One Nation One Election

Why in news?

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Political parties are divided on the issue of holding simultaneous elections during consultations with the Law Commission.

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What are the advantages?

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- Frequent elections impose a burden on human resources.
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- They also impede the development process due to the promulgation of Model Code of Conduct.
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- The idea of ‘one nation, one election’ will drastically cut the election expenditure.
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- The government will be able to focus on legislation and governance.
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- Now, they are deviated in the campaign mode periodically.
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What are the concerns and challenges?

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- **Tenure** - Synchronisation would involve curtailment or extension of the tenure of a House.
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- It is proposed that the Assemblies would be bunched into two categories.
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- This will be based on whether their terms end close to the 2019 or the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.
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- Elections could be held for one group in 2019 and another in 2024, helping subsequent synchronisations.
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- The legal validity of this process is however questionable.
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- **Constitutional** - The move requires amendment to the Representation of Peoples's Act 1951.
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- But attempting to draft a constitutional amendment would highlight the hollowness of the whole idea.
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- Discussions with the public, political parties and all other stakeholders would have to be reflected in the bill.
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- Significantly, it requires changes to the Constitution's basic structure, posing a challenge.
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- **Difficulties** - The Election Commission sometimes holds elections to even one state in many phases.
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- Given this, holding simultaneous elections for the whole country has many practical difficulties.
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- **Dissolution** - It is possible for Lok Sabha to be prematurely dissolved on account of a vote of no-confidence.
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- It is still uncertain if all Assemblies would also be dissolved in that case.
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- And in case of a mid-term election, the term of such a House would only be for the remainder of its tenure.
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- **Defection** - Allowing a one-time waiver of the anti-defection law in the event of a hung House is another proposal.
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- This is to enable the House to elect a leader.
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- However, these reforms can be adopted even without simultaneous elections.
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Source: The Hindu, Indian Express

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