

Addapedia Editorial Analysis PDF 20 September 2024

A fair share: On the concerns of high performing States

(The Hindu, 20-09-24)

What is the government's proposal for simultaneous elections?

- Accept recommendations of high-level committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind
- Hold Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections simultaneously as the first step
- Conduct municipal and panchayat polls within 100 days of the general election
- Requires constitutional amendments to be passed in Parliament and State Assemblies

What are the main reasons given for proposing simultaneous elections?

- Reduce costs of conducting elections
- Improve voter turnout by reducing election fatigue
- Reduce the frequency of imposition of Model Code of Conduct, allowing for more continuous governance
- Address the issue of political parties being in prolonged campaign mode → Reduces polarisation tendencies that generally peak during elections
- Potentially reduce black money circulation and corruption associated with frequent elections
- Create a more stable policy environment by aligning electoral cycles → Helps in attracting foreign investment

Why is the proposal considered anti-federal?

- Lack of empirical data supporting cost reduction claims
- Recommendation for "midterm" elections with shortened tenures if a State Assembly is dissolved early
- Subsumes multi-tier elections into simultaneous mode, potentially reducing the importance of each tier
- Ignores the distinct roles of representatives at different levels of government
- Disregards varied voter choices based on party affiliation, candidate strength, ideological positions, or constituency-specific reasons
- May require cutting short the tenures of some State governments
- Centralizes the electoral process, undermining the federal structure

Can you answer the following question?

Critically analyze the proposal for simultaneous elections in India, discussing its potential impact on federalism.

Should children be barred from social media?

(The Hindu, 20-09-24)

The Australian Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, has announced a plan to set a minimum age to use social media platforms.

- In India, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 requires verifiable parental consent for children's access to platforms collecting personal data

What are the challenges in implementing age restrictions on social media?

- Difficulty in verifying age online
- Children's ability to circumvent barriers
- Low digital literacy among parents, especially in countries like India
- Shared device usage in many households
- Burden of compliance often falls on parents

How can children's online safety be improved?

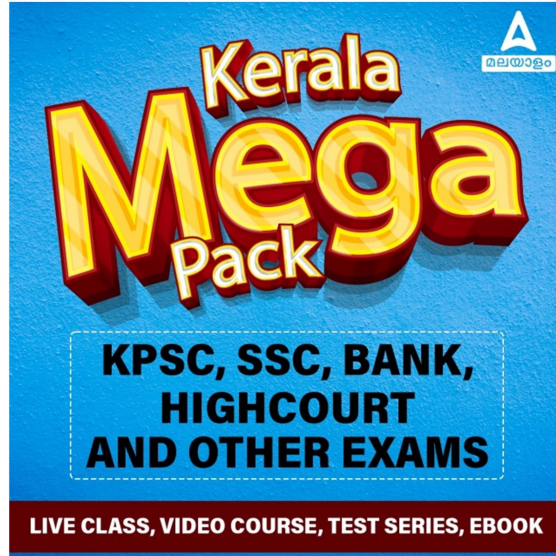
- Educate parents on supporting children's positive digital engagement
- Include digital literacy and online safety in school curricula
- Teach children to be resilient online
- Address 'sharenting' and protect children's privacy rights
- Regulate child influencers and their earnings
- Implement age-appropriate design codes for platforms

What responsibilities do social media platforms have in ensuring children's safety?

- Design better, safer spaces for children and young people
- Implement age assurance technologies while considering privacy concerns
- Make design changes to minimize risks for children (e.g., better default settings)
- Increase transparency about design changes and their impact on children's behavior
- Balance using technology for both protection and user experience

Can you answer the following question?

In light of the global debate on children's access to social media, critically examine the challenges and potential solutions for ensuring online safety for minors.



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