

Income Criterion Remains for EWS Quota

Indian Constitution - Judgements & Cases ,
Government Policies & Interventions , GS Paper -
2

Panel's prescription

A look at some of the recommendations of the committee

- The current gross annual family income limit of ₹8 lakh or less for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) may be retained

- EWS may exclude, irrespective of income, a person whose family has 5 acres of agricultural land and above

- The residential asset criteria may altogether be removed

- Sudden adoption of a new criteria in the committee report would delay and have a cascading effect on admissions,



exams, etc. Existing system followed from 2019 may be continued this year as well

Why in News

Recently, a government committee report told the [Supreme Court \(SC\)](#) that “**income**” is a “**feasible criterion**” for defining the “**Economical Weaker Sections**” (EWS).

- In October 2021 [NEET](#) aspirants filed a petition asking how ‘**Rs 8 lakh**’ has been taken as an annual income criterion to identify EWS for grant of 10% reservation in NEET medical admissions under the All India Quota (AIQ) category.

EWS Quota

- The **10% EWS quota was introduced under the 103rd Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2019** by amending [Articles 15 and 16](#).
 - o It inserted Article 15 (6) and Article 16 (6).
- It is for **economic reservation in jobs and admissions in education institutes** for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).
- It was enacted to promote the welfare of the poor not covered by the 50% reservation policy for [Scheduled Castes \(SCs\)](#), [Scheduled Tribes \(STs\)](#) and [Socially and Educationally Backward Classes \(SEBC\)](#).
- It enables both Centre and the states to provide reservation to the EWS of society.
- The income criterion for identifying EWS was introduced by a notification of January 17, 2019 which further laid down other conditions for identifying EWS, such as the beneficiary's family must not own or possess five acres of agricultural land, a residential flat of 1,000 square feet and above or residential plot of 100/200 square yards and above in notified/non-notified municipalities.

Key Points

- **About the Report:**

o **8 Lakh is a fine Balance:**

- The committee said the Rs 8 lakh criterion struck a “fine balance” between over-inclusion and inclusion errors and found it a **“reasonable” threshold to determine EWS in order to extend reservation** in admissions and jobs.
- Considering that the currently effective income tax exemption limit is around Rs 8 lakh for individuals, the committee is of the view that the gross annual income limit of Rs 8 lakh for the entire family would be reasonable for inclusion into EWS.

o **Rejected Notion of Emulation of OBC Criterion:**

- It rejected the notion that the Centre had **“mechanically adopted” Rs 8 lakh as a number because it was also used for the OBC (Other Backward Classes)** creamy layer cut-off.

o **Income Criterion more Stringent for EWS:**

- **Firstly**, EWS’s criteria relates to the financial year prior to the year of application whereas the income criterion for the creamy layer in OBC category is

applicable to gross annual income for three consecutive years.

- **Secondly**, in case of OBC creamy layer, **income from salaries, agriculture and traditional artisanal professions are excluded** from the consideration whereas the Rs 8 lakh criteria for EWS **includes all sources, including farming**.
- So, despite being the same cut-off number, their composition is different and hence, the two cannot be equated.

o **Uniform Income Threshold Backed by SC:**

- The desirability of a uniform income-based threshold has been upheld by the Supreme Court, and it can be adopted across the country as a matter of economic and social policy.

▪ **Recommendations:**

- o In case of admissions to educational institutions, **sudden adoption of new criteria inevitably and necessarily would delay the process** by several months which would have an inevitable cascading effect on all future admissions and educational activities/teaching/examinations which are

bound under various statutory or judicial time prescriptions.

- o EWS may, however exclude, irrespective of income, a person whose family has 5 acres of agricultural land and above.
The residential asset criteria may altogether be removed.
 - The committee altogether omitted the residential asset criteria but retained the five acre agricultural plot criteria.
- o A **three-year feedback loop cycle may be used to monitor** the actual outcomes of these criteria and then be used to adjust them in future.
- o **Data exchange and information technology should be used** more actively to verify income and assets and to improve targeting for EWS reservations and also across government schemes.
- o The existing and ongoing criteria in every ongoing process where EWS reservation is available, **be continued and the criteria recommended in this report may be made applicable from next advertisement/admission cycle.**

Source: TH

UNSC got five new non permanent members

GS Paper - 2 - Important International Institutions , Groupings & Agreements Involving India and/or Affecting India's Interests , Effect of Policies & Politics of Countries on India's Interests

