

## **“Possibilities and Limitations of ‘One Nation, One Election’ in the Federal System of Indian Democracy.”**

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### **Introduction**

Propriety flows from the concept of “One Nation, One Election”, which has become a significant proposal in the discourse surrounding electoral reforms in India. It is favoured by the simultaneous holding of the Lok Sabha (lower house of Parliament) and all state legislative assembly elections to make the electoral process in the country cohesive. This notion emanates from an effort to make governance more efficient and costable by reducing the democratic processes that interrupt governance and electoral fatigue among voters. This proposal is a double sword in a country like India, where diversity is second only to complexity in the political structure and federalism has a dominant role to play. For its part offers several possibilities that could change the face of elections. For example, simultaneous elections might result in huge savings for the state and political parties. Also, consolidating elections presents the opportunity for increased voter participation because citizens would be participating in the selection of representatives at multiple levels of government in a single year, Taylor said. The idea of “One Nation, One Election” has become a significant proposal in the discourse on electoral reforms in India. The entire country must go to vote at the same time. This concept is born from the need to have more effective budgetary economics, lowering costs and frequency of elections that can disrupt government

and give rise to electoral fatigue in voters. This proposal is a double sword in a country like India, which is as diverse as it is united and for which federalism is one of its firmest pillars. On the one hand, there are multiple scenarios that could significantly change the electoral landscape. The financial savings are largely perceived as at least in the combination of elections and division and in the long-term and administrative sense. In addition, the consolidation of the elections could increase the electoral participation of the citizens, since they are responsible for choosing representatives for different levels of government at once, making the turnout rates increase.

**Key Words :-** Participate Government Elections Commission Democracy

### **Possibilities**

The “One Nation, One Election” initiative has a multitude of positive prospects for the Indian democratic structure. Perhaps the most significant benefit is the potential for cost-saving. Holding the elections for Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly simultaneously will save a lot of resources that go into the electoral exercise many times. Such frugality could allow the diversion of more resources to development projects and the public good. An alternative is to boost voter participation. One election day will make it easy to vote, and should encourage more citizens to actually do so. Moreover, having less frequent elections would prevent voters from becoming fatigued with too many elections too frequently, where voters are disconnected from the entire process and be less informed about their candidate choices. The initiative would also bring stability into governance. Such measures could lead to fewer elections, and therefore give elected officials more time to implement policy and govern instead of always campaigning. Such stability creates the environment for long-term planning and

effective governance, which can better serve citizens across the country. Moreover, policy-making that is consistent across different sectors of society is also a bright side. It would force our political parties to think beyond the far smaller bubble of the National and State elections, the US Congress and State Legislatures, and build cross governmental coalitions on deserving issues. Therefore, it is naturally a gigantic step towards Easy & GermFree India.

### **1. Cost Efficiency:**

One of the most compelling prospects for adopting the idea of "one nation, one election" is the huge cost savings to be achieved in the electoral process. If Lok Sabha and all state legislatures are elected together, the financial burden from holding multiple elections in the same period of a government's life will also come down. Campaigning in India comes at a high cost. The expenses of the Election Commission for conducting elections comprise logistics, security, printing of ballots, and establishing polling places in wide-ranging and varied terrains. The government should be able to save significant amounts of money by streamlining these processes. For example, rather than mobilizing administrative resources numerous times, developments would only need mobilization every five years, potentially reducing operational costs. Political parties in turn would no longer have to prepare for and fund several election campaigns in rapid succession, which would lead to reduced campaign spending as well. Furthermore, cost savings would not be limited to the direct costs associated with holding elections. Less frequent elections would allow government funds to be used for development and public welfare schemes rather than siphoned off for election-related activity. This may create a more steady governance climate in which those elected office holders had less of a vested

interest in constant campaigning and more of an incentive to serve and promote policies for their people.

Moreover, a single electoral exercise can yield a higher voter turnout by getting citizens to participate, and this could translate to a more representative democracy at reduced cost. Establishing a universal election cycle could promote a more integrated approach to campaigning, whereby candidates tackle national and local issues symbiotically.

