

One Nation, One Election: A Simple Democratic Story

By: Dr. Aniruddh Vijay
Assistant Professor
School of Open Learning
University of Delhi

Sunrise in a small Uttar Pradesh village sees the commencement of a polling booth by a school teacher. Somewhere in the Chennai, a newspaper vendor interacts with clients about the elections. Across the range of cultures in Kashmir and Kerala, elections are always a trending topic. While India takes prides in its democracy, the older days of Indian elections comes with the obsolete cost of delays, and prolonged democracy. This makes the principle of One Nation, One Election more relevant today. In the immediate post-independence India, Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections were conducted in a free unified manner. With the passage of time and various political changes with pre-emptive dissolutions of governments, elections became a prolonged exercise (Jagran Josh, 2025). This gives rise to the peculiar phenomenon where some election is always in progress, facilitating government inertia and idle political discourse (Reuters, 2024).

One Nation One Election is a step that can take the Bharat forward in a positive way. It can increase time availability for strong government action and reduces the time in a campaign/ election cycle. Economic benefit includes a positive and money saving election cycle. Expenses for security, staffing, and planning are needed for single elections. These expenses are an opportunity cost that can be used for needed hospitals, schools, road, and ecological expenses. Social benefits are in the realm of election cycle. Lengthy election cycles cause social stress and political discord (Deo, 2024). Longer intervals without elections can support social order and allow social focus shifts toward general country advancement. Federalism and constitutional concerns are valid. These are big issues that require broader discussion. Careful adherence to the rule of law and planning can allow flexible federalism that retains and respects the autonomy of different states within a unified electoral framework (PIB, Government of India, 2024). Villages and cities share the same unified hope for good governance, and the stable hope for One Nation, One Elections. This strengthens democracy by providing a positive way to vote to streamline and complement the governance of the country (Reuters, 2024).

References

1. Deo, M. (2024). "ONE NATION ONE ELECTION": A comprehensive analysis. *ShodhKosh: Journal of Visual and Performing Arts*, 5(5), 1079–1085. <https://doi.org/10.29121/shodhkosh.v5.i5.2024.2698> Granthaalayah Publication
2. One Nation, One Election: Benefits, challenges, way forward; all you need to know. (2024, September 18). *Business Today*. Retrieved from <https://www.businesstoday.in/india/story/one-nation-one-election-benefits-challenges-way-forward-all-you-need-to-know-446486-2024-09-18> Business Today
3. One Nation, One Election: Concept, benefits, challenges, and relevancy for UPSC exam. (2025). *Jagran Josh*. Retrieved from <https://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/know-what-is-one-nation-one-election-importance-benefits-challenges-and-more-for-upsc-exams-1738324429-1> Jagranjosh.com
4. One Nation, One Election (High-Level Committee Report). (2024). Press Information Bureau (PIB), Government of India. Retrieved from https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2024/dec/doc_20241217473101.pdf Press Information Bureau
5. Reuters. (2024, September 18). India's cabinet accepts recommendation to hold simultaneous national, state elections. Reuters. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/indias-cabinet-accepts-recommendation-hold-simultaneous-national-state-elections-2024-09-18/> reuters.com