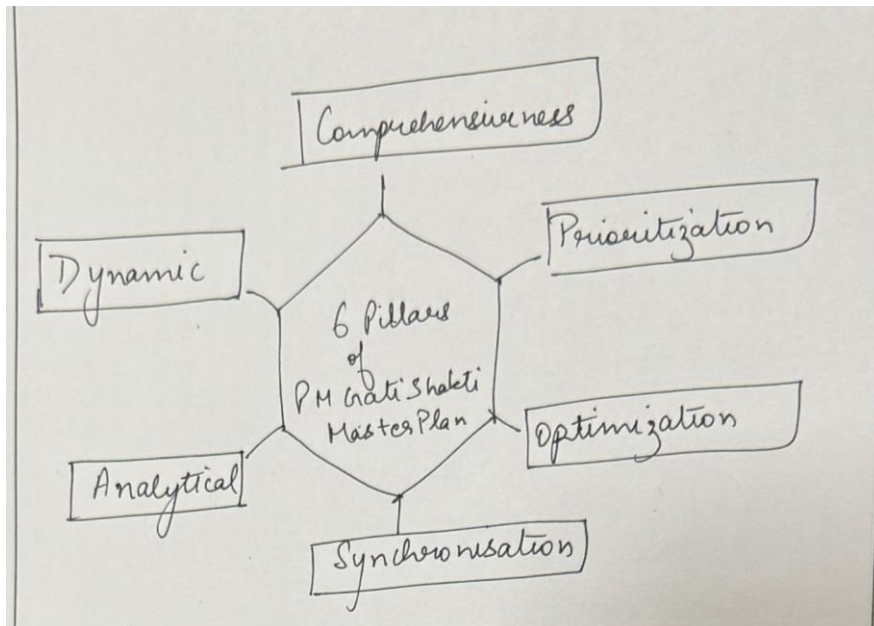
6) The Gati-Shakti Yojana needs meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector to achieve the goal of connectivity. Discuss.

Introduction : Basic Intro

Body Part 1 : 6 Pillars of Gati Shakti

Body part 2 : Role of coordination between government and Private Sector - Policy formulation (DMIC) + PPP (Hyderabad Metro) + Technology (Project GOAL in tribal areas in association with META) + Capacity building and skill development(Skill India Mission) + Monitoring and Evaluation (Bharatmala)

Conclusion - Thus the Gati Shakti Yojana , boosted by positive private sector contributions, can play a pivotal role in fulfilling sustainable development goal 9.1 of creating quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure.



BusinessToday.In

GATI SHAKTI MASTER PLAN

Roadways capacity to be increased



Around 200 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes envisioned

Railways transport cargo capacity to be increased to **1,600 tonnes** by FY25



Transmission network to be increased to **4,54,200 circuit km**

Renewable capacity to be increased to **225 GW** by FY25



4G connectivity for villages by FY22. **Around 20** new mega food parks



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Relevant Current Affairs Coverage



Topic Inter-linkages



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7) The rights of persons with disabilities Act, 2016 remains only a legal document without intense sensitisation of Government functionaries and citizens regarding disability. Comment

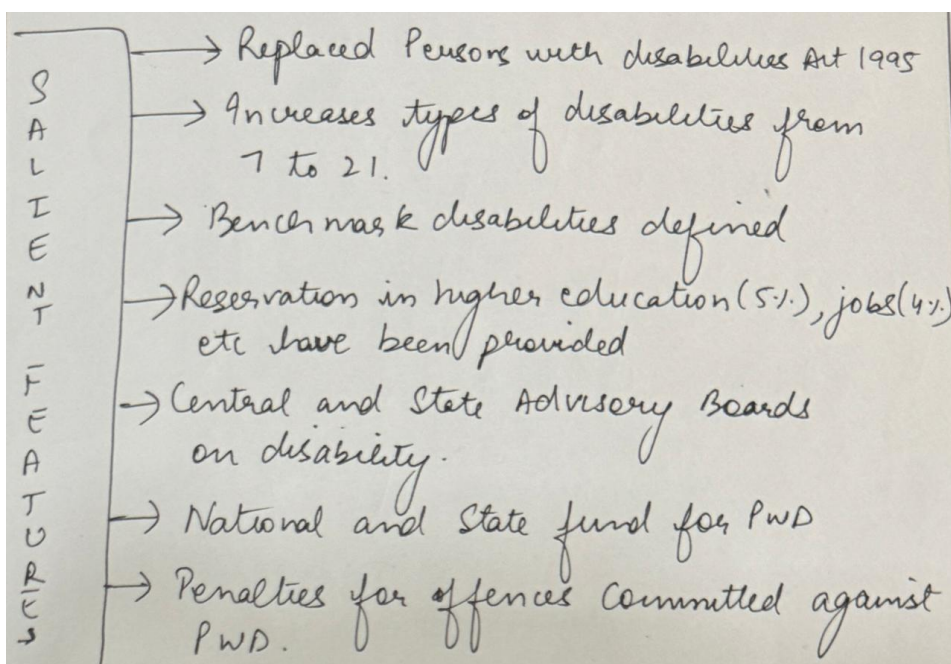
Introduction : Current Affairs Recall - The recent Supreme Court guidelines regarding portrayal and representation of Persons with Disabilities in Movies and media brought into light the plight of PwD population of the country. One step to alleviate their misery was enactment of **Rights to persons with Disabilities Act 2016**

