

# One Nation One Election: A Blow to Federalism or the Need of the Nation?

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## **Abstract**

The idea of 'One Nation One Election' (ONOE) aims to coordinate the electoral schedule, in India with the goal of reducing the staggered elections that take place in various states. For the thirty years there hasn't been a year without an election at either the State Assembly or Lok Sabha level, which has put a strain on the governments resources. Proposed during a meeting, on India's Independence Day this concept seeks to synchronize Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections with the aim of improving efficiency and cost effectiveness in Indian process. The research paper explores the discussion surrounding ONOE while analysing how it affects federalism in India. The paper traces the development of Indian system examining how the ONOE concept has emerged. The paper also emphasizes the need for ONOE by explaining how the current electoral landscape is constantly disrupted, hindering governance and policy implementation. Financially there is a burden on funds due to multiple elections. ONOE provides a solution by streamlining governance and promoting policy coherence. Moreover the research highlights advantages of ONOE such as reducing costs and improving resource allocation. The paper investigates the risks to federalism carefully considering their impact on state autonomy and finding a balance between centralization and decentralization. Additionally it examines how regional interests might be represented under this system and explores its implications, for parties and politics. The study concludes by analysing of the issues, real life examples suggestions, for policy and a glimpse into the future.

**Keywords:** *ONOE, federalism, policy, centralisation, election, etc.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The concept of "One Nation, One Election" and its implications on federalism in India stands at the crossroads of electoral reform and constitutional principles. In a country as diverse and vast as India, with a parliamentary system of government, the scheduling of elections has been a subject of extensive debate and scrutiny. This concept envisions synchronizing the electoral cycles of all levels of government, from panchayats to the Parliament, in an attempt to streamline the democratic process.

## **BACKGROUND**

The roots of the "One Nation, One Election" concept can be traced back to the early years of the Indian Republic. The founding fathers of our nation had discussions, about the complexities of a system, where power is shared between a central authority and regional units. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution emphasized the importance of aligning the calendar to ensure that the administrative machinery is not constantly focused on elections.

Over the years India has witnessed instances where staggered elections have posed challenges to governance. The continuous cycle of elections disrupts government functioning. Additionally having overlapping schedules, for levels of government often strains resources and leads to logistical complications. Supporters of "One Nation, One Election" argue that this reform would address these issues by allowing elected representatives to concentrate on governing and policy making of being consumed by campaigns.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

However the idea of "One Nation, One Election" has its share of complexities and one of the notable challenges is its impact, on the federal structure of India. The Indian Constitution grants powers to both the governments and elections play a crucial role in exercising these powers. Each state has its socio political

dynamics and regional concerns that influence their electoral choices. If elections were synchronized nationwide there is a risk that these regional perspectives might be overshadowed and limit the diversity of discussions.

In addition, there are a few obstacles to overcome when implementing this idea. In a nation as large and varied as India, it is necessary to organise elections at all levels of government. This requires thorough planning, a robust infrastructure, and faultless execution. Any mistakes made during this process could detract from the core ideals the reform intends to instil.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The main goal of this study is to examine the consequences of the "One Nation, One Election" idea, on Indian structure. It aims to analyze the pros and cons of synchronizing cycles taking into account Indian context constitutional framework and socio political diversity.

Moreover this study seeks to assess the feasibility of implementing such a reform in India by considering administrative challenges. It will also explore approaches to achieve elections and stable governance while preserving the essence of federalism.

Therefore the "One Nation, One Election" concept represents a transformation in Indian landscape that has far reaching effects on its federal structure. As discussions surrounding this reform continue to evolve it is crucial to conduct an analysis of its impact by carefully weighing its benefits against the complexities involved in implementation. This study aims to contribute to this discourse by providing an well informed perspective, on this critical issue.

### **NEED FOR 'ONE NATION ONE ELECTION'**

#### **A. ELECTORAL OVERLOAD AND FREQUENT DISRUPTIONS**

One of the reasons why 'One Nation, One Election' is necessary, in India is due to the problem of excessive elections and frequent disruptions in the functioning of the government. The complex electoral schedule in India, with elections occurring at various levels of government - from local panchayats to the highest echelons of the Parliament - often leads to a state of perpetual electioneering.<sup>1</sup> This incessant cycle of elections disrupts the normal functioning of the government, diverting attention from critical policy matters.

