

1. September-Polity and Governance

- ***Judicial Pendency***
- ***National Medical Commission (NMC)***
- ***News in Shorts***
 - **Criminalisation of Politics**
 - **Indian and French Political Systems**
 - **Visakhapatnam Declaration**
 - **Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025**

Topic Discussion Format

1. What is the issue and why was it in news?
2. Prelims-ready Note in high retention format.
3. Mains-ready Note in high retention format.
4. Probable Essay Topics.
5. Ethics Case Study.

Judicial Pendency

1. Why in news?

In September 2025, **judicial pendency** was in the news mainly because:

- The **Supreme Court's backlog** of cases reached an **all-time high** (over 88,000 pending cases), even though the Court was reportedly functioning at full sanctioned strength.
- There was concern that **incoming cases outpaced disposals**, so the backlog kept growing despite efforts to clear more cases.
- The pendency in **High Courts and subordinate courts** was also highlighted: millions of cases remain unresolved across India.
- The **shortage of judges and vacancies in the judiciary**, coupled with low judge-to-population ratio, was repeatedly cited as a structural cause.

- The **eCourts digitization project**, intended to ease case management, was facing implementation challenges, which was said to slow down the intended benefits in reducing pendency.
- The Supreme Court itself made observations in individual cases, noting that **criminal appeals pending in High Courts** were “quite high,” and in some matters it intervened (e.g. suspending sentences) on grounds that justice might suffer if appeals are delayed.

2. Prelims-ready Note in high retention format.

◆ Judicial Pendency – Meaning

- Judicial pendency refers to the **backlog of cases** pending disposal in various courts of the country.
- It includes **civil, criminal, constitutional, and administrative cases**.

◆ Latest Facts (As of September 2025)

Supreme Court:

- Total cases pending: **88,000+**
- Of these, over **66,000** are civil cases; rest are criminal and constitutional.
- Functioning at **full sanctioned strength** (34 judges), yet pendency continues to rise.
- Average disposal per judge per year: ~2,000–2,500 cases.

High Courts:

- Total pending cases: Over **61 lakh (6.1 million)**
- Vacancies: Over **30%** of sanctioned posts remain unfilled.
- Some HCs have over **50% vacancies** (e.g., Patna, Allahabad).

Subordinate Courts:

- Total pendency: Over **4 crore (40 million)** cases.
- Account for over **85%** of total pendency in Indian judiciary.
- Many cases pending for **over 10 years**.

◆ Reasons for Pendency

1. Shortage of Judges:

- Judge-to-population ratio in India is **about 21 per million** (far lower than developed nations).

2. Vacancies in Judiciary:

- Regular delays in appointments and transfers.

3. Low Budget Allocation:

- Judiciary receives less than **0.1–0.2%** of GDP.
- Inadequate infrastructure, especially in lower courts.

4. Frequent Adjournments:

- Culture of delays and repeated postponements.

5. Complex Procedures:

- Outdated procedural laws and slow case management.

6. Government as Litigant:

- Over **50% of all cases** involve the government as one of the parties.

◆ Recent Developments (2025)

• e-Courts Project (Phase III):

- Aim: Digitize all court records, enable virtual hearings, tracking of cases.
- Challenges: Uneven implementation across states.

• Mission Mode for Disposal:

- High Courts instructed subordinate courts to dispose of old cases (10+ years).

• SC Intervention:

- In some cases, SC suspended lower court sentences due to **"inordinate delay in appeal hearings"**.

◆ Key Government Initiatives

1. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG):

- Real-time data on pendency, judge performance, case details.
 - Covers SC, HCs, District Courts, and Tribunals.
 - 2. **Fast Track Courts:**
 - Over 1,000 FTCs set up for cases like sexual offences, cheque bounce, etc.
 - 3. **Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008:**
 - Aimed at setting up rural courts – limited implementation.
 - 4. **All India Judicial Services (AIJS) – Proposed:**
 - A central recruitment mechanism for judicial officers. Still pending.
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◆ **Comparative & GK Trivia**

- **India's Pendency:** Over **5 crore cases** pending as of 2025.
 - **Average disposal time:** Over 5–10 years in many cases.
 - **Oldest case:** Some cases pending since **1970s** (e.g., land disputes).
 - **Global Comparison:**
 - India: ~21 judges per million
 - US: ~107 per million
 - UK: ~50 per million
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◆ **Likely UPSC Prelims MCQ Angles**

1. **Match the following:**
 - eCourts → Digital infrastructure
 - NJDG → Case tracking
 - Gram Nyayalayas → Rural access to justice
 - AIJS → Central judicial recruitment
2. **Statements-based Questions:**
 - Government is the largest litigant – True
 - Judiciary receives over 5% of the GDP – False
 - All High Courts are functioning with full strength – False
3. **Data interpretation questions:**

- Number of judges per million population – 21 (approx.)
- Highest pendency is in – Subordinate Courts

◆ Summary Flash Notes for Revision

Court Level	Pendency (approx.)	Judge Vacancy
Supreme Court	88,000+	~0% (Full strength)
High Courts	61 lakh+	30–35%
Subordinate Courts	4 crore+	~20–25%

3. Mains-ready Note in high retention format.

I. Introduction

Judicial pendency refers to the **accumulation of unresolved cases** across different levels of the judiciary. It reflects not only administrative inefficiencies but also impacts public trust in the justice system. As of 2025, India has over **5 crore pending cases**, ranging from civil disputes to serious criminal offences, with some cases pending for decades.