Body Part 1 : Salient Features in form of Flowchart

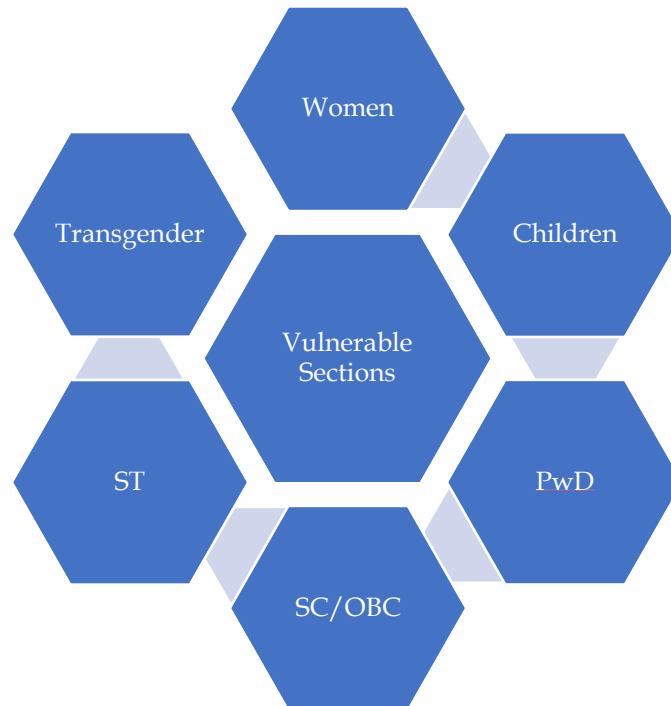
Body part 2 - issues faced by PWD with examples -
persistent Social Stigma+ Infrastructure Accessibility
+Exclusion from government schemes+Gaps in
implementation of laws

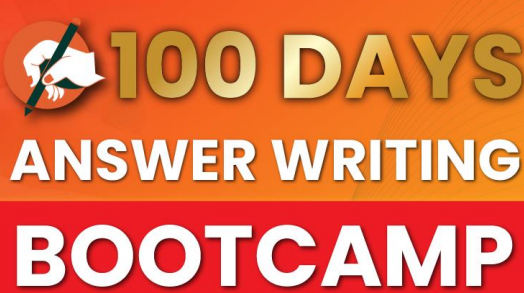
Body part 3 - Importance of Sensitization and awareness :
inclusive mindset+Shed victim/beneficiary/recipient
approach+Enhanced accessibility+Building government
capacity+Reduced use of fake certificates

Conclusion - By transforming societal attitudes, enhancing accessibility, and fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration, the Act can move beyond its role as a legal document and truly improve the lives of millions of PwDs in India.



Framework for Any Vulnerable Section





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8) Reforming the government delivery system through the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme is a progressive step, but it has limitations too. Comment.

Introduction : 5.5 trillion rupees - transfer of subsidies

Body Part 1 : objectives of DBT

Body part 2 - Benefits of DBT - Enhanced targeting+reduced leakage+Efficiency+transparency+Beneficiary led+empower human rights approach

Body part 3 - Limitations - Digital divide+Banking infra+aadhar linkage + one size fits all approach

Conclusion - context-sensitive, hybrid approach

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Topic Inter-linkages



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9) Discuss the procedures to decide the disputes arising out of the election of a Member of the Parliament or a State Legislature under the Representation of People Act 1951. What are the grounds on which the election of any returned candidate may be declared void? What remedy is available to the aggrieved party against the decision? Refer to the case laws

Introduction – Part 6 of Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides for the disputes regarding conduct of elections to the Houses of Parliament and to the Houses of the State Legislature