Elected representatives, instead of focusing on the implementation of vital reforms and developmental initiatives, find themselves embroiled in recurring election campaigns. This leads to a system where governance takes a backseat, and policy choices are sometimes born with an eye on short-term political gains rather than long-term sustainable growth. This is a condition that should not be allowed to continue. The "One Nation, One Election" initiative aims to ease this problem by rationalising the election schedule. This will enable elected officials to devote more time and effort towards the design and execution of policies that have natural substance.

#### **B. FINANCIAL BURDEN ON EXCHEQUER**

Another significant factor compelling the consideration of 'One Nation, One Election' is the substantial financial burden placed on the exchequer due to the current staggered electoral cycles. Conducting elections, especially on a large scale as witnessed in India, demands a substantial allocation of resources.<sup>2</sup> This includes the deployment of a vast workforce for election administration, the creation of necessary infrastructure, and significant financial outlays.

With elections occurring at various levels of government in close succession, this expenditure becomes a recurring strain on the government's financial resources. The need to mobilize funds for elections often diverts resources that could be better allocated towards pressing public needs, developmental projects, and social welfare programs. Aligning the election schedule would greatly alleviate the burden enabling distribution of resources, towards projects that directly enhance public welfare.

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<sup>1</sup>Kishore Desai, "Simultaneous Elections (One Nation One Election)." Dr.Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation. (October 9, 2023, 2:42 PM)

<sup>2</sup>ParinduBhagat and Dr. Mrs. PurviPokharyal. "CONCEPTUAL REFORMS ONE NATION – ONE ELECTION." *Ilkogretim Online - Elementary Education Online*, 2020; Vol 19 (Issue 4): pp.3929-3935.

## **C. STREAMLINING GOVERNANCE AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

The existence of a synchronised cycle in India carries with it the possibility of ensuring coherence and continuity in the governance system. Presently frequent changes in governments at levels often lead to shifts in policy priorities and directions. This can cause inconsistency and fragmentation in governance making it difficult to implement long term strategies and achieve development goals.

By aligning the calendar both central and state governments would have mandates. This would enable coordination in policy formulation and implementation. Moreover it would foster an approach to tackling complex challenges that require collaborative efforts between different tiers of government. Streamlining governance processes like this would result in efficient administration ultimately benefiting the citizens of India.

Hence there is a need for the 'One Nation, One Election' concept to address issues such as overload financial burden on public finances and the imperative to streamline governance and policy implementation across India. While this idea brings about a change, in the framework it requires careful consideration of its potential advantages and challenges especially within the context of Indian federal structure.

### **BENEFITS AND ADVANTAGES**

#### **A. REDUCTION IN EXPENDITURE**

##### **1. Cost-saving Measures through Synchronized Elections**

Implementing the concept of 'One Nation, One Election', in India offers a multitude of advantages, one of which is the reduction, in expenses associated with elections. The current system, which involves having elections at levels of government at times puts a significant financial burden on the government. Conducting elections requires a lot of money for things, like setting up polling booths ensuring security, printing ballots and handling expenses. If we synchronize the election cycle governments at all levels can take advantage of cost saving opportunities due, to economies of scale.

Additionally having a calendar would eliminate the need to repeatedly prepare for elections. This means we won't have to spend money on hiring personnel getting materials or deploying security forces times. Not does this save money. It also allows us to use administrative resources more efficiently for important public needs and development projects.

##### **2. Efficient Resource Allocation**

Coordinating elections allows for management of resources including finances and manpower. Currently the system often requires reallocating resources to accommodate back, to back elections. This results in a diversion of funds and personnel from areas such as healthcare, education and infrastructure. By establishing an election schedule governments can take a strategic approach to distributing resources guaranteeing that funds are directed towards initiatives that have a lasting and significant positive impact, on the public.

#### **B. IMPROVED GOVERNANCE AND POLICY CONTINUITY**

##### **1. Uninterrupted Implementation of Policies**

The concept of 'One Nation, One Election' aims to establish a dependable governance system. Presently the frequent shifts, in governments both at the state levels can cause disruptions in policy execution. When new governments take office, they often change existing policies, which may lead to inconsistency in areas such as economic planning, social welfare, and infrastructure development. By scheduling elections simultaneously, it will be possible to ensure that governments have overlapping terms. This will provide them with the stability necessary to carry out programmes without interruptions.

##### **2. Enhanced Decision-making Processes**

When elections are synchronized governments can concentrate on making long term plans and developing policies of being consumed by matters. This means that elected officials will have a period of time to

govern enabling them to engage in thoughtful and careful decision making processes. As a result this would create an atmosphere that's favorable, for the development of policies that cater to the various needs of the country.