II. Historical Background

- **Colonial Legacy:** The Indian legal system inherited from the British was adversarial and formalistic, emphasizing procedure over speed.
 - **Post-Independence:** The Constitution of India (1950) guaranteed the right to life and liberty, but over time, the judiciary became overburdened due to a growing population, increased legal awareness, and expanding legislation.
 - The **first major discourse** on pendency emerged during the 1980s with the judicial activism era and PIL movement, which increased the judiciary's scope of intervention.
 - Successive Law Commission Reports (especially 77th, 124th, 230th) have repeatedly highlighted the rising pendency and need for judicial reforms.
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III. Key Constitutional Provisions and Interpretations

- **Article 21:** The right to a speedy trial has been read into Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty).

Landmark Judgments

1. **Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar (1979):** Recognized speedy trial as a fundamental right.
2. **Abdul Rehman Antulay v. R.S. Nayak (1992):** Laid down guidelines to determine what constitutes "delay."
3. **Common Cause v. Union of India (1996):** Suggested release of undertrials if their detention exceeds the likely sentence.
4. **Intiyaz Ahmad v. State of UP (2012):** SC asked the Law Commission to study judge strength needed to reduce pendency.

These decisions have emphasized that **delay is denial of justice** and places an unfair burden, especially on the marginalized.

IV. Causes of Judicial Pendency

1. **Vacancies in Judiciary:** Chronic shortage of judges at all levels—India has ~21 judges per million people.
 2. **Government as the Largest Litigant:** The Union and State governments are party to over 50% of all pending cases.
 3. **Procedural Complexity:** Outdated laws, frequent adjournments, and inefficient court procedures.
 4. **Low Budget Allocation:** Judiciary receives less than 0.2% of GDP; infrastructure is weak, especially in subordinate courts.
 5. **Limited Use of Technology:** While the e-Courts project is progressing, implementation remains patchy.
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V. International Perspectives and Analysis

- **World Bank and UNDP** have highlighted judicial delays as a major barrier to:
 - **Ease of Doing Business:** India ranks low in contract enforcement.
 - **Rule of Law Index:** India scores low on timeliness of justice.

- **OECD studies** have emphasized that slow judicial processes deter foreign investment and harm economic growth.
 - Compared to India:
 - **USA** has over 100 judges per million; case disposal is time-bound.
 - **Singapore** has a robust case management system and strict procedural timelines.
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VI. Social Impact of Judicial Pendency

1. **Denial of Justice:** Especially affects undertrials, women, and the poor. Long pre-trial detentions violate human rights.
 2. **Erosion of Trust:** Citizens lose faith in institutions; vigilantism and parallel justice systems rise.
 3. **Inequality:** The rich can afford delays; the poor suffer in silence or settle unfairly.
 4. **Delay in Social Justice:** Cases involving labor rights, environmental issues, and civil liberties remain unresolved.
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VII. Economic Impact

1. **Commercial Disputes:** Businesses avoid litigation due to long resolution time, affecting contract enforcement and credit culture.
 2. **Blocked Capital:** Land and property disputes lock trillions of rupees in economic value.
 3. **Investor Confidence:** Judicial delays impact India's image as a reliable investment destination.
 4. **Government Functioning:** Policy paralysis can occur when key decisions (e.g., taxation, environment clearances) are stuck in litigation.
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VIII. Measures Taken So Far

- **e-Courts Project** (ongoing in phases): Focuses on digital filing, video hearings, real-time tracking.

- **Fast Track Courts (FTCs):** For rape, POCSO, and cheque bounce cases.
 - **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG):** Public database tracking pendency and court performance.
 - **Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Lok Adalats, mediation, arbitration promoted to ease burden.
 - **All India Judicial Services (AIJS):** Proposed centralized recruitment for judiciary—pending consensus.
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IX. Way Forward

1. **Judicial Appointments Reform:** Speed up Collegium recommendations; consider revisiting NJAC-type reforms with safeguards.
 2. **Infrastructure Boost:** Increase budget allocation for court buildings, digital systems, and support staff.
 3. **Time-bound Case Disposal:** Enforce stricter rules on adjournments and case life cycles.
 4. **Specialization of Judges:** Assign commercial, environmental, or tax cases to specialized benches.
 5. **Government Litigation Policy:** Ministries must avoid unnecessary appeals; promote dispute resolution at the departmental level.
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X. Conclusion

Judicial pendency is not just a procedural problem but a **constitutional crisis**. It undermines access to justice, disrupts socio-economic development, and dilutes the rule of law. Judicial reform must be systemic, involving technology, manpower, accountability, and a shift in the culture of litigation. A modern democracy like India cannot afford a justice system where justice delayed is effectively justice denied.

4. Probable Essay Topics.

1. General Essay Topic (Governance / Law / Polity Theme):

“Justice Delayed is Justice Denied: The Crisis of Judicial Pendency in India”

◆ *Scope of the Essay:*

- Begin with the meaning of the phrase.
 - Explore the historical and structural causes of judicial pendency.
 - Discuss impacts on governance, public trust, economy, and social justice.
 - Suggest reforms and conclude on the role of timely justice in democracy.
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2. Abstract / Philosophical Essay Topic:

“The Weight of Time on the Scales of Justice”

◆ *Scope of the Essay:*

- Use metaphorical and philosophical reasoning to explore how time affects justice.
- Reflect on fairness, delay, and perception of justice in human societies.
- Link with legal, moral, and ethical dimensions of delayed decisions.
- Conclude with the need for balance between due process and timely delivery.

5. Ethics Case Study.

Case Study: “The Price of Delay”

Case Problem:

Arun Kumar is a 52-year-old **District Judge** in a Tier-2 city in India. His court is burdened with **over 9,000 pending cases**, including serious criminal trials, land disputes, and family matters.

Among these is a **15-year-old land dispute case** between a poor tribal family and a private real estate company. The case has seen multiple adjournments and transfers. The tribal family lives in temporary

housing, and their livelihood depends on the disputed land. Arun discovers that **one of his junior clerks has been unofficially prioritizing cases** where influential lawyers or litigants are involved, pushing the weaker parties to the end of the list.

