

1. One year one election would be more appropriate for India rather than one nation one election. Examine. (250 words) (250 words)

Answer:

Background:-

- While the EC has reiterated its support for holding simultaneous polls, provided the legal and financial challenges are overcome, it has alternatively suggested that all the elections due in a year may be held together.

Benefits of one year one election:-

- Accomplishing one year one election will be easier as it doesn't require as many legal amendments as simultaneous polls for which the Centre will have to make five amendments to the Constitution.
- One year one election can be executed by amending Section 15 of the RP Act 1951. If the six-month stipulation is extended to nine or 10 months, elections to all states, whose term is expiring in one year, can be held together.
- The proviso to Section 73 of the RP Act 1951 clearly says that even if the poll results are declared before the actual expiration date, the concerned state assembly can complete its term. So, if all elections in a year are clubbed together, the terms of state assemblies, which are expiring later in the year, need not be curtailed. They can complete their term that year and the new government can be sworn in after that.
- Not much issues generated by emergencies like need to hold by-election in this case
- Does not affect federalism much
- Frequent elections have multiple merits in providing momentary employment, boosting domestic consumption.

Problems with Simultaneous polls:-

- According to the EC, Article 83, which deals with the duration of Houses of Parliament, will have to be tweaked, along with Article 85 (dissolution of Lok Sabha by the President), Article 172 (duration of state legislatures), Article 174 (dissolution of state assemblies) and Article 356 (President's Rule), to facilitate simultaneous polls.
- Simultaneous elections impinge on the political autonomy of States. Today, any elected State government can choose to dissolve its Assembly and call for fresh elections. If elections are to be held simultaneously, States will have to give up this power and wait for a national election schedule.
- There is clear empirical evidence that most Indian voters tend to choose the same party when elections are held simultaneously to both Centre and State.
- The sheer logistics of holding simultaneous elections could be unmanageable to implement, given that the electorate exceeds 670 million voters and 7, 00, 000 polling stations spread across varying geographic zones that will have to consider localised weather conditions, festivals and events.
- Also, local and national issues could get subsumed by each other and fears would abound on the misuse of Article 356 by the Union Government, making One nation, One election an impractical concept to cater to a diverse polity such as India.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Answer the following Questions

1. Discuss the steps taken by the government for improving the ease of doing business in India and what more needs to be done. (250 words)
2. The rules governing the functioning of the Rajya Sabha have not kept pace with the times and requires reform. Examine (250 words)

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