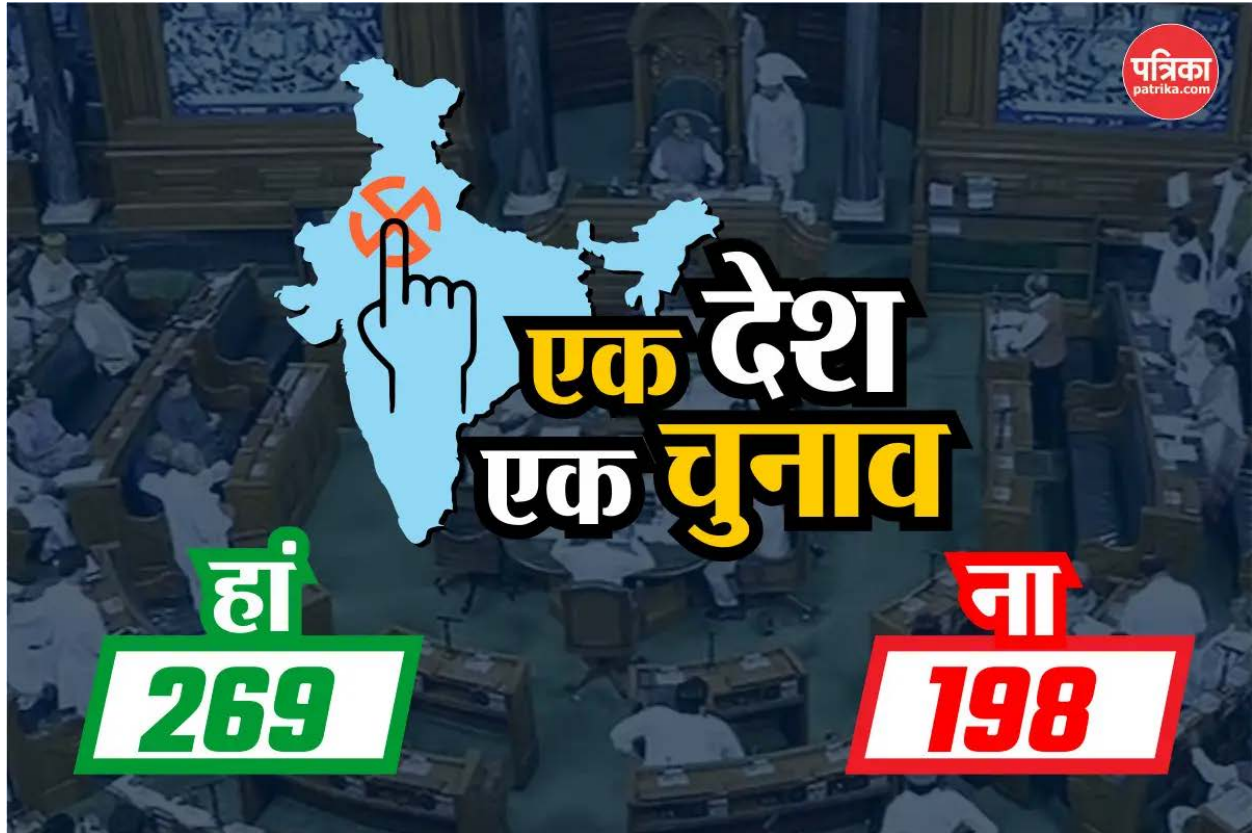


## ONE NATION ONE ELECTION



### Context:

- The **One Nation One Election bill** was introduced in Lok Sabha by the **Union Law Minister**.
- The bill is expected to be sent to a **Joint Parliamentary Committee for wider consultations** with people from different spectrums of society.

## Q.1 What is One Nation One Election?



- **One Nation, One Election** is a proposal under consideration by the Government of India to **synchronize all elections in the country** either **on a single day** or within a specific time frame.
- The high-level committee headed by former **President Ram Nath Kovind** has **recommended simultaneous elections** to the **Lok Sabha and State Assemblies**.
- One of its most notable proposals is to **simultaneously conduct elections to the Lok Sabha & state legislative assemblies of all 28 states & 2 union territories of Delhi & Puducherry**.
- The **ONOE** proposal also includes **elections for urban bodies and panchayats to be conducted within a unified 100-day window**.
- The **Union Cabinet** approved a high-level committee's recommendation on implementing simultaneous national, state and local polls across India.


## Q.2 What is the History of One Nation One Election (ONOE) in India?

**NOT A NEW IDEA**

*Simultaneous elections were the norm from India's first election in 1951 until 1967.*

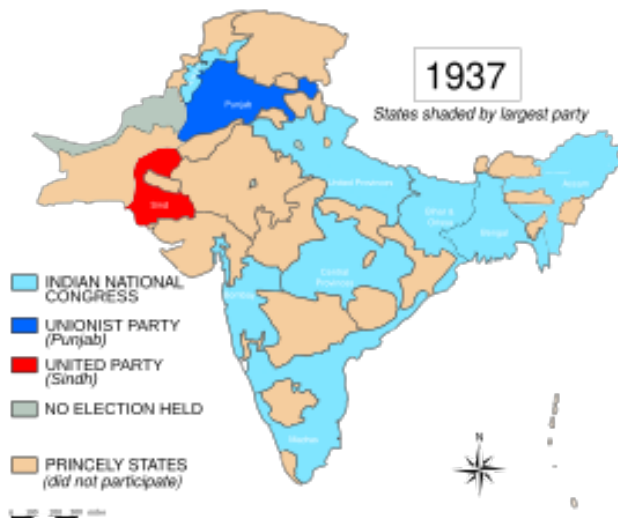
✦ **The first general elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies were held together in 1951-52.** The practice continued for three subsequent general elections in 1957, 1962, and 1967.

✦ This cycle was disrupted in 1968 and 1969 due to the premature dissolution of some State Legislative Assemblies. **The Fourth Lok Sabha was also dissolved prematurely in 1970.**



- **India's government is revisiting the practice of One Nation One Election for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, citing its prevalence from 1951 to 1967.**

History	Analysis
<p><b>Pre-Independence</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The concept of simultaneous elections is rooted in the colonial electoral system under the Government of India Act, 1935.</b></li> <li>● <b>Provincial elections were held in eleven provinces in British India in the winter of 1936–37 as mandated by the Government of India Act 1935.</b></li> </ul>

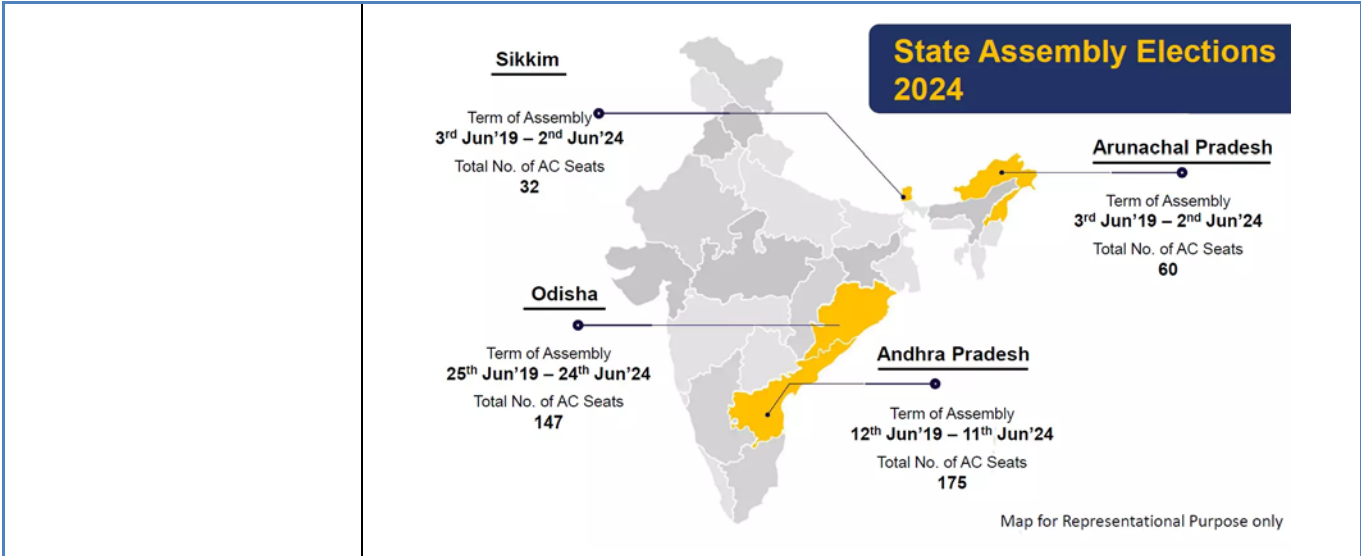


**First general election**

- The first general elections post-independence were held **simultaneously**, with the **state legislative assembly elections** in **1951-52**.
- **One Nation One Election** continued in three subsequent elections held in 1957, 1962, and 1967.