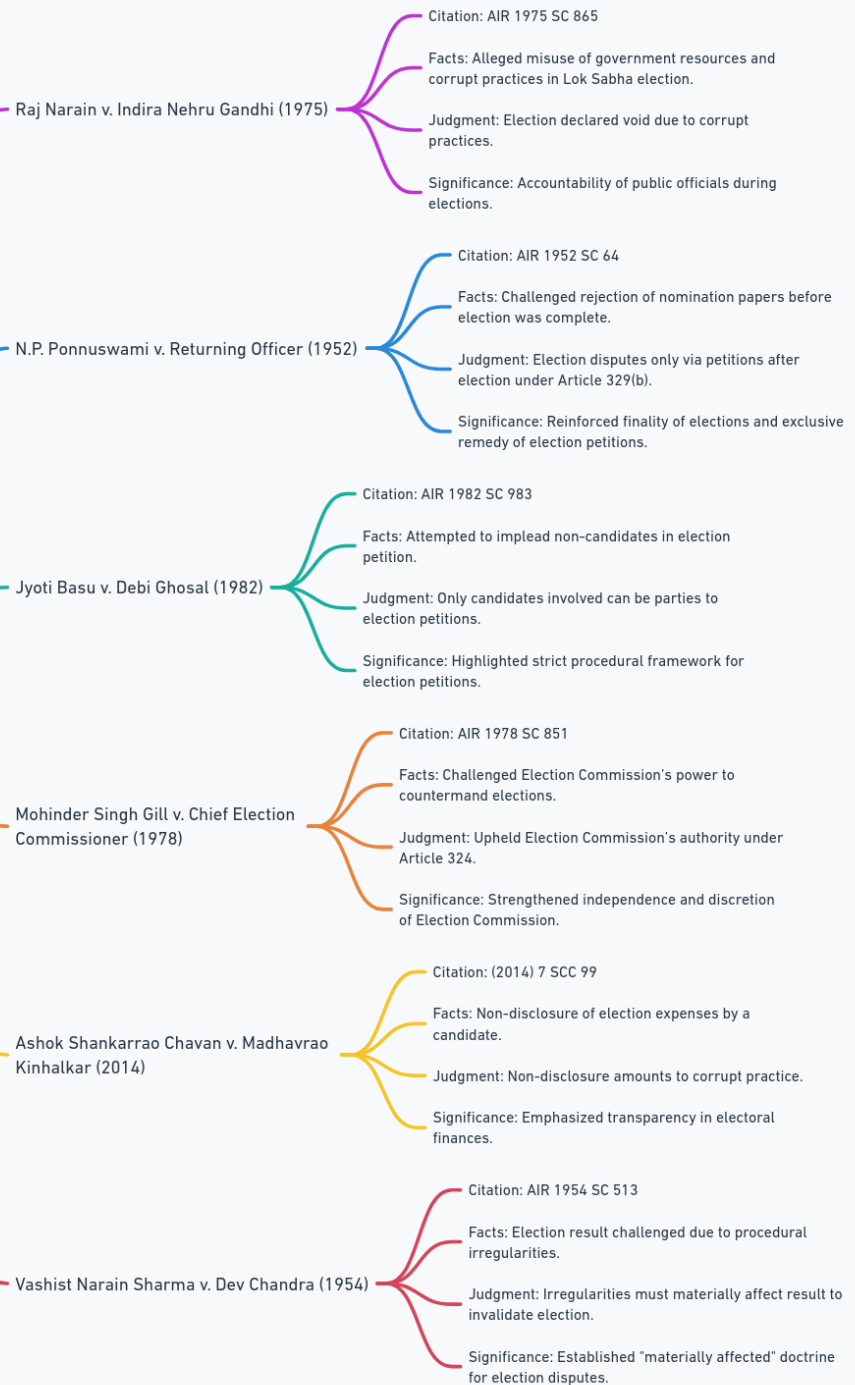
Body Part 1 – Election Petition – Section 79 onwards + grounds of election petition + Single judge bench of High court + Election may declare void or re-election may be ordered. + civil procedure code

Body part 2 – Grounds of declaring election void = Corrupt practices (Section 123) + unqualified candidate + nomination improperly rejected

Body part 3 – An aggrieved party can file an appeal against the decision of the High Court or the Supreme Court, as per Section 116A of the Act. The appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date of the decision, and it must be heard by a bench of at least two judges.

