

## POLITY

PRE-CONTEXT

### ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

THE HINDU, Pg.NO: 8.

**News:** "A grey birthday for the Election Commission of India."

#### Election Commission of India (ECI):

- ECI is a permanent and an independent body established by Constitution to ensure Free & fair Elections in the country under **Art.324**.
- **Conducts elections to Parliament, State legislature, President, Vice President.**
- **Strength of ECI not specified by Constitution** & left at discretion of President.
- **Appointment:** The President of India appoints the CEC & two ECs.
- **Removal:**
  - Removal grounds of CEC **similar to judge of Supreme Court (ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity).**
  - **Election Commissioner(ECs) or a Regional Commissioner shall not be removed from office except on the recommendation of the CEC.**
  - CEC or an EC may, at any time, **resign** their office by writing under their hand addressed **to the President.**
- **Security of tenure:** **only to CEC** under Election Commission Act 1991. **Currently 6 years or age of 65years.**
- Both CEC, ECs are equal powers in functioning.
- Constitution not debarred from further appointment.
- **61CAA:** lowered voting age from 21 to 18.

#### Powers

##### Administrative Powers:

- Determines territorial areas of electoral constituencies.
- Preparation of Electoral rolls & notifying Election dates.
- Recognition of Political Parties and allocating symbols.
- Determine Code of Conduct during Election period.

##### Advisory Powers:

- **To President:** on disqualification of MPs & MLAs & Holding elections in a state under President rule.
- **To SC & HC:** in matters related to Post-election disputes between candidates and Political parties.

##### Quasi-judicial Powers:

- Settling disputes related to Recognition of political parties and w.r.t Election symbols.

#### Challenges

##### Challenges to ECI (Institutional):

- **Issues of impartiality in appointment** of Election Commissioners by Central govt.
- **Lack statutory powers:** like, to enforce **Model Code of Conduct, internal democracy in parties, to deregister political party.**
- **Election Commissioners lack security of tenure**, which hinders their independence in their work.
- **Partisanship issues:** Eg. ECs having ties with particular political party — **CEC 2009 in writing to President.**
- **No ban on post retirement office holdings:** by of CEC and ECs.
- **No Suo-Motu Legislation powers** in matters related to elections.

##### Challenges to ECI (Election process):

- **Inclusion and Exclusion error in electoral roll:** 2024 Maharashtra Elections 48 lakh new voters appeared in just six months
- **Violation of MCC:** Eg. Mission Shakti (ATSAT) speech by PM in 2019.
- **Election machinery (Allegations):** EVM malfunctioning, Booth Capturing etc.
- **Criminalisation of Politics:** 35% Elected MPs in 2019— criminal charges, this undermines public trust in efficient functioning.
- **Black money:** Over 55% of the donations received by regional parties in FY 2019-20 came from "unknown" sources — **ADR reports.**
- **Freebies** as lure by political parties to voters.
- **Regulation of Social Media:** to prevent Fake News— lead to —misinformed choice to voter.

##### Strengthening ECI:

- Inclusion of CJI in selection committee of CEC — **Anoop Baranwal vs Union of India (2023).**
- Appointment must made through collegium system — **Goswami Committee.**
- Statutory Status to MCC — **2nd ARC recommendation.**
- stricter criteria for disqualifying candidates with serious criminal charges — **Law Commission 255th report.**
- Partial state funding of elections to curb black money, corruption — **Indrajit Gupta Committee 1998.**
- **Fast track courts:** for quick disposal of cases against politicians — **Lilly Thomas case 2013.**
- **Criminalisation of Politics:** Candidates to declare criminal antecedents to ECI before contesting polls — **SC 2018.**
- **Equal constitutional protection to all members** of the Commission in matters of removability.
- **Post retirement ban of members of ECI.**

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#### PYQs: CSE (M).

**GS II 2017:** What To enhance the quality of democracy in India the Election Commission of India has proposed electoral reforms in 2016. What are the suggested reforms and how far are they significant to make democracy successful?

**P.T.O**



## HEALTH

PRE-CONTEXT

### TUBERCULOSIS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

**News:** "India's winding road to '#EndTB'."

"India had the highest tuberculosis (TB) burden in 2023."

