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Global terror financing watchdog



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India's communication satellite

CURRENT AFFAIRS

DECEMBER - 2018
TO
MARCH - 2019



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CHAPTER

1

Polity Governance and Social Issues

NATIONAL COMMON MOBILITY CARD (NCMC)

- ❖ It is one-of-its-kind inter-operable transport card which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March 2019.
- ❖ It has the following benefits to the holders across the country:
 - (a) To pay for the bus and metro travel
 - (b) To pay toll taxes
 - (c) To pay parking charges
 - (d) To pay for retail shopping
 - (e) To withdraw money
- ❖ It runs on RuPay card & enables the country to no longer dependent on foreign technology.
- ❖ Ministry of housing & urban affairs is the implementing agency for NCMC.
- ❖ It will solve the multiple challenges related with cash payment like cash handling, revenue leakages, cash reconciliation etc.
- ❖ It digitizes the fare collection to a significant extent.
- ❖ Major challenge associated with it is restricted usability of payment instruments which limits the digital adoption by customers.

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT (MCC)

The Election Commission's Model Code of conduct is a set of guidelines issued to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections. The rules range from issues related to speeches, polling day, polling booths portfolios, content of election manifestos processions and general conduct so that free and fair elections are conducted.

According to the Press Information Bureau, a version of the MCC was first introduced in the state assembly elections in Kerala in 1960. It was largely followed by all parties in the 1962 elections and continued to be followed in subsequent general elections. In October, 1979, the EC added a section to regulate the 'party in power' and prevent it from gaining an unfair advantage at the time of elections.

- ❖ It lays down how political parties, contesting candidates and party(s) in power should conduct themselves during the process of elections i.e. on their general conduct during electioneering, holding meetings and processions, poll day activities and functioning of the party in power etc.
- ❖ The biggest drawback of the MCC is lack of statutory backing. Hence Election Commission is bound to use moral sanction or censure for its enforcement.
- ❖ It contains eight provisions dealing with general conduct, meetings, processions, polling day, polling booths, observers, the party in power, and election manifestos.
- ❖ The 48-hour period is known as "election silence" to allow a voter a campaign-free environment to reflect on events before casting her vote.

Note: The Model Code of Conduct has come into force after the Election Commission of India announced the polling dates for the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections in March 2019.

ELECTORAL BONDS FOR POLITICAL FUNDING

- ❖ This scheme was announced in Union Budget 2017 with the objective to increase transparency in political funding.
- ❖ When the scheme will be finally implemented, then India will become the first country in the world to have such unique bonds for electoral funding.
- ❖ Electoral bonds will be bearer instrument in nature of promissory note and an interest-free banking instrument.
- ❖ These can be redeemed only through the registered accounts of a political party in a prescribed time frame.
- ❖ **Objective:**
 - (a) It aims at rooting out current system of largely



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anonymous cash donations made to political parties which lead to generation of black money in the economy.

❖ **Denominations:**

- (a) Electoral bonds can be purchased for any value in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh or Rs 1 crore from any of the specified branches of State Bank of India (SBI).

❖ **Eligibility to purchase these bonds:**

- (a) A citizen of India or a body incorporated in India will be eligible to purchase the bond.
- (b) The purchaser is allowed to buy electoral bonds only on due fulfilment of all extant KYC norms and by making payment from a bank account. It will not carry the name of the payee.
- (c) In essence, the donor and the party details will be available with the bank, but the political party might not be aware of who the donor is.

❖ **Eligibility of Political parties:**

- (a) Every party that is registered under section 29A of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) and has secured at least one per cent of the votes polled in the most recent Lok Sabha or State election will be allotted a verified account by the Election Commission of India.
- (b) Electoral bond transactions can be made only via this account.

❖ **Validity:**

- (a) It will have a life of 15 days during which they can be used to make donations to registered political parties.

How An Electoral Bond Works

01

Notified banks are chosen

02

The notified bank issues electoral bonds

03

The donor buys an electoral bond using a cheque/digital payment.

04

The donor gives the party of his/her choice the bond within the specified time frame

05

The party deposits the bond in an account, the details of which are with the Electoral Commission

❖ **Availability:**

- (a) The electoral bonds will be available for purchase for a period of 10 days each in months of January, April, July and October with additional 30 days to be specified by Central

government in year of general election so that this does not become a parallel currency.

Issues with the scheme:

- ❖ Misuse of the bonds is possible due to lack of disclosure requirements for individuals purchasing electoral bonds.
- ❖ It enhances the opacity of electoral funding & brings more black money into the political system.
- ❖ It allows companies not to declare the names of the parties to which they have donated.
- ❖ It can be a legal channel for companies to round-trip their tax haven cash to a political party.
- ❖ It could be used as a tool to lobby for a change in policy by businessmen.
- ❖ It eliminates 7.5% cap on company donations meaning loss-making companies can make unlimited donations.

Note: A petition was filed in Supreme Court to strike down Electoral Bond Scheme 2018 & amendments in Finance Act, 2017.

NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

- ❖ It is a multi-gigabit pan-India network project with the main objective to establish a strong and robust Indian network which will be capable of providing secure and reliable connectivity.
- ❖ It will connect all universities, research institutions, libraries, laboratories, healthcare and agricultural institutions across the country to address such paradigm shift.
- ❖ It also includes leading mission oriented agencies in the fields of nuclear, space and defence research.
- ❖ It addresses the critical issue of access & creates a new paradigm of collaboration to enrich the research efforts in the country.
- ❖ It also enables sharing of scientific databases and remote access to advanced research facilities.
- ❖ **Benefits:**
 - (a) To enable knowledge and information sharing amongst NKN connected institutes.
 - (b) To enhance collaborative research, development and innovation amongst NKN connected institutes.
 - (c) To provide advanced distance education in specialized fields like engineering, science, medicine etc.
 - (d) To set up an ultra-high speed e-governance framework to deliver citizen specific services.

QUESTIONS

1. Consider the following statements related to Consumer Protection Bill, 2018.
1. Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions will be set up at the District, State and National levels for adjudicating consumer complaints.
 2. It sets up a Central Consumer Protection Authority to promote, protect and enforce consumer rights as a class.
 3. It also establishes Consumer Protection Councils at the district, state and national levels to render advise on consumer protection.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 3
(c) 1 and 2 (d) 1, 2 and 3
2. Consider the following statements related to Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016.
1. It prohibits both commercial surrogacy and altruistic surrogacy.
 2. It states that surrogacy is permitted when it is for those couples who suffer from proven infertility; altruistic; not for commercial purposes; and not for producing children for sale, prostitution etc.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are NOT correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. Consider the following statements related to Eklavya Model Residential School.
1. It makes model residential school for Scheduled Tribes across India.
 2. It supports in infrastructure construction that provides education, physical, environmental and cultural needs.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. Consider the following statements about Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan scheme.
1. It is a collaborative effort by Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) & State/UTs Governments.
 2. It doesn't involve Private/Public Companies/Organizations and Individuals to adopt Monuments, Natural Heritage Sites and other Tourist Sites
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are NOT correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. Consider the following statements about PRADHAN MANTRI SAHAJ BIJLI HAR GHAR YOJANA.
1. It has been launched by Ministry of Rural Development.
 2. Its objective is to provide electrification of all willing households in the country only in rural areas identified under Socio-Economic and Caste Census data 2011.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. Consider the following statements about PRASAD scheme.
1. It stands for Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive.
 2. Under the scheme, Ministry of Rural Development provides Central Financial Assistance to State Governments for promoting tourism at identified destinations.
 3. It doesn't involve Public Private Partnership & Corporate Social Responsibility to improve sustainability of project.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 (d) 1, 2 and 3
7. Consider the following statements about Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission.
1. It was launched in 2019 by Union Ministry of Rural Development.
 2. Under the scheme, a funding support of up

OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

to 50% of the estimated investment for each Rurban cluster is given as Critical Gap Funding.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are NOT correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

8. Consider the following statements related to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.

1. It is a part of the National Rural Livelihood & was launched by Ministry of Rural Development.
2. It focuses on rural youth between the ages of 18 and 35 years from poor families.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are NOT correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

9. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban is being implemented by the:

- (a) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
(b) Ministry of Home Affairs
(c) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
(d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

10. Witness Protection Scheme is being implemented by the:

- (a) Supreme Court
(b) Ministry of Labour and Employment
(c) Ministry of Law and Justice
(d) None of the above

11. Consider the following statements related to Rythu Bandhu scheme:

1. It is an investment support scheme for farmers launched by Telangana government.
2. It provides a grant of Rs 4,000/acre/farmer each season to buy inputs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, labour and other investments for the crop season.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (a) only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

12. Polavaram project is a multi-purpose irrigation project. It is being built across the:

- (a) Krishna River (b) Godavari River
(c) Cauvery River (d) Periyar River

13. Index of Eight Core Industries doesn't include:

- (a) Natural Gas
(b) Steel
(c) Crude Oil
(d) All of the above are part of index

14. MSP is a market intervention measure of Union Government to insure agricultural farmers against excessive fall in prices of farm crops. It stands for:

- (a) Minimum Support Price
(b) Maximum Support Price
(c) Minimum Sustainable Price
(d) Minimum Support Produce

15. Start-up Ranking 2018 have been released by:

- (a) Department of Disinvestment
(b) Department of Revenue
(c) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion
(d) Department of Expenditure

16. Intermediate- Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty was signed in 1987 between:

- (a) India and Pakistan
(b) United States and Russia
(c) United States and Iran
(d) Israel and Egypt

17. Which one of the following countries is NOT a member of G20?

- (a) European Union (b) Indonesia
(c) Saudi Arabia (d) Pakistan

18. Chabahar Port has been in news recently. It is located in:

- (a) Iran
(b) United Arab Emirates
(c) Oman
(d) Pakistan

19. Shaktikanta Das is the:

- (a) Minister of State for Finance in Union Government
(b) Padam Shri Awardee in 2019



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