

Model Code of Conduct



**Today's
Topic**

- Model Code of Conduct
- Automatic 'Status Holder' Certificate
- Iron Dome System and Operation Iron Swords
- Amazon River Basin

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- Recently, the Central Election Commission announced the election dates in five states of the country including Madhya Pradesh on Monday.
- These electoral states include Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Telangana and Chhattisgarh.
- This is in line with Article 324 of the Indian Constitution, under which the Election Commission (EC) is empowered to monitor and conduct free & fair elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures.
- It is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission to regulate political parties and their candidates before elections and to ensure free and fair elections.
- The Model Code of Conduct comes into force from the date the election is announced by the Election Commission and remains in force till the date of declaration of the election results.
- The Model Code of Conduct was first introduced in the year 1960 during the Kerala Assembly elections, when the state administration prepared a 'Code of Conduct' for political parties and their candidates.
- After this, in the Lok Sabha elections of 1962, the Election Commission (EC) sent a draft code of conduct to all the recognized political parties and state governments for feedback, after which it is being followed by all the political parties across the country.

- In 1991, after repeated violations of election rules and continued corruption, the Election Commission decided to enforce the MCC more strictly.
- Some important rules of the code of conduct:-
 - Some important rules of the code of conduct are that once the elections are announced, then under the code of conduct no ruling party can do government schemes, inaugurate, lay the foundation stone or even do bhoomi puja.
 - Along with this, government vehicle, government aircraft or government bungalow cannot be used for election campaigning.
 - If any political party wants to hold an election rally or procession, it is mandatory to first take permission from the police.
 - No political party can ask for votes on the basis of caste or religion nor will it indulge in such activity.
 - During the election campaign, no poster, banner or flag can be put up on the land or wall of any person's house or office without his permission.
 - Liquor shops are kept closed on the day of voting. Distribution of liquor and money is also prohibited during elections.
 - It is also kept in mind that the voting camp should be simple and there should not be any kind of campaign material present there.
 - All political parties will stay away from activities that amount to wrong conduct.
 - Political parties cannot even provide their vehicles for voters to reach the polling booth.
 - Political parties cannot intimidate or threaten any voter to vote in their favor.

Automatic **'Status Holder' Certificate**



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- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has issued system-based automated 'Status Holder' certificates under the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023.
- Now the certificate will be issued through the IT system.
- This certificate will be provided on the basis of electronic data on merchandise exports & other risk parameters available with the Directorate General of Commercial Information & Statistics (DGCI&S).
- Status holders are business leaders who have excelled in international trade and have contributed significantly to the country's foreign trade.
- It provides credibility to Indian exporters in the international markets.
- This certificate provides priority to the holder in custom clearance.
- Besides, they also get some discounts, like; Exemption from the requirement of 'Negotiating Documents' from banks.
- The process of submitting relevant documents to the bank & receiving payment is called "Negotiation of Documents".

Iron Dome System *and* Operation Iron Swords



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- Iron Dome is Israel's most advanced short-range and surface-to-air air defence system.
- This system includes a detection and tracking radar, a combat management and weapon control system and Tamir interceptor missiles.
- It can track and deactivate any incoming rocket, missile or unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).
- Its success rate is considered to be between 80-90%.
- Operation Iron Swords: Israeli security forces have launched "Operation Iron Swords" in response to attacks on Israel by the Hamas militant group.

Amazon River Basin



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- The drying up of Lake Puraquequara has turned the floating villages into mud plains.
- This lake is located in the Amazon River Basin. It is experiencing severe drought due to El Nino and the warm waters of the northern tropical Atlantic Ocean.
- These climate events are exacerbated by global warming and the burning of fossil fuels.
- The Amazon River Basin is the largest water drainage basin in the world.
- The Amazon River Basin covers approximately 34% of South America.
- About 60% of the world's rainforests are here. Also, 10% of the known sources of life on Earth are also present here.
- Countries covered: Brazil (both the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn pass through it), Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.