

SUGGESTIONS : ONE NATION ONE / TWO ELECTIONS

(National Elections :5 yrs. : Federal Elections - All assemblies-at halfway mark)

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The pros and cons of “One Nation One Election” are as follows:

PROS

- Cost effective .
- Efficient- time saving .

- Better delivery of services - as more time at hand.
- Improved performance - with reduced uncertainty, improved predictability.

- Focused Governance.
- Continuity in Policy Decisions.

- Could potentially reduce [horse-trading](#)
- Reduced- Deployment of Security Forces ; freebies Benefits –efficiency , cost effective ,...Not more than two terms out of sync.

CONS

- Regional parties may suffer.
- Smaller parties may suffer .

- Issues may get confused
- Concerns may be muddled

- Polity gets totally electoralised- every act is seen with the prism of votes.
- May reduce federalism ... Convert to Confederalism.

- Election expenses aren't always bad- Thus the rationale of saving money is diluted.
- Predictability may reduce accountability.

The negative fallouts may be largely neutralised by going in for “ **One nation two elections** ”... National Elections followed by Federal Elections at the **halfway mark** (2.5 yrs) ...The term of assemblies remains 5 yrs. Besides , Federal Elections may serve as a sort of referendum for government and initiate course correction. Some of the **Changes** that may be needed :,

- Extension of Presidents / Governor's rule to 1.25 yrs- by amending the constitution ...Current provision allows for six months at a time ; extendable to three years subject to clearance by Parliament every six months ...With amendment , approval of Parliament will not be needed again till 1.25 years (15 months – Quarter term)
- Provision of both extending as well as truncating the terms :shortest **1.25 yrs. and longest 6.25 yrs.** Amendments to the Constitution related to the duration of parliamentary and state legislative houses as well as the dissolution powers of the President required –currently , there is no provision for extending the term of a sitting government once it loses confidence (if a confidence motion is not brought simultaneously-only for first 15 months)
- National parties could fight alone in states /Assemblies too only if they had a status in state also a regional party – meaning they should've got the minimum seats and / or votes in Assembly elections too...Else contest in coalition/alliance with state recognized party...Alternatively , fight Independently till achieving the number of seats /votes...Likewise, Regional Parties to be allowed to contest National elections only when they have requisite seats / votes ...Else , contest in alliance Coalition / independently till acquiring the status...This will allow both National as well regional parties to Grow and/or evolve.

- Provision of Presidential National Govt.-in the intervening period-not with officers but with a chosen set of Legislators in the proportion of their numbers.
- Rechristen LS & VS elections as National Elections & Federal Elections respectively.
- Dates and time fixed for all elections :only twice : during school holidays / post harvesting (Summers & Winter)
- In the intervening period , have Continual elections- One third RS ,Vidhan Parishad members elected every 2years
- Not more than two consecutive terms out of sync ...A President' / Governor's rule to be brought in as cooling off and bring polity back in sync.

VARIOUS SCENARIOS (Based upon above changes)

- If loss of majority “after” Day one and “before” 15 months (1/4th term) then vote of confidence by opposition needed “simultaneously” alongwith seeking no-confidence ..Else, govt. continues till 15 months.
- If even “after” 15 months ,neither the incumbent cobbles majority nor the challenges brings in confidence motion then fresh elections with **truncated term** - 45 month tenure .
- If loss of majority between 15 – 30 months (half the term); no vote of confidence needed simultaneously as a pre -condition(majority may be cobbled post facto)
- If majority shown beforehand then govt for remaining term, else elections after 30 months :President /Governor's rule in between ; **new govt for 2.5yrs.**

- If majority loss “ after 30” months and “ before ” 45 months then President ‘s / Governor’s rule in the intervening period (30 to 45 months)
- If no claimant even “till”45 months, then elections after 45 month with Extended term : duration of next term added (Total 75 month :6.25 yrs.)
- If govt falls “after” After 45 months , caretaker govt . –comprising proportionate politicians (not officers)
- Regular elections after 60 months.
