**LAW RELATING TO ELECTORAL REFORMS: A STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO INDIA AND UK**

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# Chapter 1: Introduction

## 1.1 Introduction

Both the UK and the Indian Constitution follow a parliamentary system of democracy that is deemed to be the most suitable for the nation. Under this system, the people of the country can elect their representatives who can present their diverse political ideologies, through the conduction of free and fair elections. This task was vested upon the Election Commission of India (ECI). Still, in recent times democracy has become a highly political concept that has led the Indian electoral system to gradually lose its capability of representing the political and free will of the vast population. Despite the supervision of the ECI, there have been potential breaches of multiple election laws. Thus, conducting free and fair elections is crucial to safeguard the electoral system and democracy at large. This study has highlighted the growing concern to reduce or rather eradicate corruption or malpractices, caste and ethnic influences, violence and coercion associated with elections, and so on to diminish biases in a parliamentary democracy. Additionally, it also throws light on the issue of democratic governance due to a vague allotment of parliamentary seats to different parties thereby failing to reflect the preferences of the voters. Since democracy is 'of the people, for the people, and by the people' good governmental regulations are vital for the ultimate of the people. Especially in the contemporary era, where fair elections have ceased to operate through the use of various violent means such as booth rigging, the use of bribes, physical dominance, and so on, a rethinking of the process of voting is necessary. The institution of a Universal Adult Franchise that allows the voters of age 18 and above with a Voter ID to elect their choice of representatives, without any discrimination, was the key determinant of a democratic election. However, it has been under serious threat due to its exploitation by one or a considerable participation of intense politics in every other election. The need for electoral reforms has been a major and familiar topic of discourse across the globe as it is not a concern of contemporary India. The challenges in maintaining a parliamentary democracy are deeply rooted in the unfair conduction of elections that require changes in laws to attain electoral reforms. A variety of suggestions to cleanse the election system along with the significance and limitations of the study have been discussed in the paper to provide reasonable solutions that may be adopted from the UK, for electoral reforms in India.

## 1.2 Statement of Research Problem

The Indian Constitution is the world's lengthiest written constitution as its framers have adopted specific features from several other constitutions. The Preamble begins with 'We, the people of India' indicating the democratic feature of the nation.[[1]](#footnote-2). Thus, free and fair elections in India are of utmost importance for democratic governance. However, the process in which Indian elections are conducted in the modern era has been rigged and unfair due to several malpractices being crept in by different political parties. To claim that India currently is a democratic nation is a far-fetched idea as the majority of its citizens are being deprived of their voting rights. For instance, in some parts of the country, the uneducated masses with no Voter ID are made to cast a vote for a particular party in exchange for money while some even use violence and force to threaten the masses. With the nation's growing pace towards development, there has been an increasing criminalization of the Indian political system. These corrupt practices were primarily limited to booth capturing but now they have stretched their corruption to open false voting thereby affecting the election process and democracy at large[[2]](#footnote-3). Thus, there has been an urgent need to make changes and improvements in the election mechanism to enhance the effectiveness of democracy. Especially in the Democratic Republic of India, where elections form the basis and determinant of people's free will, electoral reforms are a revolutionary power. The system of conducting regular elections has been a means to provide an opportunity for the voters to indirectly elect their chosen representatives. This system has to be a constant reminder that the supreme power has been vested with the public so that the representatives do not overstep their political powers. Despite the implementation of several reforms in the electoral system by the ECI, corruption has been a big challenge that continues to manipulate and control the electoral practices which has been discussed in the paper. A good electoral system has always been a key determinant of an effective democratic society and it is definitely difficult to attain an ideal election system but electoral reforms are indeed a necessity for a smooth functioning of a free and unbiased election.[[3]](#footnote-4). A properly structured, clear, and transparent framework like that of the UK can be an effective component in ensuring democratic elections. Through comparative analysis and adoption of electoral laws in the UK, this study has provided certain recommendations to establish the conduct of democratic elections. It further explores the significance and growing demands for electoral reforms to ensure the successful implementation of democracy in India[[4]](#footnote-5).

