

CURRENT AFFAIRS

7 OCTOBER 2022



Annie Ernaux wins Literature Nobel

Agence France-Presse
STOCKHOLM

French author Annie Ernaux, known for her deceptively simple novels drawing on personal experience of class and gender, was on Thursday awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Ms. Ernaux, 82, was honoured “for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the

roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory”, the jury said.

Interviewed on Swedish television immediately after the announcement, Ms. Ernaux called it a “very great honour” and “a great responsibility”.

Part of school syllabi

Her more than 20 books, many of which have been school texts in France for



Annie Ernaux

decades, offer one of the most subtle, insightful windows into the social life of modern France.

Personal experiences

are the source for all of Ms. Ernaux’s work and she is the pioneer of France’s “autofiction” genre, which gives narrative form to real-life experience.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14



Also read | A short history of the Nobel Prize in Literature
trib.al/0EmJMB8

TOPIC: ELECTION

Don't lure, persuade

Fiscal rationale for poll promises will impart depth to electoral campaigns

The Election Commission of India's proposal to require political parties to disclose the financial implications of the promises they make in their manifestos will add meaning and depth to electoral campaigns. The idea that parties should communicate to electors the fiscal rationale for promising delivery of goods or services that would involve a significant outgo from the exchequer is already part of the Model Code of Conduct from 2015. The ECI is now proposing a proforma for such disclosures. If parties agree and the idea is included in the Model Code, they will have to spell out the section of society that a particular promise is targeted at, the extent of coverage and the number of likely beneficiaries, and the cost of implementing it. They must also spell out how the required resources will be raised. To give the parties an idea of the fiscal challenge that their promised schemes may pose, the Centre and the States have been asked to disclose details of the budget revenue receipts and expenditure as well as the outstanding liabilities. The information, it is believed, will provide a framework under which a manifesto can be assessed by the voter from the perspective of its financial viability. It may also make parties treat manifesto preparation as a responsible exercise meant to persuade rather than lure the voter.

There is bound to be some resentment among sections of the political class. It may be argued that the ECI should not get into the nitty-gritty of manifesto formulation, especially the manner of its implementation, as that will be the political and administrative responsibility of the party that comes to power on the basis of its promises. The guideline itself arose from a Supreme Court judgment in 2013, upholding the right of parties to make electoral promises even if they involved distribution of consumer goods. It was held that such a promise would not amount to a corrupt practice, and as long as these were financed by budgetary allocations cleared by the legislature, they could not be invalidated. The Court also suggested that to prevent extravagant promises from upsetting the electoral level playing field, the ECI could lay down some guidelines. In practice, however, the ECI's guidelines did not elicit enough information, as parties made only routine and ambiguous disclosures. If implemented, detailed financial disclosures may help in informed voter choice, as rival parties are likely to subject manifesto promises to intense scrutiny. It may also have a more meaningful impact, be it positive or negative, on the prospect of a party winning over the electorate with a single flagship promise.

MCC:

The MCC is a set of guidelines issued by the EC to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections.

It helps EC in keeping with the mandate it has been given under Article 324 of the Constitution, which gives it the power to supervise and conduct free and fair elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures.