UN SECURITY COUNCIL STRUCTURE LOCKS INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

UN Security Council's five permanent members' use of their veto power for their national interests leads to questioning of the legitimacy of the UNSC

UNSC STRUCTURE

- Use of force **at UN** is decided **by UNSC**
- **Five permanent** members have the right to veto a draft resolution
- To adopt a draft resolution, none of the permanent members should veto it and **9 countries** should vote in favor



China and Russia have vetoed • four draft resolutions **on Syria** since 2011

The U.S. has used its veto • right 42 times **for Israel** since 1972

Palestine has not become a UN • member, as full membership requires **UNSC approval**

China **blocks Taiwan's UN** • **membership**, not recognizing Taiwan as a sovereign country

CRITICISM OF UN STRUCTURE

- Permanent membership system
- Five permanent members' veto right and weak equal representation due to a small number of members

PERMANENT MEMBERS



REFORM PROPOSALS

- Increasing the number of non-permanent members
- Restricting veto right

Why in News

The [United Nation Security Council \(UNSC\)](#) got five new non permanent members (**Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates**).

- Estonia, Niger, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Vietnam finished their terms recently.
- Albania is joining for the **first time** while Brazil is taking an **11th turn**. Gabon and Ghana

each have been on the council three times before and the UAE once.

- More than 50 of the UN's 193 member countries have never been elected to the council since its formation.

Key Points

- **UNSC:**

- o **About:**

- The Security Council was established by the UN Charter in 1945. It is one of the six principal organs of the [United Nations](#).
- The other 5 organs of the United Nations are—the General Assembly (UNGA), the Trusteeship Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat.
- Its primary responsibility is **to work to maintain international peace and security**.
- The council is **headquartered at New York**.

- o **Members:**

- The council has 15 members: the **five permanent members and ten**

non-permanent members elected for **two-year terms**.

- The five permanent members are the United States, the Russian Federation, France, China and the United Kingdom.
 - India, for the **eighth time**, has entered the UNSC as a **non-permanent member** last year (2021) and will stay on the council for two years i.e 2021-22.
 - **Each year**, the General Assembly **elects five non-permanent members** (out of ten in total) for a two-year term. The ten non-permanent seats are **distributed on a regional basis**.
 - The **council's presidency is a capacity that rotates every month among its 15 members**.
- o **Voting Powers:**
- Each member of the Security Council **has one vote**. Decisions of the Security Council on matters are **made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members**. A "No" vote from one of the five permanent members blocks the passage of the resolution.

- Any member of the United Nations which is **not a member of the Security Council may participate**, without vote, in the discussion of any question brought before the Security Council whenever the latter considers that the interests of that member are specially affected.
- **India in the UNSC:**
 - o India took active part in the formulation of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** in 1947-48 and raised its voice passionately against racial discrimination in South Africa.
 - o India has played its part in **formulating decisions on several issues** such as admitting former colonies to the UN, addressing deadly conflicts in the Middle East and maintaining peace in Africa.
 - o It has contributed extensively to the UN, particularly for the **maintenance of international peace and security**.
 - India has taken part in 43 **Peacekeeping missions** with a total contribution exceeding 160,000 troops and a significant number of police personnel.
 - o India's population, territorial size, **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, economic potential, civilisational legacy, cultural

diversity, political system and past and ongoing contributions to UN activities make India's demand for a permanent seat in the UNSC completely rational.

▪ **Issues with UNSC:**

o **Absence of Records and Texts of Meetings:**

- The usual UN rules don't apply to the UNSC deliberations and no records are kept of its meetings.
- Additionally, there is no "text" of the meeting to discuss, amend or object.

o **Powerplay in UNSC:**

- The veto powers that the UNSC's five permanent members enjoy is an anachronism in this age.
- The UNSC in its current form has become a constraint in understanding the international changes and dynamics in the area of human security and peace.

o **Divisions Among the P5:**

- There is a deep polarisation within the UN's membership, so decisions are either not taken, or not heeded.
- Frequent divisions within the UNSC P-5 end up blocking key decisions.

- **Example:** With the coronavirus pandemic emergence, the UN, the UNSC, and [World Health Organisation](#) failed to play an effective role in helping nations deal with the spread.
- o **An Underrepresentation Organisation:**
 - The absence in the UNSC of the globally important countries - **India, Germany, Brazil and South Africa** - is a matter of concern.

