

# March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Sample Current Affairs

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**1. Model Code of Conduct comes into effect: Lok Sabha Election 2019 will be held in seven phases from April 11 to May 19.**

- What is the Model Code of Conduct?**
- When does the Model Code of Conduct come into effect?**
- What Are the Restrictions for the Ruling Party in the MCC?**
- Is the Model Code of Conduct legally binding? What happens when the code is violated?**

**GS paper 2 ( Important aspects of governance )**

**In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.**

**The above article has been retrieved from:**

Explained

Desk. ( 2019, March , 11). Model Code of Conduct comes into effect; here is what that means. Indian Express. Retrieved from <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/lok-sabha-election-dates-model-code-of-conduct-5619141/>

**What is the context about?**

- The Election Commission of India has announced dates for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls with the country voting in seven phases from April 11 to May 19 and the with results on May 23.

- ❑ Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) has come into effect from today itself and called upon all parties to strictly adhere to the same.
- ❑ The code lays down a list of dos and don'ts for the political parties ahead of elections.
- ❑ Amongst other things, the code bars the government from announcing policy decisions.

### **What is the Model Code of Conduct?**

- ❑ 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 Article 324 of the Constitution, the EC has the power to monitor the Centre, all the state governments, all the candidates and their respective political parties.

### **When does the Model Code of Conduct come into effect?**

- ❑ 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.

### **What Are the Restrictions for the Ruling Party in the MCC?**

It was only in 1979 that restrictions were incorporated for the party in power. The party in power, both in the Centre and the state:

- ✓ Must not advertise at the cost of the public exchequer or using official mass media for publicity on achievements
- ✓ No MP or minister should combine their official visit with campaigning or party work. They should also not use official machinery for the same.
- ✓ Ministers and other authorities must not announce any financial grants, or promise any construction of roads, provision of drinking water, and so on.
- ✓ Other parties must be allowed to use public spaces, and it must not be monopolised by those in power.

**Is the Model Code of Conduct legally binding? What happens when the code is violated?**

- ❑ The EC issues a notice to the political party or a politician for alleged breach of the code, on the basis of a complaint by another party or an individual.
- ❑ The party or the person then has to reply to the EC in writing, either accepting that the MCC was violated, or rebutting the charge.
- ❑ However, the MCC is not enforceable by law. Certain provisions of the MCC can be enforced by invoking corresponding provisions in other statutes, such as Indian Penal Code (IPC), Representation of the People Act etc.