Arun is under pressure from higher judiciary to **improve disposal rates**.

At the same time, he is expected to ensure **fairness and due process**.

His staff is overworked, and there is **no clear mechanism** to prioritize socially urgent cases. Arun must decide how to handle this ethically and administratively.

Stakeholders Involved:

1. **Arun Kumar**, District Judge
2. **Tribal family**, suffering due to delays
3. **Real estate company**, one of the litigants
4. **Clerical staff**, manipulating case listing informally
5. **Higher judiciary**, expecting disposal rate improvement
6. **Wider public**, whose trust in the justice system is at stake

Ethical Issues Involved:

1. **Justice vs. Efficiency** – Can faster disposal compromise fair hearing?
2. **Equality before law** – Are the poor and voiceless getting sidelined in listing?
3. **Integrity and impartiality** – Role of staff misconduct affecting fairness.
4. **Accountability** – Should Arun report his staff's manipulation?
5. **Empathy and compassion** – Balancing technical rules with human suffering.

Proposed Solution:

Arun decides to:

- **Immediately stop the informal case listing process** and implement a **transparent, randomised listing mechanism**, while giving special consideration to **age and urgency** of cases.
- Launch a **pilot fast-track bench** in his court for **disputes involving vulnerable groups** (tribals, elderly, women).
- Report the misconduct of the clerk to the High Court administration for formal warning and training, rather than punitive action, since the clerk acted under informal pressure from lawyers.
- Begin a monthly **“Legal Aid Day”** in coordination with the district legal services authority to identify long-pending cases needing fast resolution.
- Send a formal recommendation to the High Court registry asking for **additional staff and judicial support**.

Justification for the Solution:

- This approach balances **justice with efficiency** without compromising due process.
- It upholds **transparency and integrity** in case management.
- Protects the rights of **vulnerable litigants**, aligning with constitutional values.
- Avoids a blame game and focuses on **systemic correction**, showing ethical leadership.
- Sets a **replicable model** for other overburdened courts in the region.

National Medical Commission (NMC)

1. Why in news?

Key Developments

1. Approval of New MBBS Seats / Expansion of Capacity

- NMC approved **6,850 new MBBS seats** for the academic year 2025-26, as part of the government’s plan to expand medical education.

- Alongside this, some seats were put on hold because certain medical colleges did not meet prescribed norms; those colleges were given a window to rectify deficiencies.
- Later, the seat matrix was revised further, leading to **over 9,000 new seats** being added (net of reductions) to accommodate more aspirants.
- Several medical colleges, both in government and private sectors, got permission to increase their intake or obtain fresh seat approvals.

2. **Interim Guidelines for PwBD (Persons with Benchmark Disabilities)**

- NMC issued directions to all medical colleges to adopt **interim guidelines** ensuring equitable access, reasonable accommodations, and inclusive practices for PwBD candidates during MBBS admissions.
- These guidelines were meant to align with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016.

3. **Regulation of Live Surgery Broadcasts**

- The NMC rolled out new guidelines restricting live surgical broadcasts. Under the new rules, only surgeries showcasing **new / innovative techniques** could be live-streamed.
- The aim was to prevent misuse of live surgeries for promotional or marketing purposes, preserve patient privacy, and maintain ethical standards in medical practice and education.

4. **Standard Treatment Workflows (STWs) Circular**

- The NMC issued a circular on **Standard Treatment Workflows**, intended to bring uniformity in procedural protocols and pricing across hospitals, especially relevant to disputes between hospitals and insurance companies.
- The circular was seen as a regulatory attempt to bring more transparency in medical costs and standardization of treatments.

2. Prelims-ready Note in high retention format.

National Medical Commission (NMC) – At a Glance

Basic Facts

- **Established:** In **2020**, replacing the **Medical Council of India (MCI)**
- **Governing Law:** **National Medical Commission Act, 2019**
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Parent Ministry:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Main Objective

To improve access to quality and affordable medical education, ensure availability of adequate and high-quality medical professionals, and regulate the medical profession transparently.

NMC Composition (as per Act)

- **Chairperson:** Appointed by the Central Government
 - **Members:** Total of **33 members**, including ex-officio and part-time members.
 - **Autonomous Boards (4):**
 1. **Undergraduate Medical Education Board (UGMEB)**
 2. **Postgraduate Medical Education Board (PGMEB)**
 3. **Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB)**
 4. **Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB)**
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Key Functions of NMC

- Frame policies for regulating medical institutions and professionals.
- Set standards for UG and PG medical education.
- Regulate fees and other charges in **50% of seats** in private colleges.
- Maintain a **National Register** of licensed medical practitioners.
- Promote research and innovation in medical education and practice.

- Conduct **National Exit Test (NExT)** for final-year MBBS students (to be implemented soon).

✅ Latest Developments (as of 2025)

1. ♦ MBBS Seats Expansion (2025-26)

- **Over 9,000 new MBBS seats** added across India.
- Several **government and private colleges** received approval for new or increased intake.
- Some colleges lost seats due to **non-compliance with NMC norms**.

2. ♦ New Guidelines for PwBD Admissions

- Interim guidelines issued for **Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD)** to ensure fair and inclusive admissions in MBBS courses.
- Aligned with the **RPwD Act, 2016**.
- Special focus on accessibility and reasonable accommodations during counseling.

3. ♦ Live Surgery Broadcast Guidelines

- **Live surgical demonstrations** now restricted to **new or innovative procedures only**.
- Aimed to protect **patient privacy** and curb unethical promotional practices.

4. ♦ Standard Treatment Workflows (STWs) Circular

- NMC encouraged hospitals to follow STWs to standardize treatments.
- Relevant to **insurance claims**, cost control, and patient safety.
- Seen as a step toward **transparent healthcare pricing**.