Way Forward

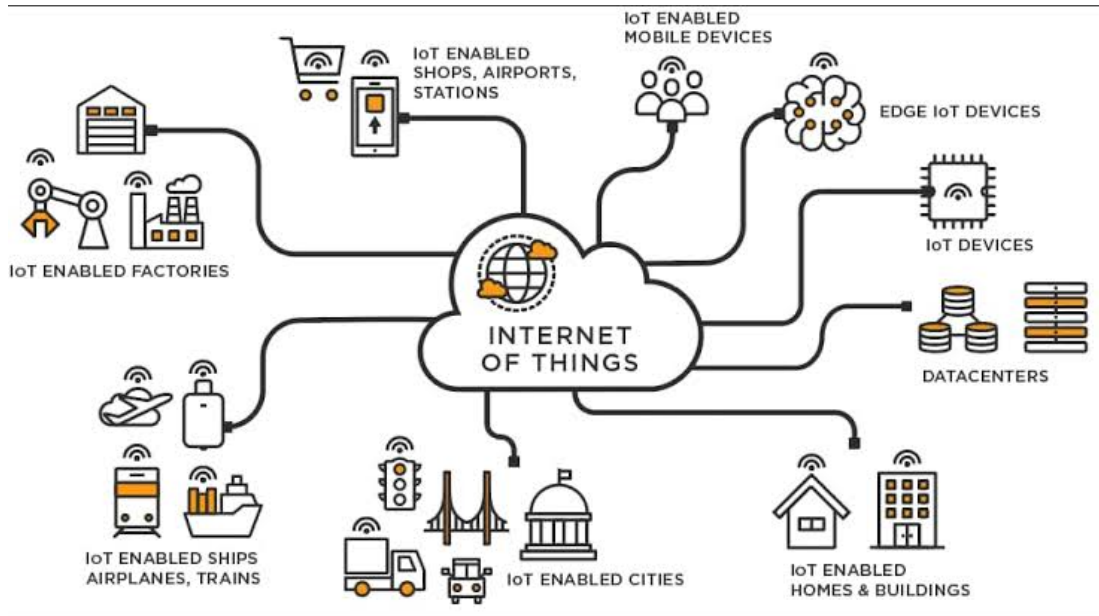
- The imbalances in power relationships among P5 and the rest of the world needs to be corrected urgently.
- Also, it is **needed to reform the Security Council** through an **expansion in permanent and non-permanent seats** to enable the UN organ to better deal with the “ever-complex and evolving challenges” to the maintenance of international peace and security.
- **India as the current one of the non-permanent members** of the UNSC can start by **drafting a resolution containing a comprehensive set of proposals** for reforming the UNSC.
 - o It can further approach other like-minded countries (like the [G4: India, Germany,](#)

Japan and Brazil) and keep growing its circle of support till sufficient numbers of countries are together to reach out to the whole UNGA to propose the resolution with a realistic chance of winning the vote.

Source: IE

Code of Practice for Securing Consumer Internet of Things(IoT)

*GS Paper - 3 - Technology Missions , Government
Policies & Interventions*



Why in News

Recently, in order to secure **Consumer Internet of Things (IoT)** devices, **Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC)**, under Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, has released a report “**Code of Practice for Securing Consumer Internet of Things(IoT)**”.

- These guidelines will **help in securing consumer IoT devices & ecosystem** as well as managing vulnerabilities.

Key Points

- **Internet of Things:**
 - o **Definition:** It is a **computing concept** that describes the idea of everyday physical objects being connected to the

internet and being able to identify themselves to other devices.

o **One of Fastest Growing**

Technology: It is one of the **fastest emerging technologies across the globe**, providing enormous beneficial opportunities for society, industry, and consumers.

o **Use of IoT:** It is being used to create smart infrastructure in various verticals such as **Power, Automotive, Safety & Surveillance, Remote Health Management, Agriculture, Smart Homes and Smart Cities etc**, using connected devices.

- A smart device is a context-aware electronic device capable of performing autonomous computing and connecting to other devices wire or wirelessly for data exchange.

o **Supplementary Technologies:** IoT is benefitted by recent advances in several technologies such as sensors, communication technologies (Cellular and non-cellular), [Artificial intelligence/ Machine Learning](#), [Cloud / Edge computing](#) etc.