## **C. MINIMIZATION OF POLITICAL DISRUPTION**

### **1. Reduced Political Friction due to Frequent Elections**

The existing system, which involves elections taking place at times often, leads to a ending cycle of political campaigning. This continuous electoral process can create increased tensions as parties constantly vie for power. The concept of 'One Nation, One Election' aims to address this issue by allowing for periods of stability, between elections. This could potentially foster a meaningful political discussion focused on policies and governance rather, than the short term goal of winning immediate elections.

### **2. Enhanced Stability in Governance**

The election cycle might be synchronised to bring about governance. Governments would have terms allowing them more time to implement their plans. This extended period of governance provides the opportunity to thoroughly evaluate policies and initiatives gaining insights, into their effectiveness and impact. Additionally a stable governance environment is attractive to both international investors fostering growth by instilling confidence.

To conclude, the concept of 'One Nation, One Election' offers the potential for a cost effective and stable electoral system in India. The benefits include reduced expenses, improved governance and policy consistency and minimized political disruptions. However it is crucial to consider and address any challenges or concerns that may arise from this reform, within the context of Indian federal structure.

## **DEMERITS AND CONCERNS**

### **A. POTENTIAL EROSION OF FEDERALISM**

#### **1. Analysis of Impact on State Autonomy**

One of the worries related to the introduction of 'One Nation, One Election', in India is the reduction of state independence. The federal structure in India grants powers to states enabling them to cater to specific regional requirements and concerns. Aligning the schedule could potentially weaken the influence and decision making capabilities of states.

The sociodynamics of states often call for developing one-of-a-kind policies and approaches to governing. The cultural and economic environments in which they exist may affect these. Establishing a timeline could lead to the standardisation of procedures without considering the specific requirements of various governments. This can provide difficulty for the federalist idea, which is essential to the structure of the Indian government.

#### **2. Balancing Centralization and Decentralization**

The concept of 'One Nation, One Election' requires consideration of the balance, between centralization and decentralization of power. While making the electoral process more efficient at a level may have its benefits it is important to be mindful of the impact on decentralized decision making, which plays a crucial role, in federalism. Finding the balance can be quite challenging because if we focus much on centralization it might weaken the authority of individual states and hinder their ability to address local problems effectively.

### **B. POLITICAL AND REGIONAL DIVERSITY**

#### **1. Effect on Representation of Regional Interests**

Indian political landscape is known for its range of interests, which often influence the choices made by voters. When elections are synchronized there is a risk that regional issues may receive attention in the national

conversation. With events taking place national level politics could become more dominant potentially overshadowing the specific concerns and aspirations of various regions.

This could have an impact, on how regional interests are represented in the parliament. States with populations or unique regional needs may face difficulties, in garnering attention and resources if national issues take precedence. This concern highlights the need to ensure that 'One Nation, One Election' does not compromise the diverse representation that is essential to India's pluralistic democracy.

## **2. Impact on Regional Parties and Politics**

Regional parties play a crucial role in India's political landscape, often championing the causes and concerns of specific states or regions. Synchronized elections might pose challenges for these parties, as they would need to recalibrate their strategies and resources to compete effectively on a national stage. This shift could potentially alter the dynamics of Indian politics, potentially marginalizing regional parties and their unique contributions.

Moreover, the regional identity and ethos that these parties represent might face challenges in a scenario where national issues take precedence. This could potentially lead to a dilution of the regional character of Indian politics, impacting the vibrancy and diversity of the nation's democratic discourse.

## **C. LOGISTICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES**

### **1. Infrastructural and Administrative Preparedness**

Implementing 'One Nation, One Election' poses significant infrastructural and administrative challenges. India's vast geographical expanse and diverse population require robust logistics and administrative machinery to conduct elections efficiently. Organizing elections across levels of government concurrently requires preparation in terms of infrastructure. This involves ensuring that polling booths, electronic voting machines, security personnel and other necessary resources are readily available.<sup>3</sup> Moreover it is crucial to provide training and capacity building measures, for election officials to effectively manage the heightened workload and intricacies associated with elections. Neglecting these administrative considerations may result in disruptions and inefficiencies, during the process.

### **2. Ensuring Fair and Smooth Implementation**

One of the most important things to do is to ensure the programme of "One Nation, One Election" is carried out smoothly and consistently smoothly and consistently. It involves coordination of elections, throughout the country including at the state and local levels, which demands thorough planning and efficient execution. Any mistakes, in this process have the potential to weaken the trust and reliability of the system.

