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UNDERSTANDING ONE NATION **ONE ELECTION IN INDIA**

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RESEARCH PROBLEM

This paper discusses the legal validity, procedure, and standards of One Nation One Election and why it will not work in the Indian context. It will also establish the requirement of simultaneous elections and how they are more feasible and logical in India.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the historical and political perspectives of One Nation One Election in India
2. What are some criticisms of One Nation One Election
3. What are the logistical challenges faced in its implementation in India
4. How does One Nation One Election compare with similar policies in other countries

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To get in-depth knowledge on this topic, the primary source for gathering information would be going through judgements given by Journals, Articles, reports and data by various organizations, books and websites on the topic as secondary sources. It would be going through previous research papers, which are done in a similar line as the topic.

LIMITATIONS

Due to the lack of time and limited resources, unfortunately, some factors of this research paper

may be limited and restricted and may not be as extensive as it could be.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. ONE ELECTION, TWO VOTES: THE FEASIBILITY OF REVIVING THE PAST TREND B. MUTHU KUMAR¹

A democratic nation must conduct free and fair elections, and the Election Commission was established under the Constitution as an autonomous and independent authority. This makes sure that nobody or anything may sway elections. Despite improvements and accolades as the world's gold standard, the Election Commission of India nevertheless encounters difficulties throughout every general election. Given that elections are held for the Lok Sabha and State Legislatures every six months, it has been argued that a significant change would be to hold these elections concurrently. This notion predates the Constitution's ratification by twenty years and has been around since then. The Prime Minister has questioned NDA officials to work towards supporting simultaneous elections.

2. ONE NATION ONE ELECTION IN INAIS, SHUBHANK KHAREI²

As far as feasible, holding simultaneous elections would save money and shorten the time needed to adopt the Model Code of Conduct. This would be advantageous since it would prevent disruptions to government and development efforts, particularly if elections are done in stages. Simultaneous elections are intended to decrease policy ambiguity and increase the government's attention on key policy problems. A constitutional change might be proposed to need the confidence motion in order to create the government and prevent the no-confidence motion from destabilising the administration.

Holding elections for Panchayats, Municipal Bodies, and State Assemblies simultaneously is one way to accomplish simultaneous elections. The members of the House may decide to do this, or if the government loses a no-confidence vote.

¹ B. Muthu Kumar, One Election, Two Votes: The Feasibility of Reviving the Past Trend, 5 GNLU L. REV. 139 (2018).

² Shubhank Khare, One Nation One Election in India, 5 INT'L J.L. MGMT. & HUMAN. 1309 (2022).

3. CONCEPTUAL REFORMS ONE NATION – ONE ELECTION, PARINDU BHAGAT AND PRUVI POKKRYAL³

One approach to implementing simultaneous elections could be to hold elections for Panchayats, Municipal Bodies, and State Assemblies at the same time. This can be agreed upon by the members of the House or if the government loses a no-confidence vote. One approach to implementing simultaneous elections could be to hold elections for Panchayats, Municipal Bodies, and State Assemblies at the same time. This can be agreed upon by the members of the House or if the government loses a no-confidence vote. The concept of 'One Nation-One Election' refers to the idea of having both the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly elections held simultaneously on the same day. This is not a new idea, but it has recently gained momentum with the support of the current Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi. The objective of this concept is to synchronize the election process, reduce costs for the government and political parties, and minimize the disruption of government and public works during election periods. The Karnataka Legislative Assembly and Council recently held a debate on this concept, where it was discussed that although elections are necessary in a democracy, they are time-consuming and costly. The CM of Karnataka, B. S. Yediyurappa, stressed the need for amendments in the Constitution and Representation of the People Act, 1951, to implement this concept. The Speaker of the Assembly, Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, cited former Election Commission S Y Qureshi, who said that from the Election Commission's point of view, it would be easy to implement. He also pointed out that in many western countries, elections are held at the same time. India is a parliamentary democracy with a federal structure, where the President is the head of the country and the Prime Minister, who is the head of the majority party in Parliament, governs the country with his council of ministers. The members of Parliament are elected by the voters in their respective constituencies for a term of five years.