- **Magnitude of IOT:** It has been projected that there would be around 11.4 billion consumer IoT devices and **13.3 billion enterprise IoT devices globally by 2025** i.e.

consumer IoT devices would account for nearly 45% of all the IoT devices.

- o According to a market research report published by Markets and Markets, the global IoT security market size is expected to grow from **USD 8.2 billion in 2018 to USD 35.2 billion by 2023.**

- **Need For Guidelines:**

- o **Anticipated Growth:** In view of the anticipated growth of IoT devices, it is important to ensure that the IoT endpoints comply with the safety and security standards.
- o **Cyber-Security Attack:** The hacking of the devices/networks being used in daily life would harm companies, organisations, nations and more importantly people.
 - Therefore securing the IoT ecosystem end-to-end i.e. from devices to the applications is very important.
 - Ensuring end to end security for connected IoT devices is key to success in this market -without security, IoT will cease to exist.
- o **Privacy Concerns:** There is in this data-driven future, a growing concern about the potential for increased government surveillance and the resulting encroachment

of civil rights, and the suppression of dissent or of marginalised communities

o **Consequences of Cyber Security**

Attack: Possible consequences of such attacks could include:

- Discontinuity and interruption to critical services/infrastructure.
- Infringement of privacy.
- Loss of life, money, time, property, health, relationships, etc.
- Disruptions of national scale including civil unrest.

▪ **Guidelines for securing consumer IoT:**

o **No Universal Default Passwords:** All IoT device default passwords shall be unique per device and/or require the user to choose a password that follows best practises, during device provisioning.

o **Implement a means to manage reports of vulnerabilities:** IoT developers should provide a dedicated public point of contact as part of a vulnerability disclosure policy.

o **Keep software updated:** Software components in IoT devices should be securely updateable.

- o **Securely store sensitive security parameters:** IoT devices may need to store security parameters such as keys & credentials, certificates, device identity etc. which are critical for the secure operation of the device.
- o **Communicate securely:** Security-sensitive data, including any remote management and control, should be encrypted in transit, appropriate to the properties of the technology and usage of the device.
- o **Minimise exposed attack surfaces:** Devices and services should operate on the ‘principle of least privilege’.
 - The Principle of Least Privilege states that a **subject should be given only those privileges** needed for it to **complete its task**.
- o **Ensure that personal data is secure:** In case the device collects or transmits personal data, such data should be securely stored.
- o **Make systems resilient to outages:** Resilience should be built into IoT devices and services where required by their usage or by other relying systems.