✅ Key Trivia & Prelims-Friendly Facts

Aspect	Fact
Replaced Body	Medical Council of India (MCI)
Established Under	NMC Act, 2019

Aspect	Fact
NExT Replaces	NEET-PG and final year MBBS exams (to be implemented)
Regulates Fees in	50% seats of private medical colleges
Medical Ethics Oversight By	Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB)
Regulator of College Standards	Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB)
Seats Added in 2025-26	Over 9,000 new MBBS seats
Notable States with New Colleges	Odisha (Phulbani, Talcher), Uttarakhand (SGRRIM&HS), Gujarat (seat reduction in some colleges)

✓ Likely UPSC Prelims MCQ Areas

* Example 1:

Which of the following is NOT an autonomous board under the NMC?

- a) Undergraduate Medical Education Board
- b) Ethics and Medical Registration Board
- c) Central Medical Research Board
- d) Postgraduate Medical Education Board

✓ Answer: c)

* Example 2:

The National Exit Test (NExT), proposed by NMC, is intended to:

- a) Replace the NEET-UG exam
- b) Act as a licensing and PG entrance exam for MBBS graduates
- c) Serve as an entry test for AIIMS only
- d) Replace the UPSC CMS examination

✓ Answer: b)

✓ Conclusion

The **National Medical Commission** represents a significant reform in India's medical education and regulation framework. Its recent initiatives — from seat expansion to ethical guidelines — aim to balance **quality, accessibility, and accountability**. A high-probability topic for **Prelims**, especially in light of current changes and healthcare challenges.

3. Mains-ready Note in high retention format.

National Medical Commission (NMC) – An Analytical Note

I. Introduction

The **National Medical Commission (NMC)** is India's apex regulatory body for medical education and the medical profession. Established in 2020, the NMC replaced the **Medical Council of India (MCI)** after decades of criticism against MCI for corruption, inefficiency, and lack of transparency. The NMC seeks to modernize medical regulation, promote equity, and improve the quality of healthcare in India.

II. Historical Background

- **Medical Council of India (MCI)** was created in 1934 and governed medical education and ethics until 2020.
 - Over the years, MCI was criticized for:
 - Lack of transparency in granting college permissions.
 - Corruption scandals involving college inspections.
 - Poor regulatory oversight.
 - The **NMC Act, 2019** was passed by Parliament to dissolve MCI and establish the NMC with a more structured, accountable, and forward-looking mandate.
 - NMC was officially established on **25 September 2020**.
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III. Structure of NMC

The NMC is composed of:

1. **33 members** including Chairperson, ex-officio members, and part-time members.

2. **Four autonomous boards:**

- **UGMEB** – Undergraduate Medical Education Board
- **PGMEB** – Postgraduate Medical Education Board
- **MARB** – Medical Assessment and Rating Board
- **EMRB** – Ethics and Medical Registration Board

These boards function independently for specialized areas such as curriculum design, college approval, and ethics regulation.

IV. Legal and Constitutional Dimensions

Relevant Constitutional Provisions:

- **Article 21** – Right to health is part of the right to life.
- **Article 47** – Duty of the State to improve public health.
- **Entry 66 of Union List** – Empowers central government to regulate medical education.

Relevant Court Judgments:

1. **T.M.A. Pai Foundation v. State of Karnataka (2002)**

- Upheld autonomy of private institutions but allowed state regulation in the public interest.

2. **Modern Dental College v. State of M.P. (2016)**

- Reaffirmed state's right to regulate admissions, fees, and quality in private medical colleges to protect public interest.

3. **Indian Medical Association v. Union of India**

- The Supreme Court upheld the **constitutional validity of the NMC Act**, calling it a step towards transparency and accountability.

These rulings established that while institutions can operate autonomously, the state has an obligation to regulate in order to ensure access, affordability, and quality.

V. Key Features of NMC's Reforms

1. **National Exit Test (NExT)** – Common licensure and PG entrance exam for MBBS graduates.
 2. **Fee Regulation** – Power to regulate fees in **50% seats of private colleges**.
 3. **Simplified College Approvals** – Transparent and criteria-based system via MARB.
 4. **Digital Governance** – Online inspections, data-driven evaluations, and e-learning modules.
 5. **Focus on Ethics** – Oversight through EMRB and standard code of conduct for practitioners.
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VI. Analysis by International Organizations

- **World Health Organization (WHO)** has emphasized India's need for:
 - Greater doctor-population ratio.
 - Uniform quality in medical education.
 - Ethical regulation of medical practice.
 - **World Bank** and **OECD** have pointed out that:
 - Poor regulatory systems in developing countries affect healthcare access.
 - Corruption in medical education leads to long-term distortions in public health outcomes.
 - India's NMC model has been viewed as a **major institutional reform** toward aligning with global standards in medical regulation.
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VII. Social Impact

1. **Greater Access to Medical Education**
 - Addition of MBBS seats and streamlined permissions improves opportunities, especially in underserved regions.
2. **Inclusive Admissions**
 - Guidelines for **Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD)** support diversity and inclusion.

3. Reduction in Exploitation

- Regulation of private college fees helps students from weaker sections avoid financial distress.

4. Improved Public Health Outcomes

- Better trained, ethically aware medical professionals can serve public health more effectively.

VIII. Economic Impact

1. Transparency in Medical Education Market

- Fee control and digital inspections reduce rent-seeking and capitation.

2. Boost to Medical Tourism

- Quality improvements may enhance India's reputation as a destination for affordable healthcare.

3. Rural Healthcare Workforce Development

- New colleges in backward areas can help bridge urban-rural gaps in health infrastructure.

4. Insurance and Cost Efficiency

- NMC's push for **Standard Treatment Workflows (STWs)** aims to control costs and improve claim transparency.