## 1.3 Scope & Limitation of the Study

Not many people are aware of democracy and how crucial it is for the citizens. Thus, this study can be beneficial in understanding the significance of democracy and making citizens aware of their rights. It can also be beneficial in raising awareness about the corrupt practices within the election system. If the malpractices remain unknown to people then it intensifies further and disrupts democracy at large.[[5]](#footnote-6). Hence, people can make use of their power in electing the rightful representatives who can listen to their grievances to promote democracy. For researchers who are interested in working on a comparative analysis between the Indian and the UK constitutional and electoral systems, this study can be helpful for future reference. [[6]](#footnote-7). Also, the agencies and institutions who are willing to implement electoral reforms in India can use this as a guide to prevent mistakes and adopt the rightful measures from the UK electoral system.[[7]](#footnote-8).

One of the major drawbacks of implementing electoral reforms has been its potential exposure to massive politicization. This study has been limited to evaluating the role and measures of the ECI to ensure the conduct of free and fair elections. The study of this research has been vast and very time-consuming. Also, in comparison to the UK, the electoral system in India is significantly influenced by ethnic voting.[[8]](#footnote-9). Thus, the implementation of the UK electoral reforms may or may not be beneficial to India. Since the study made in this research has been a wide one, the paper has been limited to the status of the current electoral reforms in the field of electronic technology.[[9]](#footnote-10). Concerning the UK, the study has just been confined to a comparative analysis and contrasts of electoral reforms between India and the former. It has also focused on the laws and policies of just the agencies and institutions that are concerned with the responsibility of conducting free and fair elections. The paper lacks diversity as it has just taken reference to the UK in analyzing and the electoral reforms in India. The paper in itself was very demanding and extensive and required a lot of academic expenditure, as a result only the current scenarios in electoral reforms in regard to the ECI were taken into consideration and studied further[[10]](#footnote-11). Given the wide range of social, political, and economic changes and differences, the study has not been able to cover the vast range of possibilities for enhancing electoral reforms.

## 1.4 Significance and Importance of the Study

The study discussed electoral reforms and political behavior in the developing world. India is often considered an example of the centrality of contingency in distributive policies. The survey of electoral reforms of politics has grown as a substantial body of scholarship over the past several decades across the world[[11]](#footnote-12). This study holds immense significance as elections in India spread out within a dynamically evolving society in the developing world. It describes that electoral politics has been to be nominated in various forms such as distributive politics in the developing world. The laws must also evolve to meet its changing needs just like the society changes and progresses with time and requirements. A change in the electoral system is required for the improvement of public desire expressed in the result of elections. Elections at various levels pose democratic challenges which is the reason for the call for continual reformation. Free and fair elections are important for a healthier democracy[[12]](#footnote-13). As previously emphasized the cornerstone of the robust weather in the UK or India rests on the conduct of free and fair elections. The research entails a critical evaluation of legislative endeavors and their implementation within democratic frameworks like India and the UK. In India, the government gains the authority from the majority of the people.' The election commission of India and the UK were requested to have a look into the matter of the entire electoral system in the country as well as suggest some reforms which are needed to make the electoral system more systematically according to the needs of the society. The election system of UK is a continuous form of late 19th/early 20th-century partisan conflict and ways the two major parties sought to control voting rules for mutual benefits[[13]](#footnote-14). The election system of India is conducted by the “FPTP” system as in the UK has produced in terms of varying results is the basic concentration. Personalization was always the top choice that voters could choose between individual candidates rather than the list of parties or else in the district if “single member” that minimize the distance of the voter-candidate[[14]](#footnote-15). The significance of the research paper focuses on the laws which are related to electoral reform where these points have been discussed regarding both the countries India and UK. The British electoral system mainly works within the context of “class-specific cleavages’ but at the same time, it is also based on economic prosperity during the (1960s and 1970s) in terms of great national consciousness. Indian society is much bigger and more complex than the British[[15]](#footnote-16). It is divided into various forms such as languages, and races but still, it is an influenceable caste system. As a result, competition in politics was conceptualized necessary to the operations of elections. Moreover, it seeks to notice the necessity and importance of the proposed reforms while shedding light on the obstacles and limitations of the execution of these corrective measures as these are essential for addressing current challenges[[16]](#footnote-17).

## 1.5 Objectives of the Research

This thesis seeks to comparatively investigate the laws which are pertaining to the electoral reforms in India and the UK with the following specific objectives which include:

* Tracing the historical evolution of elections in a democratic polity.
* Examining and evaluating the laws related to elections and provisions governing elections in India.
* Studying the procedure and conduct of elections in India through the “Election Commission of India (ECI)” and its contributions.
* Analyzing various corrupt electoral practices.
* Conducting a comparative study of electoral reforms in India and the UK in an integrated manner.
* Examining election laws and legal provisions that govern political parties in India.
* Proposing remedial measures to eradicate the corrupt practices and election offenses that are about elections.
* Evaluating and offering suggestions for the implementation of legislative changes aimed at good governance.