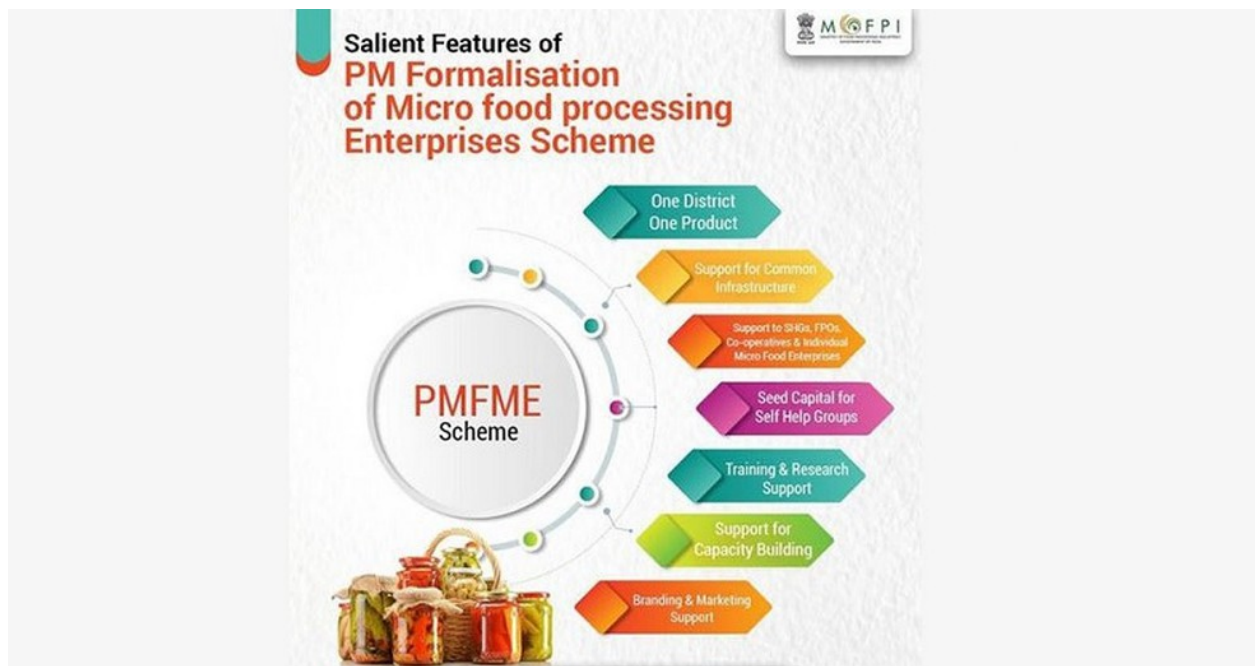
Way Forward

- **Addressing Data Security Concerns:** While IoT technology is clearly of significant advantage to citizens worldwide, along with greater advantage comes a potential risk to privacy.
 - o This concern over data protection will need to be addressed and IoT manufacturers will have to build and sustain consumer trust in their devices.
 - o In this context, [the Data Protection Bill,2019](#) is a step in the right direction.
- **Need for Global Deliberation:** Around the world, legislators, device manufacturers, and law enforcement agencies should come together to figure out how to benefit from IoT while mitigating risks.

[Source: PIB](#)

Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme.

*GS Paper - 2 - Government Policies &
Interventions , Growth & Development*



Why in News

Recently, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and [**NAFED \(National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited\)**](#) today launched six, **One District One Product (ODOP) brands** under the **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme**.

- The Ministry has signed an agreement with NAFED for developing **10 brands of selected ODOPs under the branding and marketing component of the PMFME scheme**. Out of these, six brands are Amrit Phal, Cori Gold, Kashmiri Mantra, Madhu Mantra, Somdana, and Whole Wheat Cookies of Dilli Bakes.

Key Points

- **About:**

- o Launched under [Atma Nirbhar Abhiyan](#), it **aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganised segment** of the [food processing industry](#) and to promote formalisation of the sector and provide support to [Farmer Producer Organisations](#), [Self Help Groups](#), and **Producers Cooperatives** along their entire value chain.
- o The scheme adopts the **One District One Product (ODOP) approach to reap the benefit of scale in terms of procurement of inputs, availing common services and marketing of products.**
- o It will be implemented over **a period of five years** from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

- **Features:**

- o **One District One Product (ODOP) Approach:**
 - ODOP for the scheme will **provide the framework for value chain development and alignment of support infrastructure.** There may be more than one cluster of ODOP products in one district.

- There **may be a cluster of ODOP products consisting of more than one adjacent district in a State.**
 - The States would **identify food products for districts** keeping in view the existing clusters and availability of raw material.
 - The **ODOP could be a perishable produce** based or cereal based or a food item widely produced in an area. E.g. mango, potato, pickle, millet based products, fisheries, poultry, etc.
- o **Other Focus Areas:**
- Waste to wealth products, minor forest products and **Aspirational Districts.**
 - **Capacity building and research:** Academic and research institutions under MoFPI along with State Level Technical Institutions would be provided support for training of units, product development, appropriate packaging and machinery for micro units.
- o **Financial Support:**
- Existing individual micro food processing units desirous of **upgrading their units can avail credit-linked capital subsidy at 35%** of the eligible

project cost with a maximum **ceiling of Rs.10 lakh per unit.**

- Support would be provided through **credit linked grants at 35% for development of common infrastructure** including common processing facility, lab, warehouse, etc. through FPOs/SHGs/cooperatives or state owned agencies or private enterprise.
- A **seed capital (initial funding) of Rs. 40,000-** per **Self Help Group (SHG)** member would be provided for working capital and purchase of small tools.

o **Marketing and Branding Support:**

- Marketing and branding support would **be provided to groups of FPOs/SHGs/ Cooperatives or an SPV of micro food processing enterprises under the scheme, which are:**
 - Training relating to marketing.
 - Developing a **common brand and packaging** including standardisation.
 - **Marketing tie-up with national and regional retail chains.**
 - Quality control **to ensure product quality** meets the required standards.

- **Funding:**

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore.
- The expenditure under the scheme would be shared in **60:40 ratio between Central and State Governments**, in 90:10 ratio with North Eastern and Himalayan States, 60:40 ratio with UTs with legislature and 100% by Centre for other UTs.

