

INDIA'S INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT TO UNITE NATIONS STUDY GUIDE

COMMITTEE: JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

AGENDA: THE QUESTION OF ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION

MANDATE

A joint parliamentary committee is composed of members from both houses of an assembly, such as the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. Joint committees are shaped to conduct uncommon examinations, examine particular issues, or propose particular arrangement issues. Joint committees are sometimes more focused than standing committees, which are made to supervise the day-to-day running of the legislature.

Joint Parliamentary Committees are a provision in the Indian Legislative system that allows the Parliament to constitute a panel of Members of Parliament from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha for a specific plan and period only. The legislators utilise JPC for a detailed study of a national issue, close examination of a proposed bill, or to investigate alleged scams or financial discrepancies; solutions are then submitted as a committee report. Committee Reports thus sent to the parliament may or may not be considered while formulating legislation on the issue.

INTRODUCTION

Elections are core to any ideal Democracy. This act is the heart of the parliamentary system where free and fair elections are held periodically, based on universal adult franchise. In India, elections are like grand festivals that help people to reflect on their aspirations, select their representatives and voice their opinions through the ballot. However, the election impacts almost everyone in the country - citizens, businesses, administration, institutions, leaders and the list goes on but also the future of 1.4 billion citizens. Therefore, it's a tremendous process that goes on in the country in the gap of every few months. The country witnesses 5-7 State Assembly elections every year(except few exceptions) which affects the stakeholders involved.

India had simultaneous elections post-independence till the third Lok Sabha starting from 1951-52, this cycle got disrupted with the fourth Lok Sabha and since there have been no simultaneous elections. The recent debate over One Nation, One Election sparked when the Union government constituted an eight-member panel headed by Former President Shri Ram Nath Kovind to examine the feasibility of holding simultaneous elections.

Election Commission of India

In India, the responsibility of holding free and fair elections is assigned to the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the State Election Commission under Articles 324 and 243K of the Indian Constitution¹, respectively. The election to either the Houses of the Union Parliament or the Houses of State Legislature is regulated and administered by the ECI. The body also holds elections to the offices of the President and Vice President of India. However, the election to local bodies (Panchayati Raj, Municipal Corporations/Councils, etc.) is bestowed upon the State Election Commissions of every State. The transparent and regular conduct of elections in a diverse and populous country fairly and fairly is a daunting task. The ECI has introduced several steps to ensure free and fair elections viz Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) replacing the traditional Black and White Voter ID, periodic revisions of Electoral Rolls, Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), multi-phase polls, awareness campaigns, etc. Currently, the ECI is a multi-member body that includes the Chief Election Commissioner and other election commissions, if any, the President appoints from time to time. Among other administrative responsibilities, the commission has to determine electoral constituencies based on the Delimitation Commission, recognise political parties, schedule elections and most importantly implement the Model Code of Conduct during elections. ECI itself is not just a constitutional body but an essential institution for the democracy of India.

Electoral system in India

The electoral system in India is one of the most comprehensive and largest in the world in terms of culture, language, religion, gender, and ethnicity voting together. However, the electoral system is not just about conducting elections, rather it involves all the essential functions and processes around elections which ensure that the country lives up to its democratic aspirations.

• Elections in India are conducted according to the constitutional provisions and Parliamentary laws. The responsibility of conducting elections and all administrative work around elections is on the Election Commission of India (ECI).

¹ Article 324: Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission; Article 243K: The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Panchayats shall be vested in a State Election Commission consisting of a State Election Commissioner to be appointed by the Governor.