#### Tuberculosis:

- **Caused by:** *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (**Mtb**).
- **Preventive Vaccine:** Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (**BCG**).
- Mtb coevolved with humans for a millennia (1000 years).
- Those with **nutritional deficiencies, diabetes, and a habit of smoking** are at the highest risk of contracting TB
- **Multiple Drug Resistance:** microorganisms like bacteria or viruses, develop resistance to multiple antimicrobial drugs, making infections harder to treat.
  - **Mtb developed its ability to grow in macrophages (white blood cells).**

#### India and Tuberculosis:

- India contributes to **25% of global TB cases** in 2022.
- TB is **one of the top 10 causes of deaths** in India.
- India has a significant number (**~75,000**) of **Multi-Drug Resistant TB** in 2022.
- **SDG goal 3** is to end TB by 2030.

#### National TB Elimination Programme (2017-2025)

- Eliminate TB **by 2025** under **National Health Mission**.
- TB elimination means there should be under **one case of TB for a population of 10 lakh**.
- **Progress in reduction of TB incidence cases:** 280 cases per lakh in 2005 to 190 cases per lakh in 2024 (it was 199 in 2020)–**WHO World TB report 2024**.
- **To reach the target under the programme:** incidence cases of TB must be reduced to 120 by 2025. **Which is not possible by 2025.**

#### Key components of Programme:

- Early detection and diagnosis using **Rapid TB detection kits**.
- **Nikshay Poshan Yojana:** Direct Benefit Transfer of Rs. 1000 monthly nutritional support to TB patients.
- **Nikshay digital platform** to monitor TB treatment.
- **Preventive Vaccine BCG** for newborns.

#### About New regimen tackling microbial resistance:

- It is comprised of **four drugs** — **Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid and Moxifloxacin**.
- The BPALM regimen is reputed **to cure drug-resistant TB** in just **six months**, with a **high success rate**.

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PRE-CONTEXT

## POVERTY

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 9.

**News:** "Is poverty being underestimated in India?"

#### Terms related to poverty:

- **Absolute Poverty:** Based on a minimum level of subsistence (e.g., calorie intake, basic necessities).
- **Relative Poverty:** Compares the income of individuals to the average/median income in society.
- **Headcount Ratio (HCR):** Proportion of the population below the poverty line.
- **Depth or Intensity of Poverty:** How far below the line people are (not just the count).

#### Poverty committees & Methodology in India:

- **Planning Commission (1970)-** Calorie consumption.
- **YK Alagh Committee (1979) -** Nutrition.
- **Lakdawala Committee(1993)-** Calorie + State Specific.
- **Tendulkar Committee(2004-05) -** Consumption Expenditure (Basic Needs). This is currently followed.
- **Rangarajan Committee (2012)-** Nutritional Component + Consumption Expenditure.

#### Tendulkar Committee (2009):

- Moved from a calorie-based norm to a broader consumption basket i.e., **Consumption expenditure per person per day**.
- The national poverty line for 2011-12 was estimated at Rs. 816 per capita per month for rural areas and Rs. 1,000 per capita per month for urban areas

#### Poverty line:

- **Current Poverty Line methodology:** based on Tendulkar committee 2009. i.e., monthly Per capita "Consumption expenditure".
- Person who spends less than Rs. 33/ day urban, Rs. .27/day Rural are under BPL.
- **Vary from State to State (Due to inflation).**

#### Multi Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) in India:

- MPI shows how many households are experiencing **multiple deprivations at the same time** such as health, education, and living standards.
- **NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index (NMPI)** report assesses the level of multidimensional poverty in India.
  - It uses data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) to calculate the NMPI.
- In 2022-23, India's multidimensional poverty rate was 11%, down from 30% in 2013-14.
- **Global Multidimensional Poverty Index:** Released by: Oxford poverty+ UN+ OPHI.

#### Amartya Sen's capability approach:

This approach focus on quality of life rather economic satisfaction.

#### Two Key elements:

- **Creation of Capabilities or opportunities :** i.e providing real freedom for individual to achieve what they want in Life.
    - Eg. Govt. Providing access to healthcare, Education, clean water etc.
  - **Functioning:** It allows Individual to choose among these opportunities and get excel i them or stay healthy etc.
- Capability Approach focus on Govt. to remove barriers and providing means for people to lead the lives they value.

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**Thank you!**



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