- **Need:**

- The **unorganised food processing sector** comprising nearly 25 lakh units **contributes to 74% of employment** in the food processing sector.
- Nearly **66% of these units are located in rural areas** and about 80% of them are family-based enterprises supporting livelihood of rural households and minimising their migration to urban areas.
 - These units largely fall within the category of micro enterprises.
- The unorganised food processing sector faces a number of challenges which limit their performance and their growth. The challenges include **lack of access to modern technology & equipment, training, access institutional credit, lack of basic awareness on quality control of**

products, and lack of branding & marketing skills etc.

▪ **Related Initiatives:**

- [Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana.](#)
- [Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority \(APEDA\).](#)
- [Minimum Support Prices \(MSP\).](#)
- [Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices \(CACP\).](#)
- [National Skill Development Corporation \(NSDC\).](#)
- [Codex Alimentarius Commission](#)
- [Draft Food Safety And Standards \(Labelling And Display\) Regulation.](#)

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd

▪ **About:**

- It is an **apex organisation of marketing cooperatives for agricultural** produce in India.
- It was **founded on 2nd October 1958** and is registered under the **Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002.**

- o NAFED is now **one of the largest procurement as well as marketing agencies** for agricultural products in India.
- **Objectives:**
 - o To **organise, promote and develop** marketing, processing and storage of agricultural, horticultural and forest produce.
 - o To **distribute agricultural machinery, implements and other inputs**, undertake inter-state, import and export trade, wholesale or retail as the case may be.
 - o To **act and assist for technical advice in agricultural production** for the promotion and the working of its members, partners, associates and cooperative marketing, processing and supply societies in India.

Source:PIB

Increased Election Expenditure Limit

*GS Paper - 2 - Constitutional Bodies ,
Transparency & Accountability , Elections*

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(Legislative Department)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 6th January, 2022

S.O. 72(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of section 77 read with section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951), the Central Government, after consulting the Election Commission of India, hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, namely:—

1. (1) These rules may be called the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2022.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, in rule 90, for the existing Table and entries relating thereto, the following Table and the entries shall be substituted, namely:—

TABLE

S. No.	Name of State or Union territory	Maximum limit of election expense in any one	
		Parliamentary constituency	Assembly constituency
1	2	3	4
		Rs.	Rs.
I. STATES			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	95,00,000	40,00,000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	75,00,000	28,00,000
3.	Assam	95,00,000	40,00,000
4.	Bihar	95,00,000	40,00,000
5.	Chhattisgarh	95,00,000	40,00,000
6.	Goa	75,00,000	28,00,000
7.	Gujarat	95,00,000	40,00,000
8.	Haryana	95,00,000	40,00,000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	95,00,000	40,00,000
10.	Jharkhand	95,00,000	40,00,000
11.	Karnataka	95,00,000	40,00,000
12.	Kerala	95,00,000	40,00,000
13.	Madhya Pradesh	95,00,000	40,00,000
14.	Maharashtra	95,00,000	40,00,000
15.	Manipur	95,00,000	28,00,000
16.	Meghalaya	95,00,000	28,00,000
17.	Mizoram	95,00,000	28,00,000
18.	Nagaland	95,00,000	28,00,000
19.	Odisha	95,00,000	40,00,000
20.	Punjab	95,00,000	40,00,000
21.	Rajasthan	95,00,000	40,00,000
22.	Sikkim	75,00,000	28,00,000
23.	Tamil Nadu	95,00,000	40,00,000

Why in News

Recently, the **expenditure limit** for candidates for Lok Sabha constituencies was increased from **Rs 54 lakh-Rs 70 lakh** (depending on states) to **Rs 70 lakh-Rs 95 lakh**, by the [Election Commission of India \(ECI\)](#).

- Further, the spending limit for Assembly constituencies was hiked from **Rs 20 lakh-Rs**

28 lakh to Rs 28 lakh- Rs 40 lakh (depending on states).

- In 2020, the ECI had formed a [committee in 2020 to study the election spending limit.](#)

Key Points

- **About:**
 - o The enhanced amount of Rs 40 lakh would apply in **Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab** and ₹28 lakh in **Goa and Manipur.**
 - o Apart from a 10% increase in 2020 due to the [Covid-19 pandemic](#), the last major revision in spending limits for candidates was carried out in 2014.
 - o The committee found that there has been an increase in the number of electors and **Cost Inflation Index** since 2014 substantially.