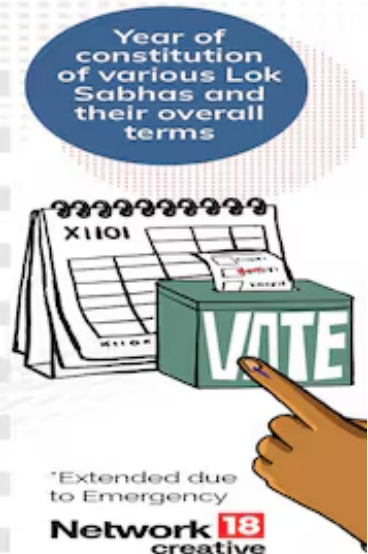
<p><b>Disruption of One Nation One Election</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Following the adoption of the Constitution, elections to the Lok Sabha and all state assemblies were conducted simultaneously from 1951 to 1967.</li> <li>● However, this cycle of synchronised elections was disrupted in 1968 and 1969 due to the premature dissolution of some State Legislative Assemblies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Subsequent Lok Sabha elections</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Fourth Lok Sabha was also dissolved prematurely in 1970, with fresh elections held in 1971.</li> <li>● Unlike the first, second, and third Lok Sabha, which completed their full five-year terms, the fifth Lok Sabha's term was extended until 1977 under Article 352 because of the declaration of Emergency.</li> <li>● Since then, only a few Lok Sabha terms have lasted the full five years, such as the eighth, 10th, 14th and 15th.</li> <li>● Others, including the 6th,7th,9th, 11th, 12th and 13th, were dissolved early.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2024 General elections</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● As happened in 2024, the Lok Sabha elections coincide with just four state assembly elections - Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, and Sikkim.</li> </ul>



## BEHIND INDIA'S STAGGERED POLLS

Premature dissolutions and term extensions disrupted the cycle of simultaneous elections, leading to the current pattern of staggered electoral schedules across the country.

Lok Sabha	Year of constitution of Lok Sabha	Overall term
1st	1952	5 years
2nd	1957	5 years
3rd	1962	5 years
4th	1967	3 years, 10 months
5th	1971	5 years, 10 months*
6th	1977	2 years, 5 months
7th	1980	5 years
8th	1984	5 years
9th	1989	1 year, 3 months
10th	1991	5 years
11th	1996	1 year, 6 months
12th	1998	1 year, 1 month
13th	1999	4 year, 4 months
14th	2004	5 years
15th	2009	5 years
16th	2014	5 years
17th	2019	5 years



### Q.3 What were the recommendations of the Shri Ramnath Kovind panel on One Nation One Election?



- A high-level panel headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind submitted its report to President Droupadi Murmu, in March 2024 had recommended simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies as the first step followed by synchronized local body polls within 100 days.
- The other members of the panel are Union Home Minister Amit Shah, former leader of the opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, former Finance Commission chairman NK Singh, former Lok Sabha secretary general Subhash Kashyap and senior advocate Harish Salve.

- The panel has highlighted that over **80 percent** of nearly **21,000 suggestions** from the public were in favor of the exercise.
- Of the **47 political parties** that submitted their opinions to the Kovind panel, **32 supported** the idea while **15 opposed** it.
- These **32** are either **Bharatiya Janata Party allies** or friendly towards the **National Democratic Alliance**.

**Reviving an old debate**  
Centre has said a committee has been formed to explore the possibility of simultaneous polls for LS and state assemblies

**PANEL FORMED** While the panel is likely going to be headed by former **PRESIDENT RAM NATH KOVIND**, its composition and the terms of its functioning will be announced soon

**WHAT HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT THE IDEA**

**NITI AAYOG**  
A 2016 paper, co-authored by Bibek Debroy and Kishore Desai, noted....

- Separate elections lead to massive recurring expenditures as well as prolonged deployment of forces
- It suggested holding elections in two cycles with an interregnum of 30 months
- It pegged cost of simultaneous polls at ₹4,500 crore, while the cost of 2014 Lok Sabha polls alone was ₹3,870 crore

**STANDING COMMITTEE**  
In 2015, the House panel on personnel, public grievances, law and justice said...

- Elections could be held in two phases
- Polls to some assemblies can be held in Lok Sabha midterm and remaining assemblies could be held at the end of Lok Sabha term

**LAW COMMISSION**  
In 1999, the Law Commission in its 170th report on Reform of Electoral Laws said...

- Holding simultaneous polls would be ideal, but a workable formula is required to be in the Constitution
- The holding of a separate election to assemblies should be an exception and not the rule
- Another law panel report, in 2018, said simultaneous polls don't alter balance of power between Union and the states

The **top 10 recommendations** on simultaneous polls made by the high-level panel on "one nation, one election" are:

1.	• The government must develop a <b>legally-tenable mechanism</b> in order to restore the <b>cycle of simultaneous elections</b> .
2.	• In the <b>first stage</b> , elections for the <b>Lok Sabha</b> and <b>all state legislative assemblies</b> can be held together.
3.	• In the <b>second step</b> , the elections to <b>municipalities and panchayats</b> will be synchronised with the <b>Lok Sabha</b> and



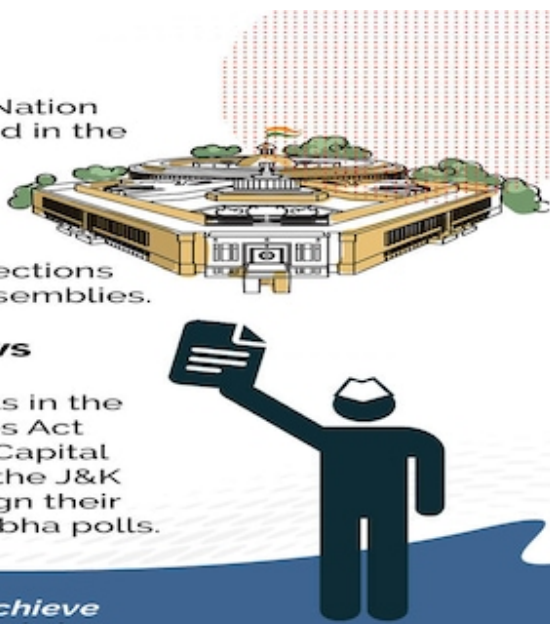
	<b>state assemblies</b> in such a way that the polls to municipalities and panchayats are held <b>within 100 days of the holding of the parliamentary and Assembly elections.</b>
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the purpose of <b>synchronising the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections</b>, the president shall notify the date of the <b>first sitting of the Lok Sabha</b> after a general election as the <b>"appointed date"</b>.</li> </ul>
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>tenure of all state assemblies</b> formed via polls after the <b>"appointed date"</b> and <b>before the expiry of the full term of the Lok Sabha</b> will <b>only be for the period ending up to the subsequent parliamentary polls.</b></li> <li>After this one-time transitory measure, <b>all Lok Sabha and Assembly polls will be held simultaneously.</b></li> </ul>
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fresh elections <b>could be held to constitute a new Lok Sabha in the event</b> of a hung House or a no-confidence motion or any such event.</li> </ul>
7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where <b>fresh elections are held for the House of the People (Lok Sabha)</b>, the tenure of the House will be <b>"only for the unexpired (remaining) term of the immediately preceding full term of the House"</b>.</li> </ul>
8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When fresh elections are held for state legislative assemblies, then such new assemblies <b>unless sooner dissolved shall continue up to the end of the full term of the Lok Sabha.</b></li> </ul>
9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A <b>single electoral roll and elector's photo identity card (EPIC)</b> shall be prepared by the <b>Election Commission (EC)</b> in consultation with the <b>state election commissions</b> and the same will substitute any other electoral roll prepared by the EC.</li> </ul>
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For making logistical arrangements for the conduct of simultaneous elections, the <b>EC may draw up a plan and estimate in advance for the procurement of equipment,</b></li> </ul>

such as EVMs and VVPATs, deployment of polling personnel and security forces and make other necessary arrangements.

## Q.4 What is the 129th Constitutional Amendment Bill?

**THE ONOE BILLS**

Two bills, which aim to achieve One Nation One Election (ONOE), were introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 17:



**The Constitution 129th Amendment Bill 2024**  
Seeks to hold simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

**The Union Territories Laws Amendment Bill 2024**  
Proposes to make amendments in the Government of Union Territories Act 1962, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act 1991 and the J&K Reorganisation Act 2019, to align their electoral cycle with the Lok Sabha polls.

*Together the two bills aim to achieve simultaneous elections across states and UTs with the General polls.*

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- The **Constitution (129th) Amendment Bill, 2024** is a landmark proposal aimed at introducing simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and state legislative Assemblies.
- Based on the recommendations of a high-level committee chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind, the bill seeks to streamline the electoral calendar, reduce the financial and administrative burden of frequent elections and improve governance.

## The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill:

Bill	Analysis
The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth	• The first bill introduces Article 82A to synchronize Lok Sabha and state assembly elections and amends Articles

Amendment) Bill, 2024	<p><b>83, 172, and 327.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It allows the <b>Election Commission to recommend delayed assembly polls</b> if simultaneous elections are unfeasible.</li> </ul>
The Union Territories Law (Amendment) Bill, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The second bill introduces <b>Article 324A</b>, empowering the <b>central government to align municipal and panchayat elections with Lok Sabha and assembly polls.</b></li> <li>● As local body elections fall under the <b>State List</b>, this <b>bill requires ratification by at least half the states under Article 368.</b></li> </ul>

### Q.5 What is Article 82A- the proposed addition?

- **Article 82A of the Constitution** is a proposed amendment in **The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024** that would allow for **simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and all Legislative Assemblies.**
- This article is proposed to be **inserted after Article 82 of the Constitution**, which deals with the **readjustment of seats in the Lok Sabha and the division of states** into constituencies after each census.
- **The President**, according to the **first clause of the article**, would issue a **public notification on the date of the first sitting of the Lok Sabha** after a general election to bring the **provisions of Article 82A into force.**
- The date of the **notification would be called the appointed date.**
- **The second clause**, as mentioned in the draft bill, says the **terms of all legislative Assemblies elected after the appointed date and before the expiry of the full term of the Lok Sabha shall come to an end on the expiry of the full term of the House of the People.**

## Q.6 When will One Nation, One Election be implemented?

- As per the bill, the provisions will take effect on an "appointed date," which will be declared by the President.
- This date will coincide with the first Lok Sabha session following a general election.
- The bill outlines that synchronized elections will officially commence in 2034, following the next general elections in 2029.
- Once the system is in place, the Lok Sabha will have a fixed five-year term starting from the appointed date.
- Any state legislative assemblies elected after this date will have their terms aligned with the Lok Sabha.
- If required, their terms could be terminated early to synchronize with the central elections.