4. THE CONCEPT OF ONE NATION ONE ELECTION: AN ANALYSIS FROM INDIAN PERSPECTIVE, DR. MEENAKSHI BANSAL⁴

The concept of "One Nation One Election" calls for conducting a one election that includes both

³ Parindu Bhagat and Dr. Mrs. Purvi Pokharyal, Conceptual Reforms One Nation – One Election, Volume 19, Issue 4 of Ilkogretim Online - Elementary Education Online, 10.17051/ilkonline.2020.04.764802

⁴ Dr. Meenakshi Bansal, The Concept of One Nation One Election: An Analysis from Indian Perspective, THINK INDIA (Quarterly Journal) ISSN:0971-1260 Vol-22-Issue-4-October-December-2019

the Lok Sabha and state assemblies as opposed to separate and ongoing polls. owing to the negative effects of frequent elections, including their high costs, disruption of regular public life, and influence on governance owing to the model code of behaviour during elections, this proposal has gained traction in India. Recent support for this idea from the Indian President and Prime Minister has reignited interest in and debate over the subject. The two-thirds majority needed to modify the constitution to enact simultaneous voting is not held by the ruling party, nevertheless. In India, the concept of holding state elections concurrently with federal elections is not new because it was used up until 1967, but because the fourth Lok Sabha was prematurely dissolved, elections were divided.

5. ONE NATION ONE ELECTION: A NEW ELECTORAL REFORM IN INDIA,
SHIVANI⁵

The notion of conducting the Lok Sabha and state assembly' elections at the same time has gained traction in India. This idea, called "One Nation One Election," seeks to do away with the negative aspects of holding elections often, including their high costs, tiredness from campaigning, and effects on governance during the model code of behaviour. The President and Prime Minister of India have endorsed this concept, reviving interest and discussion. By referring to it as "One Nation One Election," the ruling party has given the idea a more nationalistic feel. The question of whether state and union elections must take place concurrently is not addressed in the Indian constitution. In India, elections were conducted concurrently till 1967, therefore the concept is not new. However, there are factors including the advantage of the ruling party over regional parties and the impact of ethnic issues on regional and local affairs. Political parties and voters must recognise their roles in selecting the best candidates to serve as the people's representatives if democracy is to prosper.

ABSTRACT

The view of "One Nation-One Election" is appealing due to the current complex political culture where voters across different regions, classes, and linguistic barriers vote for unified leadership. However, this concept also has complexities in its implementation, as every state in India has

⁵ Shivani, One Nation One Election: A New Electoral Reform in India, 24 Supremo Amicus [201] (2021).

unique issues and problems, and there may be constitutional and legal challenges in its implementation. India's diversity with different cultures, traditions, languages, and regional resources must be considered when implementing the "One Nation-One Election" concept in a way that does not harm the federal structure and democracy.

While the voting process may appear simple to the average voter, its administration and logistics are not what add complexity; rather, it is the massive electoral politics and vote bank politics that underlay it. The question of having simultaneous elections was more recently brought up by the Indian Prime Minister and the Honorable President of India. In other words, they were in favour of the idea of "one nation, one election," but it was never implemented. In India, the concept of conducting state elections concurrently with the federal election was used up until 1967, when polls were split following the early dissolution of the fourth Lok Sabha. This paper examines the benefits and drawbacks of the idea of "one nation, one election." Finally, it is said that everything done in the political sphere nowadays is done with the intention of winning a vote or demeaning the opposition party. Is democratic India prepared to abandon the current electoral system in favour of One India, One Election?

