

- **Impact on development programs:** Elections lead to **imposition of Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** in the poll bound State/area and as a result, the entire development programme and activities of the Union and State Governments in the poll bound State would come to a standstill. Frequent elections lead to imposition of MCC over prolonged periods of time which affects the normal governance.
- **Disruption of normal public life:** Frequent elections lead to disruption of normal public life and impact the functioning of essential services. If simultaneous elections are held, this period of disruption would be limited to a certain pre-determined period of time.
- **Engagement of security forces:** Security forces also have to be diverted for the electoral work even as the country's enemy keeps plotting against the nation and terrorism remains a strong threat. Simultaneously would free the crucial manpower which is often deployed for prolonged periods on election duties.
- **Improved Governance:** Simultaneous Elections will help ruling parties focus on governance instead of being constantly in election mode.
- **Voter Turnout:** Simultaneous polls will boost voter turnout, according to the Law Commission.
- **Frequent elections perpetuate caste, religion and communal issues across the country:** In a recent article Dr. S. Y. Quarishi (former Chief Election Commissioner) noted that “elections are polarizing events which have accentuated casteism, communalism, corruption and crony capitalism. If the country is perpetually on election mode, there is no respite from these evils. Holding simultaneous elections would certainly help in this context.

Arguments Against The Idea Of Simultaneous Election

- Since elections will be held once in five years, it will **reduce the government's accountability to the people**. Repeated elections keep legislators on their toes and increases accountability. Frequent elections will keep the bond between the people and their representatives strong.
- **Regional issues might get merged with the national issues** if simultaneous elections are conducted. Simultaneous elections might affect the regional parties in negative ways as regional parties will find it hard to compete with a party fighting national elections with a national agenda.
- **It also has the potential to affect the national parties** as a national party will have to be spread too thin if it is focusing on both national and state elections at the same time.
- The ECI felt that simultaneous conduct of elections would **require large scale purchase of Electronic Voting Machines and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines**. For conducting simultaneous elections, the Commission expects that a total of Rupees 9284.15 crore will be needed for procurement of EVMs and VVPATs.
- When an election in a State is postponed until the synchronised phase, **President's rule will have to be imposed in the interim period** in that state. This will be a blow to democracy and federalism.

Alternative Solutions

To get away with the practical infeasibility of conducting simultaneous polls, we can look at few things that can sort out the issues with current system.