

DPSH MUN 2024

AIPPM

ALL INDIA POLITICAL PARTY MEET



Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Prospective Members,

At the outset on behalf of the Executive Board, we extend a warm welcome to all of you on being a part of AIPPM being simulated at DPSH Model United Nations 2024.

The committee being simulated, would unlike most other simulations you must have heard of or been a part of; focus on political intellect, logical intellect, analytical application of thoughts, and strategic application of thoughts in addressing the issues at hand. Kindly note, we are not looking for existing (impractical) solutions, or statements that would be a copy paste of what the person you are representing has already stated; instead, we seek an out of the box solution from you, while knowing and understanding the impending limitations of the person you represent.

This Introductory guide would be as abstract as possible and would just give you a basic perspective on what you can expect from the committee and areas on which your research should be focused at this given point in time. Given the extremely political and volatile nature of the agenda of the committee, your presence of mind and analytical aptitude is something which we as the Executive Board would be looking to test.

Kindly do not limit your research to the areas highlighted herein but, ensure that you logically deduce and push your research to areas associated with and in addition to the issues mentioned. The Executive Board expects the Members to be well-versed with the Political Dynamics revolving around the Member of Parliament, Political Party and Alliance he/she's representing and associated with respectively. Kindly note, that unlike most conventional /unconventional committees you have attended, this committee shall have substantive intervention by the Executive Board.

We are sure, however, that this Background Guide gives you a great launching pad to start with your research but your own research is of utmost importance. This guide shall deal with a skeletal overview of the agenda. The agenda chosen for this year is in consonance with the present-day developments in Indian Politics to ease out and encourage productive debate. We expect all the delegates to go through this Background Guide and make note that this Background Guide holds significant importance.

Wishing you all the best!

Regards,

Nayan Chandra, Chairperson
Anantosh Srivastava, Vice Chairperson
Sahasra Gajavelli, Rapporteur

Agenda

Deliberating upon Electoral Reforms with a special emphasis on the concept of One Nation, One Election.

Introduction:

The society is dynamic and so has to be the institutions of the society and the laws governing it. The election of people's representatives in the respective Houses of the Center and States is the very soul of our Indian Democracy. It has been more than seven decades since the formation of this institution, and it is not ignorant that these 77 years have yielded different political situations in the country, and still continues to do the same. Therefore, with changing and prevailing political arenas, India demands electoral reforms.

Electoral reforms refer to the development and benign change in election processes in India to facilitate better democracy, clean politics, election of ideal members of legislative houses, equality of representation and so on. They are required to uphold the aspirations of our forefathers, to accomplish the ideals of our Constitution and to have a true democracy in letter as well as in spirit by conducting fair elections.

Elections are the most important and integral part of politics in a democratic system of governance. While politics is the art and practice of dealing with political power, election is a process of legitimization of such power. Democracy can indeed function only upon this faith that elections are free and fair, and not rigged and manipulated, that they are effective instruments of ascertaining popularity both in reality and in form, and are not mere rituals calculated to generate an illusion of difference in mass opinion. Democracy cannot survive without free and fair elections.

The elections at present are not being held in ideal conditions, because of the enormous amount of money required to be spent and large muscle power needed for winning the elections. Over the years, the Indian electoral system has suffered from serious infirmities. The election process in our country is the progenitor of political corruption. Some of the candidates and parties participate in the process of elections to win them at all costs, irrespective of moral values. The ideal conditions require that an honest and upright person, who is public spirited and wants to serve the people, should be able to contest and get elected as people's representatives. However, in fact, such a person as previously mentioned has no chance of either contesting or in any case winning the election.

Main Issues in Electoral Politics of India –

Money power– In each constituency, a prospective candidate must spend millions of rupees towards campaigning, transport, publicity etc. The gap between the expenses incurred and the amount legally permitted has been increasing over the years. The high cost of elections creates a high degree of compulsion for corruption in the public arena, that the sources of some of the election funds are believed to be unaccounted criminal money in return for protection, from business groups who expect a high return on this investment, kickbacks or commissions on contracts, etc.

Muscle Power– Use of violence, pre-election intimidation and booth capturing are mainly the products of muscle power, and are prevalent in many parts of the country, like Bihar, Western UP etc. This phenomenon has slowly begun spreading to the south.

Criminalization of politics and politicization of criminals– These are two sides of the same coin and are mainly responsible for the manifestation of muscle power at elections.

