



Simultaneous Elections : Possibilities and Apprehensions

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Abstract : *In elections, indeed rest the essence of democracy for they empower the masses to engineer their government and determine their political fate. They are often thought of as the heart of the political process and perhaps no question in politics is as crucial as do we elect the politicians who rule over us and under what rules are these elections held. However, elections only actualize political democracy but it is social and economic democracy that coalesce meaning to it. The founding fathers of the Republic of India believed that political democracy i.e. Universal Adult Franchise and representative parliamentary government would slowly but certainly ascertain the advent of social and economic democracy in the*

newly-born state. So, elections in India were to be a means to attain higher ends. But unfortunately, they have turned out to be exuberant and protracted affair that belittle all such hopes. Currently, India witnesses 5-7 State Assembly elections every year which involve massive expenditure and break the continuity and consistency in governance. The administrators are always bogged down with the herculean task of conducting elections and for the political parties, elections have become an end in themselves. Elections are inseparable to a democratic polity but when the electoral process is fraught with such discrepancies, the meaning and purpose of democracy stand defeated. To do away with these ills of the Indian electoral process and to make elections less time and money-consuming, the idea of Simultaneous Elections has been floated for quite some time now. However, it did not go down well with everyone and a series of debates and discussions on its feasibility, pros and cons have been aroused across the country. The present research work aims at holistically analyzing the various dimensions of simultaneous elections and discovering whether the positives inherent in the idea outweigh the negatives; will the proposed system in any way benefit the growing economy and will it actually facilitate development and good governance. The work traces the evolution of the idea in the Indian political system and tries to examine its impact, possible chances and prevailing apprehensions.

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