

GS II

SYLLABUS: GOVERNMENT POLICIES & ISSUES ARISING OUT OF THEIR DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION.

SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 13.

News: "Bill on simultaneous polls will fail legal challenge, former CJI tells House panel."

Simultaneous Elections:

- Idea to **synchronise elections** to Lok Sabha, State legislative assembly, Municipalities & Panchayats **on the same day**.
- **This practice continued till 1967** or 4th General election.
- Currently, **Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim, Telangana** elections to Lok Sabha and Assemblies held together.

Need: Based on Ram Nath Kovind Committee 2023

- Frequent elections **create an atmosphere of uncertainty**.
- **Minimising disruptions & policy paralysis:** by ensuring stability and predictability.
- Helps in **reduction of election costs** and increase in **voter participation**. Eg. In 2019, the **General Election (Lok Sabha) costed Rs. 4500 crore**. If State elections added to this, expenses further multiply.
- **Simultaneous elections lead to** increase in economic growth, a lower inflation, increased investments, and improved quality of government expenditure.
- **Political parties behaviour:** keeps **politicians always in campaign mode** due to elections at different times (Local, State, National) rather than their work towards policy making.

Implementation:

- **Requirement of Constitutional amendments:**
 - In relation to terms of Parliament and State assemblies and local bodies (**Art. 83, 172**)
 - For adoption of single electoral roll.
- **Dissolution of Lok Sabha and all State Assemblies at once**, irrespective of their remaining term as a onetime measure.
- **Municipal and Panchayat polls within 100 days of general election.**
- **Single electoral roll:** Currently some State laws allow State Election Commission to prepare separate electoral rolls. Committee recommended that **empowering Election Commission of India to prepare single electoral roll** in consultation with SECs.
- **Logistics requirement:** ECI & SECs to plan and estimate logistical requirements ahead of the rollout.

Note:

- **Constitutional Amendment nature for above:**
 - In case of amending 'term' of Parliament and **State Assemblies, there is no requirement of ratification by States.**
 - However, ratification by States becomes **necessary in case of amending 'local bodies term'**.

Challenges:

- **Premature dissolution of some State's Assemblies or Lok Sabha:** can undermine the federal spirit & concerns of delay in conducting new election.
- **Case Hung Assembly:** if no party secures majority to form govt., a fresh election to the remaining period of 5 year cycle should be conducted—**Ram Nath Kovind Committee 2023.**

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- **Case of No-confidence Motion:** if passed, it may curtail the term of Lok Sabha/ State Assembly. **Law commission recommended** replacement of no-confidence motion with 'constructive vote of no-confidence (govt. will only be removed if there is confidence in an alternate govt.).
- **Cases of bye-elections:** due to Death, resignation or disqualification of members can be clubbed together and conducted once in a year—**Standing Committee 2015.**
- **India is a Multiparty system** where coalition and collapses are common, new system will be a challenge.
- **Logistics challenges:** in 2019 general elections about **4 million EVMs and 2 million VVPATs were used.** Simultaneous election can double the demand.
- **Local issues may get overshadowed by National needs:** ultimately diminishing democratic representation at grassroot-level—**NITI Aayog report 2017.**

26 FEB 2025

PYQs

GS II 2017: 'Simultaneous election to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will limit the amount of time and money spent in electioneering but it will reduce the government's accountability to the people' Discuss.

POLITY

PRE-CONTEXT

INTERNET SHUTDOWN

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

News: "Blunt weapon."

The Internet is a source of information, entertainment, health care, education, livelihood and a platform for the members of Indian society to interact with each other and the world at large.

Internet Shutdown:

- **Anuradha Bhasin case 2020:** Internet shutdown violates fundamental right under **Art. 19 (Speech & Trade)**
- Power to shut down with **Home Secretary of Union, State Govts.** for maximum 15 days.
- **Legal backing:**
 - **Indian Telegraph Act 1885.**
 - **Section 69(A) IT Act:** Govt. can ban only particular websites not entire internet.
- India's Internet restrictions also **accounted for more than 70% of the total loss** to the global economy in 2020.
- In 2020, the **Indian economy lost \$2.8 billion due to 129 Internet suspensions** that affected 10.3 million people.