Conclusion : Fast tracking petitions

Key Election Law Cases in India



10) Discuss the essential conditions for the exercise of the legislative powers by the Governor. Discuss the legality of re-promulgation of ordinances by the Governor without placing them before the Legislature

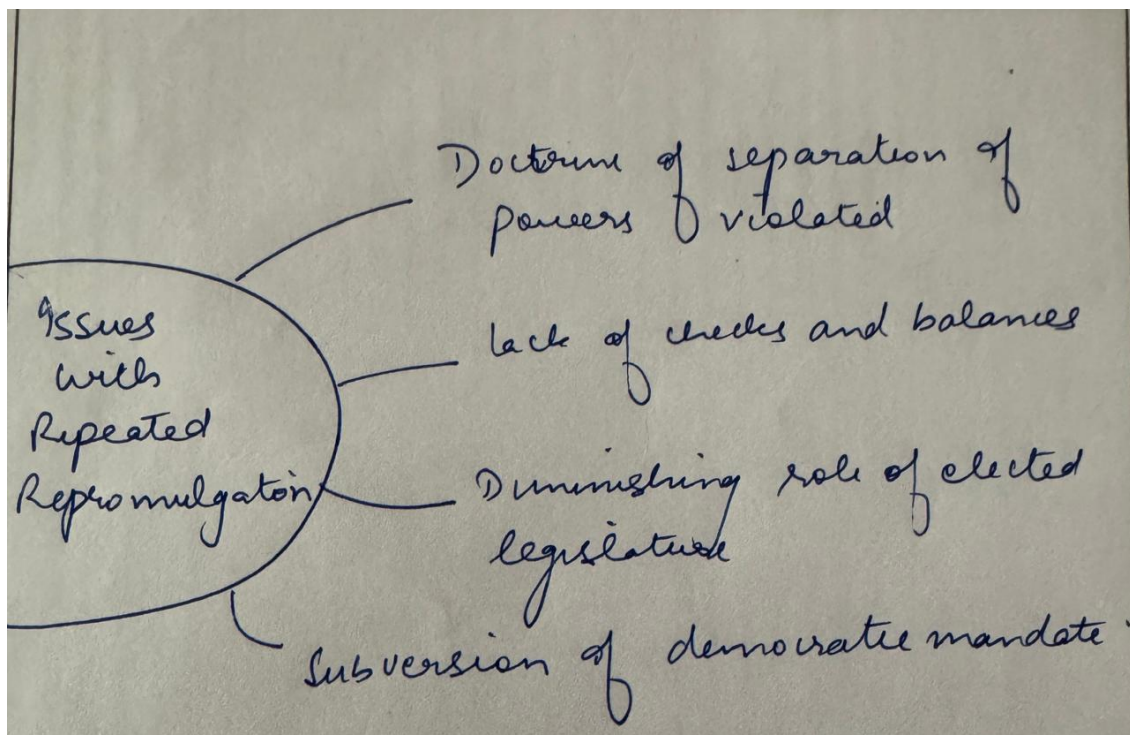
Governor Role as per constitution

Legislative powers of Governor and essential conditions

Re promulgation of ordinances and case laws : DC Wadhwa and Krishna Kumar

Critique of Ordinance making power and impact of repromulgation

Conclusion - John Adams rightly said, " Power must never be trusted without a check",



11) "While the national political parties in India favour centralisation, the regional parties are in favour of state autonomy."

Intro : India is a vibrant multiparty democracy

**Centralisation by National parties : Focus on strong centre
+ Centrally sponsored schemes+Emphasis on national
identity+**

**State /Regional Parties : Defence of regional
interests+Promotion of diversity+Demand for fiscal
federalism**

Cooperative Federalism

Conclusion

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With Evaluation For UPSC Mains 2025

