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**SIMULTANEOUS ELECTION IN INDIA: ONE NATION- ONE ELECTION**

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**INTRODUCTION:**

From ancient times to the contemporary era, we have seen a lot of variations in single systems, and we welcome each and every change to welcome our new self. We are all aware that every system has various paths to achieve it. It changes according to the time we live in. *Change according to time is a way of modernizing yourself.* This applies to India as well, where we are coping with all our problems with modern solutions, and so we are here with this new aspect, which may shape our country's economy, people's lifestyle, policy making, and whatnot. Yes, the system of One Nation, One Election, is not very new to us, actually. But first, let's know what exactly this phrase means. Recently, on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020, our presiding officers proposed the idea of the One Nation, One Election, along with that, our Chief Justice of India also gave an acceptance to the former in December 2020. This has widened in such a manner, the BJP has also started Webinars, to aware the public on this system.

**DEFINING THE TOPIC:**

One Nation, One Election generally means Simultaneous Elections. Our Honourable Prime Minister, explained it by bifurcating it into two parts, (a) Election (b) Electoral Rolls. Here the former represents, that there are various proposals like we can have elections of Lok Sabha + Vidhan Sabha + Local Bodies, but this doesn't mean it will be conducted on one day, rather voter just need to give once a year for all three of them or Lok Sabha + Vidhan Sabha and Local Bodies Election will be held separately. Later, emphasize on Election Commission of India (Article- 324)<sup>1</sup> (makes electoral rolls for the centre and the state) and State Election Commission (Article- 243)<sup>2</sup> (makes electoral rolls for Local bodies) where, he said that list could be made by one organization than made by two different even they can collaborate.

**ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF THIS SYSTEM:**

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<sup>1</sup> Indian Kanoon, <https://indiankanoon.org/doc/950881/> (last visited on March 30, 2026).

<sup>2</sup> Indian kanoon, <https://indiankanoon.org/doc/1331638/> (last visited on March 30, 2026).

“Sarhado par tanav hai kya, zara pata toh karo, chunav hai kya” – Rahat Indori. Apart from all this, we need to think over, why are we in a need to apply this kind of system in India. There are various arguments in favour of the same like, Governance - where we look at the Policy Paralysis, as leader are in race to win the election. We can also look at the Short-Term Gains, where winning election is the final goal. The work load on staff, and we should know that government does not have much staff. They require 9-10 lakhs polling stations, which require approx. 1 crore staff like CRPF, CAPF security etc. Another aspect if we look at is definitely Financial – in which S.Y. Qureshi, noted that in 2019 election 1,000 crores for Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha election alone and Candidate’s expense was of around 5,00,000 crores. For a country like India, this isn’t that much, but it is “Much” which can be spending onto some other development activities. Third merit which can be seen could be Reduction in Corruption – most of the time, party doesn’t have find due to which it collects from big capitalist class or business people, due to which we assume that government is slightly tilted towards those classes and policies also go in favour of them many times, which is known as Crony Capitalism. If this system will be applied then, find will be needed less and corruptive activities may also come down. Another reason in favour of this could be, Social Fabric - It is highly activities of communalism, casteism and regionalism becomes at peak when elections are near, because every political party admires to mount up their vote bank by whatever ways it is possible. Having One Nation - One Election may reduce its regularity. Last but not the least, we can look at Better Voter Turn Out – voting once in a year, will lead to more enthusiasm, interest and participation among the citizens which may reflect even in election results.

### **IT'S APPLICATION IN OTHER DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES:**

This kind of system is hard to implement as we are a democratic country with diversified population. Then what about United States of America, United Kingdom, France, Canada, Australia, Japan? From where our Constitution is highly influenced. If we analysing the election system in USA<sup>3</sup> and UK<sup>4</sup>, USA had more elections than us like, in Federal President, Vice President, House of Representation and Senate State also has two elections for Referendums too. Still, they manage to have their elections on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in the month of November, i.e. in between 2-8 November. And if counterpart’s comments on the federal

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<sup>3</sup> Constitution Annotated, <https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/article-2/> (last visited on March 30, 2026).

<sup>4</sup> Legislation, <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/2/contents> (last visited on March 30, 2026).

structure of India, then let me tell, that USA is more federal than India. Now, in the case of UK, where we see the supremacy of Parliament and even it also goes through various elections like of House of Commons, Devolved Assemblies (North Ireland, Wales, Scotland) along with local bodies and Referendums too. Except of House of Commons, all other elections are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in the month of May i.e. in between 1-7 may. Here the main problem which rose was the PM used to dissolve its government Parliament for the sake of its own interest and due to which election cycle went wrong. For this, a new act came which say that if the government wants to dissolve its majority, then it needs special majority in Parliament, which actually laid down the frequent elections in UK. I mean, if such countries could apply One Nations- One Election, then why can't we?