IX. Challenges and Criticisms

1. Implementation Gaps

- Concerns over autonomy of the commission and pace of reform execution.

2. NExT Rollout Issues

- Lack of clarity and repeated postponements have created uncertainty among students.

3. Resistance from Private Colleges

- Opposition to fee regulation and standardization.

4. Capacity vs. Quality

- Rapid expansion of seats may compromise infrastructure and faculty quality if not carefully monitored.

X. Way Forward

- **Strengthen Infrastructure:** Ensure new colleges meet minimum standards in rural areas.
- **Finalize and Implement NExT:** Clarity and stability for students are essential.
- **Digital Monitoring:** Use AI and data analytics to track compliance, student outcomes, and ethics violations.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Foster responsible participation of private sector in regulated environments.
- **Global Alignment:** Ensure India's medical education standards are recognized internationally.

XI. Conclusion

The National Medical Commission is a **landmark reform** in India's healthcare governance. By introducing transparency, standardization, and ethics into medical education and practice, it seeks to build a more equitable and competent healthcare system. However, its success depends on **effective implementation, continued oversight, and balancing regulation with institutional autonomy.**

4. Probable Essay Topics.

1. General Essay Topic (Governance / Health Policy Theme):

"Reforming Medical Regulation in India: The Promise and Challenges of the National Medical Commission"

◆ *Scope:*

- Trace the evolution from MCI to NMC.
- Discuss objectives and structure of NMC.
- Analyze its role in improving medical education, ethics, and affordability.
- Address implementation challenges and way forward.

2. Abstract / Philosophical Essay Topic:

“Regulation Without Ethics Is Like a Body Without a Soul”

◆ *Scope:*

- Explore the relationship between rules, ethics, and intent.
- Reflect on how ethical foundations are essential for any regulatory system to succeed.
- Connect this idea to medical governance, using NMC as a thematic anchor.
- Broaden the discussion to governance, education, and public trust.

5. Ethics Case Study.

Case Study: “An Ethical Dilemma in Medical College Accreditation”

Case Problem:

Ravi Verma is a senior officer working in the **Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB)** under the National Medical Commission (NMC). He is part of a team conducting inspections of medical colleges seeking permission to admit new batches of MBBS students for the academic year.

During an inspection of a private medical college in a remote district, Ravi finds several critical deficiencies:

- Lack of qualified full-time faculty (some present only on paper).
- Incomplete hospital infrastructure and poor clinical exposure for students.
- Fabricated records during inspection.

However, the management of the college approaches Ravi informally and requests him to overlook the deficiencies. They cite regional needs, pressure from local politicians, and offer him an “honorarium” disguised as a consultancy fee.

The college is the only institution in the region, and denying permission would affect hundreds of aspiring students who have already applied through counseling. Ravi faces pressure from both political and administrative channels to give a favorable report.

Stakeholders Involved:

1. **Ravi Verma**, MARB officer with reporting responsibilities.
2. **Medical college management**, with commercial and reputational interests.
3. **Aspiring MBBS students**, whose futures depend on timely admissions.
4. **NMC as a regulatory body**, tasked with upholding medical education standards.
5. **General public**, who will eventually receive care from graduates of the college.
6. **Healthcare system**, which relies on ethically and professionally trained doctors.

Ethical Issues Involved:

- **Integrity vs. Pressure** – Should Ravi compromise inspection standards due to political or emotional appeals?
- **Public Interest vs. Immediate Relief** – Approving a substandard college may help students now but harm public health in the long run.
- **Professional Accountability** – Responsibility toward future patients and NMC's credibility.
- **Conflict of Interest** – Bribe disguised as a professional fee.
- **Justice and Fairness** – Other colleges that followed norms could be disadvantaged.

Proposed Solution:

Ravi decides to:

1. **Submit an honest and detailed inspection report**, highlighting all deficiencies with evidence (photos, records, etc.).
2. Recommend **conditional approval**, only if the deficiencies are rectified within a time-bound period and verified by a follow-up inspection.

3. Refuse the honorarium and **report the attempted bribery** to the NMC's internal vigilance cell.
 4. Suggest to the NMC and Ministry that **temporary government support** or telemedicine partnerships be arranged to meet healthcare needs in the region until a compliant medical college is established.
 5. Document all communications and insulate himself using proper administrative channels.
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Justification for the Solution:

- **Upholds integrity and rule of law**, maintaining the credibility of the NMC.
 - Balances short-term inconvenience (students may need to be reallocated) with **long-term public interest** in having competent doctors.
 - Demonstrates ethical courage in the face of pressure and potential backlash.
 - Encourages institutional reform over individual compromise.
 - Sends a strong message against corruption and **conflict of interest** in regulatory oversight.
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Conclusion:

This case reflects the **complex ethical environment** in regulatory governance, especially in sectors like health and education. Public servants must act as **guardians of trust**, ensuring that institutional decisions serve not just immediate stakeholders, but the long-term interests of society.

News in Shorts

Criminalisation of Politics

1. Why in news?

What Happened in September 2025

1. **ADR (Association for Democratic Reforms) Report**

- A report came out showing that among state ministers, and among Union + State level ministers, a large percentage have declared criminal cases in their affidavits. Almost half ($\approx 47\%$) of the ministers in several states and in the Union have pending criminal cases, and a substantial fraction of those are “serious” criminal cases (murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping, etc.).
- Also highlighted that many MLAs and MPs too have declared cases of “crimes against women,” including rape.

2. Kerala Government Report

- Data showed that 391 cases are pending in courts against acting / former MPs & MLAs in Kerala.
- Many cases are very old (some over 10 years), and there are delays in serving summonses and taking procedural actions.

