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TODAY'S IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

UPSC PRELIMS

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TODAY'S DROPS OF NEWS:

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>IN NEWS</u>
POLITY	Credibility of EC (Election Commission) is at stake.
ECONOMY	Government eases SEZ norms for chips, electronic units.
GEOGRAPHY	---
HISTORY AND ART & CULTURE	---
ENVIRONMENT	---
SCIENCE & TECH	---
MISCELLANEOUS	---

POLITY

In news: Credibility of EC (Election Commission) is at stake

Election Commission: The EC is a permanent and an independent body established by the constitution of India directly to ensure free and fair elections in the country.

Constitutional Provisions:

Part XV (Article 324-329): It deals with elections and establishes a commission for these matters.

Article 324: Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission.

Article 325: No person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special, electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.

Article 326: Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be **based on adult suffrage**.

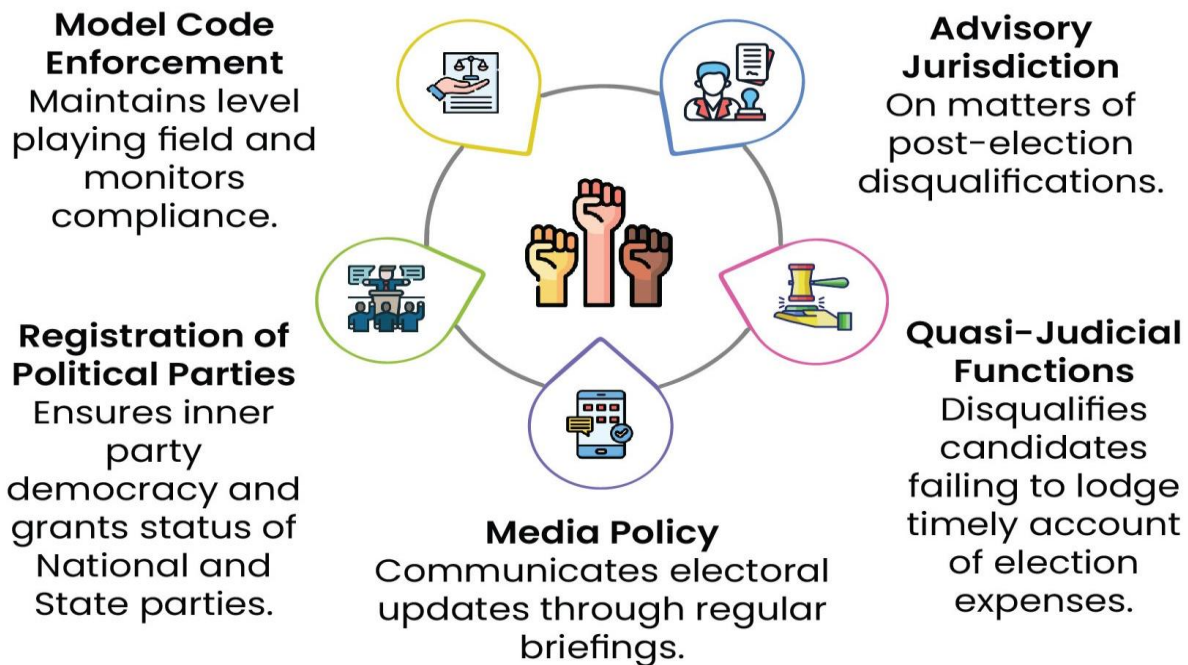
Article 327: Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures.

Article 328: Power of Legislature of a State to make provision with respect to elections to such Legislature.

Article 329: Bar to interference by courts in electoral matters.

Year	Composition	Reason
1950-1989 (15 October)	1 member-Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)	Decision of constitution makers
16 October, 1989-December 1990	3 member body 1- CEC 2- EC	Lowering of voting from 21 to 18
January 1990	1 member- CEC	As the electoral roll were completed
October 1993	3 member body 1-CEC 2-EC	To ensure the continues work, since then it is a 3 member body.

Major Functions of ECI



Limitations:

- The Constitution has not prescribed the qualifications (legal, educational, administrative or judicial) of the members of the Election Commission.
- The Constitution has not specified the term of the members of the Election Commission.
- The Constitution has not debarred the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government.

ECONOMICS

In news: Government eases SEZ norms for chips, electronic units.

SEZ (Special Economic Zones): An SEZ is a territory within a country that is typically duty-free (Fiscal Concession) and has different business and commercial laws chiefly to encourage investment and create employment and to increase the ease of doing business.

Objectives of the SEZ Act:

To create additional economic activity.

To boost the export of goods and services.



To generate employment.

To boost domestic and foreign investments.

To develop infrastructure facilities.

Need for the amendment in SEZ Rules, 2006:

Since the manufacturing in the chips and electronics is highly capital intensive, import dependent and involves long gestation periods before turning profitable.

Amendments:

- Minimum contiguous land area of 10 hectare, down from earlier 50 hectare.
- They can also supply to the rest of the India after payment of applicable duties.
- Relax the norms requiring SEZ land to be encumbrance-free where it is mortgaged or leased to the Central or State government or their authorized agencies.

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