Politicization of criminals- Criminals enter into politics to gain influence and ensure that cases against them are dropped or not proceeded with. Also, the political parties field criminals in elections and in return provide them with political patronage and protection.

Misuse of Government Machinery- It is generally complained that the Government in power at the time of election misuses official machinery to improve their candidate's election prospects. The misuse of official machinery takes different forms, such as the use of Government vehicles for canvassing, advertisements at the cost of Government and public exchequer highlighting their achievements, disbursements out of the discretionary funds at the disposal of the Ministers, etc. which gives an unfair advantage to the ruling party at the time of elections.

Non-serious independent candidates- Non-serious candidates are largely floated by serious candidates either to cut sizable portions of votes of rival candidates, or to split the votes on caste lines, or to have additional physical force at polling stations and counting centres.

Casteism- Political parties make offers to different caste groups to win their favor and caste groups also try to pressurize parties to give tickets to members of their respective caste groups.

Communalism- The politics of communalism and religious fundamentalism after Independence has led to several separatist movements in various States and regions of the country.

Lack of Moral Values in Politics- Gandhian values of selflessness and service to the people and self-sacrifice have been destroyed systematically over the years and both the politicians and political parties have lost their credibility.

Lack of Transparency and Coordination- There is no reliable data about the financial affairs of political parties. Proper voting procedures should be followed. Time lag between the recommendation and implementation of rules.

Nexus between business and politics- Enables business to make policy, apart from affecting how policies are implemented. Many laws are shaped by business presence in the two houses. Business's roles in parliamentary committees give it a unique function of criticizing Government policy and Government departments and shaping policies in more specialized arenas related to business interests.

Electoral Reforms In India Over The Years:

1. Anti-Defection Law- The Anti-Defection Law was passed in 1985 through the 52nd Amendment to the Constitution, which introduced the Tenth Schedule. The main intent of the law was to combat “the evil of political defections” by elected politicians for the lure of office.

2. Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) - Founded in 1999, it is a non-Governmental organization, which works for electoral and political reforms. It works alongside the National Election Watch, which is an organization focused on controlling transparency and accountability in Indian politics and reducing the influence of money and muscle power in elections.

3. Central Information Commission (CIC)- Set up under the Right to Information Act, 2005, it is the body authorized to act upon complaints from those individuals who have not been able to submit information requests to a Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as mandated by the Act.

4. Booth Capturing: The Election Commission of India (ECI) may either declare the poll of the polling station as void and appoint a date for fresh poll, or countermand election in that constituency because of booth capturing as defined under Section 135 A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RPA).

5. Disqualification upon Conviction under Insulting the National Honours Act, 1971: A conviction under this Act disqualifies a person from contesting elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures for a period of six years from the date of conviction.

6. Restriction on Contesting Election from More than Two Constituencies: A candidate is eligible to contest election from not more than two Assembly or Parliamentary constituencies at a General Election or at the Bye-elections which are held simultaneously.

7. Prohibition on Going Armed to or Near a Polling Station.

8. Time Limit for Bye-elections: Bye-elections to any House of Parliament or a State Legislature will now be held within six months of occurrence of the vacancy in that House, but this stipulation will not apply in two cases- where the remainder of the term of the member whose vacancy is to be filled is less than one year or where the Election Commission, in consultation with the Central Government, certifies that it is difficult to hold the bye-election within the said period.

9. The effective campaigning period –The gap between the last date for withdrawal of nomination and the polling date is 14 days.

10. Ceiling on election expenditure– Ceiling on election expenditure for a Lok Sabha seat is 40 lakh Rupees in bigger States and it varies between 16 to 40 lakh Rupees in other States and union territories.

11. To report contributions- Political parties need to report any contribution in excess of Rupees 20,000 to the EC for claiming income tax benefit.

12. NOTA- None of the Above, abbreviated as NOTA, has been provided as an option to the voters of India in most elections since 2013, by expressing a preference for none of the available candidates, a citizen can choose not to vote for any candidates who are contesting the elections in their particular constituency. The "None of the Above" (NOTA) option allows voters to formally express their rejection of all running candidates across parties.

13. General Election in Phases- Introduced this year the election were held in 7 phases with a motive of effective implementation of model code of conduct in the country and to combat corruption and malpractices (Moneypower)etc.

14. Disclosure of Criminal Cases against the candidate, Educational Information and their assets and liabilities, including those of their spouses and dependants arose from a landmark.

Constitutional Articles Related to Electoral Reforms:

1. Articles 324-329, which come under Part XV of the Indian Constitution, houses provisions related to elections in India.