## Q.7 Enlist parties supporting and opposing One Nation One Election?

Parties Supporting	Parties Opposing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)</li><li>● National People's Party (NPP)</li><li>● All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK)</li><li>● Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)</li><li>● Apna Dal Soneylal (ADS)</li><li>● Asom Gana Parishad (AGP)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Indian National Congress (INC)</li><li>● Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)</li><li>● Indian Union Muslim League (IUML)</li><li>● Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)</li><li>● Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M)</li><li>● Samajwadi Party (SP)</li><li>● All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF)</li><li>● Trinamool Congress (TMC)</li><li>● All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul</li></ul>

- **Biju Janata Dal (BJD)**
- **Janata Dal United (JDU)**
- **Lok Janshakti Party-Ram Vilas (LJP-RV)**
- **Mizo National Front (MNF)**
- **Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP)**
- **Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)**
- **Telugu Desam Party (TDP)**
- **Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK)**
- **Republican Party of India-Athawale (RPI-A)**
- **Tamil Maanila Congress-Moopanar (TMC-M)**
- **Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM)**
- **Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP)**
- **Gorkha National Liberal Front (GNLF)**
- **Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM)**
- **Indian Makkal Kalvi Munnetra Kazhagam (IMKMK)**
- **Yuvajana Shramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP)**

- **Muslimeneen (AIMIM)**
- **Communist Party of India (CPI)**
- **Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)**
- **Naga People's Front (NPF)**
- **Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK)**
- **Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK)**
- **Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation (CPI-ML)**
- **Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray)**
- **Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI)**
- **Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar: (NCP-SP)**
- **Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)**
- **Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP)**

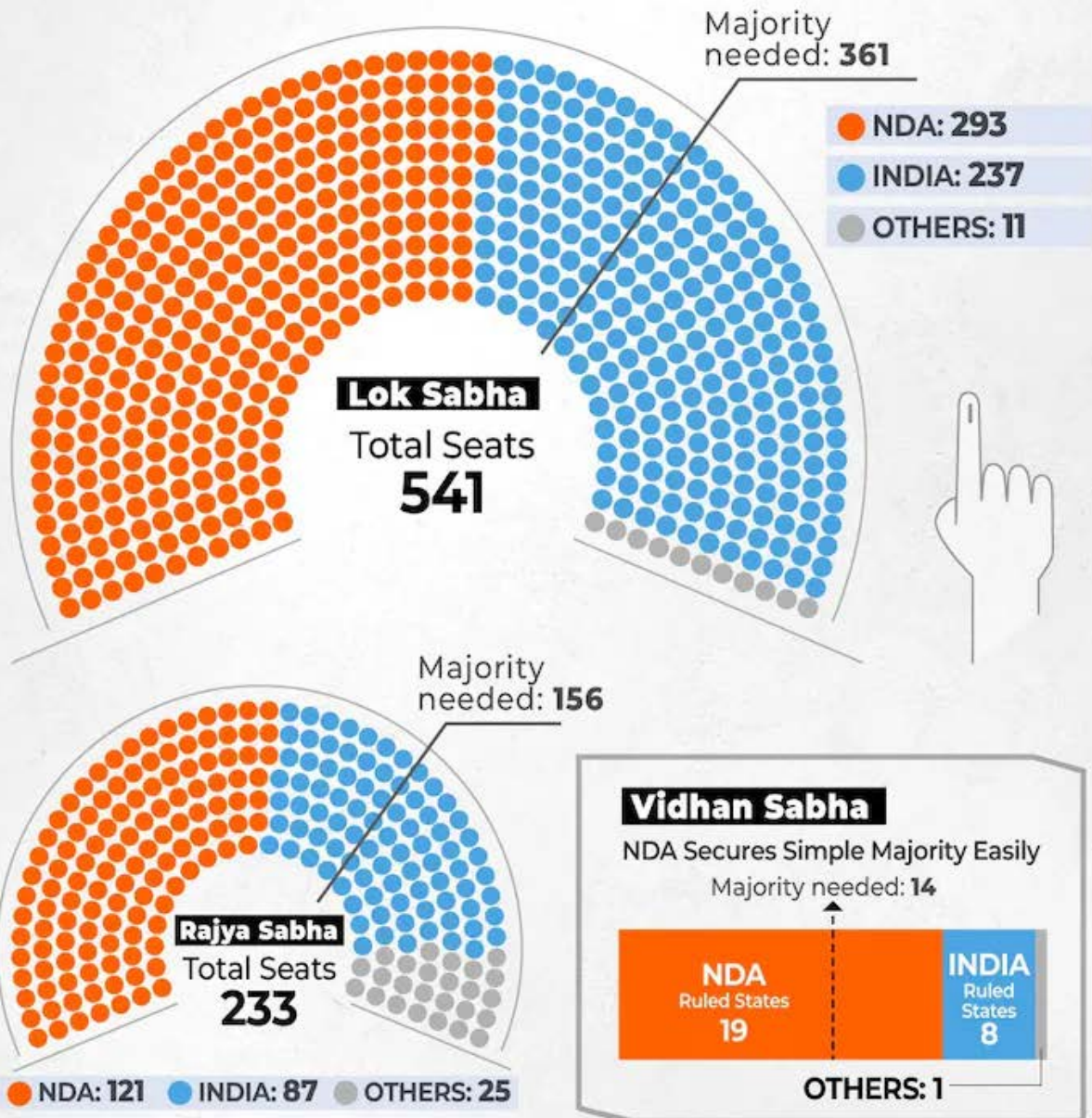
- **Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT)**
- **Jan Surajya Shakti (JSS)**
- **Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP)**
- **Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP)**
- **Nishad Party**
- **Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)**
- **Shiv Sena (SHS)**
- **Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM)**

## Q.8 What are the challenges in passing the 129th Constitutional Amendment Bill?



- To implement **simultaneous elections**, **several constitutional amendments** must pass, requiring a **two-thirds majority** in both houses of Parliament i.e. **361 votes** in the Lok Sabha and **156** in the Rajya Sabha.

# Can the NDA Secure Two-Thirds in Parliament?



Note: Vacant seats not included in LS and RS

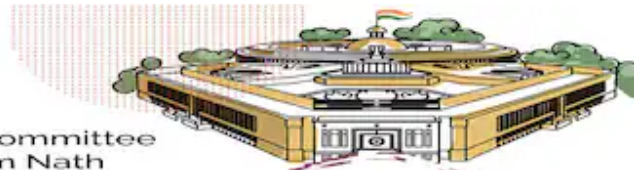


Challenges	Analysis
<b>Lok Sabha numbers: NDA falls short</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>NDA has 293 seats</b> in the Lok Sabha, <b>68 short of the 361 needed</b>.</li> <li>● Even with <b>16 votes</b> from smaller non-aligned parties, the <b>NDA still needs the Opposition's support</b>.</li> <li>● With <b>237 seats</b> held by the <b>INDIA bloc</b>, the <b>Centre faces an uphill battle</b>.</li> <li>● <b>At present, two seats, Nanded and Wayanad, are vacant in Parliament</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Rajya Sabha: A tougher situation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In the <b>Rajya Sabha</b>, the <b>NDA holds 121 seats</b>, far <b>below the 156 required for a majority</b>.</li> <li>● The <b>INDIA bloc controls 87 seats</b>, further complicating the <b>NDA's path</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>State Assemblies: A stronger position</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● At the state level, the <b>NDA controls 19 of 28 Vidhan Sabhas</b> (state legislative Assemblies).</li> <li>● This gives the government a <b>majority to ratify constitutional amendments at the state level</b>, though resistance from <b>Opposition-ruled states</b> is likely.</li> </ul>
<b>Opposition holds key votes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Of the <b>15 parties opposing the proposal</b>, the <b>Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, the Trinamool Congress, and the Communist Party of India (Marxist)</b> are in power in various states.</li> <li>● Additionally, <b>all 10 parties in the INDIA bloc strongly reject the idea</b>.</li> </ul>

## Q.9 Enlist provisions needed to implement One Nation One Election?

### HOW WILL IT BE IMPLEMENTED

In March 2024, the High-Level Committee (chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind) on 'One Nation, One Election' submitted its report.



#### The Kovind Committee...

- + Engaged in 65 meetings with a range of stakeholders to gather feedback.
- + Took 191 days of extensive consultations to complete the report.



The committee recommended a two-step approach to lead to the simultaneous elections.

- Step 1** Simultaneous elections to be held for the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies.
- Step 2** The elections to the municipalities and the panchayats to be held within 100 days of holding the Lok Sabha and assembly elections.