## 1.6 Research Questions

* Why are simultaneous elections considered as an important component in reforming the electoral process in India?
* Which Constitutional agencies or bodies hold the responsibility for executing and organizing simultaneous elections in India?
* What are the recent legislative frameworks that are governing the execution of simultaneous elections in India?
* What are the widespread corrupt practices and electoral offenses that influence the electoral landscape amidst the proposal for simultaneous elections in India?
* What specific structural reforms have been undertaken through judicial interpositions to address election offenses specifically concerning simultaneous elections in India?
* What recommendations have been made in election laws through reports from the Law Commission of India especially focusing on simultaneous elections?
* What electoral reforms have been advocated for by reports from the Election Commission and other committees that concern the execution of simultaneous elections in India?
* How can the mechanisms of electoral reforms which are applied in the UK be implemented to increase the electoral process specifically in the context of simultaneous elections in India?
* Which specific electoral reforms in the UK line up with the goals of executing simultaneous elections and could potentially be adapted for the electoral system of India?
* What role does the Election Commission of India play in advocating and enforcing reforms specifically in the context of introducing simultaneous elections?

## 1.7 Hypothesis

1. The codification of “pre-poll” alliances which will clarify the political amalgamation thereby aiding the informed decisions of voters. The execution of simultaneous elections significantly contributes towards better transparency reducing uncertainty in political affiliations and increasing the informed “decision-making” of voters.

2. The simultaneous elections, which are coupled with a framework that is codified for pre-poll alliances will likely minimize electoral expenses and redundancies of campaigns thereby optimizing the utilization of resources in the electoral landscape.

3. The introduction of simultaneous elections and a codified mechanism for pre-poll alliances is expected to stimulate strategies of “coalition-building” among political parties which potentially encourage more stable and effective governance post-elections.

4. The implementation of simultaneous elections in conjunction with the codification of pre-poll alliances is anticipated to curtail the disturbances caused by frequent polls that lead to sustained periods of governance favorable to the formulation of policy and execution.

5. Simultaneous elections and the formalization of pre-poll alliances through codification are likely to alleviate instances of opportunistic political alliances thereby promoting greater coherence and responsibility among political entities.

## 1.8 Research Methodology

The research methodology which is based on the law relating to electoral reforms through a study with reference to India and the UK which is described is mainly doctrinal and involves a structured and comprehensive approach to the interpretation and legal analysis. This methodology combines critical analysis and comparison and an examination that is descriptive thereby allowing for a detailed and thorough investigation of the subject matter. By specifically employing a doctrinal approach the researcher prominently focuses on the legal principles that are established and doctrines thereby critically examining their implementation to the electoral reforms and challenges. The research largely employs an array of primary resources which are extremely primary for the understanding of the practical and legal frameworks that surround the electoral reforms. The primary sources include the constitutional laws which provide the foundational legal framework for the governance and electoral processes in the country. The election laws include specific regulations and statutes that command the electoral procedures and practices. The political science literature contributes the contextual understanding and theoretical insights and their functioning[[17]](#footnote-18). The statutory provisions and relevant enactments have a notable involvement as these documents provide detailed legal rules and guidelines that apply to the electoral process. By including these primary resources the researcher guarantees a robust foundation of theoretical and legal knowledge which are evaluative for addressing the electoral issues. The incorporation of government reports from diverse committees which include those from the "Election Commission", "Law Commission" and "International Electoral Standards" frequently adds depth and empirical perspectives to the research[[18]](#footnote-19). These reports frequently highlight the challenges of "real-world" recommendations of policies and the impact of the existing laws. This largely works in enhancing the analysis with evaluations of expert and empirical data. This research also significantly uses secondary sources which provide additional interpretation and context. The "peer-reviewed" articles significantly contribute to current scholarly activities with findings on electoral reforms. The judicial rulings offer insights into the way courts have illuminated and applied the electoral laws thereby shaping legal patterns. The Academic books and legal commentaries offer discussions that are detailed and explanation of electoral laws and their suggestions. The magazines, newspapers and websites potentially provide recent developments in public opinion and practical insights into the reforms and the electoral practices[[19]](#footnote-20). The meticulous assumption of a uniform citation method throughout the research guarantees clarity and consistency in an integrated manner. This approach prominently works in increasing the capability and scholarly carefulness of the study thereby providing clear references and validating readers towards verifying the sources. By combining both primary and secondary resources along with a structured approach of methodology this research presents an analysis that is "well-rounded" of the electoral reforms and their associated challenges. This detailed and thorough explanation works in understanding the difficulties and complexities of the electoral issues thereby offering valuable insights into potential developments and the influence of existing legal frameworks.

