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Topic 1: Electoral Roll Revision & Electoral Reforms

Syllabus Mapping: GS Paper 2 (Polity & Governance) – Salient features of the Representation of the People Act; Election Commission of India (ECI); Statutory & Constitutional bodies.

1. Statutory & Constitutional Framework

Article 324 of the Constitution: Grants the Election Commission of India (ECI) powers of superintendence, direction, and control over the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.

Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950: Provides the statutory basis for the ECI to order a **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls at any time for reasons recorded in writing.

Special Intensive Revision (SIR) vs. Summary Revision:

SIR: A time-bound, house-to-house enumeration where **Booth Level Officers (BLOs)** physically visit households to verify every entry. India has conducted roughly 14 intensive revisions since the 1950s.

Routine Annual Summary Revision: Updates rolls periodically based on applications without requiring 100% physical verification of every voter.

Form 6: The statutory application form used by citizens (especially those turning 18) to apply for new voter enrolment on the electoral roll.

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2. Issues in Electoral Roll Management: Recent Case Studies

Case Study A: Karnataka Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

Under-Enrolment & Missing Electors: The final electoral roll listed **4,54,55,689 electors**, falling approximately **64.5 lakh electors short** of the estimated **5.19 crore** eligible adult population.

Elector-to-Population (E-to-P) Ratio:

The E-to-P ratio measures the number of registered voters per 100 people in the total estimated population (calculated by dividing total electors by the total population of all ages based on National Commission on Population projections).

Karnataka's E-to-P ratio dropped to **66.11**.

Demographic Disparities:

Young Voters: Adults aged under 30 accounted for **59.5%** (about 38.41 lakh) of all missing electors. Only **33.1%** (6.83 lakh out of 20.66 lakh) of eligible first-time voters were enrolled.

Gender Ratio: Gender representation among enrolled voters improved, with the roll's sex ratio rising from **1,007 to 1,017 women per 1,000 men**.

Urban Discrepancies: Urban areas saw severe drops; 13 constituencies in/around Bengaluru recorded E-to-P ratios below 50, with **B.T.M. Layout** recording the lowest ratio at **39.23** (rolls shrank from 2.82 lakh to 1.41 lakh).

Flaws in Enumeration: Out of 1.08 crore total deletions, only **21.8%** were deceased or duplicate voters; **78.2%** were deleted under the subjective category of "shifted or absent".

Case Study B: Telangana Pre-SIR Form 6 Rejections

Retroactive Rule Application: Out of 5,20,331 Form 6 applications filed between January and mid-June before the SIR started, **1,92,574 (37%)** were rejected.

The Declaration Requirement: The SIR process introduced an attached declaration requiring proof of an applicant's (or relative's) inclusion in the 2002 SIR roll or one of 12 specified citizenship documents. Using this new SIR requirement retroactively to reject earlier, routine applications excluded valid applicants and raised public anxieties regarding a "stealth NRC".

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3. Key Challenges & Recommendations

Challenge	Impact	Proposed Way Forward
Arbitrary Deletions	BLOs striking off voters marked "shifted/absent" under tight targets.	Mandatory re-verification of mass address-based deletions in low E-to-P ratio constituencies.
Youth Exclusion	Complex documentation hurdles shutting out first-time voters.	Targeted campus and workplace enrolment drives for voters aged 18–29.
Procedural Inflexibility	Rejection of pre-SIR Form 6 applications without opportunity to rectify.	EROs requesting missing declarations instead of outright rejections; accepting flexible residency proofs (e.g., utility bills).

Roll Maintenance Delay	Manual verification of deceased voters causing delays.	Link the **Civil Registration System (CRS)** death registry with electoral rolls for automatic deletion upon death.

Topic 2: India's Macroeconomic Growth Dynamics & Investment Cycle

Syllabus Mapping: GS Paper 3 (Indian Economy) – Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development, and employment.

1. Current Growth Momentum

Upgraded Forecasts: Growth projections for India have been revised upwards by multilateral and rating agencies:

- **ADB & Moody's:** Upgraded to **7.0%**.
- **OECD:** Upgraded to **7.1%**.