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Amendments needed	Analysis
Representation of the People Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Under the Representation of the People Act 1951, elections to a House can be held anytime within six months preceding the date of the scheduled dissolution on completion of the five-year term.</li> <li>● Amendments in this Act are required to alter the fixed term of assemblies and align election schedules.</li> <li>● For example, if simultaneous polls were held in 2019, over 15 state assemblies would need to be dissolved before completing their 5-year term to align with the Lok Sabha elections.</li> <li>● Those opposing One Nation One Election ideas contended that altering these terms</li> </ul>

	<p>would violate the Constitution's basic structure.</p>
<p><b>Insertion of a new article 82A</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Article 82A</b> will establish the <b>process</b> by which the <b>country will move to a system of simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and state Assemblies.</b></li> <li>● The <b>President will issue a notification</b> bringing <b>Article 82A into effect</b>, on the date of the <b>first sitting of the House of the People after a general election.</b></li> <li>● <b>All the Legislative Assemblies</b> constituted in <b>any general election</b> held after the appointed date <b>shall come to an end on the expiry of the full term of the House of the People.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Article 83 (2) and Article 172 (1)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Articles 83 (2) and 172 (1)</b> set the maximum duration of the <b>Lok Sabha and state Assemblies, respectively.</b></li> <li>● The amendment may be required to be brought in to <b>ensure that the term of the reconstituted assembly</b> (after the dissolution) <b>is less than five years to compensate for the time</b> in the run-up to the <b>next simultaneous polls.</b></li> <li>● This may help synchronise elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies within a few years</li> <li>● The panel's report noted that a <b>Constitution Amendment Bill must be introduced in Parliament, amending Article 83</b> (Duration of Houses of Parliament) and <b>Article 172</b> (Duration of State Legislatures) ,<b>which will not not require ratification by the States.</b></li> </ul>

<p><b>Provisions for Union territories</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>One National One Election</b> panel report stated that amendments would be required in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Section 5 (Duration of Legislative Assembly) of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991</b> for the <b>Legislative Assembly of Delhi.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Section 5 (Duration of Legislative Assembly) of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963</b> for the <b>Legislative Assembly of Puducherry.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Article 356, Articles 85 and 174</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Article 356</b> allows the <b>Centre to dismiss an elected state government</b> and impose the <b>President's Rule.</b></li> <li>● An <b>amendment</b> to this Article may <b>pave the way to prevent the premature dissolution</b> of the Houses and Assemblies.</li> <li>● In a report on the One Nation One Election released in March this year, <b>Justice Pradeep Nandrajog, Former Chief Justice of Bombay High Court,</b> suggested amendments to <b>Articles 85(1), 174(2), and 83(2)</b> to facilitate implementation of ONOE.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Article 325</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Addition of Article 325(2)</b> to create a <b>Single Electoral Roll</b> for every territorial constituency for election to the <b>House of the People, Legislature of a State or to a Municipality or a Panchayat.</b></li> <li>● <b>Addition of Article 325(3)</b> which shall <b>substitute any electoral roll prepared</b> earlier by either the <b>Election Commission under Art 325</b> or the <b>State Election Commissions</b> under</li> </ul>

	<b>Article 243K and Article. 243ZA.</b>
<b>Article 324A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ramnath Kovind panel report had suggested a <b>Constitution Amendment Bill (different from that amending Article 83 and Article 172)</b> would be introduced to insert <b>Article 324A for elections to Municipalities and Panchayats.</b></li> <li>• A new <b>Article 324A</b> would facilitate the <b>simultaneous elections for Panchayats and Municipalities</b> with the General Elections for the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.</li> </ul>
<b>Hung assembly</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the event of a <b>hung House, no-confidence motion</b>, or any such event, <b>fresh elections should be held to constitute the new Lok Sabha or Assembly.</b></li> </ul>

### **Q.10 What is the Constitutional Amendment Bill?**

- The **Amendment of the Constitution** refers to the **process of making changes** such as the **addition, variation, or repeal of any provision of the Constitution in accordance with the procedure laid down for the purpose.**
- The **purpose of Constitutional Amendments** is to ensure that the **Constitution remains a living document** capable of adapting to changing circumstances while upholding its fundamental principles and values.
- The **Indian Constitution, being a living document**, provides for its amendment.
- The detailed provisions regarding the **Amendment of the Constitution of India are contained in Article 368 in Part XX of the Indian Constitution.**

- These provisions define the process and scope of amending the Constitution.

### Q.11 How is the Constitutional Amendment Bill passed?



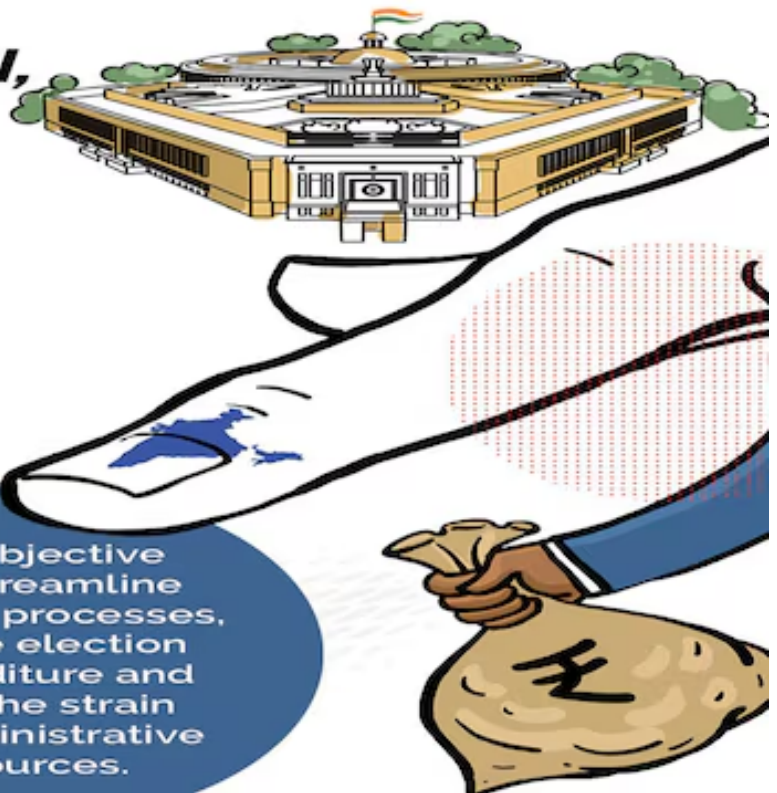
- The procedure for the **Amendment of the Constitution of India as per Article 368** is as follows:
- A bill for the amendment of the **Constitution can be introduced only in either house of the Parliament**, not in the State Legislatures.
- The bill can be introduced **either by a minister or by a private member** and does not require prior permission of the President.
- The bill must be passed in each House by a **Special Majority**, that is, a majority (more than 50 percent) of the total membership of the House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of the House present and voting.
- **Each House must pass the bill separately.**
- In case of a disagreement between the two Houses, there is no provision for holding a joint sitting of the two Houses for deliberation and passage of the bill.

- If the bill seeks to amend the federal provisions of the Constitution, it must also be ratified by the legislatures of half of the states by a **Simple Majority, that is, a majority of the members of the House present and voting.**
- After duly passed by both **Houses of Parliament** and ratified by the **State Legislatures**, where necessary, the bill is presented to the President for his/her assent.
- **The President must give his assent to the bill.**
- He can neither withhold his assent to the bill nor return the bill for reconsideration by the Parliament.
- After the President's assent, **the bill becomes an Act (i.e. a Constitutional Amendment Act)**, and the Constitution stands amended as per the changes made by the Act.

### Q.12 What are the advantages of One Nation One Election?

#### **WHY 'ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION'?**

The proposal aims to synchronise the elections to the Lok Sabha and all state assemblies. If implemented, it will allow voters to cast ballots for both the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies on the same day.



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The objective is to streamline election processes, reduce election expenditure and ease the strain on administrative resources.

Proponents of the **ONOE system argue** that it offers **several key advantages**.

Need	Analysis																																																			
<p><b>Cost efficiency:</b></p>	<p>One of the primary arguments in favor of ONOE is the potential for significant cost savings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cost of conducting the <b>2009 Lok Sabha elections was about Rs 1,115 crore</b>.</li> </ul> <p>while for <b>2014, this cost more than tripled to about Rs 3,870 crore</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>cost of 2019 elections</b> skyrocketed to a staggering <b>Rs 50,000 crore (\$7 billion)</b>, according to a report by the Centre for Media Studies.</li> <li>Based on previous years' trends, the <b>2024 election is expected to cost</b> approximately double the amount of the last election, amounting to a <b>staggering Rs 1,00,000 crore</b>.</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="584 1234 1356 1892" data-label="Figure"> <p>Changing cost of democracy</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Approximate data from the 'Changing cost of democracy' chart</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Expenditure incurred (in ₹ cr)</th> <th>Expenditure per elector (in ₹)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1951-52</td><td>~100</td><td>~0.5</td></tr> <tr><td>1957</td><td>~100</td><td>~0.5</td></tr> <tr><td>1962</td><td>~100</td><td>~0.5</td></tr> <tr><td>1967</td><td>~100</td><td>~0.5</td></tr> <tr><td>1971</td><td>~100</td><td>~0.5</td></tr> <tr><td>1977</td><td>~100</td><td>~0.5</td></tr> <tr><td>1980</td><td>~100</td><td>~0.5</td></tr> <tr><td>1984-85</td><td>~100</td><td>~0.5</td></tr> <tr><td>1989</td><td>~100</td><td>~0.5</td></tr> <tr><td>1991-92</td><td>~200</td><td>~1.0</td></tr> <tr><td>1996</td><td>~400</td><td>~2.0</td></tr> <tr><td>1998</td><td>~600</td><td>~3.0</td></tr> <tr><td>1999</td><td>~1000</td><td>~5.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>~1100</td><td>~5.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2009</td><td>~1115</td><td>~5.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>~3870</td><td>~45.0</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div>	Year	Expenditure incurred (in ₹ cr)	Expenditure per elector (in ₹)	1951-52	~100	~0.5	1957	~100	~0.5	1962	~100	~0.5	1967	~100	~0.5	1971	~100	~0.5	1977	~100	~0.5	1980	~100	~0.5	1984-85	~100	~0.5	1989	~100	~0.5	1991-92	~200	~1.0	1996	~400	~2.0	1998	~600	~3.0	1999	~1000	~5.0	2004	~1100	~5.0	2009	~1115	~5.0	2014	~3870	~45.0
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# Economic Impact of One Nation, One Election



Difference between pre- and post-election years



**+1.5% Pts**  
GDP Growth

~ ₹4.5 lakh cr  
~ half of India's health spending  
~ one-third of India's education spending



**+1.28% Pts**  
Fiscal deficit  
2 years before and after elections



**-0.5% Pts**  
Inflation



**+17.67% Pts**  
Government expenditure



**+0.5% Pts**  
Investments  
Gross Fixed Capital Formation to GDP

Source: High Level Committee Report on Simultaneous Election in India 2024  
Graphic: Samrat Sharma, Dipu Rai & Jaipal Sharma



## Administrative efficiency

- The regular occurrence of elections across different states requires large-scale deployment of security personnel and election officials, often diverting these resources from their regular duties.
- The **One Nation One Election** synchronises electoral calendars, which would ensure the availability of **more time for governance** and unhindered public service delivery to citizens.
- A **synchronized election would streamline the process**, ensuring that **security and administrative resources are concentrated** in one election cycle every five years, rather than being spread out.

