

# E-Content

## One Nation One Election

### Semester: V

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## Topic to be Covered



- Elections in India
- Trend of Elections in India
- Concept of ONOE
- Election Expenditure Per Elector in India
- Feasibility of ONOE
- Advantages
- Concerns
- Conclusion

## Elections in India

- India is a democratic country, where the people select their representatives/leaders by giving votes. In India different elections happen at different time since independence. It involves a lot of expenditure by election commissioner and political parties and lot of wastage of productive times.
- Schools and offices are closed at time of elections. A large number of police workforces are always engaged in elections. There are chances of riots at time of elections. In few countries, the policies of one election are used

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## Trend of Elections in India

The elections to constitute the 16th Lok Sabha were held by the Election Commission over the period March 2014 – May 2014. Along with elections to the Lok Sabha, elections for constituting the State Assemblies of 4 states were held. Those comprised: Andhra Pradesh (undivided Andhra. Telangana got created as a new State later in June 2014 following the provisions of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Bill 2014), Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Odisha. This was followed by the following State Assembly elections

- a) September 2014 - October 2014: Maharashtra and Haryana;
- b) October 2014 - December 2014: Jharkhand and J&K;
- c) Jan 2015 – Feb 2015: NCT of Delhi;
- d) September 2015 – November 2015: Bihar;
- e) March 2016 – May 2016: Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal

## Trend of Elections in India Conti...

- As can be seen above, besides Lok Sabha elections in 2014, polls to about 15 State Assemblies were held during March 2014 – May 2016.
- In 2014 alone, elections were held in March – May, September – October and October – December timeframes.
- In some cases, elections to State Assemblies were announced within a month of concluding elections to other State Assemblies.
- Add elections to the third tier of Government (Panchayati Raj institutions/ Municipal bodies in rural and urban areas), bye-elections etc., and the number of elections in any given year would increase substantially.
- Such frequent electoral cycles ends up negatively impacting administrative and developmental activities in the poll bound states / regions and the larger governance process in general as well.

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## Concept of ONOE

One nation–simultaneous elections’ is the need of the hour, which would facilitate accelerated development, thereby benefitting our countrymen. With such a system in place, all political parties, according to their respective ideologies, will be able to better utilize their energy towards development and public welfare," –

*President Ram Nath Kovind on SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS FOR LOKSABHA AND VIDHANSABHAS*

# School of Liberal Education, Department of Political Science

Course Code : BPEP3004

Course Name: Elections and Political Process in India

## Election Expenditure Per Elector from 1952-2014

### Election expenditure per elector

Year of Election	Expenditure Incurred (in Rs.)	No. of electors	Expenditure per elector (in Rs.)
1952	10,45,00,000	17,32,12,343	0.6
1957	5,90,00,000	19,36,52,179	0.3
1962	7,32,00,000	21,63,61,569	0.3
1967	10,79,69,000	25,02,07,401	0.4
1971	11,60,87,450	27,41,89,132	0.4
1977	23,03,68,000	32,11,74,327	0.7
1980	54,77,39,000	35,62,05,329	1.5
1984-85	81,54,34,000	40,03,75,333	2.0
1989	1,54,22,00,000	49,89,06,129	3.1
1991-92	3,59,10,24,679	51,15,33,598	7.0
1996	5,97,34,41,000	59,25,72,288	10.1
1998	6,66,22,16,000	60,58,80,192	11.0
1999	9,47,68,31,000	61,95,36,847	15.3
2004*	10,16,08,69,000	67,14,87,930	15.1
2009#	11,14,38,45,000	71,69,85,101	15.5
2014	38,70,34,56,024	83,41,01,479	46.4

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## Feasibility

- One Nation One Election” is not a unique experiment in our country.
- Simultaneous elections have been conducted previously as well.
- Simultaneously in India in 1952, 1957, 1962 and 1967.  This practice was discontinued in 1968-69,
- Some Legislative Assemblies were dissolved earlier due to various reasons.
- Keeping current situation in view, it is feasible to conduct such elections.
- However, many things have to be done before proceeding on this. The Law Commission, a Parliamentary Standing Committee, and the Election Commission have supported this idea in principle

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## COURSE CONTENT UNIT-IV

1. Data collection, Processing and Analysis.
2. Report Writing.
3. Role of internet and computers in Political Science Research.

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## Advantages

- Money Saving : 4120 MLAs in the 31 states & UTs.
- Expense Limit is 28 lacs
- Total cost would be Appx. 11,536,000,000 (1153 Crore).
- Average 5 Assemblies goes to election yearly
- Speedy Development Work.
- Check on Black Money
- Smooth functioning of the Government Machinery
- Efficiency of Governance

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## Concern

- Constitutional Problems on Alliances
- Misuse of Article 356
- If Lok Sabha dissolved before 5 years, What is to assemblies? 1977  3 years 1989 (2 years) 1996 1(8 Months) 1998 (13 Months)
- If Assembly dissolved before 5 years, what is to Lok Sabha?
- Local issues will not be addressed.
- Regional Parties will have tough time.
- Delay in Election Results
- Requirement of Huge Machinery & Resources ( 4500 Crore for New EVMs Only)

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## Concerns Conti..

Constitutional Amendments needed

1. Article 83 Houses of Parliament.
2. Article 85 Lok Sabha by the President.
3. Article 172 Duration of state legislatures.
4. Article 174 Dissolution of state assemblies.
5. Article 356 President's Rule in the state.
6. The Representation of People Act, 1951 Stability of tenure for both parliament and assemblies.

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## Conclusion

- Keeping the present scenario in view; it seems tough to adopt the system.
- The regional parties will not agree
- According to a survey, 77% chances that the Indian voter will vote for the same party for both the state and Centre;
- Central Govt in power may be really tough on states.
- Successful implementation in
- Sweden, Indonesia, South Africa, Germany, Spain, Hungary, Belgium, Poland, Slovenia, Albania However, seen the benefits, it is advisable to go for One Nation, One Election concept for national interest.

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# Books/References

- **Text Book (s)**
- E. Sridharan, (2012) 'Introduction: Theorizing Democratic Consolidation, Parties and Coalitions', in *Coalition Politics and Democratic Consolidation in Asia*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
  - R. Kothari, (2002) 'The Congress System', in Z. Hasan (ed.) *Parties and Party Politics in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press
- **Reference Book (s)**
- Y. Yadav and S. Palshikar, (2006) 'Party System and Electoral Politics in the Indian States, 1952-2002: From Hegemony to Convergence', in P. deSouza and E. Sridharan (eds.) *India's Political Parties*, New Delhi: Sage Publications.
- C. Jaffrelot, (2008) 'Why Should We Vote? The Indian Middle Class and the Functioning of World's Largest Democracy', in *Religion, Caste and Politics in India*