International Relations · GS - II

Examine how inflation, fuel prices and presidential approval ratings can influence voter behaviour and legislative elections in a democratic system.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 02/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Cost of living; inflation and purchasing power; voter accountability; presidential approval; midterm elections; economic voting; role of campaigns and local issues

Model Answer

Introduction

Elections provide citizens with an opportunity to evaluate governments' performance. Economic conditions, particularly inflation and fuel prices, can influence public perceptions and electoral choices.

Factors Influencing Voter Behaviour

1. Cost of Living

Rising prices of food, housing, healthcare and fuel reduce household purchasing power. Voters may hold the incumbent government accountable when economic pressures persist.

2. Presidential Approval Ratings

Approval ratings reflect public assessments of a President's performance. Low ratings may affect candidates from the President's party, while high ratings can strengthen their campaign position. However, approval ratings do not determine election results.

3. International Conflicts

Military conflicts and geopolitical tensions can affect energy prices, public expenditure and economic confidence. Their domestic political impact depends on perceived government competence and the distribution of economic costs.

4. Institutional and Local Factors

Candidate credibility, regional concerns, party organisation, voter turnout and constituency-level issues also influence electoral outcomes.

Way Forward

Governments should pursue credible anti-inflation policies, communicate economic decisions transparently and assess the distributional effects of their policies. Voters benefit from reliable information and informed debate.

Conclusion

Economic performance is an important influence on electoral accountability, but election outcomes reflect multiple interacting factors rather than any single indicator.

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