- The Commission, under the Constitution, also acts as a quasi-judicial body that can advise over the disqualification of sitting members of Parliament and State legislatures. However, the Commission cannot review election results of its own, the power to do so relies on the Judiciary through election petitions.
- An independent Delimitation Commission decides upon the size of parliamentary constituencies and draws up boundaries for the same. The Constitution has also given provisions for reserving seats to ensure representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- The Constitution gives provisions for the election of institutions such as the President, Vice President, both Houses of the Parliament² and State Legislatures. Out of these only the composition of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha is determined through direct voting.
- In India, any citizen over the age of 18 can vote in an election to Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha irrespective of caste, creed, religion or gender.
- The ECI prepares the Electoral Roll to register all citizens for voting. Official enumerators are sent, from house to house, to collect data on voters, and Elector's Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) are provided to eligible voters.
- Elections to the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas take place every five years, unless called earlier due to the dissolution of the parliament or if a no-confidence motion passes. In case of death, disqualification or resignation of any member, By-elections are held.
- The ECI scheduled the election dates after which candidates interested in contesting elections go through the process of Nomination, withdrawal, affidavit filing, campaign and lastly the polling day. Any Indian citizen above the age of 25 can contest for Lok Sabha and State Legislature elections.
- During campaign days, the ECI releases a Model Code of Conduct based on a consensus among political parties to create a level playing field for all candidates and avoid any misuse of power.
- Voting in India is by Secret ballot, for Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha, EVMs are used for polling and a polling station, called a booth, is present within 2 km of every voter.

² Indian Parliament has two Houses, namely, the Upper House or the Coucil of States known as Rajya Sabha and the Lower House or the House of the People known as Lok Sabha. The State Legislative Assembles are called Vidhan Sabha.

- Political Parties as another essential aspect of elections in India contest their candidates using symbols to represent their parties as recognised by the ECI.
- Winners are chosen through a first-past-the-post system in which the candidate who polls the most votes is proclaimed the winner.

Constitution and the provisions related to elections and legislature terms

Part XV (Article 324-329) of the Indian Constitution deals with elections and related matters. Article 324 establishes the Election Commission of India (ECI), and Article 325 protects citizens against inclusion or exclusion from electoral rolls on the grounds of religion, caste, creed, or sex. Article 326 gives the provision of adult suffrage for elections to the House of the People (Lok Sabha) and State Legislatures (Vidhan Sabha). Articles 327 & 328 give the power to legislate on the matter of elections to Parliament and State legislatures, respectively. Lastly, Article 329 prohibits the judiciary from interfering in electoral matters.

The Representation of People Act of 1950 and The Representation of People Act of 1951

are two important legislations enacted by the Parliament about elections in the country. The first act of 1950 deals with four key provisions: Seat allocation in the Lok Sabha, Number of seats in State Assemblies, Number of seats in State Legislative Councils and local authorities for purposes of elections to Legislative Councils. The 1951 law regulating the conduct of elections and by-elections, dealt with the registration of political parties, created the administrative machinery for elections, specified the qualification and disqualification of members and gave measures to curb corruption and disputes arising in elections.

Among other provisions, Article 85(2) and 172(1) of the Indian Constitution provide a five-year tenure to the House of People (Lok Sabha) and State Legislative Assemblies (Vidhan Sabha), respectively. Similarly, Article 85 (2)(b) and 174 (2)(b) give the power of dissolution of the House to the President (for Lok Sabha) and Governor (for Vidhan Sabha), respectively. Article 83 (2) of the Constitution provides that during a time of emergency, the term of the House can be extended for a period not greater than one year and not extended six months after the emergency period has ended. Article 172 (1) has a similar emergency provision for the State Assembly. Articles 75(3) and 164(2) provide that the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the People or the State Legislative Assembly, as the case may be.

Simultaneous Elections

Simultaneous Elections entail elections to all three tiers of the Constitutional institutions i.e. House of the People (Lok Sabha), State Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) and Local bodies taking place in a synchronised manner. This means that voters cast their votes for electing members to all the tiers of the Government on the same day. However, the third tier is primarily a State subject as per the Constitution, and considering the massive number of candidates and elections taking place, it would be impossible to synchronise it with Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections. Therefore, the correct way to explain Simultaneous Elections is when a voter casts their vote for both Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha on the same day.