## 1.9 Review of Literature

**Legal framework and constitutional provisions governing elections in India**

As per the observation of the research paper (20) the electoral system of India is significantly shaped by its constitution which provides a strong framework for democratic governance. India is the largest democracy in the world with over 900 million voters who are eligible for voting. The foundation of the electoral system in India is cherished in the constitution which notably provides for a federal structure with a clear and transparent delineation of powers between the "state" and the "central governments"[[20]](#footnote-21). The provisions include "Article 324" which largely demonstrates the "Election Commission of India (ECI)" to conduct and supervise the elections. "Article 326" instructs the universal adult suffrage for the general elections. The early reforms which significantly worked towards the improvement of electoral integrity include "The Representation of the People Act 1950" which is an act towards providing the allocation of seats and the borderline of the constituencies for the purpose of elections.[[21]](#footnote-22). This act establishes the electoral rolls and the powers of ECI. This act laid the foundation by defining the powers of ECI and establishing the electoral rolls. This was mainly followed by the "Representation of the People Act of 1951-52" which addressed electoral disputes and offences thereby working towards creating a more strong legal framework for electoral management.

On the other hand (21) over the years India has executed various notable reforms to increase the electoral process. The "73rd and 74th" "Constitutional Amendments of 1992" were the milestone reforms which significantly aimed towards boosting and strengthening local governance by creating municipalities and panchayats and developing the local representation.[[22]](#footnote-23). These amendment acts played a vital role in dispersing the power in India by mainly transferring the power from the state and the central governments to the local bodies. Additionally, the reforms in 1993 have largely expanded the powers of ECI thereby including the authority towards administering the finances of the party and managing the expenditures of elections which work towards improving transparency and curbing corruption. However, literature suitably indicates that these reforms have played a prominent role in improving diverse aspects of the electoral process and the challenges still remain. The positive impact of these reforms on the participation of voters and the efficiency in administration but it somewhere acknowledges the issues which are ongoing. These reforms particularly highlight the struggles of ECIs with enforcing obedience thereby addressing electoral fraud amidst the administrative hurdles and pressures in politics.

Further, the electoral system of the UK has developed through a series of legislative acts that contemplate its gradual approach to reform. "The Representation of the People's Act of 1918" played a pivotal role which expanding the rights of voting to all women and men over the age of 30. This was mainly followed by the "Representation of the People Act of 1928" which lowered the voting age to 21.

**Historical evaluation of electoral processes in India**

According to the research paper (22), The Indian electoral system has undergone notable transformations since the country achieved independence in 1947. Initially sculpted in the British parliamentary system, the electoral process of India has developed in response to changes based on "socio-politics"[[23]](#footnote-24). The early elections were distinguished by the administrative structures that were complex and the limited franchise but over time the reforms were suitably work towards simplification of the process which has been expanding the electorate in an integrated manner. The study of political behavior and electoral politics across the world which is developing has largely evolved into a considerable body of scholarship over the past various decades. In terms of India key reforms have been added in the "Electronic Voting Machine (EVM)" in the 1990s and the "Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)" system in current years in order to address the concerns of transparency.

The electoral laws of the UK have evolved in a similar manner with notable reforms which work towards developing and improving electoral integrity and democratic representation. “The Representation of the People Act 1985” and the “Representation of the People Act 1983” have instituted measures to guarantee the smooth-running of the electoral process and increase the access of voters. More current reforms include the “Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000” which regulates the electoral conduct and funding of parties.

