

Debating on One Nation, One Policy: Implications for India's Political System

Pompee Dehingia¹, Fatima Begum²

¹MA in Political Science, Assam Women, s University

Email: pompeedemow2020@gmail.com

²MA in Political Science, Assam Women, s university

Email: Begumfatima149@gmail.com

Abstract

One nation one policy debate has emerged as a significant point of debate within it. Advocate argue that uniform policies across the country such as areas of education, election, taxation Civil laws or ensure to promote National integration reduce bureaucratic complexity and improve administrative efficiency. One nation One policy can also strengthen National integration by creating a shared regulatory environment and reducing disparities in developing outcomes promotes to transparency and accountability. The constitution of India has derived from the traditional federal systems like US, Canada, Switzerland and Australia and also incorporated a large number of unitary or non-federal features tilting the balance of power in favour of the nation constitution. Critics contend that such centralisation may undermine India, s constitutional federalism and overlook the country vast socio-cultural and regional diversity. The debate also raises concern about political issues misuse constitutional limitations and the feasibility of applying uniform rules to States with distinct difference. Development needs overall this issue reflect the broader tension between the pursuit of national uniformity and the preservation of India pluralism and federal balance.

Key words:- Nation, Public Policy, diversity, national integration, federalism, unity.

Introduction:

A long period of time India got independence on 15 august 1947 ending nearly 200 years of British colonial rule. A full of diverse society the nation makers faced huge task of nation building. The makers of constitution took responsibility of framing this foundation. They borrowed the features from different countries constitution to balancing India, s full of diversity. They adopted federalism from Canada. Indian extremely diverse in linguistic, cultural, religious, ethnic to keep this country united they adopted a federal structure for Indian political system. The constitution of India provides for a federal system of government in the country for the large size of population and its socio-cultural diversity. They realised that the federal system ensures the efficient government and also reconciles national unity with regional autonomy. However, the term of federation has not used is the constitution instead of it, article 1, of the constitution describes India as a, Union of states the Indian federal system is based on the, Canadian model, the Canadian model established a very strong centre. K C where describe India as, quasi- federal, . He remarked that Indian union is a unitary state with subsidiary federal features rather than a federal state with subsidiary unitary features. India has a quasi-federal system which blends federal principles with unitary characterises enabling the country

to managing with vast diversity while maintain the national unity Indian constitution divided power between centre and two states through union ,state end concurrent list. Each state has its own government, legislative assembly and administration machinery and the Supreme court settle centre state disputes. At the same time the Indian constitution provides the strong unitary element to ensure stability and coordination in critical situation. The central government holds greater legislatives and financial power also n reorganize state boundaries and appoints governor who act as constitution links. During emergency rule India becomes highly unit as the centre can take direct control of state administration through president.

Day to day functioning India after works like a unitary system because the central government holds greater administration and finance control over the state. Over excessive of centralized polarization gain the two concepts of, one nation one policy, one nation one policy does not refer to a single policy if refers to a umbrella idea uniform policies across the entire country so that the same role low or policy applies to all states which aims to reduce differences in government between states and ensure consistency in administration system.

Core objective of one nation one policy -

- One nation one policy ensures that citizens across all states enjoy the same rules standards and benefit.
- To simply governance by reducing duplication, contradiction and overlap between the state level regulation.
- To reading regional disparities and create a sense of one national identity through consistent policies.
- to reduce interstate inequality
- To improve the policy predictability.

The core objective of one nation one policy is to ensure uniformity efficiency and inclusiveness in governance by creating common nation standard while reducing the state variations.

Objectives of the study:-

1. To examine the conceptual meaning and evolution of the idea of “One Nation, One Policy” within India, s governance framework.
2. To evaluate how recent national initiatives such as GST, One Nation One Ration Card, and One Nation One Election, New education policy 2020 reflect the trend toward policy uniformity.
3. To identify challenges and concerns arising from uniform policy implementation in a culturally and socio-economically diverse country like India.

Methodology:-

This paper is mainly based on qualitative research approach, relying exclusively on secondary data collected from books, academic journals and articles.