Key Growth Drivers:

- **High-Frequency Indicators:** Sustained double-digit GST revenue growth for 4 consecutive months.
- **Industrial Production:** Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew by **6.8%** in H1.
- **Demand Dynamics:** Robust urban passenger vehicle sales alongside strong rural demand for two-wheelers and tractors.
- **External & Public Push:** Merchandise exports rose by **18.5%** in Q1-Q2 (aided by a weaker rupee), while Central Government Capital Expenditure (Capex) grew by **18%** during April–August.

2. Macroeconomic Pain Points & Vulnerabilities

None



Fiscal Constraints on Public Capex: Public capex cannot single-handedly sustain economic momentum as the Centre must adhere to its fiscal deficit reduction roadmap.

Agricultural & Supply Risks: Deficit monsoons pose risks to farm output and rural consumption, while rising input costs squeeze corporate margins.

3. Policy Reforms Ahead

- **Trade Facilitation:** Cut tariffs and non-tariff trade barriers to enable seamless participation in global value chains.
- **Evolving Investment Climate:** Ease compliance burdens to stimulate domestic private capex.
- **Foreign Capital Stability:** Establish predictable tax and regulatory frameworks to rebuild FPI confidence.

Topic 3: Green Investment Cycle & Decarbonisation Strategy

Syllabus Mapping: GS Paper 3 (Environment & Economy) – Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment.

1. The Concept of "Carbon Lock-In"

- **Definition:** Carbon lock-in occurs when long-lived capital stock (buildings, industrial plants, energy grids) locks an economy into high carbon emissions for decades.
- **The Structural Advantage of India's Unbuilt Capital Stock:**
  - In advanced economies, the majority of infrastructure is already built (e.g., IEA estimates **~80%** of buildings in use in 2050 exist today; EU has **85%** built before 2000). Retrofitting these is expensive and risks **stranded assets**.
  - In contrast, **NITI Aayog** estimates that **86% of India's 2070 building stock is currently unbuilt**. Floor space is projected to expand from 18 billion m² (2020) to 42 billion m² by 2070. Setting clean standards

today prevents long-term emissions lock-in without costly future retrofits.

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2. Institutional Frameworks & Regulatory Codes

- **Building Energy Codes (Bureau of Energy Efficiency - BEE):**
  - **ECBC 2017:** Energy Conservation Building Code for commercial buildings (notified by 27 States, passed into law by 21).
  - **ECSBC 2024:** Updated Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code for commercial/office spaces.
  - **Eco-Niwas Samhita 2024:** Energy code tailored specifically for residential buildings.
- **Grid Infrastructure Bottlenecks:** Renewable generation expansion is constrained by transmission network lagging; IEA estimates bottlenecks hold back **~60 GW** of renewable capacity.

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3. Market Creation vs. Mandatory Directives

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None
                           APPROACH TO HEAVY INDUSTRY DECARBONISATION
                                                │
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                  ▼
▼
         Technology Mandates
Public Demand Creation
  • Unviable for unproven techs like                         •
Green-steel taxonomy classifies steel
    hydrogen steel or Carbon Capture [24].                   by
emissions intensity [24].
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  • Risks locking firms into obsolete                    •
Public buyers (Railways, NHAI) pool
    or uneconomic processes [24].
demand through competitive tenders capping

emissions intensity [24].
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Cost of Capital Hurdle: Developers in India face a cost of capital for grid-scale renewables that is **~80% higher** than in advanced economies.

Policy Alignment: Align procurement tender caps with carbon targets under the **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)** and utilize risk-de-risking instruments (concessional debt, partial credit guarantees) to lower borrowing costs.

Topic 4: Local Self-Government Dynamics

Syllabus Mapping: GS Paper 2 (Governance & Local Self-Government) – Decentralization of powers and finances down to local levels and challenges therein.

Shift from '3Fs' to 'Functionality': Local self-government governance in India has evolved from the foundational phase of acquiring **Functions, Functionaries, and Funds (3Fs)** to ensuring operational **Functionality** and service delivery efficiency at the grassroots.

Core Governance Issues:

Financial dependence of Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) on state/central grants due to reluctant functional and financial devolution by State governments.

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The administrative pros and cons of merging rural and urban local bodies in peri-urban growth zones.