Keywords: One nation one election, Simultaneous election, Democracy, Election Commission, Lok Sabha, Voter, Election

INTRODUCTION

The One Nation, One Election initiative wants to hold elections in India simultaneously at all levels of government. This would include simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha, state legislative assemblies, and local entities like panchayats and municipalities. The notion was initially proposed by former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1999 and has been discussed for many years. The Law Commission of India and the Election Commission of India advocate for the proposal's adoption, which has rekindled interest in it in recent years. The government has also endorsed the idea, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging "One Country, One Election" in his Independence Day speech in 2019.

The discussion of One Nation One Election has been ongoing in the country for a while. It is a proposal for simultaneous elections of the national, state and local levels of government in India. The goals of One Nation One Election are to lessen election frequency, cut costs, and preserve the nation's political stability. The Law Commission of India and the Electoral Commission of India (ECI) both suggested the idea at various points. Nonetheless, there have been practical, legal, and political issues in implementing One Nation One Election. The Law Commission of India and the ECI both suggested the idea at various points. Nonetheless, they have been subject to various legal, political and logistical issues in implementing One Nation One Election.

The goal of the One Nation One Election plan, according to the ECI, was to decrease the number of elections and enhance governance quality. It was initially advocated in 1983. The ECI has suggested that having many elections at once can stabilise the administration and allow political parties and candidates to concentrate on governing rather than electioneering (Election Commission of India, 2018). The Law Commission of India recommended adopting One Nation One Election in its 170th report in 1999. According to this opinion, One Nation One Election would ease the financial strain on the federal government, political parties, and candidates. Moreover, it would ensure that the administration is stable and that political parties and candidates can concentrate on governance rather than campaigning (Law Commission of India, 1999).

Constitutional amendments are necessary to align the periods of the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies, and simultaneous elections would need extensive organisation and resources. ⁶However, certain political parties and civil society organisations have attacked the plan, claiming that One Nation One Election might erode federalism, lessen political competition, and cause disadvantages to smaller parties and independent candidates.

India's political, legal, and institutional frameworks are all impacted by the complicated and contentious problem of One Nation One Election. Ongoing discussion surrounds the viability and ramifications of One Nation One Election, and in order to guarantee that it strengthens India's democratic process and promotes good governance, the concept has to be carefully considered and examined.

⁶ B. Muthu Kumar, One Election, Two Votes: The Feasibility of Reviving the Past Trend, 5 GNLU L. REV. 139 (2018).

HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF ONE NATION ONE ELECTION

During the early years of the Republic, One Nation One Election was initially suggested in India. Simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies were first proposed by the Indian Election Commission in 1983. Former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee introduced the idea of one nation one election in a speech to the Lok Sabha in 1999.⁷ In 1999, the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee proposed the idea of one nation one election in a speech to the Lok Sabha.⁸ However, the idea did not gain much traction at the time, and elections continued to be held at different times at the national and state levels. The issue was again brought up in 2016 when the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice submitted a report to the Parliament recommending simultaneous elections.⁹

In 2017, the Law Commission of India submitted a report to the government recommending the implementation of one nation one election. The report argued that frequent elections resulted in the diversion of resources from development work, political polarisation, and the Model Code of Conduct abuse. The Law Commission suggested a phased approach to implementing one nation one election, starting with synchronising state and Lok Sabha elections.¹⁰ In 2018, the Election Commission of India submitted a report to the Law Ministry, arguing that simultaneous elections would ensure better governance, reduce the burden on the election machinery, and cut costs. The report also suggested that a constitutional amendment would be necessary to implement one nation one election.¹¹

In his Independence Day speech in 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his support for

⁷ Simultaneous elections for Parliament and State Legislatures", Election Commission of India, March 1983

⁸ One Nation, One Election: Is It Possible?" PRS Legislative Research, 30 May 2019

⁹ Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on Feasibility of Holding Simultaneous Elections to House of People (Lok Sabha) and State Legislative Assemblies", Rajya Sabha Secretariat, August 2016

¹⁰ Simultaneous Elections - Constitutional and Legal Framework", Law Commission of India, March 2018

