Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the need for electoral reforms as suggested by various committees with particular reference to "one nation one election" principle.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2024	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

electoral reforms, Law Commission, Election Commission, Dinesh Goswami Committee, Indrajit Gupta Committee, Kovind Committee, simultaneous elections, electoral expenditure, Model Code of Conduct, political stability

Model Answer

Introduction

Electoral reforms aim to strengthen the integrity, efficiency and representativeness of India's democratic process. Various committees have suggested reforms concerning electoral expenditure, criminalisation, political funding and election management.

Need for Electoral Reforms

The **Dinesh Goswami Committee** recommended measures concerning electoral malpractices and election expenditure, while the **Law Commission** examined simultaneous elections and other electoral reforms. Persistent concerns include excessive expenditure, criminalisation, misuse of money and muscle power, and frequent deployment of administrative machinery.

One Nation, One Election

Simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies could:

1. reduce repeated election expenditure and administrative mobilisation;
2. minimise prolonged enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct;
3. reduce disruption to governance and development programmes;
4. encourage policy-oriented rather than perpetual electoral politics.

However, it raises concerns regarding constitutional amendments, premature dissolution of legislatures, federalism and the possibility of national issues overshadowing state-specific concerns.

Conclusion

Electoral reform should strengthen **free, fair, transparent and representative democracy**. Simultaneous elections may improve administrative efficiency, but their adoption requires broad political consensus, constitutional safeguards and protection of India's federal character.

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