### **HISTORICAL EXISTENCE:**

A very important point to note is that, this system is not new to us, rather we used to have it since we got into our first election of 1951-52, either it be Lok Sabha + Vidhan Sabha (October 1951- February 1952), then we saw elections of Rajya Sabha, its sessions started from 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1952, President's and Vice- President's tenure started from 13<sup>th</sup> May 1952. This continued till 1967, where we saw simultaneous elections. We came with some problems in Kerala, Punjab state cycle broke, like date due to the death of various Presidents like Zakir Hussain Khan, F.A Ahmed, N.S Reddy, few Vice- Presidents who resigned like V.V Giri, Venakt Raman etc. Also, the cycle of Lok Sabha was disturbed because No Confidence Motion applied in the parliament, Defection happening also due to Prime Minister Choice. Many amendments took place, few; laws were made to down line that hamper in between the elections, like Anti- Defection Law (Schedule 10)<sup>5</sup> in 1985 by Rajiv Gandhi, still there were some loopholes which also resulted in S.R. Bommai case in 1994<sup>6</sup>, regarding Article 356<sup>7</sup> of Constitution. There were many trials to combat such issues.

### **CHALLENGES:**

But still counter parts have good concerts on this system. Like there is an issue of

1. Feasibility - That our constitution doesn't allow us to have such a system and so many EVMs cannot be possibly available at one time. I would reject it by this statement that

<sup>5</sup> Mea, government, <https://www.mea.gov.in/Images/pdf1/S10.pdf> (last visited on March 30, 2026).

<sup>6</sup> (1994) 3 S.C.C. 1 (India)

<sup>7</sup> Indian Kanoon, <https://indiankanoon.org/doc/8019/> (last visited on March 30, 2026).

we still have the power to implemented this procedure and talking about EVM's then we aren't talking about election in one day, rather it can take 2 months, but will happen once a year.

2. Accountability – It may happen that leaders would not be that accountable as they used to be. But why aren't we thinking on USA, UK Systems running smoothly and leaders being fully accountable towards there public and duties.
3. Federalism in Danger - Which is a major concern for the states, which means national issues will be considered more than state or local issues, this will lead to, One Nation, One Election<sup>8</sup>. One Leader too, which may divert into presidential form of government. This could also lead to the increase in the power of Election Commission that State Election Commission.

### VALUABLE AND AUTHENTIC FACTS:

Along with this we have some facts that will make evident how people are aware of whom to vote and give responsibilities to. In 2014 election held in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh etc, BJP won in Lok Sabha election, while in 2019 elections, they made BJP won in Lok Sabha and BJP lost in Vidhan Sabha , Rajasthan was also flooded with a slogan “Vasundhara teri kher nahi, Modi tujhe bair nahi”, which technically defines the Split Voting, where we look at a mature voting system, where voters were well aware whom to vote at what level, without going with the Andhra Pradesh, Delhi etc, every area is reflecting that citizen will vote according to the capabilities, abilities, of the leader who is a candidate of that particular state.

### HOW CAN WE IMPLEMENT IT?

So, as we are holding towards the conclusive part, the best approach, idea given by Dr. Vikas Divyakriti,<sup>9</sup> that, A Gradual Approach should be made in consideration for good turnouts, by 3 steps, i.e. first, try to make it Yearly, then second, try to have Lok Sabha + Vidhan Sabha + Local Bodies elections simultaneously. To implement such system, we need lot of reforms, amendments, laws and all, i.e. reforms in Dissolution Method, like it is in UK. Some

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<sup>8</sup> Pib, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2085082&reg=3&lang=2> (last visited on March 30, 2026).

<sup>9</sup> Dokumen PUB, <https://dokumen.pub/an-undocumented-wonder-the-making-of-the-great-indian-election-9788129134080.html>, (last visited on March 30, 2026).

amendments in Term System, like due to some reason, dissolution happened, so the government should be given the rest of the term and not to restart it with full 5years, like it's done in Panchayati Raj and Municipal Cooperation. Try to reform No- Confidence Motion, like we see in Germany, change in Anti- Defection Law etc. After such an immense discussion, it is not only we who wants this to be implemented, but few lines were quoted by Sath guru Jaggi Vasudev, in an interview with Jay Prakash Narayan on 12 June 2012<sup>10</sup>, "only one ethos, everybody wants to do economically well. This is an opportunity for the people to transform the nation". How can I not mention the fact given in Niti Aayog Report of 2017<sup>11</sup>, that how drastic rise we saw in the cost of 2009 election 2014 Lok Sabha election i.e. from Rs. 1,115 Crores to Rs. 3,870 Crores.

### CONCLUSION:

Our former Chief Election Commissioner of India stated: "elections have become the root cause of corruption in the country; after winning elections, the political bureaucrats nexus indulges in 'Recovering the Investment' that is where corruption begins. "Workers leave their work; military leave its boarder security services, to give their duties elections. After all this how can we expect a good administration in our country with both efficiency and effectiveness? This because a huge question mark on the administrative activities of the nation. It's often said that laws and rules are legislated according to the conditions of the country, but why aren't we taking examples of those too are running such system in similar circumstances. We cannot satisfy ourselves by claiming that our youth, adults, aren't mature enough to know who is right and who is wrong for them. Since last 10- 20 years we have seen a drastic change and improvement in the mindset of the people. We need to support the upcoming advances, facilities, systems, and welcoming the problems with them, because without loopholes no system is referred and we cannot reject this fact, that as loopholes see in the existing systems, One Nation- One Election came into being, so definitely, it has some substance to seek for.

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<sup>10</sup> M.G. Devasahayam, Jayaprakash Narayan: An Idealist Betrayed, The Hindu Centre (March 30, 2026, 8:00 P.M.), <https://www.thehinducentre.com/the-arena/current-issues/article25188707.ece>.

<sup>11</sup> ECINET, <https://www.eci.gov.in/statistical-reports>, (last visited on March 30, 2026).