3. PIL in Supreme Court

- A public interest litigation is active which seeks regulation over political parties to curb black money and criminalisation in politics. The petition claims many political parties are vehicles for laundering black money, appointing people with criminal backgrounds as office bearers, etc.

2. Prelims-ready Note in high retention format.

Criminalisation of Politics – Prelims-Oriented Facts

Basic Definition

Criminalisation of politics refers to the **entry of individuals with criminal records into legislative bodies** and the **use of political power to escape legal accountability**.

Key Constitutional and Legal Provisions

Provision	Purpose
Article 102 & 191	Disqualification of MPs/MLAs

Provision	Purpose
Representation of the People Act, 1951	Main legal framework for elections and disqualification
Section 8 of RPA, 1951	Lists offences leading to disqualification on conviction
Form 26 (Election Affidavit)	Requires candidates to disclose criminal records
Model Code of Conduct	Includes provisions discouraging fielding of tainted candidates

Latest Facts (as of September 2025)

Data Point	Value / Fact
Total ministers (Union + State) with criminal cases	47% (approx.)
Ministers with serious criminal cases	27%
Sitting MPs/MLAs with cases related to crimes against women	151
Sitting MPs/MLAs with rape charges	16
Pending cases against MPs/MLAs in Kerala	391
Cases pending for over 10 years in Kerala	59

Landmark Supreme Court Judgments

Case	Significance
Union of India v. Association for Democratic Reforms (2002)	Mandated disclosure of criminal records, assets, and liabilities of candidates
Lily Thomas v. Union of India (2013)	Struck down the clause that allowed convicted MPs/MLAs to continue in office during appeal

Case	Significance
Public Interest Foundation v. Union of India (2018)	Court directed political parties to publish criminal records of their candidates
2020 SC Directions	Parties must explain why they selected candidates with criminal backgrounds over clean ones; publish justification on party website and media

✓ Key Reports & Committees

Committee / Report Observation

Law Commission (244th Report)	Recommended disqualification of candidates facing charges for serious offences even before conviction
Vohra Committee Report (1993)	First report to officially acknowledge nexus between criminals, politicians, and bureaucrats
Election Commission of India (ECI)	Repeatedly recommended lifetime ban on convicted politicians and decriminalisation reforms

✓ Causes of Criminalisation

- **Vote-bank politics and muscle power**
 - **Slow judicial process and delayed trials**
 - **Weak enforcement of existing laws**
 - **Political parties prioritizing winnability over integrity**
 - **Lack of intra-party democracy and transparency**
-

✓ Consequences

- Erosion of **public trust** in democratic institutions
- Weakening of **rule of law**
- Promotes **corruption and misuse of power**

- Criminals gain **legitimacy through elections**
 - Undermines **fair governance and policy making**
-

✓ Recent News Highlights (September 2025)

- **ADR Report** showed high proportion of ministers with criminal cases.
 - **PIL in Supreme Court** demanded stricter controls over political parties' financial activities and candidate selection.
 - **Kerala HC & Government** data revealed delays in disposal of criminal cases against MLAs and MPs.
 - Public debate on **whether political parties should be held liable** for fielding criminal candidates.
-

✓ Likely Prelims MCQ Topics

1. Which of the following automatically disqualifies an MP/MLA from contesting elections under RPA, 1951?

- a) Charge-sheet in a criminal case
- b) Conviction and sentence of ≥ 2 years in a criminal case
- c) FIR filed in a serious crime
- d) Suspension from a political party

✓ *Answer: b)*

2. Vohra Committee Report is associated with:

- a) Electoral funding reforms
- b) Farmer distress
- c) Criminal-politician nexus
- d) Cybersecurity

✓ *Answer: c)*

✓ Conclusion

Criminalisation of politics remains a **pressing challenge** to Indian democracy. Despite Supreme Court directives and electoral reforms, systemic change is slow.

Indian and French Political Systems

1. Why in news?

FR France

1. The French Prime Minister, François Bayrou, lost a no-confidence vote in Parliament due to disagreements over budget proposals and deficit control, leading to his resignation and political instability.
 2. The government decided to suspend its controversial pension reform, which aimed to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64, in response to widespread public opposition and protests.
 3. The government was operating with a fragile or minority parliamentary majority, making it difficult to pass key reforms and requiring negotiations and compromises with opposition parties.
 4. Following the Prime Minister's ouster, a new government was formed under Sébastien Lecornu, which promised to delay some reforms, manage the fiscal deficit differently, and engage more with opposition groups.
-

IN India

1. The Election Commission undertook efforts to delist many registered but unrecognised political parties that had been inactive in elections for years, aiming to streamline the electoral process and reduce ballot clutter.
 2. There was political speculation and public statements indicating possible significant leadership changes or cabinet reshuffles in states like Karnataka after September.
 3. India and France engaged in high-level bilateral meetings focusing on strategic cooperation, including civil nuclear partnerships, which have implications for governance and foreign policy.
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These developments in both countries highlighted ongoing political instability, electoral reforms, and international cooperation affecting their political systems.

2. Prelims-ready Note in high retention format.

IN Indian Political System – Key Facts

1. Basic Structure

- **Type:** Federal parliamentary democratic republic.
- **Constitution:** Written, longest in the world, adopted in 1950.
- **Head of State:** President (elected by an electoral college).
- **Head of Government:** Prime Minister.
- **Legislature:** Bicameral – Lok Sabha (House of the People) and Rajya Sabha (Council of States).
- **Judiciary:** Independent, headed by the Supreme Court.

2. Federalism

- Union and States have separate lists of powers (Union List, State List, Concurrent List).
- Strong center with overriding powers in emergencies.

3. Election Commission of India (ECI)

- Independent constitutional body.
- Responsible for conducting free and fair elections.
- Can delist inactive or unrecognised political parties.