The MCC is operational from the date on which the election schedule is announced

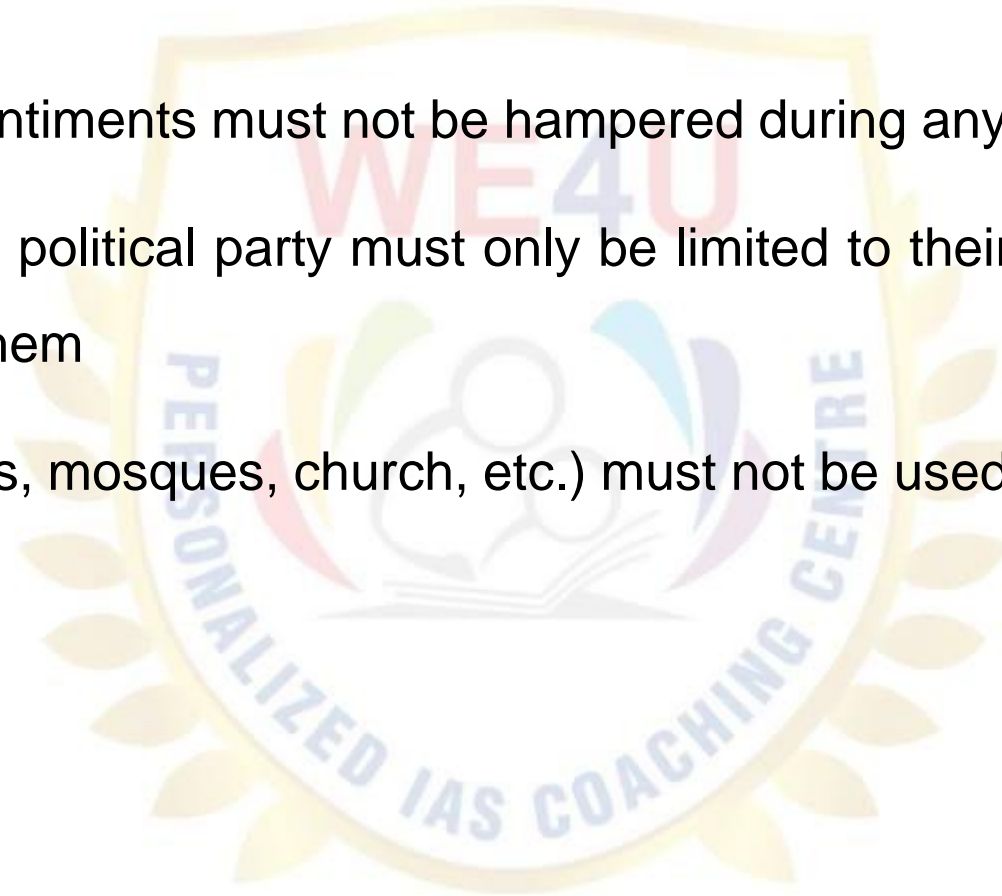
The origins of the MCC lie in the Assembly elections of Kerala in 1960, when the State administration prepared a 'Code of Conduct' for political actors.

Subsequently, in the Lok Sabha elections in 1962, the ECI circulated the code to all recognised political parties and State governments and it was wholeheartedly followed.

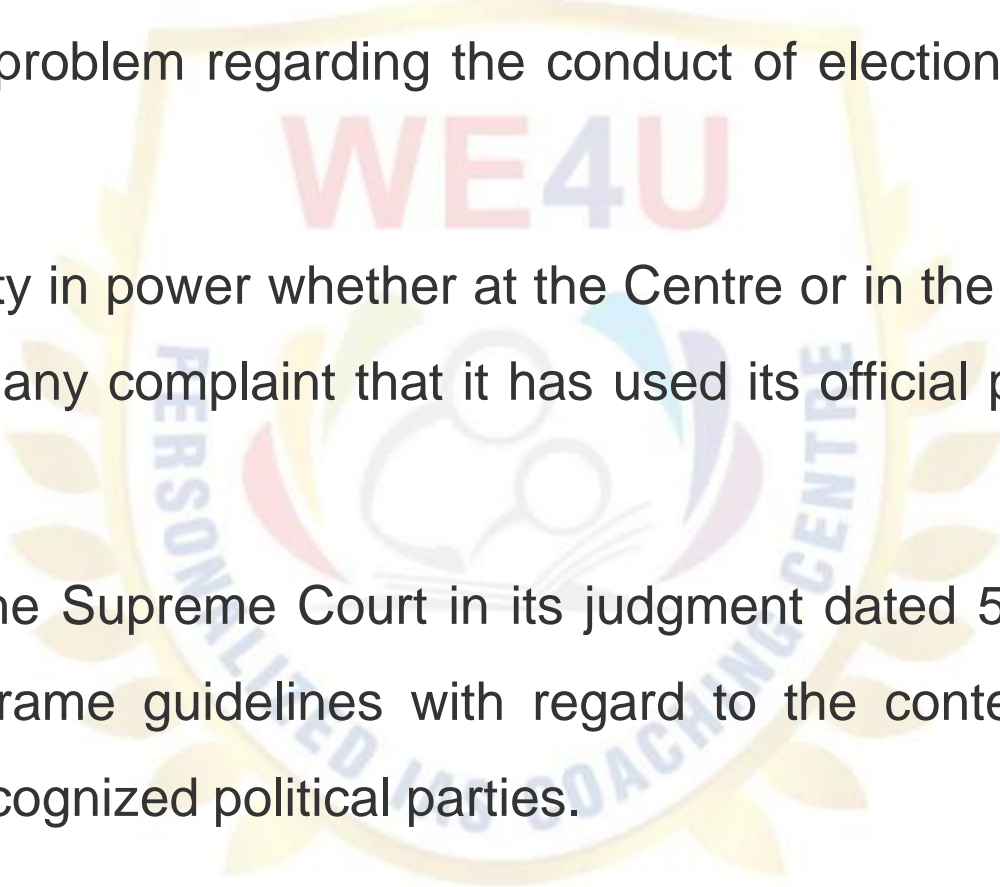
It was in 1991 after repeated flouting of the election norms and continued corruption, the EC decided to enforce the MCC more strictly.