Furthermore it is important to handle the worries and hopes of regions and communities in a synchronized election system with an inclusive approach. Finding a ground between regional interests while ensuring fairness, for all political parties is a challenging endeavour. Failing to do so could potentially lead to perceptions of unfairness and exclusion, undermining the democratic principles that this reform seeks to strengthen.

In conclusion, while 'One Nation, One Election' offers potential benefits in terms of cost-saving, improved governance, and reduced political disruption, it is imperative to carefully consider and address the demerits and concerns associated with this reform. Balancing federalism, accommodating political and regional diversity, and overcoming logistical and administrative challenges are crucial aspects that must be navigated thoughtfully. Ultimately, any implementation of this reform should be approached with a comprehensive understanding of its potential impact on India's diverse and dynamic democratic landscape.

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<sup>3</sup>SeemaUikey, Bhavna Pathak, Zuber Hashmi, and Shalabh Shrivastava. "Scope of One Nation One Election: A Feed Forward Study on Peoples' Perception." International Journal of Science and Research (IJSR), Volume 7, Issue 8, August 2018, pp. 1412-1416. <https://doi.org/10.21275/ART2019885>.

## CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES

### A. EXAMINATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

#### 1. Review of Pertinent Articles and Provisions

The implementation of 'One Nation, One Election' in India raises several constitutional challenges that warrant a careful examination of relevant provisions. The Indian Constitution, a cornerstone of the nation's governance framework, outlines the powers, responsibilities, and procedures for conducting elections at various levels of government. In the Indian Constitution, some articles deal with elections specifically. Article 324 vests the Election Commission with the authority to monitor and direct election procedures.<sup>4</sup> Articles 83<sup>5</sup> and 172<sup>6</sup> of the Constitution discuss the time that Parliament and Legislative Assemblies serve. Meanwhile, Article 356 grants the President the authority to dissolve state governments if the situation warrants it.<sup>7</sup>

Moreover the Constitution entrusts states with authority concerning aspects of elections. This includes tasks such, as delimiting constituencies reserving seats and handling matters. These provisions form a complex network that ensures elections are conducted in a way that respects Indian structure and accommodates its regions.

#### 2. Analysis of Compatibility with 'One Nation One Election'

The proposal for 'One Nation, One Election' necessitates a thorough assessment of its compatibility with the existing constitutional framework. The idea of synchronizing elections, across levels of government should be carefully examined to ensure it aligns with principles. It is crucial to respect the autonomy of states and prevent centralization of power at the national level.<sup>8</sup> Additionally the concept should strive to represent the interests and identities of various regions as mandated by our Constitution.

Furthermore it is important to address any conflicts between the proposed reform and existing constitutional provisions. This involves considering factors such as the duration of governments the authority of the Election Commission and the procedures for conducting elections. We must ensure that the concept of 'One Nation, One Election' harmonizes effectively, with our Constitutions principles in order to uphold Indian governance with integrity.

### B. POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS REQUIRED

#### 1. Constitutional Amendments for Implementation

The implementation of the 'One Nation, One Election' policy might require making changes, to the constitution. These changes would address aspects, such as the duration of Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies the term of state governments and the powers and responsibilities of the Election Commission. Additionally amendments related to election procedures like constituency delineation and seat reservation might also be necessary.

These amendments would play a role in establishing a framework that ensures effective synchronization of elections. They should strike a balance, between centralization and decentralization to uphold Indian structure while achieving the objective of streamlined elections.

#### 2. Addressing Potential Conflicts with Existing Provisions

As with any major constitutional reform, 'One Nation, One Election' may encounter conflicts with existing provisions. These conflicts could arise in areas, such, as the timing of elections the dissolution of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies and the procedures for handling circumstances that require early elections. To resolve these disagreements, it will be necessary to engage in conversation and seek the advice of

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<sup>4</sup>INDIA CONST. art. 324.

<sup>5</sup>INDIA CONST. art. 83.

<sup>6</sup>INDIA CONST. art. 172.

<sup>7</sup>INDIA CONST. art. 356.

<sup>8</sup>Dr. C. Santha, "One Nation One Election: Benefits are more for India." International Journal of Science and Research (IJSR), Volume 8, Issue 9, September 2019, pp. 1158-1163. DOI 10.21275/16091902.

legal professionals. Creating nuanced measures that allow for flexibility while preserving the objectives of synchronised elections could be a necessary step in this process.

