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20DECEMBER 2025

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Daily News Analysis

SATURDAY, 20th DECEMBER 2025

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1. One Nation One Election

- **Prelims** - One Nation One Election
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Governance (Policy)

Why in the news?

- The meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on One Nation One Election legislation was held in New Delhi

One Nation One Election

- **What is it?:**
  - ➔ One Nation, One Election refers to the proposal of conducting simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha (the lower house of India's Parliament) and all state legislative assemblies.
  - ➔ The idea seeks to synchronize the electoral calendar across India, ensuring elections are held at the same time across the country.
  - ➔ This concept aims to reduce the frequency of elections, thus cutting costs and improving governance efficiency.

- **Historical Background:**
  - ➔ Simultaneous elections were a common practice in India during the first two decades post-independence, with elections to both the Lok Sabha and state assemblies held together in 1952, 1957, 1962, and 1967.
  - ➔ However, the cycle was disrupted due to the premature dissolution of certain state assemblies and the Lok Sabha in the late 1960s and 1970s.

- **Need for One Nation, One Election:**
  - ➔ **Frequent Elections:** Currently, elections are held frequently due to the unsynchronized tenure of the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. This results in multiple elections every year.
  - ➔ **Reduction in Cost:** Simultaneous elections would significantly reduce the overall expenditure on elections, as resources like security personnel, administrative machinery, and logistics would be used more efficiently.
  - ➔ **Minimization of Disruption:** Model Code of Conduct (MCC), which comes into force during elections, restricts government policy-making, leading to Policy Paralysis. This can be avoided with the new system.

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➔ **Political Stability:** Frequent elections often lead to short-term populist policies, affecting long-term governance. With fewer elections, governments can focus more on governance and development rather than remaining in constant election mode.

➔ **Voter Turnout:** Holding simultaneous elections could improve voter turnout as people would only need to vote once in a specific election cycle.

● **Arguments Against One Nation, One Election:**

➔ **Federalism Concerns:** Simultaneous elections might undermine the autonomy of state governments by aligning their tenures with the central government. This could dilute the federal structure of India.

➔ **Logistical Challenges:** Conducting elections across the entire country at the same time would require a huge logistical effort in terms of security, deployment of polling staff, and managing voting infrastructure.

➔ **Premature Dissolution of Assemblies:** If a state assembly or the Lok Sabha is dissolved prematurely, it would disturb the synchronized cycle, raising questions about how to handle such scenarios.

➔ **Voter Behavior:** Simultaneous elections might lead to national issues overshadowing local issues, influencing voter behavior and harming the democratic representation of regional concerns.

● **Government and Legal Position:**

➔ The Law Commission of India and the NITI Aayog have expressed support for the idea, proposing ways to implement it. However, it requires significant constitutional amendments:

➔ **Article 83 and Article 172** deal with the tenures of the Lok Sabha and state legislatures, respectively.

➔ **Article 356** (President's Rule) may also need reconsideration in cases of premature dissolution of assemblies.

➔ A **High level Committee** was set up by the Union government under the chairmanship of former President of India **Shri. Ram Nath Kovind.**

➔ The committee **proposed simultaneous elections for Loksabha, State Assemblies and Local self government institutions** of India

2. Pamir-Karakoram Anomaly and Pamir Mountains

- **Prelims -** Pamir-Karakoram Anomaly and Pamir Mountains
- **Mains -** GS 1 - Geography (Geomorphology)

Why in the news?

- Ice cores from the Pamir Mountains are being studied to understand why its glaciers have resisted melting despite global warming.

Pamir-Karakoram Anomaly

- **What is it?**: The Pamir–Karakoram Anomaly refers to the near-stable or positive mass balance of glaciers in the Karakoram and parts of the Pamir Mountains.
- **Causes of the Anomaly**
  - ➔ **Climatic Factors**
    - ★ Dominance of Western Disturbances
    - ★ Winter snowfall > summer ablation
  - ➔ **Atmospheric Circulation**
    - ★ Greater influence of mid-latitude westerlies
    - ★ Weaker penetration of the South-West Monsoon
  - ➔ **Topographic Factors**
    - ★ Steep slopes and narrow valleys
    - ★ Extensive debris-covered glaciers reducing melt
  - ➔ **Glaciological Dynamics**
    - ★ High proportion of surge-type glaciers
    - ★ Ice flow dynamics partly independent of climate

Pamir Mountains

- **Geology**: Formed by the collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates, making it a seismically active zone.
- **Location**:
  - ➔ The Pamir Mountains are located in Central Asia, spanning across Tajikistan, Afghanistan, China (Xinjiang), Kyrgyzstan.
  - ➔ The Pamir Mountains, also known as the "Roof of the World," form a massive convergence zone (Pamir Knot) with the Himalayas, Karakoram, Hindu Kush, Kunlun, and Tian Shan ranges.
- **Major Peaks & Features**: Ismoil Somoni Peak (Tajikistan), Kongur Tagh (China), Muztagh Ata (China) etc.

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3. SAGAR and MAHASAGAR Vision

- **Prelims -** ASPIRE Scheme
- **Mains -** GS 2 - International Relations (Groupings & Agreements Involving India)

Why in the news?

- ICG Ship Sarthakmakes first port call at Iran's Chabahar port and visit is aligned with India's SAGAR and MAHASAGAR vision.

Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR Vision)

- **What is it?:** It is India's maritime doctrine for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) launched in 2015.
- **Aim**: It emphasizes that India's own security and prosperity are deeply linked to the security and prosperity of its neighbors.
- **Main Pillars**
  - ➔ **Security**: Strengthening the maritime security of India and its neighbors through joint patrolling and information sharing.
  - ➔ **Capacity Building:** Assisting smaller nations with equipment, training, and infrastructure (e.g., gifting patrol vessels to Mauritius and Maldives).
  - ➔ **Blue Economy**: Promoting sustainable use of ocean resources, fisheries, and port-led development.
  - ➔ **Disaster Response**: Positioning India as a "First Responder" (e.g., Mission SAGAR during the COVID-19 pandemic provided food and medical aid to island nations).

MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)

- **What is it?**: It is expanded version of SAGAR launched by India in 2025.
- **Aim**: It shifts from a regional focus to a Global South perspective.
- **Pillars**
  - ➔ Trade for development via technology-sharing, capacity building through infrastructure and education.
  - ➔ Mutual security via joint exercises and defense ties.

Key Differences

→ **Geographical Expansion**: Moves beyond the IOR to include the wider Indo-Pacific and stronger ties with African littorals.

→ **Holistic Approach**: Integrates technology transfer, renewable energy, and climate change resilience alongside traditional security.

→ **Global South Leadership**: Positions India as a champion for developing nations in maritime governance, seeking "Regional Solutions to Regional Problems."

→ **Flagship Initiatives**: * AIKEYME: The Africa-India Key Maritime Engagement exercise.