Impact of women reservations in local bodies vs. lingering patriarchal political dynamics.

UPSC Style Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

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Q1. With reference to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in India, consider the following statements:

The statutory authority for conducting a Special Intensive Revision is derived from Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

Under SIR, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) conduct house-to-house physical verification of every entry on the electoral roll.

The Election Commission of India derives its constitutional powers to superintend and direct electoral roll revisions from Article 326 of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Elector-to-Population (E-to-P) ratio used in electoral management:

It is calculated by dividing the total number of registered electors by the estimated adult population eligible to vote.

A significant fall in the E-to-P ratio below the adult population proportion indicates potential under-enrolment or excessive deletion of eligible electors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q3. Regarding Form 6 under India's electoral framework, which one of the following statements is correct?

(a) It is used by existing electors to apply for correction of particulars in the electoral roll.

(b) It is used by citizens to register as new voters on the electoral roll.

(c) It is a statutory form filed exclusively by non-resident Indians (NRIs) to vote remotely.

(d) It is used to apply for object-based deletion of another voter's name from the roll.

Q4. During the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Karnataka, which demographic group constituted the largest proportion (nearly 60%) of missing electors on the roll?

(a) Senior citizens aged above 75

(b) Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)

(c) Young adults aged under 30

(d) Overseas service electors

Q5. Consider the following high-frequency economic indicators:

- Double-digit growth in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection.
- Expansion in passenger vehicle and rural tractor sales.

Growth in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Which of the indicators given above contributed to the recent upward revision of India's GDP growth forecast by agencies like ADB and OECD? (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

Q6. With reference to foreign capital trends in the Indian economy in recent years, consider the following statements:

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have recorded continuous net capital inflows into Indian stock markets over the past three years.

Steady FPI outflows and rising global crude prices contribute to imported inflation and downward pressure on the Indian Rupee.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q7. In the context of macroeconomic management, why is central public capital expenditure (capex) alone considered insufficient to drive long-term economic growth?**

(a) Public capex is prohibited by law from funding transport infrastructure like roads and railways.
(b) Fiscal deficit reduction targets constrain the government's ability to expand public spending indefinitely.
(c) Central capex automatically reduces domestic consumer demand.
(d) Public capex leads directly to severe deflation in industrial output.

Q8. In environmental economics, the term "Carbon Lock-in" refers to:
(a) The process of trapping industrial carbon emissions underground using carbon capture technology.
(b) A market mechanism where companies lock in carbon credit prices for future trading.
(c) A situation where long-lived infrastructure fixes high-carbon emissions patterns for decades.
(d) A statutory ban on investing in fossil-fuel-based power plants.

Q9. According to estimates by NITI Aayog, what proportion of India's building stock projected for 2070 is currently unbuilt?
(a) About 25%
(b) About 50%
(c) About 65%
(d) About 86%

Q10. Consider the following building energy codes introduced by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE):

ECBC 2017: Applies to commercial buildings.

Eco-Niwas Samhita 2024: Applies to residential buildings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q11. Which of the following is cited as a major economic bottleneck for grid-scale renewable energy development in India compared to advanced economies?

(a) Absence of solar radiation and wind resources.
(b) Cost of capital being around 80% higher than in advanced economies.
(c) Complete prohibition of private sector participation in power transmission.
(d) Excessive reliance on hydrogen-based steel production.

Q12. With reference to the decarbonisation strategy for heavy industries (like steel and cement), which approach is advocated over direct regulatory mandates?

(a) Imposing immediate statutory bans on fossil-fuel-based steel units.
(b) Utilizing public sector procurement (e.g., NHAI, Railways) to pool demand via green tenders.
(c) Mandating hydrogen green steel technology despite its current commercial unviability.
(d) Halting all new infrastructure capital spending until 2030.

Q13. Consider the following statements regarding the Representation of the People Act (RPA) and electoral rolls:

Section 21 of RPA 1950 allows special revision of rolls only during General Elections to the Lok Sabha.