- **ONOE will help in refocusing efforts on developmental activities** and the implementation of policies that are welfare-oriented. It will allow uninterrupted governance for both the Centre and the states.



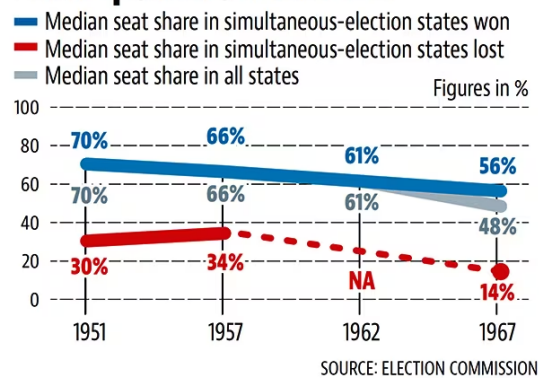
**Prevents policy paralysis**

- **According to data from the Election Commission of India, MCC enforcement during elections causes months of policy paralysis.**
- **ONOE will reduce repeated and prolonged enforcement of MCC, which will ensure that there is continuity in governance and developmental activities.**
- **In 2017, NITI Aayog published a report that noted that elections at various levels result in the loss of 3-4 months of effective governance every year. With the help of ONOE, such downtime can be eliminated in the future, which will ensure that governments focus consistently on governance and not on planning for the next elections.**

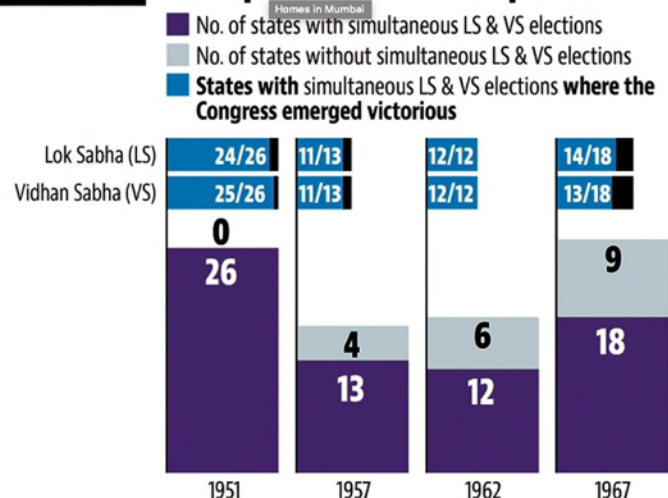
## Historical Precedent

- The First General Elections to the **House of People (Lok Sabha)** and **all State Legislative Assemblies** were held **simultaneously** in **1951-52**.
- This practice was continued in three subsequent General Elections held in the years **1957, 1962 and 1967**.
- **Simultaneous elections were successfully held from 1951 to 1967** without undermining federal features, demonstrating feasibility and governance stability.

**CHART 3 Congress's performance in Vidhan Sabha polls from 1951-1967**



**CHART 1 A snapshot of 1951-1967 period**



<p><b>Increased Voter Turnout</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● According to the <b>Law Commission</b>, <b>ONOE</b> raises voter participation.</li> <li>● <b>ONOE</b> Ensures <b>voters are not subjected to multiple rounds of voting</b>, leading to better turnout due to <b>voter convenience</b>.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Tracking voter turnout</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Voter turnout highest in the last two elections</b></p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Total elector (in crore)</th> <th>Voter turnout in Lok Sabha elections (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1952</td><td>17.3</td><td>61.2</td></tr> <tr><td>1957</td><td>19.3</td><td>62.2</td></tr> <tr><td>1962</td><td>21.7</td><td>55.4</td></tr> <tr><td>1967</td><td>25.0</td><td>61.3</td></tr> <tr><td>1971</td><td>27.4</td><td>55.3</td></tr> <tr><td>1977</td><td>32.1</td><td>60.5</td></tr> <tr><td>1980</td><td>35.7</td><td>56.9</td></tr> <tr><td>1984</td><td>40.0</td><td>63.6</td></tr> <tr><td>1989</td><td>49.8</td><td>62.0</td></tr> <tr><td>1991</td><td>51.1</td><td>56.9</td></tr> <tr><td>1996</td><td>59.2</td><td>57.9</td></tr> <tr><td>1998</td><td>60.5</td><td>62.0</td></tr> <tr><td>1999</td><td>61.9</td><td>60.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>67.1</td><td>57.7</td></tr> <tr><td>2009</td><td>71.7</td><td>58.2</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>83.4</td><td>66.4</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>91.1</td><td>67.4</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Total elector (in crore)	Voter turnout in Lok Sabha elections (%)	1952	17.3	61.2	1957	19.3	62.2	1962	21.7	55.4	1967	25.0	61.3	1971	27.4	55.3	1977	32.1	60.5	1980	35.7	56.9	1984	40.0	63.6	1989	49.8	62.0	1991	51.1	56.9	1996	59.2	57.9	1998	60.5	62.0	1999	61.9	60.0	2004	67.1	57.7	2009	71.7	58.2	2014	83.4	66.4	2019	91.1	67.4
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<p><b>Reduced duration of 'model code of conduct'</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Frequent <b>imposition of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC)</b> during polls <b>stalls all development work for months at a time</b>.</li> <li>● It will reduce <b>'policy paralysis'</b> that results from the <b>imposition of the Model Code of Conduct</b> during election time.</li> </ul>																																																						
<p><b>Mitigates resource diversion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>At the time of elections, significant human and financial resources</b> are deployed, which include polling officials, security personnel, and administrative staff.</li> </ul>																																																						

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● According to the <b>High-Level Committee’s report, ONOE</b> would reduce the frequency of such diversions, which will enable public institutions to focus on their core responsibilities.</li> </ul>
<b>Reduced burden on Courts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>One Nation One Election would reduce election-related disputes</b> and offences, thus reducing the burden on courts.</li> </ul>
<b>Inclusivity and regional representation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>ministry assured that simultaneous elections</b> would not undermine regional parties.</li> <li>● Instead, it argued that the <b>system would encourage greater focus</b> on localised issues and allow diverse leadership to emerge.</li> <li>● <b>When state and national elections take place simultaneously, regional parties</b> will get a broader platform to raise local concerns without getting overshadowed by national campaigns.</li> </ul>
<b>Enhances political opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>ONOE model will provide better representation to regional and new players</b> in the political landscape as it will reduce the dominance of a few leaders within political parties.</li> <li>● When elections happen during different times at <b>national and state levels</b>, it allows only a limited number of individuals to contest multiple elections. It monopolises leadership roles.</li> <li>● Take the example of <b>Akhilesh Yadav</b>. He has contested both state and national elections.</li> <li>● Currently, he is a <b>Member of Parliament from UP</b>, but there is no guarantee that he will not</li> </ul>

	<p>contest the state elections scheduled for 2027.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Simultaneous elections will help in <b>diversifying political opportunities and encouraging new leaders to emerge.</b></li> <li>● It will help in enhancing democratic inclusiveness, which is essential for sustaining a democracy like India.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Focus on governance instead of being in 'election mode'</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>One nation one election will ensure continuity of policies and programmes</b> of the central and state governments.</li> <li>● It will <b>reduce disruption of normal public life</b>, as political rallies will be kept to a minimum.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reduce Voter Fatigue</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The phenomenon of <b>'voter fatigue,'</b> characterized by apathy and disinterest among voters <b>due to the recurrence of elections</b>, presents a significant challenge in ensuring their participation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Simplified Voting Process</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Conducting simultaneous elections could streamline voter registration, reducing issues</b> such as missing names from electoral rolls.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reduced use of 'black money'</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Elections involve considerable expenditure by prospective candidates, <b>most of which is black money.</b></li> <li>● <b>'One nation one election' will reduce the circulation of black money</b> in the economy.</li> </ul>

# Indirect Transfer

ILLUSTRATIONS BY AJAY THAKURI

**How black money is used to woo voters without distributing large sums of cash**

**Coupons** are distributed in slums and other areas of high voter density. The pink coupon gets you chicken, the blue one is for country liquor, the green one for branded liquor. Select stores are previously briefed



**Notes** of small denomination – ₹10, 20, 50, 100 – are distributed. Select liquor vendors are provided a list of serial numbers of the notes. Each note has a different value. A ₹10 note is worth a 'pouch' of country liquor, a ₹100 note a bottle of foreign liquor, and so on

**Community feasts** are sponsored by candidates, though seemingly hosted by some supporter. Mutton and chicken on the menu are a big draw



**Talk time** Candidates provide voters free talk time on prepaid mobile numbers. Also cash is transferred through cell phones