## **2. Increased Voter Turnout:**

India has an opportunity of improving democratic participation through the concept of "One Nation, One Election" in a big way. This would have the advantage of voters being able to vote in a single electoral exercise, promoting voting and ensuring all voters' voices are heard at the same time. One of the key reasons for poor voter turnout in past elections has been voter fatigue due to increasingly short electoral cycles. Citizens are bombarded with campaigning, often a year or more in advance of election dates, and when citizens are overwhelmed, they often simply disengage, foregoing the vote altogether. Having joint elections would lead to less of them: one giant vote rather than many individual elections. This would enable voters to concentrate on a complete package rather than spreading their attention thin, possibly reigniting their interest with the elections. Additionally, a single election would allow national parties and candidates to put out a more coherent campaign addressing national and local issues. Such an all-of-the-above approach might hit home more with voters, who would be asked to vote their way across multiple levels of government at the same time. This sense of civic duty leads people to vote when they feel like their vote matters. In addition, movement towards a unified election cycle may have

the effect of raising the visibility of the electoral process through extensive media coverage, contributing to greater voter turnout. Fundamentally, the "One Nation, One Election" initiative could go a long way in providing for an engaged electorate which can result in increased voter turnout in India and a healthier democratic process.

Conclusion: Well-stable Governance and "One Nation, One Election" Well- Aids to India The frequency of the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly politics can be reduced by synchronizing elections.

### **3. Stable Governance:**

The "One Nation, One Election" concept, once implemented, could help immensely in ensuring stable governance in the country. The proposal to synchronize elections for the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies aims to reduce the number of electoral cycles and, by extension, allow those elected to focus on governance, with less constant worry about a coming election. The institution stability will be important to sustain good and effective policies. When elected representatives are not constantly distracted by recurrent campaigning efforts they are able to spend more time and effort on the important matters that affect those who have elected them. Such focused approach empowers long term planning and implementation of development programme leading to better public service delivery and infrastructure. In addition, a stable governance environment instills confidence in investors, which in turn can contribute positively towards the growth and development of the economy. When political parties are not constantly in a campaign mode, they are more likely to work together and to discuss important issues where they may disagree but want to find consensus, resulting in bipartisan action on major national and state

matters. This spirit of collaboration can increase policy continuity and lower policy volatility, and would benefit the public from the political provision of the government to the special benefits. Essentially, though the "One Nation, One Election" idea may open up a political landscape in India, which prioritizes stability, an iterative approach; the earlier used, on which the data set is based, not making a cocktail of different electoral processes for the data set to play out in National Life.

#### **4. Reduction in Elective Fatigue :**

The One Nation One Election initiative can cause a significant reduction in elective fatigue in the Indian population. Frequent elections can have a disillusioned effect on citizens, as they become exhausted by having to participate at the polls on high frequency. Finally, holding all elections together every five years would lighten the overall load of continuous campaigning and voting. Election fatigue can result in low voter turnout and apathy, with some citizens suffering from a sense of overload from the deluge of political advertisements, rallies, and debates that accompany multiple electoral cycles. The other obvious benefit would be an electoral system that more closely resembles the basic idea of the elections: simultaneous elections would result in voters facing one specific election day and would be able to direct their attention to that single day. This change may revitalize public interest and enthusiasm, as people will no longer have to be confronted with the possibility of duplicated electoral procedures being held every few months. Additionally, having a synchronized election cycle creates a sense of excitement and involvement within the electorate, who would be ready to participate in a broad voting event that touches upon every matter relevant to their country or community. This would make for a more informed

electorate, as voters would have the chance to examine multiple candidates and their platforms at once. Thus one of the important objectives of the proposal of “One Nation, One Election” is to reduce election fatigue which in turn would make the participation of masses in the elections thereby strengthening the overall electoral process in India.

### **5. Promoting Cohesive Policy Making:**

The "One Nation, One Election" concept paves the way for cohesive policy making in India. Simultaneous elections mean that political parties and candidates need to formulate all-encompassing platforms to address issues at the state and national level. This all-encompassing perspective can produce more comprehensive policy discussions and initiatives. 2 [the electoral rules] In a synchronized electoral environment, elected representatives are forced to collaborate across party lines to solve the intertwined problems of their constituents. For example, state and national governments often need to work together to address issues like healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Simultaneous elections also create avenues of dialogue and cooperation that can lead to the evolution of cohesive policies that address the needs of citizens at different levels of governance. Furthermore, consolidated decision-making empowers accountability, as voters are more inclined to ask elected representatives to account for their pledges across different dimensions of governance. Ultimately, when the people see their lawmakers putting aside their differences for the public good, it builds credibility in the political system. A unified electoral cycle also promotes better allocation of resources as governments can prioritize initiatives requiring joint effort. In conclusion, the potential for "One Nation, One Election" to foster a more cohesive and efficient



policy landscape in India is immense and can serve as an important step for both the electorate and the governance machinery at large.