Elected Government in India

Central Government:

Executive: The Union Executive includes the President, Vice President and the Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as the head to aid and advise the President. The Union Government includes the Prime Minister who is the Leader of the lower house and the PM's Council of Ministers consisting of various Cabinet and other Ministers in different portfolios. The Cabinet brings in bills to the Parliament which when passed go to the President for assent to become a law.

Rajya Sabha: The Upper House or the Council of the State has 245 members, of whom 12 are nominated by the President. The remaining 238 are elected by Members of State Legislative Assemblies. The tenure of its members is six years and the Vice President is the Chairman of the House.

Lok Sabha: The Lower House or the House of the People is the main representative of India's citizens. It has 543 members who are elected by holding general elections every 5 years or in special cases like the dissolution of the house.

State:

Unicameral: Most of the States in India have only one house in legislature i.e. State Legislative Assemblies otherwise known as Vidhan Sabha. The Chief Minister (CM) is the leader of the house. The members of these houses are directly elected.

Bicameral: Currently, 6 states have two Houses in their legislature, the Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) and the Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad). States like Andhra Pradesh,

Maharashtra, Karnataka, Bihar, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh have Legislative Councils. The members of this house are selected differently from different groups of citizens.

Local Bodies: The third tier of Government is an essential example of Decentralisation in India. The Parliament enacted the Constitutional (74th Amendment) Act of 1992 to establish local self-government in India. At the Rural level there is Gram Sabha, Gram Panchayat and Zilla Parishad, while, at the Urban level, there are Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils. Local bodies are also directly elected through adult suffrage.

One Nation, One Election

One Nation, One Election is the proposal of the current NDA government for synchronising the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections in the country. The proponents of this idea argue that the country is always in an election mode which adversely impacts Governance. The implementation of the Model Code of Conduct puts a stop to government welfare schemes and pauses development initiatives. Frequent elections also lead to massive expenditure and heavy deployment of security forces for a prolonged period. Proponents also state that frequent elections cause polarisation giving rise to communalism, casteism and corruption.

The following are the advantages of One Nation, One Election:

- It might lead to more focus on Governance and Policymaking since the cycle of continuous elections and campaigning will come to an end.
- Voter turnout would increase as a study³ found that separate elections happening at different times have prevented voter participation due to various reasons.
- If the elections are going to be a once-in-five-year affair, the ruling parties can better dedicate their time to developmental activities.
- The challenges due to the Model Code of Conduct can be avoided.

The following are the disadvantages of One Nation, One Election:

- There is an expected threat to the dilution of regional issues when both National and State Elections are held together.
- Ruling parties might become autocratic without any checks and balances since elections would be held only after five years when a government comes to power.

 $^{^{3}} https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/one-nation-one-election-why-modi-govt-wants-to-go-for-simultaneous-polls-118012500184_1.html$

- Lack of literacy and voter awareness might push voters to vote for one party for both Houses by creating a voter bias.
- It is highly improbable that a regional party will suffer detriment solely because of the election being conducted simultaneously.

The following are the challenges to One Nation, One Election:

- The immense number of the electorate has high logistical and financial requirements. The number of EVMs, other machines, security forces and administrative officers would be overwhelming to manage.
- In case any of the Houses dissolves prematurely or a No-Confidence motion passes against the Government, holding elections would create a legislature gap in the system.

HISTORY

The First General Elections

The First general elections for Lok sabha and state assemblies were conducted between the duration of 25th October 1951 and 21 February 1952. This election took place after the country attained its independence on 15th August 1947 and established an Election Commission two years later. In March 1950, Sukumar Sen was appointed as the inaugural Chief Election Commissioner. A month later, the Indian Parliament passed the Representation of the People's Act. This act provided a comprehensive framework for conducting elections for the Houses of Parliament and the Houses of Legislature in each state. The act aimed to ensure fair and transparent elections, enabling citizens to exercise their right to vote and participate in the democratic process. Over 1,900 candidates took part in the Lok Sabha elections, competing for 489 seats. The total number of people who were eligible to vote was more than 173 million out of a population of around 360 million. This made it the most prominent election held at that time. Indian National Congress (INC) won 364 out of 489 seats and 45% of the total votes polled. Jawaharlal Nehru was elected as the first Prime Minister of India.