**Liquor pouches** are distributed to voters, smuggled in milk vans



**Kirana shop bills** are paid by the candidate on behalf of voters. Some even provide voters month-long free rations



**Hand pumps** and transformers installed in localities which can be potential vote banks



**Boosts economic growth**

- In his remarks, former President Kovind said that implementing One Nation One Election could directly contribute to the economic growth of the country.
- It will minimise governance disruptions and financial wastage.
- It will help in creating a conducive environment for growth and development.
- He noted that such a system will help in

	<p><b>increasing India's GDP</b>, which will enable India to compete with the largest economies of the world.</p>
<p><b>'Transformative shift' in democracy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>Ministry of Law and Justice</b> described the initiative as a <b>'transformative shift' in India's electoral process, addressing long-standing challenges of governance</b> paralysis, economic disruptions, and resource inefficiencies.</li> </ul>

### Q.13 What are the disadvantages in One Nation One Election?

<p><b>Potential Violation of Basic Structure Doctrine</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Free and fair elections</b> are considered part of this basic structure.</li> <li>● <b>Simultaneous elections</b> might be seen as altering this fundamental aspect of Indian Parliamentary democracy.</li> <li>● If a legislative assembly is dissolved and midterm elections are conducted, the tenure of that assembly will not be for five years.</li> <li>● This itself is a <b>violation of parliamentary democracy</b>.</li> <li>● The Constitution makes it clear that once elected, the House should have the right to function for five years.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Midterm polls or the President's rule</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In situations like midterm polls or the President's rule, if a party fails to get a majority, there is no clarity on how to deal with it when the <b>One Nation One Election</b> concept is implemented.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Undermine Federalism</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It undermines the <b>fundamental principle of federalism</b>, which constitutes a <b>basic component of our Constitutional structure</b>.</li> <li>● Critics could also argue that amending the Constitution for <b>holding simultaneous elections would fundamentally alter its democratic and federal character</b>.</li> <li>● <b>India is a 'Union of States', which has its own directly elected governments</b>.</li> <li>● By fixing a term, it is argued that it would adversely affect their rights.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Interests of regional political parties</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Conducting Simultaneous Elections</b> may hamper the prospects of regional political parties since they may not be able to highlight local issues prominently.</li> <li>● They may not be able to compete with <b>national parties</b> in terms of money and election strategies.</li> <li>● <b>Regional political parties</b> have limited resources, which means they may not be able to <b>highlight local issues to voters</b> in the face of better-funded parties campaigning for the Lok Sabha elections.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Changes in the Constitution</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>One Nation One Election</b> can only be implemented after making changes in the Constitution and following other legal frameworks.</li> <li>● <b>To implement One Nation One Election a constitutional amendment</b> is needed and it</li> </ul>

	<p>must be ratified by the state assemblies.</p>
<p><b>Regional issues may be overshadowed by national issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In the One Nation One Election, <b>regional issues may be overshadowed by national issues</b>, affecting the state-level electoral outcome.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Challenges to Local Body Elections</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>High Level Committee (HLC)</b> constituted by the <b>Government of India</b> to provide a road map for implementation of simultaneous elections, deliberated on local body elections and recommended synchronising them within <b>100 days of simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.</b></li> <li>● This could be seen as <b>centralizing power, contrary to the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments</b> which empower local self-governance.</li> </ul>

**Q.14 What are the challenges in implementation of One Nation One Election?**

## The Latest Pitch & Roadblocks

### CLASH OF ROLES

The Law Commission raised common voter list issue with the EC on Wednesday

EC prepares electoral roll for polls to Parliament and state legislatures while States do it for Panchayati Raj institutions and municipal bodies

While some states rely on EC's roll, others do it de novo

### SETTING BOUNDARIES

As far as EC's purview is concerned, the delimitation of constituencies is frozen until 2031

There is no such bar on states for determining the boundaries of wards for local election

To enable a common electoral roll, all states will have to amend respective laws to freeze constituency boundaries to synch to a uniform calendar

### LOGISTICAL ISSUES

EC says it's difficult to prepare list for over 78 cr electors as there is no uniform system for preparation of rolls by SECs

It would not be possible for the ECI to collect the data of Panchayat, municipal body and ward numbers and feed it into a common database

**₹500 crore** Required for preparing common roll

**₹300 crore** Proposed to be allocated in Budget

Challenges	Analysis
<p><b>Constitutional and legal changes:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>ASSOCHAM</b> president <b>Ajay Singh</b> said legal challenges in the way of the implementation of 'One Nation One Election' include the need to amend the <b>Constitution and Representation of the People Act, 1951</b>.</li> <li>● It also noted that a <b>Constitution Amendment Bill</b> will have to be introduced in Parliament amending <b>Article 83</b> (Duration of Houses of Parliament) and <b>Article 172</b> (Duration of State Legislatures).</li> </ul>


**Constitutional Hurdles:**

- The **Indian Constitution** currently mandates that both the **Lok Sabha and state assemblies must serve five-year terms, unless dissolved earlier.**
- If a government **collapses mid-term, this could disrupt the synchronized election cycle** and create logistical challenges.
- Our Constitution envisages **separate and independent electoral cycles for the Union and States**, respecting their autonomy within the federal framework.
- Thus **Simultaneous elections in form of One Nation One Election**, may violate the basic federal structure of the Indian Constitution.

<b>ONE NATION, ONE POLL</b>	
 <b>PROMISES</b>	 <b>PITFALLS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Reduces election expenses of political parties</li> <li>➤ May improve administrative efficiency and governance and streamline the implementation of state and central policies</li> <li>➤ Can enhance voter turnout as people go out to cast their ballot simultaneously</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Fails to guarantee political stability for parties and ensure that they complete their ongoing five-year tenures</li> <li>➤ Centre can end up having the upper hand, with little or no space for states to express dissent</li> <li>➤ May overshadow local issues and threaten the influence of regional parties</li> <li>➤ May put smaller players at a big disadvantage in terms of poll strategy and expenses as they try to compete with national parties</li> </ul>

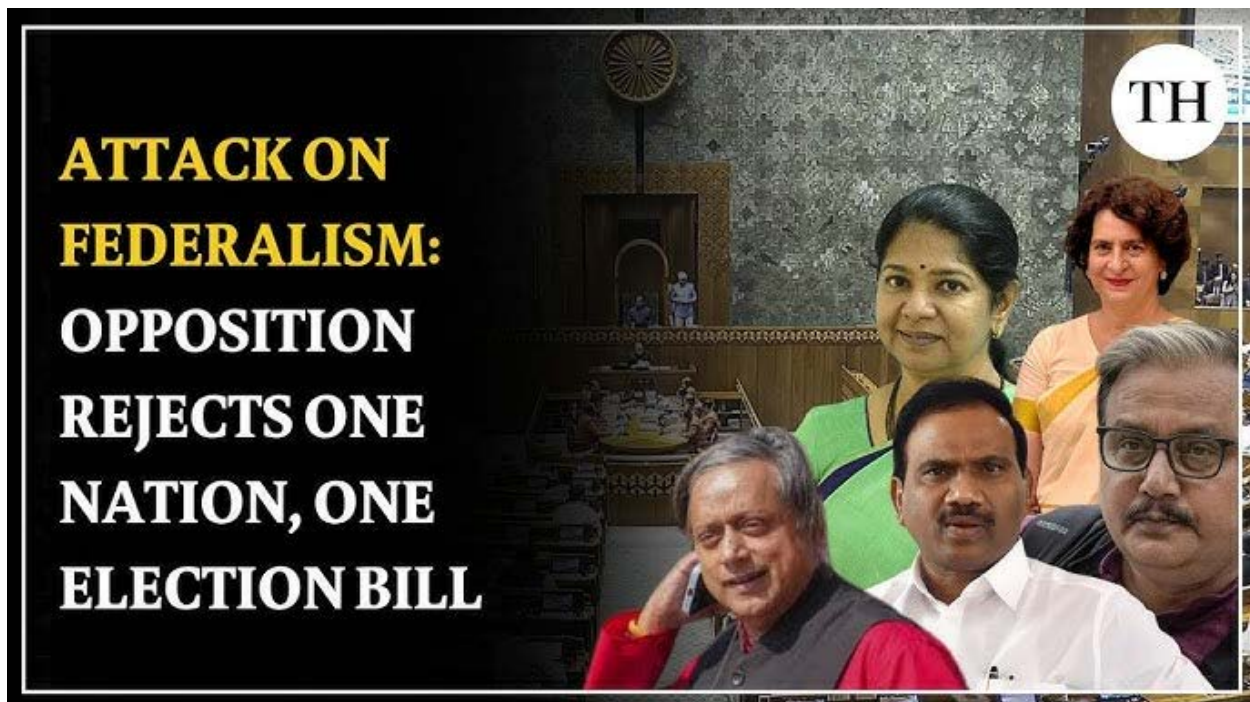
**Federalism Concerns**

- **One Nation One Election** might **conflict** with the **federal nature of India's political system**, reducing the autonomy of state governments.
- Additionally, the **Law Commission has expressed doubts about the feasibility of**

