

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT (MCC)

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Context:

An Indian delegation is set to leave for London in an effort to seal the free trade agreement with the UK, as dates for the general elections are expected to be announced in less than a month, which will trigger the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

Background:

For the previous general elections in 2019, the MCC had come into force in the first half of March, and its presence may impede the Central Government's ability to provide commitments in any FTAs till a new regime is sworn in post-elections.

About MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT (MCC):

1. The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI) for the conduct of political parties and candidates during elections.
2. The MCC aims to ensure free and fair elections and to prevent any misuse of power or resources by the ruling party or government.
3. As per the Election Commission of India, the model code of conduct was first observed during the 1960 polls (Kerala State Election) and since 1991 it has become an integral part of Indian election.
4. The MCC comes into force from the date the election schedule is announced until the date that results are out.
5. The MCC is not legally binding, but the ECI can take action against the violators under the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the Indian Penal Code, 1860.
6. The ECI can also use its constitutional powers under Article 324 to issue orders and directions to ensure compliance with the MCC.

