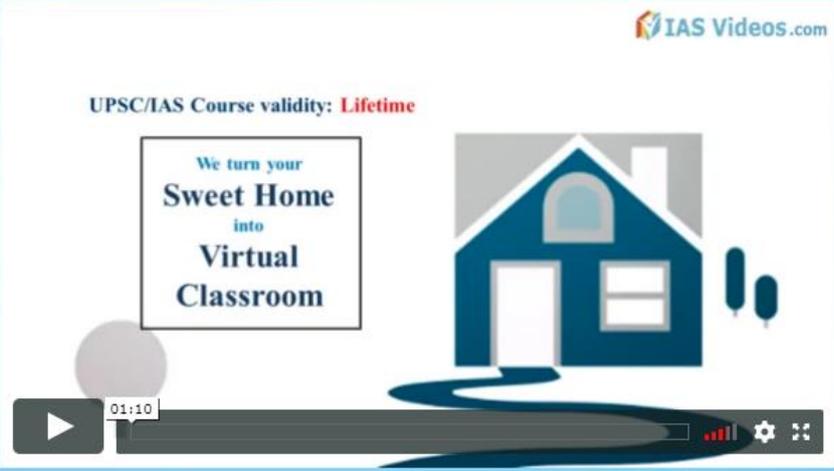


## March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Sample Current Affairs

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## **1. Hold Assembly, Lok Sabha polls together: parties in Valley to Election Commission**

- What is meant by simultaneous elections?**
- What is the need for holding simultaneous elections?**
- What are the problems associated with frequent elections?**

**GS paper 2 (Union and State Legislatures (structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges; issues therein). Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.**

**In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.**

**The above article has been retrieved from:**

Bashaarat  
Masood|. ( 2019, March , 6). Hold Assembly, Lok Sabha polls together: parties in Valley to Election Commission. Indian Express. Retrieved from <https://indianexpress.com/elections/hold-assembly-lok-sabha-polls-together-parties-in-valley-to-election-commission-5611048/>

**What is the context about?**

- The political parties of Kashmir Monday impressed upon the Election Commission of India (ECI) to hold the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir simultaneously with the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.**

- The ECI Monday began a two-day visit to the state to assess the feasibility of holding the Lok Sabha and the assembly polls simultaneously.

### **What is meant by simultaneous elections?**

- It refers to holding elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies simultaneously, once in a five year.
- At present, elections to Lok Sabha and to all State Legislative Assemblies are not being held simultaneously.
- Sometimes, elections to some State Legislative Assemblies may happen together with the elections to Lok Sabha. For example, in 2014, elections to State assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim were held along with elections to Lok Sabha.

### **What is the need for holding simultaneous elections?**

Need for holding simultaneous elections arises from the following reasons:

- The massive expenditure that is currently incurred for the conduct of separate elections.
- The policy paralysis that results from the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct during election time.
- Impact on delivery of essential services.
- Burden on crucial manpower that is deployed during election time.

## **What are the problems associated with frequent elections?**

Problems associated with frequent elections:

- Frequent elections affect policymaking and governance as the government is trapped in short-term thinking.
- It also destabilises duly-elected governments and imposes a heavy burden on the executive.
- It also puts pressure on political parties, especially smaller ones, as elections are becoming increasingly expensive.
- The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) which comes into force with the announcement of poll dates, prevents government from announcing any new schemes, making any new appointments, transfers and postings without the approval of the election commission. This brings normal work of the government to a standstill.
- It also increases the cost of management to the election commission.

## **Why it is difficult to go for simultaneous elections?**

- The biggest challenge is achieving political consensus, which seems to be “chimerical”.
- Regional parties will be more opposed to the idea than national parties because there is always a tendency for voters to vote the same party in power in the state and at

the Centre in case the Lok Sabha polls and the state elections are held together.

- ❑ Also, according to IDFC, there is a 77% chance that the Indian voter will vote for the same party for both the state and Centre when elections are held simultaneously.