	<p><b>simultaneous elections</b> under the current constitutional framework.</p>								
<p><b>Logistical Issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For simultaneous elections in 2029, the ECI has estimated a requirement of 53.76 lakh ballot units, 38.67 lakh control units, and 41.65 lakh VVPATs.</li> <li>• This would necessitate adding 26.55 lakh ballot units, 17.78 lakh control units, and 17.79 lakh VVPATs to the current inventory.</li> </ul>  <table border="1"> <caption>HOW MUCH WOULD BE SPENT ON NEW EVMs</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Cost (crore)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2024</td> <td>₹1,751</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2029</td> <td>₹2,018</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2034</td> <td>₹13,982</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Cost (crore)	2024	₹1,751	2029	₹2,018	2034	₹13,982
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<p><b>High cost to the exchequer</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ECI has estimated the manufacturing of these additional units to be Rs. 7,951.37 crore, excluding transportation and warehousing costs.</li> <li>• It would cost a huge sum to the public exchequer.</li> </ul>								
<p><b>Large requirement of security personnels</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The smooth conduct of <b>One Nation One Election</b>, will increase the requirement of the number of security personnel.</li> <li>• The ECI had estimated a need for 4,719 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in the 2024 general elections, which was a 50% increase from the 2019 requirement.</li> </ul>								

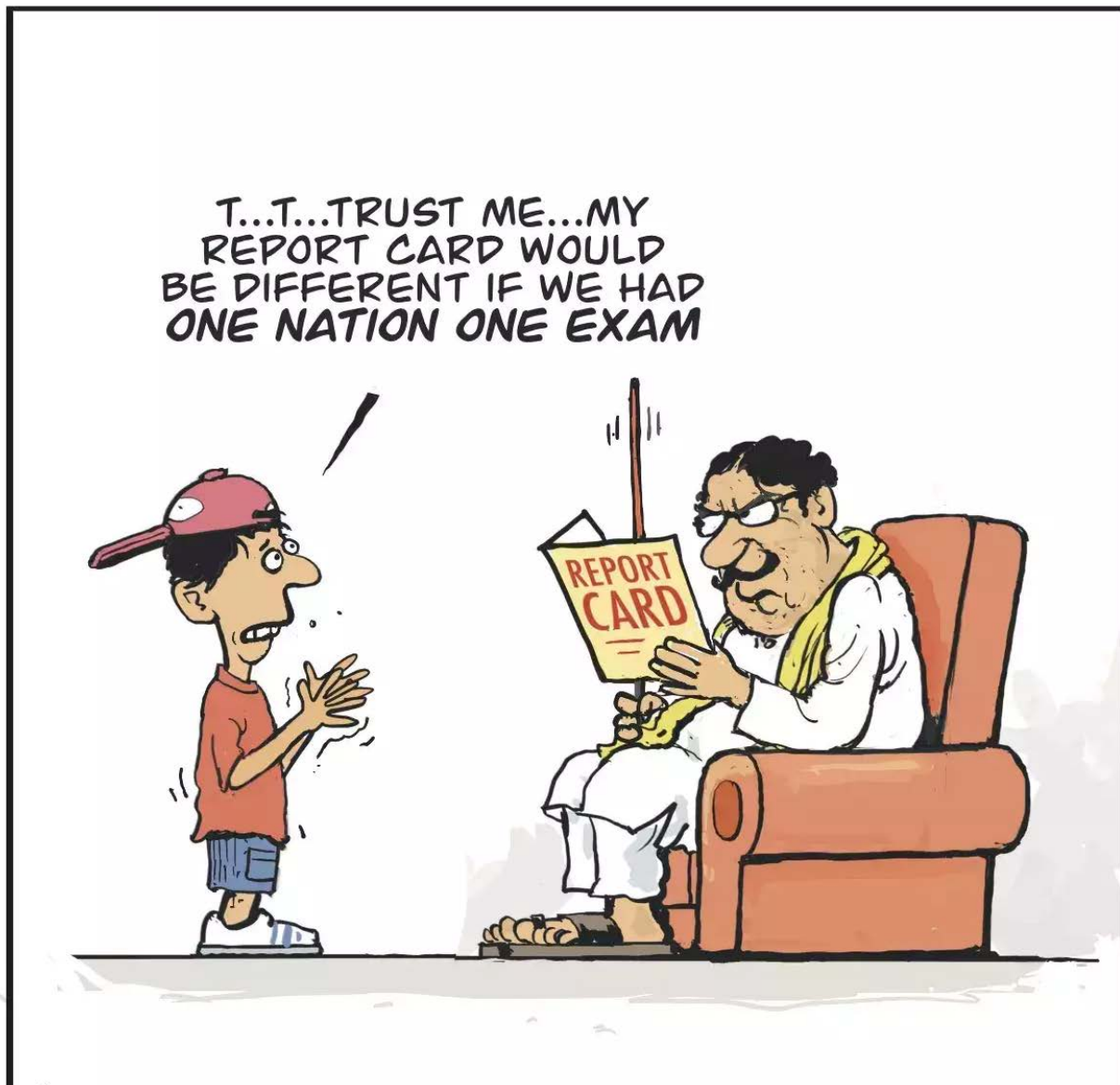


**Q.15 What are the concerns of opposition parties for One Nation One Election?**



- Out of the **47 political parties** which gave their opinion to the Ram Nath Kovind-led panel on simultaneous elections, **32 supported the idea, whereas 15 opposed it.**
- Targeting the BJP-led government at the Centre over the introduction of two bills in Lok Sabha that lay down the mechanism to hold simultaneous elections, **AICC general secretary K C**

Venugopal on December 17, 2024 said that the clear intention behind 'one nation, one election' is "one nation, no election".



- All the 10 parties part of the INDIA bloc oppose the move.
- The all-party meet called to discuss the proposal was skipped by the heads of several political parties including the Congress (INC), Trinamool Congress (TMC), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Samajwadi Party (SP) and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), while Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) sent representatives to attend it.

- Congress has outright rejected the proposal calling it a design of the saffron party to bring “one face, one name and one ideology”.

## Parties in favour and against simultaneous polls, by alliance

Alliance	No. of parties in favour	No. of parties in against
NDA	26	1
INDIA	0	10
No alliance	6	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>15</b>

## Political strength of parties in favour and against

There are a total 543 MPs and 4,126 MLAs

	MPs	MLAs	2019 LS vote share
Parties in favour	347	1,947	48.3%
Parties against	117	1,460	35.9%
NDA parties in favour	332	1,768	44.7%
INDIA parties against	104	1,424	31.6%



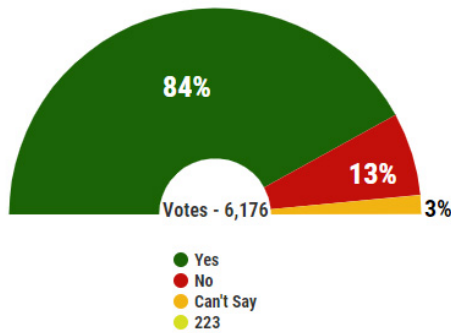
Concern	Analysis
<p><b>Federalism Concerns</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>One Nation One Election</b> might conflict with the federal nature of India's political system, reducing the autonomy of state governments.</li> <li>● Additionally, the <b>Law Commission</b> has expressed doubts about the feasibility of simultaneous elections under the current constitutional framework</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="662 638 1252 1178" data-label="Image"> </div>
<p><b>Threat to Basic Structure of constitution.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Opposition parties</b> are of the opinion that simultaneous elections are an <b>assault on the basic structure of the Constitution.</b></li> </ul> <div data-bbox="506 1402 1411 1969" data-label="Image"> </div>

<p><b>Against parliamentary system of governance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Indian National Congress</b> is of the opinion that there is <b>no place</b> for the concept of <b>simultaneous elections in a country</b> that has adopted a <b>parliamentary system of government</b></li> <li>● <b>Congress</b> dismissed the argument regarding <b>expenses</b> saved on the <b>cost of conducting repeated elections</b> as “<b>baseless</b>”, saying that “<b>people will be willing</b> to consider this <b>small amount</b> as the <b>cost of free and fair elections</b>.”</li> </ul>
<p><b>Institutionalize a Presidential form of government</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Aam Aadmi Party</b> have argued that <b>simultaneous elections</b> would “<b>institutionalize a Presidential form of government</b> which cannot be dislodged by a <b>vote of no-confidence</b>.”</li> </ul>
<p><b>Democratic Representation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Frequent elections allow voters</b> to voice their opinions regularly, <b>holding governments accountable</b> for their actions.</li> <li>● <b>One Nation One Election</b> might <b>dilute this ability</b>, <b>reducing the regular feedback</b> that elections provide.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risk of Single-Party Dominance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Studies suggest that <b>when elections are held simultaneously</b>, there is a higher likelihood of the <b>same party winning both the national and state elections</b>, potentially <b>undermining the distinction between local and national issues</b>.</li> </ul>

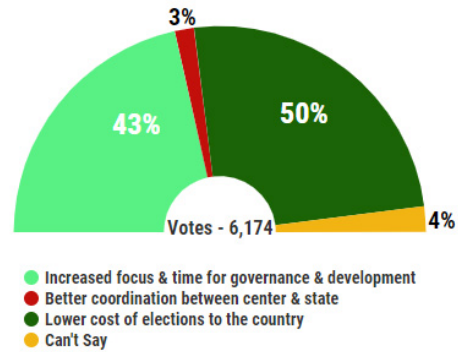
## Q.16 What is the opinion of Indian citizens about One Nation One Election?

# Majority citizens in support of simultaneous elections

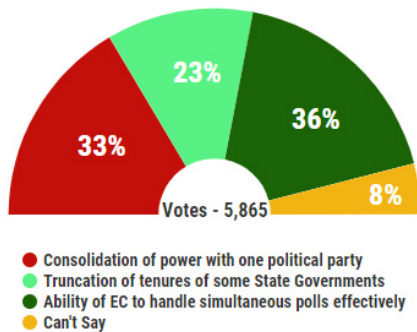
Do you believe holding simultaneous central and state elections is a good idea?



What is the biggest positive according to you if simultaneous central and state elections are held?