The disruption in the cycle

The cycle was once disrupted in 1959 as the central government invoked Article 356 of the constitution, leading to the dismissal of the Kerala government due to a perceived failure of

constitutional machinery. After 1960, defections and counter-defections among political parties led to the dissolution of several state legislative assemblies. This fragmentation resulted in separate election cycles for Lok sabha and state assemblies.

Elections in general

- Candidates are required to file their nomination papers with the Electoral Commission. Then, a list of candidates is published. Campaigning ends by 6:00 pm two days before the polling day. The polling is held between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The Collector of each district is in charge of polling. Government employees are employed as poll officers at the polling stations.
- Electronic voting: A slip generated by the VVPAT (voter-verified paper audit trail) tells a voter to which party or candidate their vote has been given, their name, their constituency and their polling booth.
- NOTA: On 27 September 2013, the Supreme Court of India judged that citizens have the right to cast a negative vote by exercising the "None of the above" (NOTA) option. In November 2013, NOTA was introduced in five state elections. If the majority votes are for NOTA, the region comes under presidential jurisdiction and is treated with laws similar to a national territory.
- Absentee voting: On 24 November 2010, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 2010 was gazetted to give voting rights to non-resident Indians but a physical presence at the voting booth is still required.
- **Postal Voting:** Only certain categories of people are eligible to register as postal voters. People working in the Union armed forces and state police as well as their spouses, and employees working for the Government of India who are officially posted abroad can register for the postal vote, these are also called the "Service voters". Additionally, people in preventive detention, disabled and those above the age of 80 years old can use postal vote. Prisoners can not vote at all.

Reports of surveys conducted by Government and law commissions regarding the policy

Various estimates by the Election Commission, NITI Aayog show that the costs of conducting all State and parliamentary elections in a five-year cycle work out to the equivalent of Rs. 10 per voter per year. A 2015 study by the IDFC Institute found "a 77%

chance that the winning political party or alliance will win both the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in that state when held simultaneously". - undermining the distinctive demands and needs of each state.

CURRENT SCENARIO

The current pattern of elections

Different levels of elections with their respective current representatives are mentioned below:

- **Presidential Elections:** The President of India is elected by an Electoral College comprising members of both Houses of Parliament and the Legislative Assemblies of the states. The President is elected for a term of five years.
- Vice-Presidential Elections: The Vice-President of India is also elected by an Electoral College comprising members of both Houses of Parliament. The Vice-President is elected for a term of five years.
- Lok Sabha Elections: Lok Sabha is the lower house of the Indian Parliament, and the elections to it are held every five years. These elections are conducted to choose Members of Parliament (MPs) who will represent their constituencies in the Lok Sabha.
- **Rajya Sabha Elections:** Rajya Sabha is the upper house of the Indian Parliament, and the elections to it are held every two years. The members of the Rajya Sabha are elected by the elected members of State Legislative Assemblies.
- State Assembly Elections: Every state in India has a Legislative Assembly, and elections to these assemblies are held every five years. Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are elected by the people of their respective constituencies.
- **Panchayat Elections:** Panchayats are local self-government bodies at the village level in rural India. The elections to Panchayats are held every five years, and the members of the Panchayats are elected by the people of their respective villages.
- **Municipal Corporation Elections:** Municipal corporations are local self-government bodies in urban India. Elections to Municipal Corporations are held every five years, and the members of the corporation are elected by the people of their respective wards.

• **By-Elections:** By-elections are held to fill vacant seats in any of the above-mentioned bodies. These elections are held as and when required, and the process is similar to that of regular elections.