General Provision

- ✓ Religious or communal sentiments must not be hampered during any activity
- ✓ Criticism of the opposition political party must only be limited to their previous policies or work and not personally related to them
- ✓ Places of worship (temples, mosques, church, etc.) must not be used for election propaganda



- ✓ **Meetings** – The party or candidate shall inform the local police authorities of the venue and time proposed for a meeting well in time so that law, order and peace can be maintained by the police
- ✓ **Procession** – The local police or the concerned authorities must be informed well in advance of the time, venue and route of the procession so that the required arrangements can be made
- ✓ **Polling Day** – The party or candidate must cooperate with the authorities at the polling camps for peaceful elections. No eatables or liquor must be served outside the polling camps
- ✓ **Polling Booth** – Except the voters, no one without a valid pass from the Election Commission shall enter the polling booths.

- 
- A large, semi-transparent watermark logo for WE4U is centered on the page. It features the text 'WE4U' in large, bold, red and blue letters at the top. Below it, the words 'PERSONALIZED COACHING CENTRE' are written in a circular path around a central graphic of a person's head and shoulders. The entire logo is set against a background of stylized yellow leaves.
- ✓ **Observers** – The Election Commission appoints Observers. If the candidates or their agents have any specific complaint or problem regarding the conduct of elections they may bring the same to the notice of the Observer.
 - ✓ **Party in Power** – The party in power whether at the Centre or in the State concerned, shall ensure that no cause is given for any complaint that it has used its official position for the purposes of its election campaign.
 - ✓ **Election Manifestos** – The Supreme Court in its judgment dated 5th July 2013 had directed the Election Commission to frame guidelines with regard to the contents of election manifestos in consultation with all the recognized political parties.

World Bank pares India FY23 growth projection to 6.5%

Indian economy's expansion is expected to speed up to 7% in the next fiscal year, before settling back down to 6.1% in FY24-25

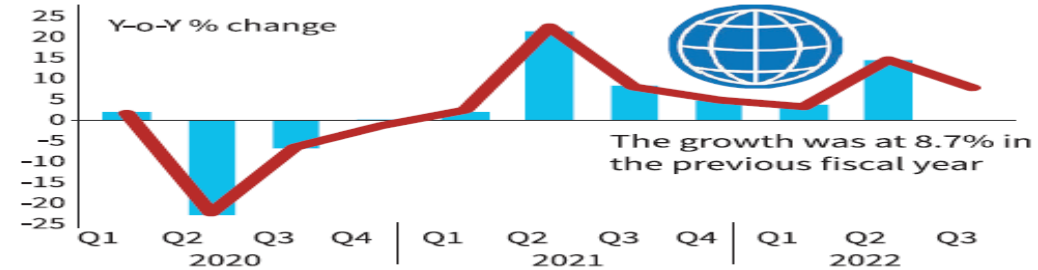
Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC

The World Bank has trimmed its estimate for India's growth in the current fiscal year (FY22-23) to 6.5%, one percentage point lower than its previous projection in June and compared with the last fiscal year's 8.7% pace.

The estimate for the current year was revised due to 'persistent pressures'. The Indian economy is expected to speed up to 7% in the next fiscal year, before settling back down to 6.1% in FY24-25. The estimates were released as part of the Bank's twice yearly South Asia Economic Focus, titled "Coping with shocks:

A slowdown in growth

The chart shows the World Bank's nowcast for quarterly GDP growth. It estimates that India's GDP will grow 6.5% in FY22-23, 1 percentage point lower than the previous estimate



Migration and the road to resilience", ahead of the World Bank IMF annual meetings.

With Sri Lanka's economic crisis, the devastating floods in Pakistan, and

recovery from the pandemic impacted by the war in Ukraine, recovery in the region will be uneven.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

THANK YOU