¹¹ Report on One Nation One Election", Election Commission of India, August 2018

one nation one election, arguing that the current staggered elections drained resources and disrupted development work. In June 2020, the Election Commission of India suggested that the government consider holding simultaneous elections in 2024 when elections are due for 14 states.¹²

Despite the renewed attention given to the idea of one nation one election, there has been considerable opposition to the proposal from various quarters. Some have argued that the idea is not feasible, given the diversity of electoral systems and processes across the country, and would require significant constitutional amendments. Others have raised concerns about the impact of simultaneous elections on federalism, democracy, and the accountability of elected representatives.¹³

The idea of One Nation One Election in India can be traced back to the Republic's early years. The idea was first proposed by the Election Commission of India in 1983, which suggested the idea of holding simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and state assemblies. In 1999, then-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee proposed the idea of one nation one election in a speech to the Lok Sabha. However, the idea did not gain much traction at the time, and elections continued to be held at different times at the national and state levels. The issue was again brought up in 2016 when the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice submitted a report to the Parliament recommending simultaneous elections.¹⁴

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¹² Simultaneous polls feasible, PM Modi's vision can be implemented: ECI to Law Ministry", India Today, 7 June 2020

¹³ One Nation, One Election: Is It Feasible and Desirable?", The Wire, 6 June 2019

¹⁴ Report on One Nation One Election", Election Commission of India, August 2018

one election. In his Independence Day speech in 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his support for one nation one election, arguing that the current staggered elections drained resources and disrupted development work. In June 2020, the Election Commission of India suggested that the government consider holding simultaneous elections in 2024 when elections are due for 14 states. Despite the renewed attention given to the idea of one nation one election, there has been considerable opposition to the proposal from various quarters. Some have argued that the idea is not feasible, given the diversity of electoral systems and processes across the country, and would require significant constitutional amendments. Others have raised concerns about the impact of simultaneous elections on federalism, democracy, and the accountability of elected representatives.¹⁵

POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE OF ONE NATION ONE ELECTION

In India, the concept of One Nation One Election has been examined from several political views. The idea's proponents claim that it would result in better governance, lessen the strain on the electoral system, and result in cost savings. Additionally, they contend that the nation's regular elections cause the government to run improperly and divert funds from development efforts.

The governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been a prominent supporter of one nation one election. The BJP contends that one nation one election would result in a decrease in election-related costs, allowing the government to concentrate on development initiatives. The party also asserts that repeated elections cause an unstable environment and a downturn in the economy.

The Indian National Congress, the largest opposition group, has criticised the one nation one election plan. Given the variety of election methods and procedures used throughout the nation, it is argued that the proposal is not workable. Concerns regarding how simultaneous elections might affect democracy, federalism, and the responsibility of elected officials have also been voiced by

¹⁵ Shivani, One Nation One Election: A New Electoral Reform in India, 24 *Supremo Amicus* [201] (2021)

the Congress. The party has argued that rather than synchronising elections, the emphasis should be on making sure they are free and fair. ¹⁶

On the subject of one nation one election, regional parties have also been split. The plan has received support from some parties but opposition from others. The Telangana Rashtra Samithi and the YSR Congress Party, among other groups, have backed one nation one election, claiming that it will improve governance and lighten the load on the electoral system. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Trinamool Congress have criticised the plan, claiming it would weaken the nation's federal system.

Thus, there are many political stances on the concept of one nation one election in India, with the ruling BJP supporting it and the opposition Congress party as well as several local parties opposing it. The debate about the feasibility and acceptability of one nation one election persists in India's political discourse.

CRITISIM OF ONE NATION ONE ELECTION

Constitutional challenges:

One of the critical arguments against the One Nation One Election plan is the possibility of constitutional challenges. Elections at all levels of government, including state and municipal elections, must be coordinated under the concept. Since the Constitution allows the states to hold their own elections, this would necessitate considerable constitutional revisions. Critics claim that imposing a centralised electoral procedure would violate the Indian Constitution's federal framework. The Indian Constitution establishes a federal form of governance, with the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the State Election Commissions (SECs) in charge of election administration. Elections for the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and municipal organisations like Panchayats and Municipalities are mandated by the Constitution. Each state has a separate SEC, which is in charge of organising local body elections.