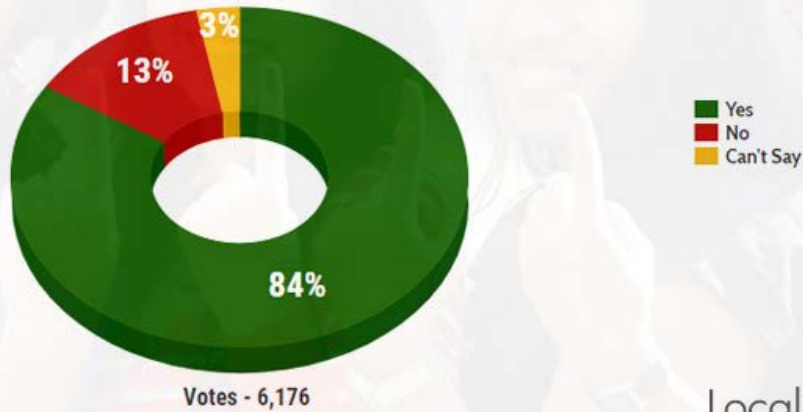


What is the biggest risk or issue in having simultaneous central and state elections ?



## 84% citizens support simultaneous central and state elections

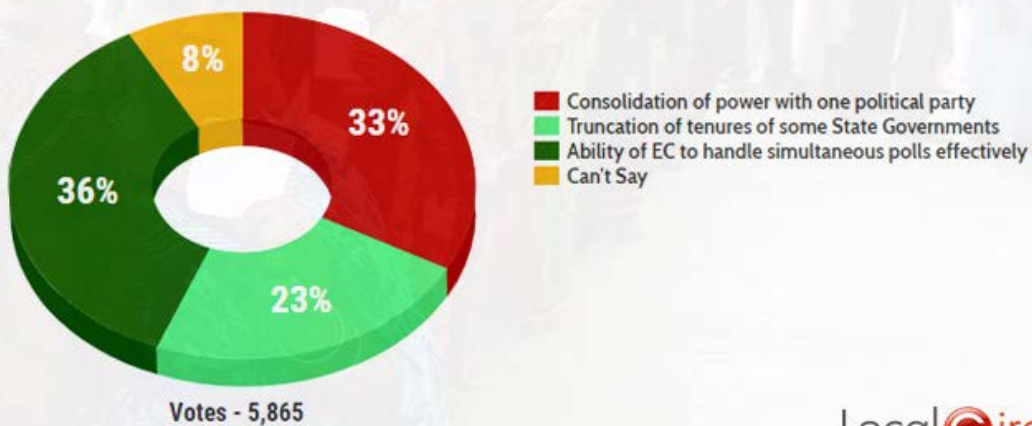
Do you believe holding simultaneous central and state elections is a good idea?



LocalCircles

## Ability of election commission to handle simultaneous elections and consolidation of power top 2 risks according to citizens



What is the biggest risk or issue in having simultaneous central and state elections?





LocalCircles

## Q.17 Enlist countries that have provision for One Nation One Election?

- The **high-level panel** led by former president **Ram Nath Kovind** on '**one nation, one election**' studied election processes in seven countries including **South Africa, Sweden and Belgium**, before recommending simultaneous polls for **Lok Sabha and state assemblies in India**.
- The other countries where **simultaneous elections** are conducted are **Germany, Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines**.

Countries	Election Process
<p data-bbox="191 793 449 835"><b>South Africa</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In South Africa, <b>voters cast their ballots for both the National Assembly and Provincial Legislatures simultaneously</b>.</li> <li>● The House of Assembly or the Lower House and Provincial Councils are <b>elected by first-past-the-post voting in single-member electoral divisions</b>.</li> <li>● However, <b>municipal elections are held separately</b> from provincial ones in a five-year cycle.</li> </ul>
<p data-bbox="240 1430 401 1472"><b>Sweden</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Sweden follows the proportional electoral system</b>, which means that <b>political parties are assigned a number of seats</b> in the elected assembly <b>based on their share of votes</b>.</li> <li>● They have a <b>system where elections for the Parliament (Riksdag), County Councils and Municipal Councils all take place at the same time</b>.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● These elections <b>occur every four years</b> on the <b>second Sunday of September</b> whereas <b>elections to the municipal assemblies occur on the second Sunday of September</b>, once every five years.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Indonesia</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Since 2019 Indonesia</b> has been conducting <b>simultaneous elections</b>, a system where the <b>President, Vice President, and members of both national and regional legislative bodies are elected on the same day.</b></li> <li>● Voters cast a secret ballot and <b>dip their fingers in indelible ink</b> to prevent duplicate voting.</li> <li>● <b>Political parties need 4 pc of votes to qualify for the National Parliament.</b></li> <li>● A <b>presidential candidate needs more than 50 pc of votes cast overall</b> and <b>at least 20 pc of votes in more than half the country's provinces to win.</b></li> <li>● On <b>February 14, 2024, Indonesia successfully conducted simultaneous elections.</b></li> <li>● It is being <b>termed as the world's largest single day elections since nearly 200 million people voted across all five levels -- President, Vice President, Members of Parliament, Members of Regional Assemblies and Municipal elections</b></li> </ul>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nepal</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● On <b>August 21, 2017</b>, the <b>Nepal government ordered the holding of national and state elections across the country simultaneously.</b></li> <li>● But the <b>Election Commission of Nepal raised concerns about the difficulty</b> of organizing such concurrent elections across the country.</li> <li>● The <b>government then went for a two-phase election</b> with a gap period.</li> </ul>
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**Q.18 What could be a possible way ahead?**

<p><b>Bold and transformative reform in the democratic framework of India</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>ONOE</b> represents a <b>bold and transformative reform</b> in the democratic framework of India.</li> <li>● Its <b>implementation will require constitutional amendments, political consensus,</b> and significant investment in electoral infrastructure.</li> <li>● However, <b>the cost of implementing</b> this system will be recovered over the years as repeated elections will no longer occur.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Enhancement of the economic trajectory of the country</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● As affirmed by <b>former President Ram Nath Kovind, ONOE</b> will not only drive all-round progress but will also enhance the economic trajectory of the country.</li> <li>● <b>Careful planning, broad-based consensus, and a commitment to democratic principles</b> will reshape the electoral process of the country, ensuring stability, efficiency, and development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Comprehensive reforms and a</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The transition to a system of <b>simultaneous elections will require comprehensive reforms</b> and a consensus among political stakeholders.</li> </ul>

<p><b>consensus</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This may <b>involve constitutional amendments</b>, alterations to the current electoral schedule, and a re-evaluation of party strategies.</li> <li>• While these <b>changes may be met with resistance</b>, the potential advantages of a more streamlined electoral process warrant serious consideration.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Focus on state-specific concerns</b></p>	<p>Political parties <b>can still focus on local issues</b> while participating in a <b>broader national conversation</b>, thereby ensuring that state-specific concerns do not get overshadowed.</p> <p>Additionally, <b>the staggered scheduling of elections</b> could be reimagined to allow for periodic elections in such a way that the <b>local electorate remains engaged without causing continuous electoral fatigue</b>.</p>

- The idea of "**One Nation, One Election**" is not merely an **administrative proposal but a visionary framework** that could significantly reshape the political landscape of India.
- The benefits of **enhanced efficiency, reduced costs, increased voter engagement, and improved governance** present a compelling case for its implementation.

**Q.19 What is the relevance of the topic for UPSC CSE?**

- **For Prelims:**

Simultaneous Elections, Municipalities and Panchayats, Election Commission of India, State Election Commissions, Article 356, Voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT), Representation of the People Act 1951, Anti-defection law, No-confidence motions



- **For Mains:**

One Nation, One Election: Benefits, Challenges and Way Forward.  
Election funding, Election reform.

**Some previous years prelims questions.**

**Q.1 Consider the following statements: (2020)**

1. According to the Constitution of India a person who is eligible to vote can be made a minister in a State for six months even if he/she is not a member of the Legislature of that State.
2. According to the Representation of People Act, 1951, a person convicted of a criminal offense and sentenced to imprisonment for five years is permanently disqualified from contesting an election even after his release from prison.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (d)**

**Q.2 Consider the following statements: (2017)**

1. The Election Commission of India is a five-member body.
2. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.
3. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognised political parties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 3 only

**Answer: (d)**

### **Some previous years mains questions.**

- Q.1 Examine the need for electoral reforms as suggested by various committees with particular reference to “one nation – one election” principle. **(2024)**
- Q.2 ‘Simultaneous election to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will limit the amount of time and money spent in electioneering but it will reduce the government’s accountability to the people’ Discuss. **(2017)**

### **Some questions from this year and previous years interview transcripts.**

#### **Board Dinesh Dasa sir:**

- Should there be one nation and one election?
- Should the election schedule have been two months long?
- What would you have done if you were chief election commissioner?
- What are the advantages of one nation one election?

#### **Board Dinesh Dasa sir:**

- Do you think we can conduct simultaneous elections ?

### Board Dinesh Dasa sir:

- Long monologue on one nation, one election.
- If I appoint you as a DM, what measures do you take as precaution for conducting simultaneous elections?

### Board RN Choubey sir:

- What is your opinion on simultaneous elections?

### Board Dinesh Dasa sir:

- Tell me about the High Level Committee report on simultaneous elections.
- What will be its impact?
- Have you gone through the report or are you simply guessing?

### Some questions for QUIZ.

Q.1 RamNath Kovind committee, is related to which of the following:

- (a) Simultaneous elections
- (b) Manipur Violence
- (c) Legalizing of MSP
- (d) Inclusion of Ladakh in 6th schedule

**Answer: (a)**

### Some questions for POLL.

Q.1 Can ONOE lower the election expenditure?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q.2 Can ONOE harm the regional political parties?

(a) YES

(b) NO

(c) Can't say.