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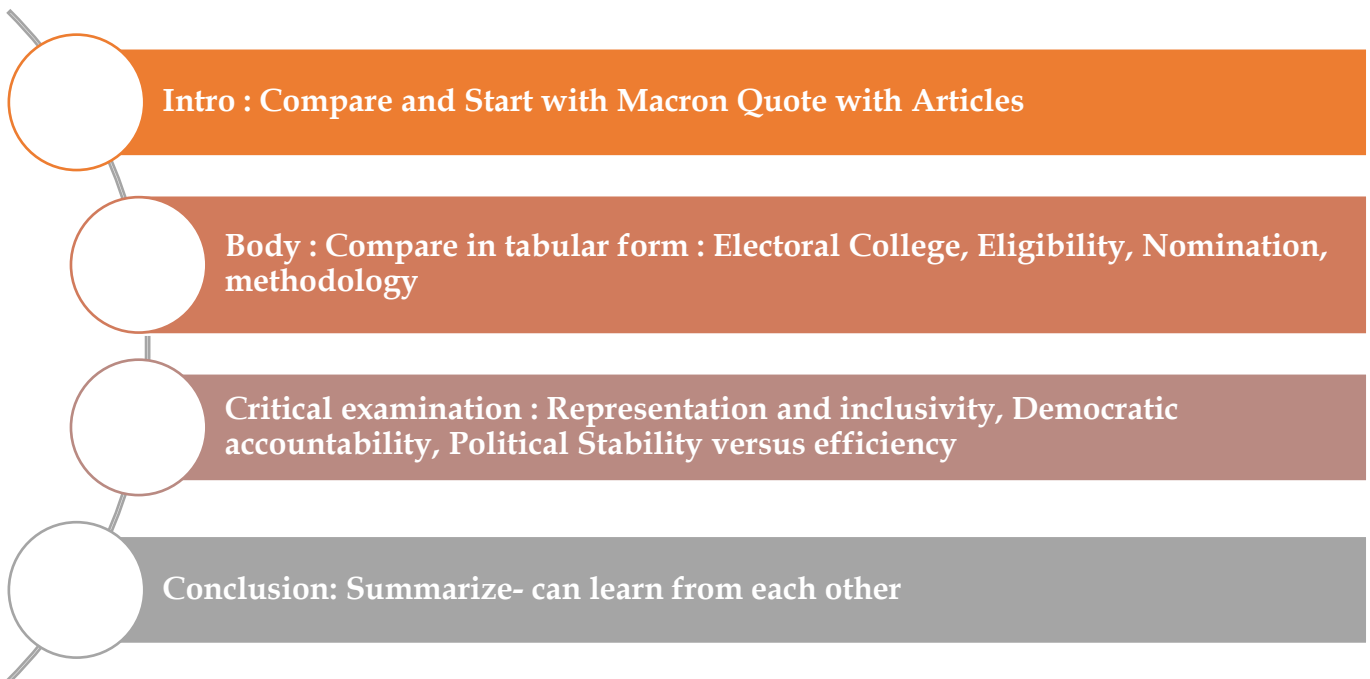
Model Answers curated by Subject Matter Experts

Fortnightly performance monitoring Interactions



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12) Critically examine the procedures through which the presidents of India and France are elected.



Parameter	India	France
Electoral College	Consists of elected members of both Houses of Parliament and the Legislative Assemblies of the States and Union Territories.	The President of France is elected through a system of direct universal suffrage, wherein all citizens aged 18 and above have the right to vote
Eligibility	To be eligible for the presidency, a candidate must be a citizen of India, at least 35 years of age, and eligible to become a member of the Lok Sabha (House of the People)	Similar to India, candidates for the French presidency must meet certain eligibility criteria, including being a citizen of France, at least 18 years of age, and meeting the requirements specified in the Constitution
Nomination	Candidates for the presidency are nominated by eligible members of the Electoral College. While any member can propose a candidate, a minimum of 50 electors must support the nomination for it to be valid.	: Candidates for the French presidency are nominated by collecting a specified number of signatures from elected representatives or by self-nomination, provided they obtain endorsements from a certain number of elected officials

Methodology

The election is conducted using the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system, wherein electors indicate their preferences by ranking the candidates.

If no candidate receives an absolute majority of votes in the first round, subsequent rounds of counting are held, with the least preferred candidates being eliminated until a winner emerges.

The French presidential election employs a two-round system, wherein if no candidate receives an absolute majority of votes in the first round, the top two candidates proceed to a second round of voting.



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13) Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct

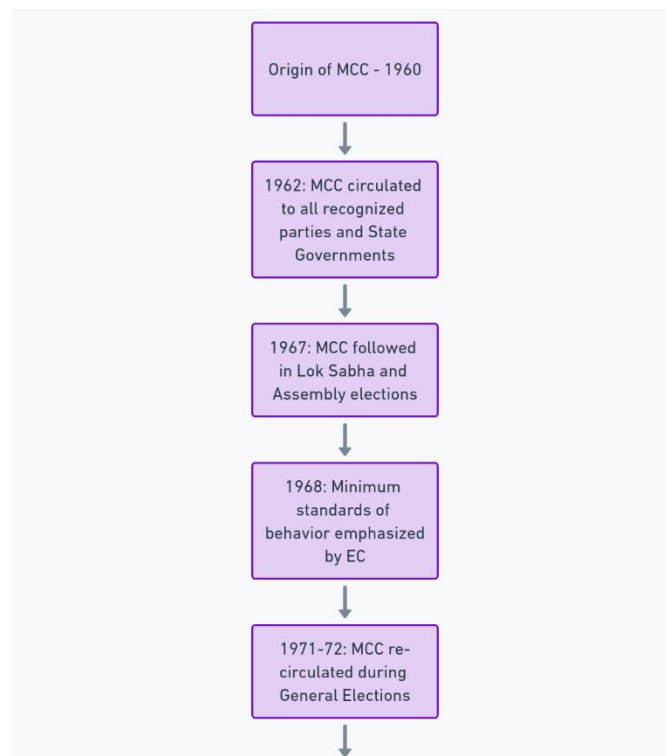
Introduction - The **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** is a set of **guidelines** issued by the Election Commission of India to regulate the conduct of political parties and their candidates in the run-up to elections. These guidelines range from issues related to speeches, polling day, polling booths, portfolios, the content of election manifestos, processions, and the general conduct of the political candidates.