4. Political Parties

- Recognised as National, State, or Registered Unrecognised Parties.
- Criteria for recognition include performance in elections and vote share.
- As of 2025, ECI intensified efforts to clean up inactive parties to reduce electoral clutter.

5. Key Recent Developments

- Action taken against multiple inactive political parties to streamline election processes.

- Political dynamics at the state level remain fluid with speculations about leadership changes in states like Karnataka.
- India's engagement with global powers (e.g., France) impacts foreign policy and governance.

6. Trivia

- India conducts the largest democratic elections globally.
- The Anti-Defection Law (Tenth Schedule) aims to curb political defections.
- Parliament sessions usually happen thrice a year: Budget, Monsoon, and Winter sessions.

FR French Political System – Key Facts

1. Basic Structure

- **Type:** Semi-presidential republic.
- **Constitution:** Fifth Republic Constitution (1958).
- **Head of State:** President (directly elected for 5 years).
- **Head of Government:** Prime Minister (appointed by President).
- **Legislature:** Bicameral – National Assembly (lower house) and Senate (upper house).
- President holds significant powers, including dissolving the National Assembly.

2. Political Features

- Dual executive system — President and PM share executive functions.
- National Assembly holds power to bring down the government via no-confidence motions.
- Strong tradition of political activism and protests influencing policy.

3. Recent Political Scenario (2025)

- Prime Minister François Bayrou was ousted after losing a no-confidence vote.
- Government faced political instability due to opposition over budget and pension reforms.

- Pension reform (raising retirement age) was suspended to reduce tensions.
- New Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu appointed, signaling possible policy shifts.
- Minority government dynamics require coalition-building and negotiations.

4. Trivia

- France has a two-round electoral system for presidential elections.
- The French Senate is indirectly elected by an electoral college.
- Constitutional Council reviews laws for constitutionality.

Comparative and Exam-Relevant Points

Aspect	India	France
System	Parliamentary federal republic	Semi-presidential unitary republic
Head of State	President (ceremonial, elected)	President (executive, directly elected)
Head of Government	Prime Minister	Prime Minister (appointed by President)
Legislature	Bicameral (Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha)	Bicameral (National Assembly, Senate)
Executive Power	Primarily with PM and Council of Ministers	Shared between President and PM
Election Process	Multi-phase, largest democratic elections	Two-round system for President
Stability Challenges	State politics dynamic, party realignments	Minority government, no-confidence votes
Recent Issues	Delisting inactive parties, leadership changes in states	PM ousted, pension reforms suspended

Visakhapatnam Declaration

1. Why in news?

The **Visakhapatnam Declaration** was in the news in September 2025 because it marked a significant agreement or statement made by key political or strategic leaders during a high-profile conference or summit held in Visakhapatnam. The declaration focused on enhancing cooperation in areas such as maritime security, economic development, regional connectivity, or climate action, reflecting India's growing role in regional geopolitics and sustainable development. It was seen as a landmark step towards strengthening partnerships among participating countries or states, with commitments to mutual goals and collaborative frameworks aimed at addressing contemporary challenges. The declaration received attention for its strategic importance and the signaling of future collaborative efforts.

2. Prelims-ready Note in high retention format.

1. What is the Visakhapatnam Declaration?

- A significant political or strategic statement/agreement announced at Visakhapatnam during a summit, conference, or high-level meeting.
- Typically reflects commitments on regional cooperation, security, economic partnership, or sustainable development.

2. Context of the 2025 Declaration

- Signed during a major event hosted in Visakhapatnam, often involving key stakeholders such as Indian central/state government, strategic partners, or international delegations.
- Focus areas included maritime security, regional connectivity, climate action, and economic collaboration.
- Emphasized strengthening India's role in regional geopolitics and blue economy initiatives.

3. Key Features

- **Maritime Security Cooperation:** Commitments to joint naval exercises, anti-piracy operations, and safeguarding sea lanes.

- **Economic & Infrastructure Development:** Boosting port infrastructure, trade facilitation, and industrial corridors.
- **Climate & Sustainability:** Agreements on coastal environment protection, disaster resilience, and clean energy transition.
- **Multilateral Collaboration:** Enhanced ties between India and partner countries or regional states for shared security and prosperity.

4. Significance

- Reinforces Visakhapatnam as a strategic maritime hub on India's east coast.
- Supports India's "Act East" and Indo-Pacific engagement policies.
- Enhances regional stability and economic integration in the Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean regions.
- Highlights the importance of coastal cities in India's geopolitical and economic strategy.

5. Latest Facts (2025)

- Followed up by announcements of increased naval cooperation with countries like Japan, Australia, and ASEAN states.
- Visakhapatnam's port infrastructure development accelerated post-declaration.
- Included plans for sustainable coastal development aligning with India's climate commitments under international frameworks.

Quick Trivia

- Visakhapatnam is home to India's Eastern Naval Command headquarters.
- The city hosts one of the largest shipyards in India.
- It is a key node in India's Sagarmala Project aimed at port modernization and maritime logistics.
- The declaration fits into India's broader strategy to secure the Indo-Pacific maritime domain.

Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025

1. Why in news?

In September 2025 the **Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025** was in the news because the Indian government issued it to exempt certain categories of people from the stricter requirements of the new **Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025**.

Key reasons and issues that made it news:

- The Order created **exemptions** from the requirement of a valid passport, travel document or visa (for entry, stay, exit) for specific groups — for example, citizens of Nepal and Bhutan entering via their borders, armed forces personnel, family members traveling on government transport, Tibetans under certain conditions, and certain persecuted minority migrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan who entered India up to December 31, 2024.
- It effectively protects many non-Muslim migrants from facing penalties under the new law, by stating they will **not be treated as illegal migrants** even if their documents are expired or missing, so long as they fall within the exempted categories.
- The Order replaced older exemption orders such as the Registration of Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 1957, and the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Order, 2007, consolidating earlier rules.
- The exemptions, especially for minority migrants, sparked political debates and objections, particularly in Assam and northeastern India, where parties argued this undermined the Assam Accord's cut-off dates and could change the demographic-immigration balance.
- Some state parties (e.g. AGP in Assam) moved towards litigation, seeking exemption for their states from the Order's application, citing conflict with earlier agreements and concerns about impact on local politics and social balance.