Support argument for One nation one policy:

One nation one policy ensure uniformity across state and governance, administration,

regulation across India. In various factors of states areas offer different rules like taxation, education or laws. One nation one policy standardized system has ensure uniformity in governance administration regulation. A single uniform policy helps streamline procedures making it easier for people and enterprises to understand to employ with regulation thereby reducing inefficiency and complexity.

A uniform policy fosters a sense of national identity and integration. When people across different states follow the same rules, similar welfare benefits and operates under the same uniform administrative framework it reinforces rather than separate regional units. Uniform policies area like – education, health, taxation or social welfare reduce regional inequalities and ensure that no groups feel disadvantage due to separate specific differences. This equal treatment build trust and emotional unity among citizens. Thus, collective identity is crucial in a diverse country like India where cultural, linguistic and regional different are significant. after thus One nation one policy helps transcend regional boundaries and strengthen the overall sense of and National unity and identity.

One nation one policy reduced the bureaucratic complexity by eliminating the maze of different rules ,procedures and regulations that from state to state. And when each state has its own system for example – separate labour laws ,education standards or tax structures creates layers of paperwork, approvals and compliance requirements. A uniform policy streamlines these processes by establishing a single set of rules for the entire country making administration simple and more predictable this uniformity also cuts down on duplication of work within governance development and also decision making more faster and more efficient and less burden of administrative framework.

A single national policy ensures that all citizens achieve equal treatment reducing disparities among states. Different scheme from different states consequences should be different and it, s led to poor and rich. This concept of One nation one policy promotes social justice and reduce regional inequalities ensure fair and balanced development across the country. The common experience leads the citizens view that they as an important part of United Nations. Good and Service Tax; NEP 2020 are the best example for it. GST replaced all that varied taxes with one new uniform national tax structure ensures that same good and service are taxes as same rule in India.

Uniform policy strengthens governance national security by enforcement of laws more effective across all states to follow of same rules regulation if leads to monitor became more easier compliance improve and loopholes created by diverse state specific rules are reduced. This uniformity is crucial in areas such as environmental protection, cybersecurity and disaster management there needs to be coordinate actions by states for national security for example a uniform disaster management policy ensures the early warning system similarly cyber security framework helps to protect the entire Nation digital infrastructure rather the leaving vulnerabilities to individuals, states.

A uniform tax structure ,business regulation and labour rules reduces can be the cost of doing business. This leads to a more integrated national market encouraging investment innovation and easy to do expand business.

Example of implications of one nation one policy:-

National education policy 2020:- The national education policy NEP 2020 is often discussed as a major step towards uniformity and standardisation in India, s education system while in India remains a federal system where education is a concurrent listed subject NEP 2020 aims to bring national coherence common goals and shared standards in education across states. It introducing a uniform 5+3+3+4 school structure for whole India.

Uniform Civil code (controversial) :- The UCC is one of the strongest examples of the one nation one policy approach in India. If propose to bring marriage ,divorce, adoption inheritance should be governed by One common civil law for the entire nation. Its fits one nation one policy because it aims to replace multiple religious personal laws with uniform legal formwork it brings legal uniformity strengthen national unity and ensure equality. Though India is a secular country but religion is a highly controversial factor in Indian politics the people of every community are sort of Indian polities. The uniform civil code aims to replace religious personal laws with a single common civil law for every citizen because many personal laws are rooted in religion customs the uniform civil code can affect different religions in several ways.

One Nation One Ration card:- This scheme allows National food security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries to get their subsidized food grains from any faire price shop in the country this portability is achieves though an IT driven system that used Aadhaar Authentication and electronic point of sale discuses to present found and ensure food security for migrant who now claim their entitlement from anywhere they migrate to.

One Nation One election :-The one nation one election is a proposal under constitution by the government of India to synchronize all elections in the country either on a single day or within a specific time frame with an objective of cutting election cost it is not a reliable proposal to simultaneously conduct election to the respective state legislative assemblies of all twenty eight States and eight Union territories at aims to bring uniformity and efficiency to India, s election system reading election expenditure improving governance and reduce the burden of security forces. One nation one election is also debatable initiative because India is an federal country states may feel their autonomy to reduce if election depend on national timeliness and it also questionable if a state government falls mid-term wheel should be done so this of condition and not all political party agree on this idea.