2. Article 324 deals with the superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission.

3. Article 325 states that no person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special, electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.

4. Article 326 deals with the Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be based on adult suffrage.

5. Article 327 provides power to the Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures.

6. Article 328 provides power to the Legislature of a State to make provision with respect to elections to such Legislature.

7. Article 329 provides to create a bar on court to make any interference by courts relating to electoral matters.

ONE NATION ONE ELECTION

INTRODUCTION

The Republic of India is a nation that is widely considered to house the world's largest democracy and the electoral process is considered the most vibrant, most celebrated and most spoken about across the globe.

This is a nation that stands on the philosophy of "WE THE PEOPLE", which explains the plethora of laws regulating the conduct of elections in India and now considering that we are a federal nation with a unitary bias what keeps this principle of Republic of India alive is the spirit of the federal States and its pledged patriotism to the Centre called as Republic of India and the democratic nature of this Government is such that this nation celebrates and takes pride in its multi-party system and that has further given emergence to plethora of regional parties across all the States in India who play a pivotal role in running the Governments both in the central and the State, unlike many countries where bi-party system holds the fulcrum of their politics in India too many political observers tried to establish the same concept keeping in view the two dominant national parties but plethora of elections have proved the point that the national parties are toothless tigers without the support of various regional parties.

In fact many Governments in the centre have tasted bitter defeat when they have ignored the cause of these regional parties and some have lost confidence of the house by a margin of one vote when they don't take into account the significance of the regional parties, twice in our past the leaders of our regional parties have gone on to become the Prime Minister of India and even to this day just my being a member of the coalition alliance captained by the national parties they enjoy to hold plum positions in the Government and keeping the same significance in mind and also the politico- socio-economic effect it has on this country we have to understand how these plethora of elections happens at multiple times and hence the discussion of "One Nation One Election" has been mooted by various bodies of the Government since 1983, but owing to the chronology many argue that it truly challenges the federal spirit of the nation as multiple States go for elections multiple times and that means either the State or the central Governments(s) have to put a foot down and have to compromise on their tenures, which shall be a true litmus test to the entire Constitutional machinery of India and this background guide aims to provide details trying to analyze both the ends of the spectrum and the Committee shall debate and deliberate on the practical plausibility's of the concept of One Nation – One Election.

HISTORY

After the Independence in the year 1947 and after India had its own constitution to govern the country, she gave herself to her maiden elections in the year 1951-1952 and since then till 1967 India followed the concept of one nation one elections, wherein there used to be simultaneous elections all across the nation, wherein members of the Universal adult franchise voted for a Government in the Central, State and the Panchayath or the local self-Governments, but back in the days except a State or two major parts of India had a single party domination as the political party which had the habit of winning election after election and did so for almost two decades had charismatic leadership both at the central and the State level and more importantly they had taken complete credit of having won India its much desired Independence and also drafting an unique Constitution that was never experimented by any nation of great reputation in the past.

This illuminati could not last for long as multiple regional parties came to dethrone the incumbent regimes and started displaying themselves as the true representatives of their people and this magic worked to a large extent in southern parts of India with the rise of

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Dravidian ideology and the sentiments of the people of South India and followed by the establishment of parties like Telugu Desam Party in the then largest Southern Indian State of Andhra Pradesh and establishment of All India Anna Dravida MunnetraKazahagam in the most flourishing State of Tamil Nadu hence multiple rise and fall in central and State Government resulted in the damage of the streak. The first dent was in the year 1968, followed by 1969 and 1971 respectively wherein multiple regional parties dissolved and following by the unforgivable Constitutional blunder of 1976, where the draconian laws of emergency was invoked in India just to satisfy the power lust of one family which was very powerful at the center did further damage to the democracy and completely annihilated the process of democracy. But now the current central Government with the able guidance of NITI Ayog has again brought the implementation of one nation – one election to the charts, the feasibility of which shall be decided in the committee.

IS THERE A NEED FOR ONE NATION – ONE ELECTION?

For those who argue that there is a need for implementation of one nation – one election fundamentally bases their arguments based on:

1) Financial aspect:

Elections basically is an expensive affair in India, be it recruiting electoral officers to supervise over the booths or to recruit staff for counting the votes or recruit police officers to ensure that there is free and fearless elections and candidates/parties/supporters do not indulge into election malpractice and hosting plethora of awareness programs to ensure that voters come out and vote or ensuring that everyone gets their voter Ids, election is indeed a herculean task the preparations of which takes at least 9 months to 3 months of hectic schedule and expenditure has always been double or thrice owing to the fact that there are multiple elections happening at multiple times throughout the year. Hence if there is One nation one Election a lot of money can be saved by having simultaneous elections.