**Contributions of the “Election Commission of India (ECI)”**

The "Election Commission of India (ECI)" is an important institution which is mainly responsible for overseeing the electoral process in India. It is accepted by the constitution that the primary role of ECI is to guarantee fair and free elections. It is entrusted with the powers based on "wide-ranging" to direct, supervise and control the whole electoral process thereby including the construction of electoral rolls the enforcement of electoral laws and the conduct of the elections. The ECI has played a vital role in terms of introducing various features to increase the efficiency and transparency of elections. This includes the establishment of "VVPAT" in "EVM" and the foundation of "National Voter Service Portal (NVSP)" The 2019 parliamentary elections have voters consisting of 900 million who are eligible and were completed in 9 phases over 39 days. The NVSP has played an instrumental role in improving the management of elections and access to voters. The ECI also plays an important role in observing campaign finance thereby enforcing the "Model of Conduct" and addressing electoral unprofessional behaviour.

**Electoral offences in India and corrupt practices**

According to (24), political leaders often engage in electoral violence in order to influence the process or outcome of the elections.[[24]](#footnote-25). In fact, India witnesses several forms of criminal offence during every election, display of violence being just one of them. Electoral offences and corrupt practices refer to criminal activities committed during electoral procedures that interfere with the process or outcome of the election. Violating the secrecy of voting, causing disturbances during election meetings, failing to observe the prescribed norms of voting, and carrying weapons to or near polling stations, are some other common practices classified under electoral violence in India. According to (25), political parties are particularly interested in displaying violence at locations where they are concerned about losing their seats.[[25]](#footnote-26).

Exercising undue influence over voters, or even attempting to do so, has been recognised as both an electoral offence and a corrupt practice in India. It is illegal to make an attempt to influence or compel any voter to vote for a particular candidate against their own will. Any person found guilty of such unfair practices is strictly punishable by law. Other significant corrupt practices related to elections in India are capturing of polling booths, providing false information about candidates, and bribing of voters by candidates. Such criminal activities and unfair practices significantly affect the fairness and transparency of the voting system in India.

**Comparative study of electoral reforms in the UK and India**

As per the observation of research paper (24) a comparative study of electoral reforms in the UK and India reveals both differences and similarities in their approaches in an integrated manner. The electoral system of the UK focuses attention on the engagement of voters and transparency thereby offering notable and valuable insights for India[[26]](#footnote-27). In the UK the electoral reforms have primarily focused on developing the access of voters through the establishment of systems of electronic voting and postal voting. The UK has also worked in executing reforms to increase the transparency of electoral administration and campaign financing. India has embraced some of these practices which mainly includes practices including “VVPAT” and “EVMs” but it faces distinctive challenges because of its vast and diverse electorate[[27]](#footnote-28)The comparative studies and research prominently highlights the requirement for the adaptations which are specific towards the context of foreign practices. For example , postal voting has gained success in the UK and its execution in India would require giving an address towards issues which are related with logistics and security.

**Election laws and regulations influencing political parties in India**

The political parties in India are commanded by a range of regulations and laws which are designed to guarantee transparency and fair competition and accountability in a clear,concise and credible manner. Diverse studies of developing democracies have notably found evidence that incumbency may not help in the chances of reelection of legislators[[28]](#footnote-29). “The Representation of the People Act, 1951” and the “Political Parties (Registration and Regulation) Act 1989” has arranged a legal framework for the functioning,registration and regulation of the political parties. These laws prominently work in mandating the disclosure of information based on finances thereby regulating the conduct of the activities of the party and guaranteeing obedience with the electoral laws. However the limitations and challenges still persist in terms of imposing these regulations, specifically those regarding the transparency of the funding of parties and an obedience towards internal democracy within the parties. Current reforms have aimed to increase the responsibility of the political parties which includes the necessity for detailed disclosures based on finances and the regulation of electoral bonds about the need for further reforms and effectiveness of these measures to guarantee greater accountability and transparency in the financing of parties.

**Recommendations for legislative changes and simultaneous elections**

According to the research paper (25) the revelation of electoral reforms in India has remarkably featured suitable recommendations for the legislative changes and simultaneous elections to increase efficiency and reduce the costs based on administration (25). The “Law and Commission of India” has presented constitutional amendments towards making it possible for the simultaneous elections for the state assemblies and Lok Sabha. These changes play a vital role in working towards streamlining the electoral process thereby reducing the fatigue of election and lowering the administrative costs. Further these reforms are largely recommended towards addressing the issues which include transparency in the funding of party and electoral corruption. The increased legislative frameworks include the precise regulations on the campaign finance and developed mechanisms for monitoring the electoral practices which are important for the execution of these reforms in an effective manner.

