

# Election Freebies

Need to be a policy?

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# Outline

Introduction and Background

Popularity among the Public

Impact and Perspective

Arguments and Issues with Freebie Culture

Mitigation of adverse effects

Conclusion

# Introduction: What is freebies?

What is free? something that is given free-

free electricity/water supply, monthly

Allowance, loan waivers as well as

Gadgets like laptops, smartphones etc.

- Offer promised by political parties
- Integral part of the politics in India
- Enormous electoral benefits

## FREE IS NOT FAIR

➤ SC says distribution of freebies influences all people. 'It shakes the root of free and fair elections to a large degree'

➤ Petition relates to sop war in TN. Against DMK's promise of free colour TVs in 2006, AIADMK in 2011 announced free mixers, laptops & gold mangalsutras

➤ Political parties argue they have a right to project their

policies & economic and political priorities. Say voters decide on basis of promises in manifesto

➤ Court says assemblies, Parliament should decide on legitimacy of freebies



- “Very strong” lessons to be learnt from the turmoil in Sri Lanka.

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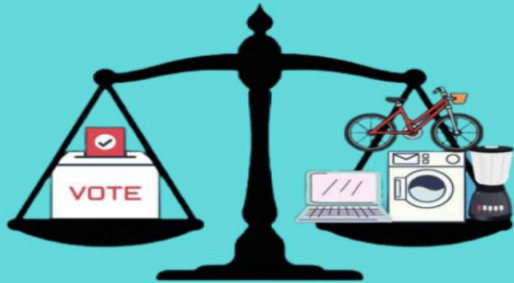
- Taxes reduced from 15 per cent to 8 per cent

- Resulted loss of Annual revenue of about Rs.60, 000 Cr




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## Why are such freebies popular among the public?



- Lack of reach of economic policy.
- Efforts to earn a decent living.
- Rampant unemployment
- Increased cost of living
- Increased consumption
- Necessity



## Can Freebies be compared with Welfare Politics?

# Difference between freebie and welfare politics

These giveaways aren't bad part of welfare.

- It is not good to use giveaways to attract voters.
- Voter greed can cause problems in choosing good leaders.
- Without good leaders, democracy is ridiculed.

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# Impact of such policies

- ❑ Endless Trail
- ❑ State contribution
- ❑ The ultimate loss of the poor
- ❑ Inflation Practices
- ❑ Population lethargy
- ❑ Money will be the only remedy
- ❑ Popular politics



# Perspective

- Essential to meet expectations
- Support developing countries

## Sops opera

**June 3**

Free rides for women in government buses and metro trains



**August 1**

Free electricity for people consuming up to 200 units under domestic connection

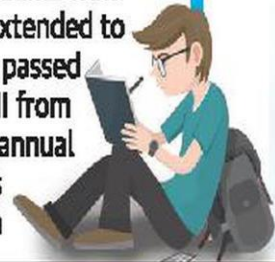


**August 27** Waiver of arrears on water bills and late payment surcharge



**September 3**

Free entrance coaching scheme for students from Scheduled Castes extended to students who have passed Class X and XII from Delhi and whose annual family income is less than ₹8 lakh





# Arguments in favor of Freebies

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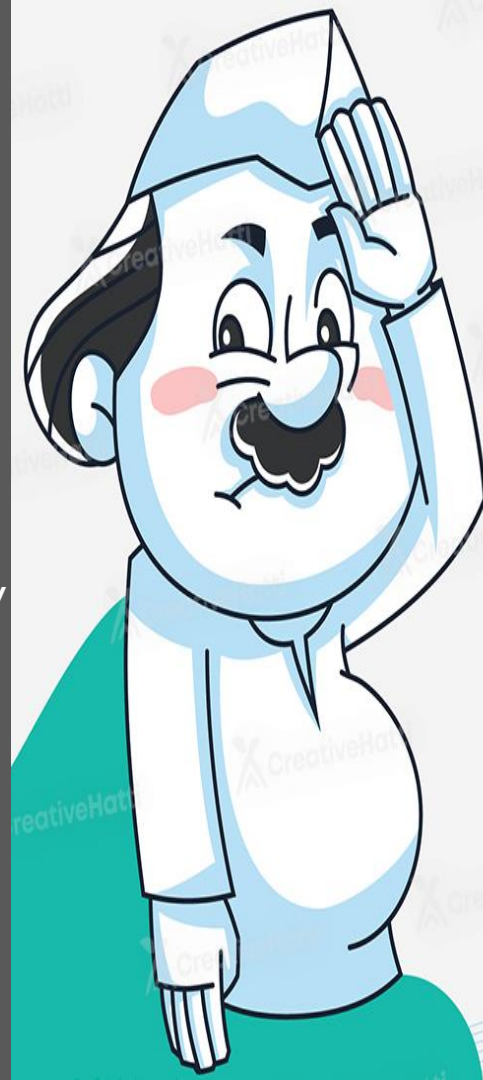
- Basic needs
- Growth
- Industrial Strengthening
- Income gap
- Essential to meeting people's expectations

# Arguments against Freebies

- Unplanned promises
- State Economic Burden
- Unnecessary costs
- Budget deficit
- Waste of Resources and Corruption
- Against free and fair elections
- Spending priority
- Tax avoidance

# Issues with Freebies culture

- Huge debt burden
  - Generate endless cycles of gifts
  - Social inequality
  - Higher effort to handle interest costs only
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**VOTE**  
FOR A BETTER  
**TOMORROW**

[LEARN MORE](#)

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# Measures to mitigate adverse effects

- Role of Finance Committee
- On-Demand Freebies
- Increased transparency
- Results-based budgeting
- General education



**GOOD AND BAD FREEBIES**



# Way Forward



- Expanded insurance coverage
- Reasonable and demand-based giveaways
- Use of time in power
- Distinguish between subsidies and giveaways
- Awareness Among People



# Conclusion

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- Politics and economy should go hand in hand when talking about freebies
- Fundamental rights and Directive principles of state policy should first be secured before making other promises
- Separate the electoral promise of the political party and the welfare schemes which the party will implement after coming to power.



Thank You for your  
Attention!!!

Questions?

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