### **Limitations**

Though the "One Nation, One Election" idea offers multiple opportunities, it also has significant restraints that cannot be ignored. One major issue is the constitutional and legal ramifications of passing such a substantial reform. Since separate elections are already mandated for the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies in the Indian Constitution, adoption of this policy would require major amendments which may face opposition from different political groups. Reaching the necessary consensus may well be a long and slow process. The variety of political interests in India is also a challenge. Simultaneous elections can bring national issues to overshadow local issues. If specific regional concerns are not well-represented in the political discourse, voters may feel alienated from the process, which can contribute to disengagement and discontent with the electoral system. Another limitation is the administrative feasibility of holding simultaneous elections. The need to hold elections across extensive and diverse geographical spaces requires a significant amount of resources and coordination. This may put pressure on electoral bodies and law enforcement agencies. This raises the risk that failures in logistics could compromise the integrity of the electoral process. Additionally, such robust electoral context also raises the chances of electoral rigging. An uneven playing field: larger parties use their resources to control the narrative. These challenges reinforce the difficulties and nuances involved in Any successful implementation of "One Nation, One Election" in India's bluesynagogue.

### **1. Constitutional & Legal Hurdles:**



The "One Nation, One Election" or "simultaneous poll" idea faces huge constitutional and legal challenges in India. The separate elections for the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies are a given in the current Indian Constitution, and any alteration to this requires a significant degree of amendment. This maneuvering requires navigating complex legal frameworks — fraught with contention and lengthy muzzling of the music. Changing the Constitution requires going through an elaborate parliamentary procedure and getting a two-thirds majority of both Houses of Parliament. That's the rub, because political consensus is difficult to obtain on big reforms. In addition, these changes would have to be approved by throughout state legislatures as well, complicating the process even further. This is evident in voting process laws that would also need adjustment, as simultaneous elections will be an untouched territory. And the difficulty in setting the cycle for various elections can muddy the waters. Such a synchronized electoral schedule may be clouded by legal uncertainties, for example, due to premature dissolution of the State Assembly. On top of that, the legality of such a massive change in the electoral process could also be challenged by the many stakeholders that have a vested interest, and the subsequent lawsuits may delay any implementation. Therefore, the constitutional and legal issues with "One Nation, One Election" are enormous and will demand meticulous planning and widespread preparation among the legal fraternity to address the nuances of India's democratic structure.

## **2. Diverse Political Interests :**

The 'one nation, one elections' thrust could face hurdles because of the diverse nature of India's politic, where regional parties can leave their mark. India is a federal setup whereby most regions have significant representation in the

democracy and the parties are tribally divided into the much local issues and other specific happenings in the constituencies. A concurrent election, however, risks national issues dominating these local issues — creating a disconnect between voters and their representatives. During their campaigns, political parties might place emphasis on larger national narratives, potentially neglecting crucial regional issues significant to local communities. Such an approach risks alienating voters who do not believe their unique needs are served through a synchronized electoral process. As such, the diversification of political parties imply that not all political parties could benefit from holding simultaneous elections. Smaller regional parties could find themselves sidelined if larger national parties dominated the electoral narrative. Such imbalance would only worsen the historical inequalities in political representation and further disenchant disenfranchised and other disadvantaged people. These concerns should mostly be addressed if the electoral process remains inclusive and representative of the diverse population of India. The successful implementation of “One Nation, One Election” can tip the balance of national and regional interests, and so can restraining the democratic fabric of the country.

### **3. Administrative Viability:**

The challenge of administrative viability. Conducting elections in India is already a gargantuan exercise — assets in the form of resources and people need to be moved over an enormous and diverse country. Holding elections simultaneously would only amplify these logistical challenges. Extensive coordination between the Election Commission, state governments, and law enforcement agencies is another major challenge. Planning for security and appropriate behavior for an election across the nation is complex and requires careful planning and

execution. “What would happen is that the logistical things required to set up polling stations, staff the elections, etc., would be magnified and that could tax administrative abilities. In addition, the diversity of demographic and geographic contexts between states adds to the other challenges. Tailoring approaches based on state-specific electoral dynamics is important for effective voter engagement and participation. This variance can wreak havoc on standardized materials and procedures required to hold concurrent elections. In addition, questions arise as to whether delays in response time and technological problems will be overcome, or whether things will turn out differently due to unforeseen events, such as natural disasters, political upheaval, etc., which create serious disruptions in serving voters, jeopardizing the integrity of the electoral process. An effective response to such a challenge would be critical to restoring public confidence in the electoral system.