2) Administrative aspect:

Be it the Prime Minister or Chief Minister or any leader who holds a constitutional office, at the end of the day if he/she is accountable to something it is the political party he/she belongs to and owing to the fact that the leaders who hold legislative constitutional offices have owe significant loyalty to their parties and hold prominent positions in the party as well and the nature of Indian politics is such that there are multiple elections happening in India round the clock and throughout the year and these leaders have to focus on running the nation on one hand and travel to multiple States, cities, districts, villages etc to campaign for elections which keeps them deviated from functioning and even in some cases for I.A.S officers or other executives, District commissioners etc even they would have to face the wrath of multiple elections on one side they have the task of executing various laws implemented by the State and the central Government and the State Government and on the other hand ensure that the elections happen spick and span and understanding the fact that during election time the model code of conduct would be in place and no political leader will be in power and the authority of the District Commissioner is the law of the land. Hence to reduce the burden and to ensure that the administrative machinery of the nation focuses more on the polity, many opine that it is important to have one nation one elections.

3) Legal aspect:

As per the Representation of the peoples Act 1951, before the elections on a particular date the election commission shall declare the imposition of model code of conduct which means that the Government in authority cannot launch new schemes, cannot inaugurate new buildings, lay foundation stones etc. to put it in simple terms the entire legislative machinery shall become partially paralytic and won't enjoy the power and autonomy they did for the past five years or the days when they assumed charge and in order to ensure that there is no complete paralysis of the functioning of the Government the MCC provides flexibility for the Government to administer over already implemented schemes and sanction funds and complete stock of the situation during the times of crisis, natural calamity, disaster or any unforeseen emergency, but owing to multiple elections the effective implementation of MCC or any other equivalent laws are not happening to its full effect.

DOES ONE NATION – ONE ELECTION AFFECT THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF OUR CONSTITUTION?

Basic Structure' is a judicial innovation which was used for the first time in the case of Kesavananda Bharati & Ors. V/s State of Kerala 1973.

It includes:

- The supremacy of the Constitution.
- Republican and Democratic form of Government and sovereignty of the country.
- Secular and federal character of the Constitution.
- Demarcation of power between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.
- The dignity of the individual (secured by the various freedoms and basic rights in Part III) and the mandate to build a welfare State contained in Part IV The unity and the integrity of the nation.

Doctrine of basic structure has evolved over the years. Features were added over time through various SC verdicts which gave progressive judgment and innovated to preserve the basic substance of the constitution. The Supreme Court in Sajjan Kumar vs State of Rajasthan 1965 observed that the Constitution "formulated a solemn and dignified preamble which appears to be an epitome of the basic features of the Constitution".

Fundamental rights were included in basic structure in Minerva Mills V/S Union of India 1980 where SC calls them "transcendental, inalienable and primordial" and if the elements are damaged or destroyed, would rob the Constitution of its identity so that it would cease to be the existing Constitution but would become a different Constitution. "One cannot legally use the Constitution to destroy itself", as the doctrine of constitutional identity requires. The theory of basic structure is based on the principle that a change in the thing does not involve its destruction, and destruction of a thing is a matter of substance and not of form. Free and fair elections were seen as an essential postulate of democracy hence it was also called a basic feature by SC in Indira Gandhi v/s Raj Narain case 1975. The court also struck down the Clause (4) of Article 329A which provided for special provision as to elections to Parliament in the case of Prime Minister and Speaker, on the ground that it damaged the democratic structure of the Constitution. The said Clause (4) had taken away the power of judicial review of the courts as it abolished the forum without providing for another forum for going into the dispute relating to the validity of election of the Prime Minister and the Speaker.

In *S.R. Bommai v. Union of India*, 1994 SC held that secularism was an essential feature of the Constitution and part of its basic structure.

In *M Nagaraj & Ors. v. Union of India* 2007 the Constitution Bench of the Supreme observed that "axioms like secularism, democracy, reasonableness, social justice, etc. are overarching principles" which links factors for principles of fundamental rights like Articles 14, 19 and 21. These principles are beyond the amending power of Parliament.