The approach of the UK towards electoral reforms provides insights that are valuable for India. The UK has executed the measures for developing and improving efficiency,transparency which includes the “Political Parties and the Elections and Referendums Act 2000” which requires the electoral conduct and funding of parties. The lessons which can be learned from the UK suggests that the elections that are simultaneous require complete legislative changes to address the logistical challenges and synchronising the electoral cycles.

**Execution of electoral reforms of UK in the Indian context**

As per the researchers (26) the implementation of electoral reforms of the UK in India could offer valuable developments and improvements. The stringent regulations of the party funding of UK and the transparent process of the registration of voters as viewed in the “Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000” could increase the electoral integrity of India The adoption of measures that are similar which includes the requirements of strict disclosure and streamlined registration of voter may address the issues of efficiency and transparency[[29]](#footnote-30). Further the lessons from the administrative efficiency in the elections of UK could guide the approach of India to simultaneous elections which requires legislative changes to reduce the burdens based on administration while embracing to unique electoral challenges of India.

**Procedure and management of elections in India through the Election Commission** According to (26), the election management bodies in India are largely responsible for maintaining and safeguarding the country’s constitutional democracy[[30]](#footnote-31). “The Election Commission of India”, the primary body governing the election procedures of the nation, frames laws to ensure transparency and effectiveness in the overall process of conducting elections. Besides organizing and managing the entire voting procedure, the primary responsibilities of the ECI include electoral roll management, framing guidelines for the code of conduct, and addressing electoral disputes. During elections, every voting booth in India has to function under the strict surveillance of the “Election Commission”. The commission has a separate Secretariat in New Delhi and has a huge task force that enables it to manage and supervise the electoral processes throughout India.

India follows the system of single transferable vote. To ensure privacy and transparency, the voting is done by the system of ‘Secret Ballot’, This system ensures that a citizen’s choice of the desired candidate is not disclosed to anybody[[31]](#footnote-32). The ECI appoints a suitable number of election observers to keep the election procedure under vigil surveillance. The commission makes every possible effort to promote just and fair elections in the country. Hence, the Election Commission of India undeniably plays a pivotal role in conducting and managing the electoral processes in India.

## 1.10 Plan of the Study

This thesis is significantly arranged into six chapters and every chapter contributes to an extensive examination of electoral systems thereby particularly focusing on India and the UK. The introduction chapter prominently works in terms of introducing the topic of research thereby defining the scope and restrictions of the study in an integrated manner. It largely establishes the objectives and significance of the research thereby formulating research questions that present the hypothesis in a clear, concise, and credible manner. Further, this chapter also conducts a review of the literature which significantly sets the foundation for the subsequent chapters. It also details the research methodology which is important for enhancing the context of the study. It concludes with a recap of the study plan.

The second chapter largely explores the meaning, necessity, and purpose of elections. It largely focuses on the conceptualization of election and historical evaluation. It covers the historical assessment of the electoral systems and examines various forms of government. This chapter compares the policies that are democratic in the UK and India thereby considering the role of the political parties and defining the globally recognized standards and principles for fair and free elections.

The third chapter is based on the law and procedure which is related to the elections in India. By focusing on India this chapter largely details the development of "The Election Commission of India (ECI)" by including its constitutional functions, powers, structure, and status. This chapter also reviews the "Model Code of Conduct" and examines applicable legislation governing elections which offers an extensive look at the governmental framework for the conduction of elections in India.

The fourth chapter which is based on "'Law About Electoral Reforms in India" largely examines the requirements for and the limitations of electoral reforms thereby analyzing the judgments of courts and legislative measures on electoral practices. It reviews reports from the commissions which point towards the guaranteeing of fair elections and addressing recent reform trends which include the applicability of RTI and political party funding and the laws of anti-defection. It also includes the representation of women and the management of the coalition. It also offers potential suggestions for development in these areas.

The fifth chapter significantly addresses the analysis of simultaneous elections theory focusing attention on the “what”, “why” and “how” of this electoral concept. The primary focus is on the concept of simultaneous elections thereby exploring its feasibility and necessity. The chapter largely discussed the constitutional instruction for elections to diverse entities at consistent intervals thereby examining the involvement of holding simultaneous elections.

The conclusion chapter discusses the synthesis of findings from the research thereby providing suitable recommendations for increasing the electoral process in India.

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