#### **4. Risks of Electoral Manipulation:**

A key criticism of the "One Nation, One Election" initiative is the risk of manipulating election outcomes. Holding simultaneous elections also gives an opportunity to larger political parties to use their muscles and resources to corner the entire electoral scene and deviate from the basics of democracy. A major problem is that media bias can favor established parties with deeper pockets. Such an electoral landscape could allow these parties to dominate the media landscape, framing the narrative, and marginalizing minor parties that would struggle to gain a foothold in the media and public consciousness. This imbalance creates an uneven playing field, with the stories of underrepresented parties overwhelmed in the soundscape and a distorted electoral outcome. Further, simultaneous elections can promote vote bank politics, in which political parties

focus more on winning votes from specific constituencies rather than on larger public issues. It would plant the seeds of a culture of electoral manipulation, whereby parties engage in underhanded means — courting voters with cash or gifts, especially in areas where monitoring is weak. The circumstances under which multiple elections must be managed simultaneously can also allow for security and oversight failures, creating opportunities for voter intimidation or coercion to occur. So to respond to these risks we need Parkinsons, we need barbaric surveillance, we need to make sure election integrity offices have independent observer bodies and iron-clad regulations in place.

### **5. Public Sentiment and Acceptance:**

The effectiveness of the "One Nation, One Election" campaign relies heavily on public sentiment and acceptance. For every electoral reform to be effective, it is a must for the electorates and the political parties to embrace a change. It said opinions about it might differ from citizen to citizen and state to state in a nation like India where diversity prevails. The proposal might seem positive to many citizens, as one way to cut down on the number of elections that are exhausting because of the prevalence of the campaign period to the nation. Yet voters fear the quest for a broader appeal will inevitably underplay local issues in favor of national narratives, at the risk of alienating those who feel their unique interests will be sacrificed on the altar of a consolidated electoral strategy. Moreover, local political parties might voice concerns regarding their position in local politics, indicating that larger, national parties could take over the stories told in the election, as well as the power of the purse. This can create an environment in which opposition to the proposal flourishes, especially if stakeholders believe that they will be silenced. Moreover, past experiences with the exercise of the

electoral process may determine the public perception as well. Without laying the groundwork, the average citizen who has encountered problems such as a corrupt process or inefficient voting in past elections would likely see a simultaneous approach as little more than a meal of sliced bread and adamantly doubt that changing the electoral landscape to improve the situation is possible mutual coexistence. Sending awareness campaigns and consultations to the public will be crucial to measure sentiment and provide answers. One Nation, One Election must appeal to citizens if it is to gain traction — and that means ensuring that the multitude of voices that democracy in India is made up of finds expression.

### **Conclusion:**

With that, we must look at the proposal of “One Nation, One Election” as it is the common method of tackling the problem of reforming the election process in India, making it more efficient, less costly and an electorate that is more engaged. Together, this initiative has the potential for things such as substantial cost savings from consolidating elections, heightened voter turnout due to the ease of a unified election and the opportunity for stable governance in an era where elected officials can focus on the implementation of long-term policies rather than chasing after the next election. Furthermore, a coherent policy making could be possible, when political forces were required to take national and local problems to be dealt with together which would encourage co-operation and accountability of elected officials. But it is not without its own caveats. Constitutional and legal challenges are huge and need sweeping amendments or political consensus, a challenge when we are a diverse democracy like India. Moreover, these diverse political interests that are currently in the country evoke the danger of local issues being overshadowed by national narratives, which would hinder the voters

through the feeling of disconnection to the government because their needs have not been addressed. Setting elections concurrently also raises questions of administrative feasibility, as the associated logistical complexity could strain available resources and test the integrity of the electoral process. In this case, parties have the access to sponsorship or "political funds" so larger parties can use their resources to buy the electoral space, and the risk is that if they could undermine fair competition. That said, it is important to recognize that public opinion and approval will be key to this effort's success, as it will necessitate the approval of not just political elites, but the trust and participation of voters. While the concept of "One Nation, One Election" presents a potential revolution for the Indian electoral system, it also requires a balancing act between its potentiality and its restrictive dynamism. It will be important to meet these challenges with a thoughtful, inclusive approach to make sure that the initiative builds rather than undermines the fabric of democracy in the nation and that it genuinely reflects the voices of all citizens.

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