In *I.R. Coelho V/s. State of T.N*, 2007, a Nine Judge Bench of the Supreme Court laid down the concrete criteria for basic structure principle. Stated that the power to amend the constitution was not unlimited, any changes that destroy the identity of the constitution, would be void. Every improper enhancement of its own power by Parliament, be it clauses 4 and 5 of Article 329A, or Section 4 of 42nd Amendment, have been held to be incompatible with basic structure doctrine. Thus, Basic means the base of a thing on which it stands and on the failure of which it falls. It is not a vague concept or abstract ideals found to be outside the provisions of the Constitution.

Therefore, the meaning/extent of basic structure needs to be construed in view of the specific provision(s) under consideration, its object and purpose, and the consequences of its denial of the integrity of the Constitution as a fundamental instrument of governance of the country.

FEDERALISM

In the introduction the authors did give you an understanding of the power of regional parties who command huge influence in their respective States and now understanding the theory and legality of federalism

The Indian Constitution provides for a dual system of Government consisting of the center and the State with clear division of powers between them.

SR Bommai V/s Union of India SC called Indian Constitution, 'quasi federal' where the end aim of the essential character of the Indian federalism is to place the nation as a whole under control of a national Government, while the States are allowed to exercise their sovereign power within their legislative and coextensive executive and administrative sphere. Indian Constitution is not true to any traditional pattern of federalism where the Indian Union has been described as the "holding together" of different areas by the Constitution-framers, unlike the "coming together" of constituent units as in the case of USA and the confederation of Canada.

Unitary nature of the Constitution

It is evident that the Indian Constitution is not federal in a strict legal sense. The term Federalism is used in liberal sense as the Constitution provides for division of legislative powers, labeling it as quasi-federalism, pragmatic federalism, collaborative federalism or cooperative federalism. The States have been carved out for administrative convenience. The Central Government on assessment of the situation can either move either on the federal or unitary basis. Extent of federalism in it is largely watered down by the needs of progress and development of a country which has to be nationally integrated politically and economically coordinated, and socially uplifted. The Constitution of India is “amphibian”, in the sense that it can move either on the federal or unitary plane according to the needs of the situation and circumstances of the case. It is solely for the Union Government itself to decide and no one else.

ONE NATION ONE ELECTION IN OTHER COUNTRIES

South Africa

In South Africa elections are held for the National Assembly, Provincial Legislature and Municipal Councils in a five-year cycle. The electoral system is based on party-list "proportional representation", which means that parties are represented in the proportion of electoral support to them.

Municipal Councils, elections are not held along with National and Provincial elections, there is a ‘mixed-member system’ in which, wards elect individual councilors alongside those named from party-lists.

Sweden

They employ a PR system. Elections to Sweden’s County Councils and Municipal Councils occur simultaneously with the general election whereas elections to the Municipal Assemblies occur on the second Sunday of September after every five years.

Indonesia

Indonesia will hold the presidential elections and legislative elections concurrently starting 2019.

United Kingdom (Fixed Term Parliament)

Parliament of Westminster introduced a fixed term for the Parliament by enacting Fixed Term Act 2011, which provides a term of 5 years for general elections.

The Act 2011 specifies that early elections can be held only if a motion for it is agreed either by at least two-thirds of the whole House or without division; or if a motion of no confidence is passed and no alternative Government is confirmed by the Commons within 14 days thereof.

VARIOUS REPORTS AND THEIR OPINIONS ON HAVING ONE NATION ONE ELECTION

First Annual Report of the Election Commission of India, 1983

- Report supported holding simultaneous elections due to reduced expenditure, effective use of manpower and Human Resource, continuous elections also affects the day to day functioning of the govt. both at State and the center creating hardships for common people as the entire administrative machinery freezes.
- Separate elections also result in duplication of expenditure.
- The Elections Commission in the report suggested that a stage has come for evolving a system by convention, if it was not possible or feasible to bring about legislation for holding elections simultaneously.

170th Report of the Law Commission of India, Reform of Electoral Laws (1999)

The report highlighted that elections after 1967 got disturbed due to frequent use of Article 356 of the Constitution, the dissolution of the State Assembly by the Governor on recommendation of the Chief Minister of the State which was a case of exception instead became a norm

Report of the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution, 2002 (NCRWC Report)

A NCRWC was appointed to examine, as to how best the Constitution could respond to the changing needs of an efficient, smooth and effective system of governance and to the socio-economic development of modern India within the framework of Parliamentary democracy, and to recommend changes without tinkering with the basic structure of the constitution.