¹⁶ Parindu Bhagat and Dr. Mrs. Purvi Pokharyal, Conceptual Reforms One Nation – One Election, Volume 19, Issue 4 of Ilkogretim Online - Elementary Education Online, 10.17051/ilkonline.2020.04.764802

To enable the synchronisation of elections at all levels of government, the introduction of one nation one election would need a constitutional modification. However, for this to happen, it would need the backing of two-thirds of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, as well as at least 50% of the state legislatures. According to detractors, this is unlikely to occur since many state governments may object to the idea because they regard it as a threat to their autonomy.¹⁷

Lack of political consensus:

The lack of political agreement on the subject is another another critique of the One Nation One Election idea. To be put into effect, the idea needs a constitutional modification and the support of all major parties. However, a number of political parties have voiced opposition to the idea, expressing worries about federalism, democracy, and the proposal's viability.

Simultaneous elections may help the party in power, which has greater resources and a bigger audience, according to the opposition parties, who claim that the suggestion is an effort by the ruling party to gain an edge in elections.

The lack of political agreement is another critique of the One Nation, One Election idea. To be put into effect, the idea needs a constitutional modification and the support of all major parties. However, several political parties have voiced opposition to the idea, expressing worries about federalism, democracy, and the proposal's viability. Simultaneous elections may help the party in power, which has more excellent resources and a bigger audience, according to the opposition parties, who claim that the suggestion is an effort by the ruling party to gain an edge in elections. The idea may result in a centralised form of government, which might be contrary to the principles of federalism, prompting certain parties to express worries about the possible abuse of power by the federal government.

In addition, certain parties have voiced worries about how simultaneous elections could affect the democratic process. Critics claim that simultaneous elections could result in a lack of

¹⁷ Parindu Bhagat and Dr. Mrs. Purvi Pokharyal, Conceptual Reforms One Nation – One Election, Volume 19, Issue 4 of Ilkogretim Online - Elementary Education Online, 10.17051/ilkonline.2020.04.764802

accountability because the incumbent party could not be subject to ongoing electoral scrutiny. A decrease in the standard of government and democracy may result from this.

Furthermore, the proposal's implementation needs to be improved by the lack of political agreement on it. All political parties must support the idea, and resistance from any party might cause it to fail. It may be difficult to get a political agreement on the plan given the variety of political groups and beliefs in India.

One of the key critiques of the one nation one election concept, to sum up, has been the lack of political agreement. It is challenging to reach political consensus since opposition parties have voiced worries about federalism, democracy, and the viability of the programme. The execution of the concept and its possible advantages might be hampered by the lack of unanimity.

Infringement of voter rights:

One of the main issues with the One Nation One Election plan is that it may violate citizens' basic right to elect representatives in regular elections. Elections would be held less often, and voters would have less opportunity to engage in the democratic process if national and state elections were held concurrently.

Critics contend that simultaneous national and state elections might prevent voters from evaluating the performance of their local legislators and casting informed ballots. Voters may be compelled to choose between their favoured state candidate and desired national candidate, even if they are unsatisfied with either, as a result of this.

In a democratic society, having the ability to vote is a basic right, thus any idea that would jeopardise this right has to be carefully evaluated. Even though the one nation one election plan might improve governance and reduce election-related expenses, it must be implemented in a way that safeguards voters' right to make informed decisions in free and fair elections. Therefore, every choice regarding one nation one election must be carefully thought out, taking into account any potential violations of voter rights.