In conclusion, implementing 'One Nation, One Election', in India poses challenges that warrant careful consideration and deliberation. Striking a balance between centralization and decentralization, respecting state autonomy, and upholding the diverse representation mandated by the Constitution are critical aspects that must be navigated with precision.<sup>9</sup> Thus, any successful implementation of 'One Nation, One Election' would require a thoughtful and inclusive approach that upholds the foundational principles of India's democratic governance.

### COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

'One Nation, One Election' is a proposal to synchronize elections at various levels of government in India, aiming to streamline the democratic process. This concept intersects with the broader principle of federalism, which involves the division of powers between a central authority and constituent units or states. When comparing India's approach to 'One Nation, One Election' and federalism with other countries, several key aspects come into focus:

#### 1. Complexity of Federal Structure

**India:** India's federal structure is exceptionally complex due to its multi-tiered system, comprising the central government, state governments, and local bodies (panchayats and municipalities). The vast diversity in languages, cultures, and traditions further adds to this complexity.

**United States:** The U.S. practices federalism with a dual structure involving the federal government and individual state governments. This dual structure is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, which specifically outlines the powers of the federal government, leaving the rest to the states.

**Germany:** Germany practices cooperative federalism with 16 states (Länder), each having substantial powers over various aspects of governance. The Basic Law (constitution) defines the powers of both the central and state governments.

#### 2. Balance of Centralization and Decentralization

**India:** India's federalism has witnessed periods of centralization, especially during states of emergency. However, efforts have also been made to decentralize power through initiatives like the Panchayati Raj system, which empowers local self-governance.

**Canada:** Canada strikes a balance between centralization and decentralization. While certain powers are reserved for the federal government, others, like education and health, fall under provincial jurisdiction. The division of powers is outlined in the Canadian Constitution.

**Switzerland:** Switzerland exemplifies a highly decentralized federal system. The Swiss cantons (states) possess significant powers, including those over education, social welfare, and police. The federal government primarily handles foreign affairs, defense, and some other areas.

#### 3. Protection of State Autonomy:

**India:** The Indian Constitution provides a clear division of powers between the central government and state governments. While certain subjects are exclusively under the central government's jurisdiction, others belong to the states. However, instances like President's Rule and central directives can sometimes encroach on state autonomy.

**Australia:** Australian federalism is enshrined in the constitution, which delineates powers between the federal government and six states. The Constitution safeguards state autonomy, but the federal government has sometimes used financial incentives to influence state policies.

**Belgium:** Belgium practices federalism that grants significant powers to its regions (Flanders, Wallonia, and Brussels). Each region exercises control over areas like education, culture, and transportation. The Belgian Constitution ensures that powers not explicitly granted to the federal government remain with the regions.

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<sup>9</sup>Dr. Vikramjit Singh, "Political Dimensions of One-Nation-One-Election Approach." Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research, Volume 5, Issue 8, August 2018, pp. 552-559.

#### 4. Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

**India:**The federal system in India is equipped with practical procedures for dispute settlement. The Constitution creates several different organisations to mediate disagreements between the federal government and the states, such as the Inter-State Council and the Finance Commission.

**Germany:**Germany utilizes the Federal Constitutional Court to address disputes, between the government and individual states. The primary role of this court is to guarantee that laws, with the Basic Law and uphold a distribution of power.

#### 5. Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

**India:**Indian system of federalism is greatly shaped by the cultural diversity, within the country. The states are structured based on languages spoken in order to respect and uphold identities while also fostering independence.

**Switzerland:**Switzerland also gives importance to variety as it officially recognizes four different languages. This diversity is evident, in the way cantons are structured where each canton has the ability to establish its language policies.

Indian approach to the concept of 'One Nation, One Election' and its federalism stands out for its nature ranging diversity and conscientious effort to strike a balance, between centralization and decentralization. Every country's federal system possesses traits. They all share a common objective of harmonizing local autonomy with national cohesion. The effectiveness of any system ultimately depends on its capacity to cater to the requirements and aspirations of its diverse populace.

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### A. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

##### 1. Proposed Framework for 'One Nation One Election'

Implementing the concept of 'One Nation, One Election' necessitates a thought out framework that takes into account the political and administrative landscape of India. A step, by step approach can be adopted, starting with organizing elections for bodies, panchayats and municipalities. Subsequently state legislative assemblies can follow suit leading up to synchronized state elections. This gradual implementation allows for testing of logistics, infrastructure and administrative capabilities at each level facilitating a transition towards complete synchronization.