Election spending

According to the CMS study, more than Rs. 1,50,000 crore has been spent across various elections held in India over the past five years. Recently, the expenditure limit for candidates for Lok Sabha constituencies was increased from Rs 54 lakh-Rs 70 lakh (depending on states) to Rs 70 lakh-Rs 95 lakh, by the Election Commission of India (ECI). Further, the spending limit for Assembly constituencies was hiked from Rs 20 lakh-Rs 28 lakh to Rs 28 lakh-Rs 40 lakh (depending on state).

Re-introduction of One Nation One Election and the debate

The Union Government has formed a committee headed by former President Shri. Ram Nath Kovind to explore the possibility of a 'One Nation One Election' that aims to hold general and state elections simultaneously. He said that citizens are concerned about frequent elections in one part of the country or another, which adversely impact the economy and development. The committee includes Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, Senior Advocate Mr Harish Salve, Former Leader of Opposition Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad and others.

Reports and studies on One Nation, One Election

The NITI Aayog report of 2017 by members Bibek Debroy and Kishore Desai with the title *Analysis of Simultaneous Elections: The What, Why and How?*⁴ proposed a two-phased election cycle to synchronise both elections. Phase I (Lok Sabha + 14 States) and Phase II (remaining states), require a one-time extension or curtailment of terms of various State Assemblies. The report also cited the increased pressure on resources that would occur.

In 2018, the Law Commission of India presented a Draft Report⁵ on Simultaneous Elections and suggested that holding simultaneous elections is not possible within the existing framework of the Constitution. However, the Commission recommends holding simultaneous

⁴ https://legalaffairs.gov.in/sites/default/files/simultaneous_elections/NITI_AYOG_REPORT_2017.pdf

⁵ https://legalaffairs.gov.in/sites/default/files/simultaneous_elections/LCI_2018_DRAFT_REPORT.pdf

elections to the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies with three different options of having elections in a phased manner which will eventually synchronise elections.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

One Nation, One Election Around the world

Belgium has five different types of elections that take place at a time. Elections for the Federal Parliament which are held every five years, coincide with the election for the European Union representation, Regional election for Flemish, Walloon, German and Brussels Parliament, Provincial elections and Municipal elections.

Sweden has Proportional representation, which means that the parties are given several representatives in the National Assembly called *Riksdag* proportional to their vote share in the election held every four years. Simultaneously, the elections for Sweden's County Councils and Municipal Councils occur. However, elections to Municipal Assemblies occur every five years on the Second Sunday of September.

Indonesia conducts simultaneous elections and a unique and complex electoral process. The elections for electing the Governors, the members of the People's Consultative Assembly (DPR), and regional legislative councils. The unified elections were first initiated in 2015.

South Africa also practises proportional representation. Elections are held every five years for the National Assembly Provincial Legislature and Municipal Councils. However, Municipal Council elections are held separately.

Case Study:

During the 2019 General Elections, Odisha was also having its Assembly election simultaneously. The results for the State Assembly gave a clear majority to the incumbent BJD while in the Lok Sabha, it got 12 seats while BJP and INC got 8 and 1 seat(s), respectively. In the same year, all 7 Lok Sabha seats of the National Capital Territory Delhi were won by the BJP which also formed a government in the Centre. But the next year, in 2020, when Assembly elections were held, incumbent AAP got 62 of 70 assembly seats.

BLOC POSITIONS

Bharatiya Janata Party

The current ruling party at the Centre is right now the major proponent and ambassador of simultaneous elections in the country. The Prime Minister has several times advocated for the importance of One Nation One Election in the country to promote Good Governance and reduce expenditure and utilisation of Government resources. It's the current BJP Government only which formed a high-level committee headed by former President of India Shri. Ram Nath Kovind to examine the issue of holding simultaneous elections in the country.