Logistical challenges:

The demand for synchronised voting locations nationwide would be one of the main problems. To handle the elections, many election workers and security people would need to be sent, which might be a logistical nightmare. Additionally, the Election Commission of India will be put under a great deal of stress with the deployment of such a large number of workers. The availability of electronic voting machines and the logistics of delivering them to polling places would be another obstacle.¹⁸ Only two businesses in India manufacture the electronic voting machines, so any hiccup in the supply chain might cause severe issues on election day. Additionally, a significantly greater number of electronic voting machines would be needed for simultaneous elections, which could be challenging to acquire and keep.¹⁹

Additionally, it is necessary to consider the difficulty of conducting simultaneous elections in states with diverse political environments and challenges. Elections held concurrently may not address regional issues since they differ from national ones, which may cause discontent and instability.

Additionally, India is so large and has such a diverse geography that it would be difficult to have elections simultaneously. There are 29 states and 7 union territories in the nation, each having its own demographics, culture, and voting traditions. Elections in all of these locations at once would need a tremendous amount of planning and resources.

Before it can be put into action, the one nation one election concept must overcome serious logistical issues. Holding simultaneous elections is a challenging undertaking due to the need for synchronised polling places, the accessibility of electronic voting machines, and the various political environments across different states. These difficulties must be considered in any choice to adopt one nation one election, and it must be made sure that sufficient resources and coordination are available to handle them.²⁰

¹⁸ B. Muthu Kumar, One Election, Two Votes: The Feasibility of Reviving the Past Trend, 5 GNLU L. REV. 139 (2018).

¹⁹ Simultaneous elections for Parliament and State Legislatures", Election Commission of India, March 1983

²⁰ Dr.Meenakshi Bansal, The Concept of One Nation One Election: An Analysis from Indian Perspective, THINK INDIA (Quarterly Journal) ISSN:0971-1260 Vol-22-Issue-4-October-December-2019

Lack of evidence-based research:

The influence of one nation one election on the Indian political system, according to critics, has not been adequately investigated with empirical support. Although various nations have implemented comparable systems, the Indian context is distinct, and it is uncertain how one nation one election will affect the Indian political system. More study, according to critics, is required to comprehend the advantages and disadvantages of one nation one election.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ONE NATION ONE ELECTION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

The idea of One Nation One Election is not exclusive to India and has been adopted by a number of other nations. The implementation and results of ONOE, however, fluctuate greatly between nations. We shall contrast the ONOE plan in India with other nations' experiences in this part.

The United States is frequently used as an illustration of a nation that conducts concurrent elections at several levels of government. Every two years, there are elections in the US, and both the national and state and municipal elections take place at the same time.²¹ There is no legal necessity for simultaneous elections, and it is crucial to keep in mind that state and municipal elections in the US usually take place on different days. Consequently, the US system cannot be regarded as an actual ONOE model.²²

Another nation that has adopted ONOE is Mexico. Mexico has had concurrent elections for the president, senators, and members of the lower house of Congress since the 1990s. On the other hand, Mexico's attempt to implement ONOE has yet to be effective. According to critics, simultaneous elections are expensive to organise, and there needs to be more coordination between the many tiers of government. Additionally, certain regions have needed help to organise concurrent elections due to the security situation in Mexico.

²¹ Parindu Bhagat and Dr. Mrs. Purvi Pokharyal, Conceptual Reforms One Nation – One Election, Volume 19, Issue 4 of Ilkogretim Online - Elementary Education Online, 10.17051/ilkonline.2020.04.764802

²² "Simultaneous elections for Parliament and State Legislatures", Election Commission of India, March 1983

Another nation that has adopted ONOE is Indonesia. Indonesia has held simultaneous elections for the president, the national parliament, and regional legislatures since the 2004 general election. Indonesia's experience with ONOE, however, has been uneven. There have been worries about the integrity of the voting process, despite the fact that simultaneous elections have increased voter turnout and decreased the expense of having separate elections. The synchronisation of voter lists and the accessibility of resources for the elections have both experienced problems.²³

In contrast, because of worries about the quality of the elections, the Philippines rejected the ONOE concept. To guarantee a fair and transparent voting process, national and municipal elections are held separately in the Philippines. According to the Philippine administration, simultaneous elections would taint the democratic process' credibility and confuse voters.