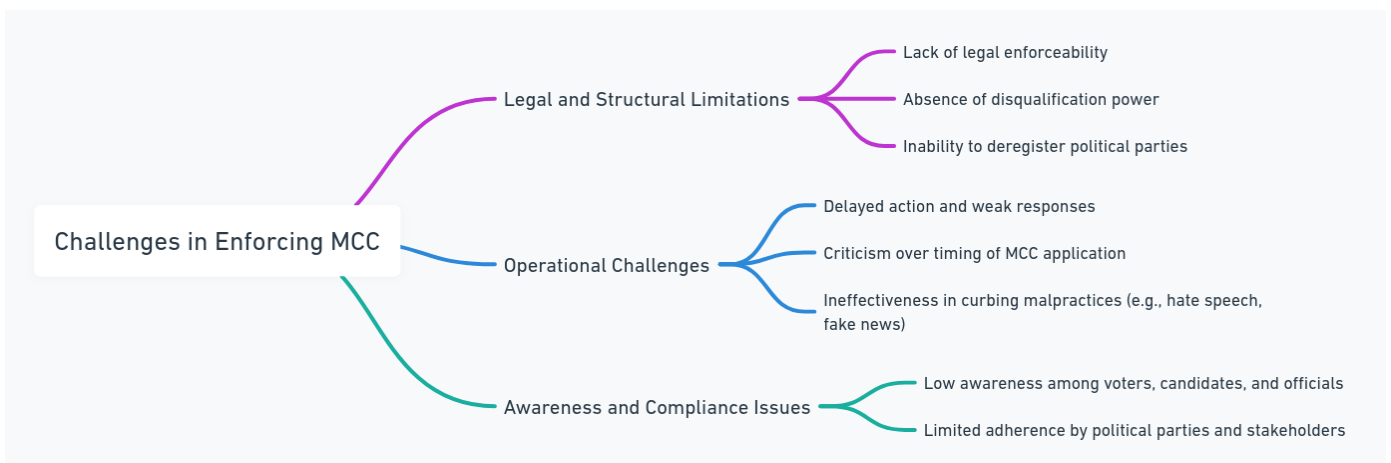
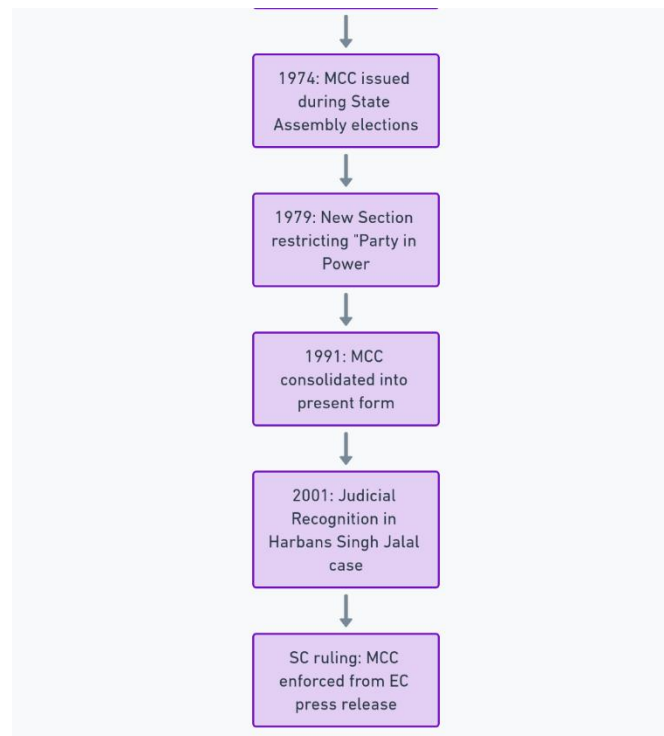
Body Part 1 evolution of MCC timeline

Body part 2 : Role of Election Commission - Introduction, modification+enforcement+penalizing parties/candidates+flying squads, static surveillance teams, and expenditure observers to detect violations and take appropriate action+Cvigil app+ Regulate media

