

## GS II

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

### SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 6.

**News:** "One Nation One Election and representative democracy."

#### 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**.

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#### 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: 10.

**News:** "India shuts down Internet 60 times in 2024, the lowest in eight years."

*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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POLITY

PRE-CONTEXT

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

**News:** "The challenge of holding judges accountable."

"Art. 124 & Art. 217 of Indian Constitution deal with the appointment of judges to higher judiciary."

**Qualifications for Judge of the Supreme Court:**

- According to Constitution of India:
  - A person must be a **citizen of India**.
  - Have been a **High Court judge** for at least five years.
  - Have been a **High Court advocate** for at least 10 years.
  - Be considered a **distinguished jurist** by the President.

**Collegium System:**

- For **appointment and transfer of judges** in the higher judiciary in India.
- For **Supreme Court (SC) appointments:** collegium consists of **CJI plus 4 senior-most Supreme Court judges**.
- For **High Court appointments:** collegium consists of CJI plus 2 senior-most Supreme Court judges.
- CJI after consultation with collegium **recommends to President** for an appointment.
- Supreme Court Judges retire upon attaining the **age of 65 years**.

**Evolution of Collegium:**

- **1st judges case (1982):** the word '**consultation**' only implies exchange of views.
- **2nd judges case (1993):**
  - Word '**consultation**' = **concurrence**, advice by CJI (plus 2 judges) is binding on President.
  - If collegium reiterates, judicial appointments must be cleared (a healthy convention).
- **3rd Judges case: Collegium** (4 Judges + CJI).
- **99th CAA 2015: NJAC** (3 judicial members & 2 executive appointees): Declared Unconstitutional by SC.

**Removal of Judges:**

- According to **Judges Inquiry Act, 1968:**
  - A **removal motion** signed by 100 members (in case of Lok Sabha) or 50 members (in case of Rajya Sabha) is to be given to the Speaker/Chairman.
  - If the motion is admitted, then a **three-member committee** to investigate into the charges is constituted.
  - If the committee **finds the judge to be guilty of the charges (misbehaviour or incapacity)**, the House in which the motion was introduced, can take up the consideration of the motion.
  - **Special majority:** Majority of total membership of the House & majority of not less than two thirds members present and voting.
  - Once, the House in which **removal motion was introduced passes it with special majority, it goes to the second House which also has to pass it with a special majority.**
    - After the motion is passed, an address is presented to the President for removal of the judge.
    - The **President** then passes an order removing the judge.

**Note:**

- Till now, **only two judges so far have been found guilty** for their "misbehaviour" by the three-member committee.
- **No judge has been impeached** in India till date.

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SCHEMES

PRE-CONTEXT

PM INTERNSHIP SCHEME

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 11.

**News:** "Centre gets 6.21 lakh applications under PM internship scheme."

**PM Internship Scheme:**

- **Pilot project**, the first batch of 1.25 lakh interns will begin internship with **voluntarily participating companies** (top 500 companies of India) on December 2.
- Centre launched an **online portal**, which operationalises the PM Internship Scheme, **part of a five-scheme package** designed to spur **job creation and impart skills to 4 crore youth over five years**.
- Implemented by **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**.
- **Criteria:**
  - Indian citizen of aged between **21-24 years**.
  - **Employment criteria:** not employed full time.
  - **Education criteria:**
    - Not enrolled in full time education.
    - Diploma from a polytechnic institute.
    - Certificate from Industrial Training Institute (ITI).
    - Bachelor degree.
  - No member of family is earning more than **Rs.8 Lakh per annum** and no member has a Govt. job.
  - Holding higher degrees like any masters **not eligible**.
  - Graduates from reputable institutions like IITs, IIITs etc **not eligible**.

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TECHNOLOGY

PRE-CONTEXT

SPaDeX

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 12.

**News:** "ISRO to sign o 2024 with space docking experiment mission today."

**SpaDeX:**

- **ISRO has never docked spacecraft earlier**, this capability will be demonstrated for **first time under SpaDeX mission**.
- Docking is a process where two spacecrafts moving at **extremely high speeds** are **aligned** in a precise and joined together.
- Mission is carried out using **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)**.
  - The rocket will carry two satellites called **SDX01, dubbed 'Chaser,' and SDX02, dubbed 'Target.'** Each weighs 220 kg.
  - After launch and orbit insertion, the two satellites will **meet in low earth orbit, dock, and then undock**.
- Docking technology is an **essential building-block process for country's own space station, Chandrayaan 4 (moon sample), interplanetary missions**.
  - **Bharatiya Antariksha Station:** India's own Space Station by 2035. First module will be launched in 2028.

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## ELECTIONS

PRE-CONTEXT

### OVERSEAS ELECTORS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 11.

**News:** "Turnout of overseas Indians in Lok Sabha election low, says EC."

#### About Overseas Electors:

- While NRI voters is a generic term, the EC describes them as overseas electors.
- Under the existing electoral law (RPA.1951), **registered NRI voters have to come to their respective Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies to vote.**
  - They have to show their **passport as proof of their identity.**
- In August 2018, the 16th Lok Sabha passed a **Bill to allow proxy voting rights** to eligible overseas Indians.
  - The Bill, **however, could not be brought to the Rajya Sabha.**

#### Note:

- According to ECI, eligible Indian citizens who enrol in electoral rolls are called **electors (having the right to vote but it doesn't necessarily mean they have voted)**, those who actually exercise their franchise (vote) are described as **voters.**

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**Thank you!**