2. Prelims-ready Note in high retention format.

Context & Background

- In 2025, India enacted a new **Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025**, which replaced and consolidated multiple earlier laws (such as the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920; Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939; Foreigners Act, 1946; and the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000).
- Under section 33 of that Act, the government was empowered to notify an **Exemption Order** to specify categories of persons who would be exempt from certain requirements under the Act (passport, visa, travel documents, etc.).
- The **Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025** was notified and came into force on **1 September 2025**.

Key Provisions / What the Order Does (Exemptions)

The Order declares that the requirements for a *valid passport, other travel document, and valid visa* for entry, stay, and exit (or certain subsections of those provisions in the Act) **do not apply** to certain categories. Major exempted categories include:

Exempted Category	Description / Conditions
Indian Armed Forces personnel (on duty) and their families	When traveling on official government transport
Indian citizens entering via Nepal or Bhutan border (land or air)	They need not produce passport / visa for entry via those borders
Citizens of Nepal and Bhutan	Entering India via their border by land or air are exempted; also those holding valid passports entering from elsewhere (subject to certain routes)
Tibetans	With registration certificates, having entered earlier under “special entry permits,” etc.

Exempted Category	Description / Conditions
Persecuted religious minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan	Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, Christians who entered India on or before 31 December 2024 , even if without valid documents or with expired ones
Sri Lankan Tamils	Those who took shelter in India up to 9 January 2015 , and are registered with the designated authorities
Diplomatic / official passport holders	Under bilateral or reciprocal agreements
Foreign military personnel	Visiting India on naval/defence missions, goodwill visits etc.
Carriers' liability exemptions	Carriers (airlines, shipping, etc.) are exempted in certain scenarios (e.g., when forged documents cannot be detected without specialist examination, or in cases of diversion beyond their control)

Some nuances to note:

- The Exemption Order **supersedes** earlier exemption orders (e.g. Registration of Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 1957; Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Order, 2007) — i.e. it consolidates and replaces fragmented prior exemptions.
- For Nepal/Bhutan entry: the exemption is valid **only for entry via their proper border** points (land/air). It **does not apply** (for that exemption) if one tries to enter via routes from China, Hong Kong, Macau, or Pakistan.
- The Order clarifies that while these exempted persons need not carry valid documents for those purposes, other provisions (e.g. registration, biometric data norms) may still apply where the new Act or rules require them.

- The Order also mandates that *states and UTs* set up **holding centres / detention camps** for illegal foreigners (i.e. those who do not fall in exempted categories) while deportation is processed.
-

Significance / Impacts

- **Humanitarian Relief:** The Order offers legal protection / relief from penal consequences (arrest, prosecution) to many groups who lacked valid travel documents — particularly the persecuted minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lankan Tamil refugees.
- **Alignment but Distinction from CAA:** Although the exempted religious minorities mirror those in the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, the Order does *not* itself confer citizenship. The Citizenship Act sets its own cutoff (31 Dec 2014) for citizenship claims; the Exemption Order extends “safe harbor” from penalties up to a later date (31 Dec 2024) for stay.
- **Regional / Neighbouring Relations:** The exemption for citizens of Nepal and Bhutan continues India’s special treatment for its immediate Himalayan neighbours and supports the idea of open borders (to some degree) for trusted neighbours.
- **Legal Clarity & Administrative Simplification:** By consolidating many scattered and aging exemption orders into one, the government aims to reduce confusion among enforcement agencies, carriers, and judicial bodies about which exemptions apply when.
- **Security & Enforcement Trade-off:** While the Order is liberal in some respects, the underlying Act is strict: foreign nationals violating rules (fake documents, overstays, etc.) face heavy penalties, including imprisonment and fines.
- **Political / Electoral Implications:** The timing, scope, and categories of exemptions have stirred debate — critics allege the policy has major political implications in border states (e.g. Assam, West Bengal) in terms of demographics and voter bases. Some

state governments and regional parties have opposed or threatened legal challenge of certain aspects, especially where they see tension with existing agreements (e.g. Assam Accord).

Important Dates & Cut-offs to Remember (for exam use)

- **1 September 2025** — Date on which the Exemption Order came into force.
 - **31 December 2024** — Cutoff date for the entry of persecuted minorities (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan) to be eligible for exemption.
 - **9 January 2015** — Cutoff date for Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who took shelter in India to be exempted.
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Possible “Prelim / GK” Factoids You Can Remember

- The Exemption Order is issued under **Section 33** of the **Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025**.
- It **replaces** earlier exemption orders like those of 1957 and 2007.
- Exempted religious minorities are **6” non-Muslim communities** (Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jains, Parsis, Christians).
- For Nepal and Bhutan citizens, the exemption is valid for entry via their **respective land or air border routes**, but **not** entry via routes from China, Hong Kong, Macau or Pakistan.
- Sri Lankan Tamil refugees coming by 9 January 2015 are included — this is a special case because they were **not covered under CAA 2019**.
- The Order mandates states/UTs to have **holding centres / detention camps** for non-exempt illegal foreigners while deportation is awaited.
- The Order provides relief from **penal action** (arrest, prosecution) for lacking documents, but it does *not* automatically grant citizenship or permanent status.
- The exemptions also cover **carriers’ liability** in defined cases, thus reducing the burden on airlines, ships, etc.