Linking the Civil Registration System (CRS) with electoral rolls can help automate the removal of deceased voters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q14. In the context of Indian governance, the transition of local self-government institutions from '3Fs' to 'Functionality' emphasizes:
(a) Transferring tax-collecting authority exclusively to the Union Finance Commission.
(b) Shifting focus from mere devolution of Funds, Functions, and Functionaries to operational effectiveness and grassroots service delivery.
(c) Abolishing Urban Local Bodies and merging them into District Collectorates.
(d) Replacing elected Gram Panchayats with appointed bureaucratic officers.

Q15. With reference to the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) in India, consider the following statements:

It serves as India's compliance carbon market to align emissions intensity targets.

CCTS emissions targets can be aligned with public procurement green-steel tenders to reduce green premiums over time.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer Key & Detailed Explanations

Answer Key

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Q. No.	Answer	Q. No.	Answer
Q1	(a)	Q9	(d)
Q2	(b)	Q10	(c)
Q3	(b)	Q11	(b)
Q4	(c)	Q12	(b)
Q5	(d)	Q13	(b)
Q6	(b)	Q14	(b)
Q7	(b)	Q15	(c)
Q8	(c)		

Detailed Explanations

Q1. Correct Answer: (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 provides statutory backing for the ECI to conduct special revisions of electoral rolls.

Statement 2 is correct: Special Intensive Revision (SIR) involves BLOs carrying out house-to-house physical enumeration.

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Statement 3 is incorrect: The constitutional superintendence, direction, and control over electoral rolls are vested under **Article 324**, not Article 326 (which deals with adult suffrage).

Q2. Correct Answer: (b)

Statement 1 is incorrect: The CEO computes the E-to-P ratio by dividing total electors by the estimated population of **all ages** (including non-eligible children), not just eligible adults.

Statement 2 is correct: Since adults form ~75% of the population, an E-to-P ratio well below expectations (e.g., 66.11 in Karnataka) signals significant omission of eligible voters.

Q3. Correct Answer: (b)

Form 6 is the statutory application form submitted by prospective voters to register their names on the electoral roll.

Q4. Correct Answer: (c)

Adults aged under 30 constituted **59.5%** (approx. 38.41 lakh) of the missing electors in Karnataka's revised rolls.

Q5. Correct Answer: (d)

All three indicators—double-digit GST growth, strong vehicle sales (urban and rural), and 6.8% IIP growth in H1—were highlighted by RBI and rating agencies to justify GDP upgrades.

Q6. Correct Answer: (b)

Statement 1 is incorrect: FPIs have been net sellers, pulling money out of India for 3 consecutive years.

Statement 2 is correct: Sustained FPI outflows combined with high crude oil import bills depreciate the Rupee (~5.5% slide) and induce imported inflation.

Q7. Correct Answer: (b)

Public capex cannot carry growth indefinitely because the government is bound to reduce its fiscal deficit, placing limits on state spending and highlighting the need for private capex.

Q8. Correct Answer: (c)

Carbon lock-in describes how investments in long-lived infrastructure (plants, buildings, grids) bind an economy to high emissions for decades.

Q9. Correct Answer: (d)

According to NITI Aayog, **86%** of India's 2070 building stock is still unbuilt.

Q10. Correct Answer: (c)

Both statements are correct: BEE formulated ECBC 2017 for commercial buildings and Eco-Niwas Samhita 2024 for residential buildings.

Q11. Correct Answer: (b)

According to the IEA, developers in India face a cost of capital for grid-scale renewables that is about **80% higher** than in advanced economies.

Q12. Correct Answer: (b)

Because technologies like hydrogen green steel are not yet commercially viable, mandating them risks raising costs; aggregating public procurement (Railways, NHAI) via green tenders capping emissions intensity creates a viable market.

Q13. Correct Answer: (b)

Statement 1 is incorrect: Section 21 of RPA 1950 allows the ECI to order a special revision at any time, for reasons recorded in writing.
Statement 2 is correct: Linking the Civil Registration System (CRS) death registry directly to electoral rolls enables automatic removal of deceased voters.

Q14. Correct Answer: (b)

The transition from '3Fs' to 'Functionality' represents moving beyond formal devolution of Funds, Functions, and Functionaries toward actual operational capacity and efficient service delivery at the local level.

Q15. Correct Answer: (c)

Both statements are correct: Aligning green public procurement caps with targets under the CCTS establishes a compliance framework while reducing the green premium for clean industrial production