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EDUCATION

PRE-CONTEXT

THREE LANGUAGE FORMULA

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 10.

News: "Should a third language be compulsory?"

Context: The Union Government has withheld ₹2,152 crore in funds due to Tamil Nadu under the Samagra Shiksha scheme for refusing to join the PM-SHRI initiative. While T.N. is eager to participate in the PM SHRI scheme, it staunchly opposes the accompanying mandate to implement the NEP 2020. One of the State's core objections to the NEP is its insistence on adopting a three-language formula in schools.

Constitutional Provisions:

- Constitution provides that **Hindi is the official language of the Union**. English was originally meant to continue as the social language for 15 years from the commencement of the Constitution (till 1965).
- However, the **Official Languages Act, 1963 provides for the continued use of English, in addition to Hindi, for all official purposes of the Union** without any time limit.
- The **legislature of a State may adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the State or Hindi as the official language(s) for official purposes of that State**.
- Constitution provides that it shall be the **duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language** so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India.

PM-SHRI Schools: PM Schools for Rising India.

- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** (60:40).
- To develop more than 15,000 schools **to implement NEP Policy** during 2022-2027.
- **Managed by** Both Centre and State Govts.
- NEP 2020 includes **three language formula** and curriculum changes.

About Three language Formula:

- **NEP 1968:** introduced three language formula and advocated for Hindi to be a compulsory language across the nation under three language formula.
- **NEP 2020:** It states that "the three languages learned by children will be the choices of States, regions, and, of course, the students themselves, so long as at least two of the three languages are native to India."

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** (60:40).
- **Ministry of Education** is the nodal agency.
- **Vision of scheme** is to ensure inclusion and equitable quality of education inline with SDG for education.
- Estimated outlay of **approx 3 lakh crore** between 2021 and 2026.
- **Features:**
 - Extends support from pre-school to class 12.
 - It **merged earlier three-schemes** Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamika Shiksha Abhiyan, Teacher Education.
 - Envisages one comprehensive strategic plan for development of school education at **district level**.
 - Improving on quality of school education by **focusing on two T's: Teachers and Technology**.
 - Promotes **vocationalisation of education**.
 - Focusses on **digital education like UDISE+, Shagun etc**.
 - Strengthens and **upgrades Teacher Education Institutions** Eg. SCERT.
 - Supports states to implement **RTE Act 2009**.

26 FEB 2025

POLITY

PRE-CONTEXT

DELIMITATION COMMISSION

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 1.

News: "Tamil Nadu CM calls for all-party meet on March 5, says delimitation affects all of south India."

What is Delimitation?

- Delimitation refers to **redrawing electoral boundaries** to reflect population changes and ensure balanced representation.
- **Art.82 and 170:** empower Parliament to readjust the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies of States, respectively, after every census.

About Delimitation Commission:

- Delimitation Commission is a **statutory body**, established under Delimitation Commission Act.
- Appointed by **President of India**.
- **Composition:**
 - **Chairman:** A retired or working Supreme Court Judge
 - **Members:** Election Commissioner, Concerned State Election Commissioners.
- **Powers:**
 - Orders of delimitation commission are laid before the **Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies, but they can't modify them**.
 - It's **orders cannot be called into question before any court**.

Delimitation commissions after Independence:

- **1952, 1962, 1972, 2002, 2020** (for few States).
 - **Delimitation commissions are backed by Statute** Eg. Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, Delimitation Act, 2002.
- **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976:** Imposed a **freeze on the delimitation process until** the results of the **2001 Census**.
 - The freezing of delimitation was done to prevent states that were effective in population control from being disincentivized.
- **84th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002:** the total number of existing seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies is to **remain unaltered until the first census after 2026**.
- **Delimitation Commission (2020):**
 - Delimitation in the **UT of Jammu and Kashmir and the northeastern States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Nagaland**.
 - This Delimitation Commission was **set up under Delimitation Act, 2002**.

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Thank you!