ONE NATION AND ONE ELECTION

ONE NATION ONE ELECTION

Challenges in the implementation

- One-time expenditure will be too high.
- It can undermine federalism as national politics can undermine states.
- Simultaneous elections mean abruptly curtailing the present term of assemblies which will undermine democracy.
- Can diminish the accountability of the leaders.
- Huge logistical challenges.
- Even if started it will be difficult to sustain because of ever-changing regional politics.

Amendments needed for Implementation

- Article 83 (Maximum Duration Of Lower House Of Parliament)
- 10th Schedule. (Disqualification of members)
- Article 85 (Sessions, prorogation, and dissolution of Parliament)
- Article 172. (Maximum duration of state legislature)
- Rules of Procedure of Lok sabha and states.
- Representation of the People Act, 1951(Section 14 and 15).

Benefits

- Massive human resources and financial expenditure can be reduced.
- Cost-cutting of election expenditure will help the economy.
- Political parties can focus on development and other social activities.
- The utilization of Security forces can be done in a much better way.
- Vote bank politics can come to a halt.
- Level Playing field for smaller parties because of less cost.
- Use of Black Money in elections will be reduced. Continuity in the policies of the government.

The idea

1st time by the Election Commission in 1983.

The Concept

- Elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies are synchronized together.
- Voters in a particular constituency vote for both on the same day.
- Voting across the country can be done in a phase-wise manner.

History of Simultaneous elections

- The first General Elections to the Lok Sabha and all State Legislative Assemblieswere held simultaneously in 1951-52.
- Simultaneous Elections were held during 1957, 1962, and 1967.

The Disruption

- Due to the premature dissolution of some Legislative Assemblies in 1968 and 1969, the cycle got disrupted.

Current happenings

- At the 80th All India Presiding Officers Conference, current PM Modi promoted the idea of simultaneous elections.
- NITI Aayog also suggested the same.