Concerns

Conclusion : Way forward -





14) Besides the welfare schemes, India needs deft management of inflation and unemployment to serve the poor and the underprivileged sections of society. Discuss

Introduction : Contradiction between poverty reduction and free food grains beneficiaries

Body Part 1 : Tabular Form – Food Inflation+healthcare inflation+Higher Interest Rates +Unemployment

Body part 2 How Unemployment management and Inflation management will help uplift the poor

Body part 3 : Schemes already in work

Conclusion – “Poverty is not just a lack of money; it is not having the capability to realize one's full potential as a human being”

15) Do you agree with the view that increasing dependence on donor agencies for development reduces the importance of community participation in the development process? Justify your answer.

needs, priorities, and participation of the local community
donor agencies increased reliance grassroots engagement

How community importance reduces : Top down approach
+ Reduced local ownership + Conditionalities + Ulterior motives + less accountability + Lack of local knowledge

Arguments against : Capacity building + new and emerging tech sectors + participatory models possible

Way forward – increased dependence on donor agencies
impact depends on the design, implementation, and intent + community-driven development equitable and sustainable progress

16) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 remains inadequate in promoting an incentive-based system for children's education without generating awareness about the importance of schooling. Analyse.

Quote Mohini Jain Case and 86th Constitutional Amendment Act 2002

Inadequate provisions : Limited Scope, lack of targeted support, failure to address opportunity , low awareness generation, inadequate teacher training

Give adequate examples of programs at state and international level that have achieved success

Way forward - Linking benefits to school attendance, teacher education and leverage e-learning

Conclusion - Concept of Balance between individual rights and public interest.

Elementary Education Initiatives and Impacts



International Relations

17) India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka.' Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in the light of the preceding statement.

HELP Framework

- **Historical Ties:** Highlight the deep-rooted historical and cultural connections between India and Sri Lanka to establish the "age-old friend" context.
- **Economic Aid:** Discuss India's financial and material support during Sri Lanka's economic crisis to show tangible assistance.
- **Lifeline Support:** Focus on humanitarian and immediate relief efforts that saved lives and eased suffering, emphasizing India's role as a reliable friend.
- **Political and Strategic Role:** Analyze India's diplomatic and geopolitical contributions, including its influence in regional stability and countering other powers (e.g., China).

Introduction Hook

- Begin with a vivid hook, like: "For centuries, India and Sri Lanka have been bound by the threads of Buddhism, trade, and shared struggles, earning India the title of an 'age-old friend.' From ancient maritime routes to modern diplomacy, this friendship has shaped India's response to Sri Lanka's recent crisis." Then briefly mention key historical ties to set up the context.

Body of Answer

- **Historical Ties:** For centuries, India and Sri Lanka have shared Buddhist heritage, trade routes, and colonial struggles, forging an "age-old" bond. The Tamil community's ties with Tamil Nadu and India's Neighbourhood First policy underscore this enduring partnership, setting the stage for India's crisis response
- **Economic Aid:** When Sri Lanka's economy collapsed in 2022, with 57% inflation and a \$51 billion debt default, India provided a \$4 billion lifeline, including 270,000 tonnes of fuel and credit lines for essentials. As the first creditor to back Sri Lanka's \$2.9 billion IMF bailout, India stabilized its friend's economy.
- **Political and Strategic Role:** Diplomatically, India co-led debt restructuring talks and outshone China's \$75 million aid with strategic moves like a Trincomalee solar plant. PM Modi's 2025 visit and support for Sri Lanka's democracy cemented India's role as a regional stabilizer

18) Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organisation like the SAARC? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two? How are Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming this new organisation ?

Introduction

- Introduce BIMSTEC and SAARC, stating BIMSTEC is an alternative, not a parallel, to SAARC due to the latter's challenges.
- Example: "BIMSTEC and SAARC both seek regional cooperation, but BIMSTEC's Bay of Bengal focus makes it a dynamic alternative to SAARC's stalled South Asian vision, advancing India's strategic goals."

Body- CORE Framework

- **Context:** Define BIMSTEC and SAARC, clarifying their relationship (2–3 sentences).
- **Overlaps:** List similarities like shared members and goals (3–4 sentences).
- **Reforms:** Highlight dissimilarities, focusing on SAARC's limitations and BIMSTEC's strengths (3–4 sentences).
- **Engagement:** Explain how BIMSTEC furthers India's foreign policy (3–4 sentences).

Conclusion

- Summarize BIMSTEC's role as a complementary platform and its value for India.
- Example: "BIMSTEC, though not a parallel to SAARC, revitalizes regional cooperation, empowering India to lead economically and strategically in a connected Asia."