Moreover it is crucial for the Election Commission to assume a role, in overseeing the implementation process while closely collaborating with state election commissions. Clear guidelines, standard operating procedures, and contingency plans should be established to address unforeseen challenges that may arise during the transition.

##### 2. Balancing Federalism Concerns in Policy Formulation

A crucial consideration in formulating policies for 'One Nation, One Election' is the need to balance federalism concerns. State governments possess significant authority over various aspects of elections, including delimitation of constituencies and reservation of seats.<sup>10</sup>It is crucial for policymakers to have discussions, with state governments to guarantee that the suggested reforms uphold the independence and power of each state.

Additionally it is important to establish mechanisms that can effectively address the concerns of states, with languages, cultures and socio political backgrounds. Customized approaches may be necessary to accommodate specific regional needs and ensure that the proposed reform does not inadvertently marginalize the interests of any particular state.

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<sup>10</sup>Shivani. "One Nation One Election: A New Electoral Reform In India." *Supremo Amicus*, Volume 24, ISSN 2456-9704.

## B. ANTICIPATED CHANGES IN FEDERAL STRUCTURE

### 1. Expected Shifts in Power Dynamics

Adopting the policy of 'One Nation, One Election' has the potential to alter the balance of power between the several state administrations. If the electoral cycle were to be synchronised with elections, this may give the government more energy than it already has. It will be required to assess and change the tasks and responsibilities of both state governments to guarantee that power is distributed equitably.

To address concerns about centralization it is important to establish mechanisms that protect the authority and autonomy of state governments. This could involve defining powers and responsibilities, for each level of government well as creating processes for resolving disputes when there are overlapping jurisdictions.

### 2. Implications for Union-State Relations

The proposed reform could have consequences, for the relationship between the state governments. It might call for a reassessment of how they coordinate and cooperate with each other. It is essential to establish lines of communication and consultation between them to address any conflicts or concerns that may arise during the implementation of synchronized elections.

Moreover this reform presents an opportunity to enhance federalism by fostering collaboration between the central and state governments in pursuit of shared objectives.<sup>11</sup> To leverage the strengths of both levels of government mechanisms can be established for planning, resource allocation and policy implementation.

In conclusion, implementing 'One Nation, One Election', in India has policy implications that require consideration. It is recommended to adopt a phased approach starting with elections and gradually progressing towards synchronized state elections while involving the Election Commission closely. It is crucial to consider the concerns of federalism when formulating policies. This ensures that the autonomy and authority of state governments are respected.

Given the anticipated changes, in power dynamics and their implications for union state relations it is necessary to re-evaluate how coordination between levels of government takes place. It is important to establish channels of communication and cooperation between the state governments in order to address potential conflicts and achieve a balanced distribution of power. Ultimately taking an inclusive approach to policy formulation and implementation becomes essential in navigating the dynamics of Indian federal structure, within the context of 'One Nation, One Election.'

## CONCLUSION

The idea of 'One Nation, One Election' presents a vision to streamline India's election process but it also brings forth significant challenges, within the country's federal structure. This proposal aims to address concerns such as overload financial strain on the exchequer and the need for governance. However it also raises worries about state autonomy, representation of interests and the practical difficulties of implementation.

To tackle these concerns effectively finding a balance between centralization and decentralization is crucial. It is essential to respect states autonomy while ensuring representation of diversity. A thought out policy formulation and a phased approach are recommended for implementation. Starting with elections and gradually progressing towards synchronized state elections would be a prudent strategy. The Election Commission will play a role in overseeing this process in collaboration, with state election commissions.

The proposed reform also has implications, for the balance of power between the state governments. It is important to establish mechanisms for coordination and consultation between these entities in order to address any conflicts and ensure a distribution of power. Additionally it is worth exploring opportunities for federalism to make the most of the strengths of both levels of government.

Therefore the success of 'One Nation, One Election' relies on understanding its impact, on India's diverse and ever changing democratic landscape. We need to approach this with thoughtfulness and inclusivity while upholding Indian principles. As the debate continues to evolve around this reform it is crucial that we engage in well informed discussions. We must recognize that moving forward requires respecting federalism values while aiming for enhanced efficiency and stable governance.

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<sup>11</sup>Karthikeyan, Prathik, Basic Structure Doctrine and the Possibility of Simultaneous Elections (September 1, 2018). <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3666391>