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One country one election

- Establishment of simultaneous polling booths across the country
- Conducting simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and all state legislatures
- This system was in place till 1967.
- 1952, 1957, 1962 and 1967 elections were held simultaneously
- In 1968 and 1969, a single electoral cycle was interrupted by the dissolution of some legislatures before the end of their terms.
- In 1982, the Election Commission proposed amendments to hold simultaneous elections
- 1999 May - Law Commission headed by Justice Jeevan Reddy
- 170th statement - An end to the election cycle every year
- 2015 - Report regarding simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies
- The Election Commission must abide by the law and conduct the elections in the states
- Why one country one election is necessary for India?
- This saves money which can improve the economy
- Development work of the country can be carried out faster
- False promises are avoided
- Social development will focus on government functioning

Challenges in one country, one election

- Difficulty in combining Lok Sabha elections with the election period of all states
- There is no clarity in dealing with situations like by-elections or President's rule when no party gets a majority
- Regional problems can be overshadowed by national problems
- Backlash to regional parties
- Consensus among all political parties remains a significant hurdle.

Status of Right to Information Act

Right to Information Act

- Information can be obtained
- 2010 - Exposed fake degrees awarded in government universities
- 2012 - Exposed corruption in government contracts

Current revisions

- Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023
- Qualifying prohibition has been converted into total prohibition
- Public Information Officer - Refusal to provide information
- The right to information has been replaced by the right to refuse to provide information
- National level campaign for Right to Information
- Social censorship is impossible
- Public officials can escape responsibility
- Right to Information Amendment Act 2019 - Unilateral power to determine conditions of service of Central Government Information Commissioners

Challenges in Implementation

- No reason is required for the application
- High backlog of cases
- There are not enough Information Commissioners
- The Right to Information Act is not time bound
- There is no category related to the right to plead
- Registration is done only for personal interest instead of public interest.
- Less awareness.
- Less authority.
- The Information Commissioners do not have the power to enforce the guidelines

Solutions

- Provision of Information via the Website
- Protection from wrongful lawsuits
- Prevention of misuse of RTI
- Balancing privacy
- Creating awareness among the public