CORE Framework

- **Context:** Founded in 1985, SAARC unites eight South Asian nations for economic and social progress but struggles with India-Pakistan tensions. BIMSTEC, formed in 1997, connects seven South and Southeast Asian countries, offering India a platform free of such conflicts.
- **Overlaps:** Both organizations share five members (India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka) and aim to boost trade, connectivity, and cultural ties. Their summit-driven structures and focus on poverty alleviation and disaster management reflect a common vision for regional growth.
- **Reforms:** Unlike SAARC, stalled by Pakistan's vetoes (e.g., no summit since 2014), BIMSTEC excludes Pakistan, enabling flexible cooperation. While SAARC's broad agenda falters (e.g., SAFTA's 5% trade), BIMSTEC's targeted focus on trade, energy, and security delivers results like the Coastal Shipping Agreement.

- **Engagement:** BIMSTEC advances India's Neighbourhood First and Act East policies, fostering connectivity via projects like the Trilateral Highway. It counters China's regional influence, enhances India's Northeast development, and promotes security, aligning with India's SAGAR vision for a stable Indo-Pacific.

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19) How will I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and USA) grouping transform India's position in global politics?

Introduction

- Introduce I2U2 as a strategic alliance and its potential to elevate India's global role.
- Example: "The I2U2 grouping, uniting India, Israel, UAE, and the USA since 2021, transforms India's global position by fostering cooperation in technology, security, and diplomacy, aligning with its multi-alignment strategy."

Body- RISE Framework

- **Regional Influence:** Highlight India's leadership in West Asia and IOR
- **Innovation and Economy:** Discuss economic and tech collaboration
- **Strategic Security:** Explain security enhancements
- **Enhanced Diplomacy:** Outline diplomatic gains
- **Regional Influence:** I2U2 positions India as a West Asian leader, bridging Israel and Arab states post-Abraham Accords while countering China's BRI. Projects like the IMEC corridor, slashing trade costs by 40%, enhance India's Indo-Pacific influence.
- **Innovation and Economy:** I2U2 fuels India's growth through UAE's \$2 billion food parks and Israel's tech expertise in biotech and solar robotics. India's consumer market and startup ecosystem attract investments, boosting its global economic clout.
- **Strategic Security:** I2U2 strengthens India's security via counter-terrorism cooperation and Israel's drone technology. Maritime security in the IOR aligns with India's SAGAR vision, ensuring safe trade routes and regional stability.
- **Enhanced Diplomacy:** I2U2 amplifies India's voice in global forums, supporting its UNSC bid and climate leadership via AIM for Climate. By balancing ties with Israel and Arab states, India showcases diplomatic finesse.

Conclusion

- Summarize I2U2's transformative impact and India's future role.
- Example: "I2U2 empowers India to lead regionally, innovate economically, secure strategically, and shine diplomatically, cementing its rise as a global power."

20) Clean energy is the order of the day.' Describe briefly India's changing policy towards climate change in various international fora in the context of geopolitics.

LEAD Framework

- The **LEAD** framework structures the answer into four key areas to highlight India's shifting climate policy in international fora:
 - **Leadership:** Showcase India's proactive role in clean energy initiatives globally.
 - **Engagement:** Highlight India's participation in international climate agreements and partnerships.
 - **Advocacy:** Emphasize India's push for equity and climate finance for developing nations.
 - **Diplomacy:** Connect India's climate actions to geopolitical strategies and influence.
 -

Introduction

- Affirm clean energy's importance and India's policy shift in global fora.
- Example: "Clean energy drives India's climate policy, evolving from energy security to global leadership. Its proactive stance in international fora reflects geopolitical ambitions."

Body of Answer

- **Leadership:** India leads the clean energy charge with the International Solar Alliance and Global Biofuels Alliance, aiming for 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030. These initiatives inspire global transitions and showcase India's renewable energy vision.
- **Engagement:** India engages robustly in the Paris Agreement and COP26, committing to net-zero by 2070 via Panchamrit. By integrating climate into G20 and Quad discussions, India balances development with environmental goals
- **Advocacy:** India advocates Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and \$1 trillion climate finance at COP29. Positioning itself as the Global South's voice, India inspires developing nations with early NDC achievements.
- **Diplomacy:** India's climate diplomacy, via BASIC and I2U2, counters China's BRI and strengthens US ties through the Climate Agenda 2030. This enhances India's UNSC bid and global soft power.

Conclusion

- Summarize India's role and geopolitical rise.
- Example: "India's clean energy leadership and diplomatic finesse in climate fora elevate its global influence. This shift ensures sustainable growth and geopolitical leverage."