Cost Inflation Index

- It is used to estimate the increase in the **prices of goods and assets** year-by-year due to inflation.
- It is calculated to match the prices to the inflation rate. In simple words, an increase in the inflation rate over time will lead to a rise in the prices.

- **Cost Inflation Index = 75% of the average rise in the Consumer Price Index (urban) for the immediately preceding year.**
- **Consumer Price Index** compares the current price of a basket of goods and services (which represent the economy) with the cost of the same basket of goods and services in the previous year to calculate the increase in prices.
- The Central Government specifies CII by notifying in the official gazette.
 - **Election Expenditure Limit:**
 - It is the **amount an election candidate can legally spend for their election campaign** and has to account for, which includes expenses on public meetings, rallies, advertisements, posters, banners, vehicles and advertisements.
 - Under **Section 77 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951**, every candidate shall keep a separate and correct account of all expenditure incurred between the date on which they have been nominated and the date of declaration of the result.
 - All candidates are required to submit their expenditure statement to the ECI within **30 days** of the completion of the elections.

- An incorrect account or expenditure beyond the cap can lead to disqualification of the candidate by the ECI for up to three years, **under Section 10A of RPA, 1951.**
- The limit prescribed by the ECI is meant for legitimate expenditure because a lot of money in **elections is spent for illegitimate purposes.**
- It has often been argued that these **limits are unrealistic** as the actual expenditure incurred by the candidate is much higher.
- In December 2019, a [private member's bill](#) was introduced in the Parliament which intended to do away with the cap on election spending by candidates.
- The move was taken on the grounds that the ceiling on election expenses ends up being counterproductive by encouraging candidates to under-report their expenditure.
- There is **no cap on a political party's expenditure**, which is often exploited by candidates of the party.
 - However, **all registered political parties have to submit a statement of their election expenditure to the ECI within 90**

days of the completion of the elections.

Recommendations on State Funding

- **Indrajit Gupta Committee (1998):** It suggested that state funding would ensure a level playing field for poorer political parties and argued that such a move would be in public interest.
 - o It also recommended that state funds should only be given to recognised national and State parties and funding should be given in the form of free facilities provided to these parties and their candidates.
- **Law Commission Report (1999):** It stated that a state funding of elections is 'desirable' provided that political parties are prohibited from taking funds from other sources.
- **National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000):** It did not support the idea but mentioned that an appropriate framework for the regulation of political parties needs to be implemented before state funding is considered.

Way Forward

- **State Funding of Elections:** In this system, the states bear the election expenditure of political parties contesting the Election.

- o This can bring transparency in the funding process as public finance can limit the influence of interested donors' money and thereby help curb corruption.

Source: TH

Daily quiz

1) Consider the following statements regarding the shelf life of a vaccine:

1. Expiry dates of vaccines do not affect the safety of the vaccine but its potency.
2. According to WHO, any extension in the shelf life of vaccines will apply to all vaccines including those that are already labeled and distributed.

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

Answer : a

2) Consider the following statements regarding the Ramsar Wetland Sites:

1. A wetland is considered internationally important when it supports critically endangered species only.
2. Wetland sites are identified on the basis of the population of critically endangered land animals only.

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

Answer : d

3) Consider the following statements:

1. The Mahakali treaty was signed between India and Bhutan and it corresponds to sharing of water from the Mahakali river.
2. The Mahakali river joins the Ghagra river in Uttar Pradesh, which is a tributary of Ganga.
3. The Tanakpur, Chameliya and Sharda Barrage projects are carried out on the river.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 3 only

- c. 1 and 2 only
- d. 1 and 3 only

Answer : a

4) Consider the following statements regarding Public Finance Management System (PFMS):

1. PFMS tracks funds released under all Plan schemes of both central and state governments.
2. It is administered by the Ministry of Electronics and IT.
3. It is mandatory for all state governments to use the PMFS tool to account their spending.

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

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 2 only
- c. 1 and 2 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer : d

5) Consider the following statements regarding the Anamalai Tiger Reserve:

1. It is located to the eastern side of the Palghat gap on the Western Ghats.
2. The Kariyan Shola, Grass hills and Manjampatti of Anamalai Tiger Reserve has been identified as a world heritage site by the UNESCO.
3. Pulaiyars, Malasars and Eravalars are the tribal population of the Anamalai Hills.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 2 only

Answer : b