Indian National Congress

The Indian National Congress has opposed the idea of synchronising elections in the country by stating it as an attack on the Indian Union and its states. INC's Lok Sabha Leader Adir Ranjan Chowdhury declined the eight-member panel set up by the Central Government on simultaneous election citing that the panel's terms have been set up in a manner that the conclusions are confirmed and pre-decided. The party has also called the plan, "constitutionally suspect, pragmatically non-feasible and logistically unimplementable".

Aam Aadmi Party

The party which recently became a National Party and a part of the opposition I.N.D.I.A front has also opposed the idea of One Nation, One Election citing that the country needs frequent elections as this allows political parties to frequently go to citizens to vote with promises which will not be the case if elections happen once in five years. Delhi CM and AAP head Arvind Kejriwal while addressing a gathering called for One Nation, One Education, irrespective of rich or poor instead of One Nation, One Election.

Bahujan Samaj Party

The party is opposed to the idea of simultaneous Lok Sabha and State elections. BSP Leader and former UP CM Mayavati skipped an all-party meeting chaired by the Prime Minister in 2019 calling it a diversionary tactic from public issues.

Communist Party of India (M)

The left party has expressed its opposition against the centre's proposal by calling the formation of the One Nation, One Election panel completely undemocratic and going against

the basic democratic fabric of the Nation. In the past CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury said, "The concept of 'One Nation, One Election' is "fundamentally anti-federal and anti-democratic and strikes at the root of a parliamentary democratic system".

National People's Party

The current ruling party of Meghalaya, NPP is also a part of the ruling NDA(National Democratic Alliance) in the Centre. Meghalaya CM, Conrad Sangma called it a positive idea that requires wider consultations while attending the all-parties meet back in 2019. Deputy CM Prestone Tynsong also supported the Centre's proposal. However, the NDA ally is yet to take any clear stance on the issue as the CM recently refused to answer any questions from the media regarding the same calling them "hypothetical".

Regional Parties

- **a.** North: While Northern regional parties like NC, PDP, JDU and RJD have opposed the idea of simultaneous elections, JJP has welcomed the idea. Surprisingly, former UP CM, Akhilesh Yadav, who is also part of the opposition I.N.D.I.A front has shown support towards it by saying that the ECI must conduct it as a pilot effort in Uttar Pradesh first.
- b. South: Many South-Indian Parties like AIADMK (Tamil Nadu), BRS (Telangana), and YSRCP (Andhra Pradesh) have welcomed the Centre's idea. However, DMK and JD (S) have staunchly opposed it citing the backseating of regional issues.
- **c.** East: Naveen Pattanik's BJD has been a long-time supporter of this policy as his state already has simultaneous elections going on every five years. TMC, however, has opposed it by calling it an "emergency-like situation". Many of the North-Eastern parties are yet to take any clear stance on the issue.
- d. West: Earlier undivided Shiv Sena had supported the concept of One Nation, One Election but post its breakdown into two factions in 2023, the ruling party led by CM Eknath Shinde has supported it. However, former CM Uddhav Thackrey has refused to accept BJP's plan. NCP has also shown its reservations against the idea.

SUGGESTED MODERATED CAUCUS

- 1. Discussing the cost of the current cycle of elections in India.
- 2. Discussing the drawbacks and challenges of holding simultaneous elections.
- 3. Discussing the Constitutional validity of One Nation, One Election in India.
- 4. Analysing the scope for the survival of regional issues within the notion of One Nation, One Election.
- 5. Analysing the preparedness of the current ECI set-up to hold simultaneous Elections
- 6. Discussing the real impact of the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct during elections.
- 7. Deliberating upon the rise of violence and corruption concerning Simultaneous Elections.
- 8. Analysing the effectiveness of One Nation, One Election in the States already having simultaneous elections.
- 9. Re-examining the role of institutions in the effective conduct of free and fair elections in the country.
- 10. Analysing the challenges to synchronising elections in the country.