CONCLUSION

India has debated the concept of "One Nation, One Election" for several years. In order to cut costs and minimise interruption from frequent elections, the idea calls for holding national and state elections simultaneously. Although the concept is sound, it also poses a number of issues, including how it will affect democratic processes and how to synchronise with various political and social realities.

One of the main advantages of the concept is that it would make elections less expensive. Indian elections are currently expensive affairs that place a heavy financial load on the treasury. Simultaneous elections would help the government save money and ensure that it could concentrate on governing rather than electoral campaigns. The approach would also lessen the disturbance brought on by frequent elections, which may negatively affect the government and the economy.

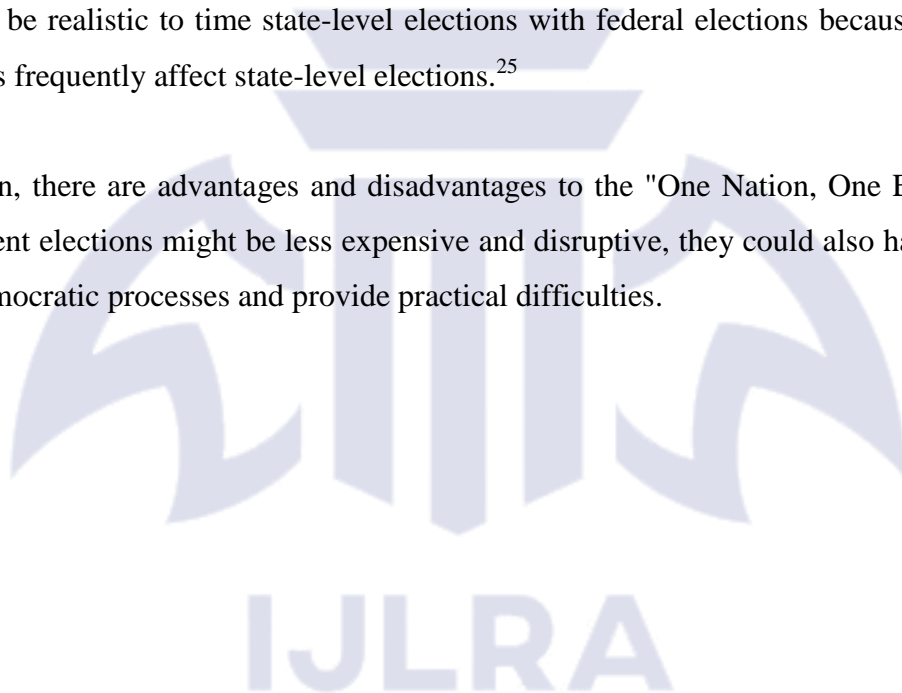
The approach does, however, bring up some issues. Its effect on democratic procedures is one of the main worries. A key component of India's democracy is its frequent elections, which allow the

²³ B. Muthu Kumar, One Election, Two Votes: The Feasibility of Reviving the Past Trend, 5 GNLU L. REV. 139 (2018).

populace to hold elected officials responsible. This democratic process might be restricted by simultaneous elections as voters only have one chance to choose their representatives at the state and federal levels. Due to the considerable increase in time between elections, this can also result in a rise in voter indifference.²⁴

Another issue is the viability of holding elections simultaneously throughout a varied nation like India. India is a federal nation with many states, each with political and social systems. Election synchronisation across all these states would be necessary, which might be difficult. Additionally, it would not be realistic to time state-level elections with federal elections because local events and variables frequently affect state-level elections.²⁵

In conclusion, there are advantages and disadvantages to the "One Nation, One Election" idea. While frequent elections might be less expensive and disruptive, they could also have a negative effect on democratic processes and provide practical difficulties.



²⁴ Simultaneous elections for Parliament and State Legislatures", Election Commission of India, March 1983

²⁵ B. Muthu Kumar, One Election, Two Votes: The Feasibility of Reviving the Past Trend, 5 GNLU L. REV. 139 (2018).