255th Report of the Law Commission of India "Electoral Reforms", (2015)

The report dealt with the anti defection law recommending the power to decide on questions of disqualification on the ground of defection be vested to the President or the Governor, who shall act on the advice of the ECI, instead of Speaker or the Chairman.

79th Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee, 2015

- The Committee in its Report on “Feasibility of holding simultaneous elections to the House of the People (Lok Sabha) and State Legislative Assemblies” noted several justifications for holding simultaneous elections, such as expenditure, policy paralysis during MCC, burden on manpower etc.
- Impact on delivery of essential services: Holding of political rallies disrupts road traffic and also leads to noise pollution. Simultaneous elections will bring it down significantly.

NITI Aayog

Working paper titled “Analysis of Simultaneous elections: the What, Why and How” by Niti Ayog highlighted the importance of simultaneous elections which focused on heterogeneous needs of the nation as the national parties will focus on regional issues and regional parties will fight for national issues.

CONCLUSION

Hence with the above-mentioned facts and statements the authors would like to rest their publication on the concept of One Nation One Elections the rest assured we shall trust the wisdom of our delegates to strive in the committees to debate and deliberate their debate and bring out the most fruitful discussion for the committee.

ROLE OF ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

The Election Commission of India or ECI is a constitutional body entrusted with the responsibility of administering the elections in India. The Constitution of India clearly mentions the rules and regulations governing this body. Established in 1950, the Election Commission works with the principal objective of defining and controlling the course of elections held at various levels for the State legislatures, the Parliament and the offices of the Vice-President and the President of the country as per article 324 of the Constitution.

In its present form, the Election Commission consists of the Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners. The decision making will be done by majority vote.

Role of Election Commission

In organizing the elections of the largest democracy of the world, the Election Commission of India plays a crucial and decisive role. The Election Commission in India has the prime responsibility to ensure the conduct of free and fair elections in the country. Towards this end, the Commission has to implement the norms and Model Code of Conduct. Since the role of the Election Commission will need a high degree of independence and autonomy, the Constitution has empowered this body with the power to supervise the political bodies and candidates. It can take the action it deems appropriate in case of any violations.

Functions of Election Commission

The most important functions of Election Commission are given under:

- It is the guardian of free and reasonable elections in India.
- The Election Commission issues the Model Code of Conduct before every election to be followed by the different candidates and parties so that the decorum of the democracy is maintained well.
- The body regulates the political parties and has to register the eligible ones enabling them contest in the elections.
- The Election Commission prescribes the limits of campaign expenditure by the candidates and parties and monitors the spending too.
- All the political parties are expected to submit their annual reports to the Election Commission of India in order to get tax benefits on the contributions.
- The body also mandates that the political parties submit their audited financial reports regularly.

The duties of the Election Commission

- Supervising, directing, controlling and conducting the elections for the States and the Parliament.
- Laying down the general rules for the elections.
- Deciding the constituencies and preparing the electoral rolls
- Giving credit to the political parties
- Allotting the election symbols to contesting candidates and parties
- Appointing the tribunals to take decision on the doubts and disputes related to the elections conducted for State legislatures and the Parliament.

Few Facts and Figures –

Government's 2009 Lok Sabha Election Expenditure – 1,483 Cr

Government's 2014 Lok Sabha Election Expenditure – 3426 Cr

Government's 2019 Lok Sabha Election Expenditure – 10,400 Cr

Total Expenditure for 2019 Lok Sabha Election – 60,000 Cr (Approx.)

Conclusion

The discourse on electoral reforms and the concept of "One Nation, One Election" reveals a complex interplay between India's democratic ethos, administrative challenges, and financial realities. India's democratic framework, with its federal structure and diverse political landscape, presents both opportunities and obstacles in striving for electoral efficiency and integrity.

Electoral reforms are essential to address the deep-rooted issues in the current system, including the influence of money and muscle power, criminalization of politics, and the misuse of Government machinery. The myriad reforms introduced over the years reflect a concerted effort to enhance transparency, accountability, and fairness in the electoral process. However, these measures alone may not fully resolve the systemic problems that plague the electoral landscape.

The proposal for "One Nation, One Election" aims to address several critical concerns, including the high cost of elections, administrative strain, and policy paralysis caused by the frequent electoral cycles. By consolidating elections into a single schedule, there could be significant financial savings, streamlined administrative processes, and reduced disruptions to governance. However, this concept also raises significant questions about the impact on India's federal structure and democratic processes. The potential for undermining the autonomy of State Governments and altering the dynamic between regional and national political forces needs careful consideration.