RESEARCH LINKS

(Note: Delegates, some of the links are only meant for light reading and thus are not highlighted, Only refer to the highlighted sources as valid proof as others may or may not be accepted as a source of proof in the Council. The decision of the Presiding Officer regarding the acceptable sources is Final and Binding.)

- 1. <u>https://eci.gov.in/files/file/15137-the-representation-of-people-act-1951/</u>
- 2. <u>https://legalaffairs.gov.in/simultaneous_elections/NITI_AYOGREPORT2017.pdf</u>
- 3. https://legalaffairs.gov.in/simultaneous_elections/LCI2018DRAFT_REPORT.pdf
- 4. https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1971044
- 5. <u>https://www.britannica.com/topic/election-political-science</u>
- 6. <u>https://m.economictimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/elections-in-last-five-years-co</u> <u>st-rs-1-5-lakh-crore-study/articleshow/34106356.cms</u>
- 7. <u>https://eci.gov.in/candidate-political-parties/expenditure-reports/expenditure-reports/</u>
- 8. https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRntity%20on%20a%20voluntary%20basis

9. https://eci.gov.in/files/file/14260-amendments-in-election-laws-and-rules-reg/

- 10. https://eci.gov.in/files/file/7447-first-annual-report-1983/
- 11. <u>https://www.outlookindia.com/national/one-nation-one-election-the-federalism-questi</u> <u>on-magazine-319108</u>
- 12. <u>https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/opposition-leaders-qu</u> <u>estion-move-to-set-up-one-nation-one-election-panel/articleshow/103282927.cms</u>
- 13. <u>https://legalaffairs.gov.in/sites/default/files/simultaneous_elections/NITI_AYOG_REP_ORT_2017.pdf</u>
- 14. https://lawcommissionofindia.nic.in/cat_electoral_reforms/
- 15. https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=116934
- 16. <u>https://loksabhadocs.nic.in/Refinput/New_Reference_Notes/English/Simultaneou</u> <u>s election to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.pdf</u>
- 17. https://www.thequint.com/opinion/holding-is-desirable-but-not-feasible
- 18. <u>https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/model-code-of-conduct-not-an-obstacle-in-governance-reveals-poll-panel-data/story-lLZ8gwITdzo9GV15zQrZUK.html;</u>
- 19. <u>https://www.firstpost.com/india/simultaneous-elections-in-india-hard-to-see-any-bene</u> <u>fits-but-list-of-drawbacks-continues-to-grow-4332007.html</u>
- 20. <u>http://nujslawreview.org/NUJS-Law-Review-Working-Paper_Response-Paper-to-Law</u> -Commission-Draft-Recommendations-on-Simultaneous-Elections.pdf
- 21. <u>https://www.thehinducentre.com/the-arena/current-issues/one-nationone-poll-and-the-quest-for-political-hegemony/article64931423.ece</u>
- 22. <u>https://www.cnbctv18.com/politics/implementing-one-nation-one-election-constitutio</u> <u>nal-challenges-legal-experts-17698321.htm</u>
- 23. https://byjusexamprep.com/upsc-exam/types-of-elections-in-india
- 24. https://eci.gov.in/candidate-political-parties/expenditure-reports/expenditure-reports/
- 25. https://adrindia.org/content/election-expenditure-report
- 26. https://indiankanoon.org/doc/8019/
- 27. <u>https://www.livemint.com/politics/news/one-nation-one-polls-know-about-pros-and-c</u> <u>ons-of-one-country-one-election/amp-11693715969182.html</u>
- 28. <u>https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/one-nation-one-election-is-vital-for-good-gov</u> <u>ernance/#amp_aoh=16994595620529&referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com</u>
- 29. https://www.nextias.com/editorial-analysis/06-09-2023/one-nation-one-election-p=1
- 30. <u>https://www.wionews.com/india-news/one-nation-one-election-in-2024-law-panel-hin</u> <u>ts-at-major-electoral-change-640069</u>