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# 1 nation, 1 election not debate but necessity for India: Modi

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**Kevadia:** Renewing his pitch for 'one nation one election', Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said it was not a matter of debate but a necessity for the country as he sought support for the idea of clubbing Lok Sabha and assembly polls to save resources and time.

"There is an election in India every month, which hampers development," the PM said while addressing the concluding session of the All India Presiding Officers' Conference. "Why should the country waste so much money?" he asked.

## PM: We're fighting terror in new ways

aying tribute to those who lost their lives in the 26/11 attack, carried out by "terrorists sponsored and sent by Pakistan", PM Modi said "today, India is fighting terror by new ways and means", apparently referring to the retaliatory strikes across the border after the attacks in Uri and Pulwama. P 13

Modi urged the presiding officers of different legislatures to take initiative in this direction as he said the idea of 'one nation one election' needed to be intensely engaged

with. "You all should ponder over this idea that there should be one voters' list, and find a way out," he added.

He said there was uniformity in the voting age, which is 18 years, so there was no point wasting time. "Presiding officers should take the initiative towards full digitisation and legislators, I am sure, will adapt to it," he added.

As the event coincided with Constitution Day, the PM said it was a day to remember the inspiration of Gandhiji and the commitment of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to the Constitution.

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## Modi: Strength of Constitution helps us in time of difficulties

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referring to the Emergency, Modi said in the 70s, an attempt was made against the dignity of separation of power but the response to that was facilitated by provisions of the Constitution itself. After the Emergency, the system of checks and balances kept getting stronger as the legislature, the executive and the judiciary learnt from the episode. "This was possible due to the confidence that 130 crore Indians have in the three branches of the government, and this confidence has been strengthened with time," the PM said.

Constitution Day celebrations started in 2015 after Modi took over as PM. On Thursday President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of the Constitution, which was taken by presiding officers in Kevadia. "Strength of our Constitution helps us in times of difficulties. The resilience of Indian electoral system and reaction to the corona pandemic has proved this," Modi said and praised lawmakers for giving more output in recent times and taking a pay cut for helping in the fight against Covid-19.

The PM stressed on the importance of duties and said duties should be treated as the source of rights, dignity and self-confidence. "Our Constitution has many features but one very special feature is the importance given to duties. Mahatma Gandhi was very keen about this. He saw a close link between rights and duties. He felt that once we perform our duties, rights will automatically be safeguarded," he added.