Good and Service Tax:-The implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on 1 July 2017 represents one of the most significant steps toward the “One Nation, One Policy” vision in India. GST consolidated multiple indirect taxes that were previously levied separately by the Centre and the states into a single, uniform tax regime applicable across the country. This reform fundamentally restructured India, s fiscal landscape and promoted a unified economic system. GST introduced a unified taxation policy that removed inter-state variations and enabled a standardized structure of indirect taxation. This aligns strongly with the philosophy of “One Nation, One Policy”.

Challenges and criticism of one nation One policy :-

One nation one policy ensures to involvement of union government in all matters of the country.

Excessive involvement of the union Government in state matters can harm federal structure towards a victory model which is highly risk of over centralisation.

India is a full of diverse country with vast of cultural linguistic, economic and social difference. This concept of uniform policy may ignore local traditions climate variations and social challenges state specific policies often reflect local system and social practice uniform policies may unintentionally undermine these identifies by promoting homogenization.

Indian constitution gives states power over areas like agriculture ,police and public health though state list. But a uniform national policy in these areas can reduce state power of making states may lose flexibility to address local needs and condition.

The one nation one policy may improve efficiency but risks weakening Indian federal structure by centralizing power undermining state autonomy and ignoring regional diversity. Imposing uniform policies without consultation between states can limit the capacity of co-operative federalism to transform into coercive federalism. This creates the political imbalance and reduce the true meaning of power division. Indian state has different socio-economic context and geographic condition National policies designed for same may fail to address region specific issue weaken federal responsiveness.

One nation one policy ensures to similar policy for whole nation. But uniform policies may reflect the ideology and priorities of the ruling party at the centre and its limited autonomy of states ruled by opposition parties. Such policies may be used to strengthen the centres political influence rather than address state specific needs. The central government may also use financial incentives or pressure to force states to adopt uniform framework. This reduces democratic participation at the state level and side-lines their regional voices.

Every state has different geography, follow social customs, lifestyle and social structure also have different issues like Assam faces floods, Rajasthan faces drought ,Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have hilly terrain Nagaland Jharkhand have tribal issues etc. A single uniform national policy can't address these specific environmental and infrastructural needs effectively. A single demand equal capacity which many states can't provide because of some states have strong governance system but others governance system struggle with staff, shortages and limited resources. Also states have various priorities like Punjab focus on agriculture while Karnataka focuses on IT. A uniform policy template may not allow them to design sector specific ,needs based strategies and policy design without considering local needs often fail in implementation leading to wastage of resources and poor consequences at grassroots level.

India has Democratic country constitutionally follow the separation of power. constitution listed subject into union list state list and concurrent list in 7th schedule to distribute the areas of state legislature and central government. But imposed uniformity on also state subject like agriculture forest public health and local governance division this is may violate the constitutional and limiting states, rights to make content specific laws.

Uniform national policies often require heavy expenditure on poor and Indian states as different in revenue and capacity rich states like Maharashtra Karnataka and Gujarat can adapt quickly but poor states like Odisha and Jharkhand may struggle. States have different tax based and

development levels. Uniform expenditures requirement create imbalance between rich and poor states worsening horizontal inequality also states have limited expertise and manpower and that state scheme need infrastructure have limited resources. May have to cut spending in other essential sectors One nation one policy challenges India s federal structure by crossing constitutional boundaries and increasing financial dependency of states which risks weakening state autonomy both legally and economically.

Recommendation

The concept of one nation one policy aims to create a uniform framework of governance across India reducing regional disparities among states but India is a diverse country to different culture community, culture, linguistics ,regional identity makes a one size fit all approach challenging while the one nation one policy can streamline governance and foster national cohesion in selected sector. It must be diversity – sensitive and consultative to preserve Indian federal structure and respect to State autonomy. A balanced approach combining national governance with local flexibility is essential for sustainable governance.

Conclusion

Vision of one nation one policy representing the aspiration to implementing uniform policies across the country, promoting national integration, efficiency and equality in India it aiming to national integration, administrative complexity and promotes equality across the public service. This concept of one nation one policy ensures that policy efficiency, minimize bureaucratic complexity and reduce Rad Tapism arising from fragmented state level variations and it will help to build a stronger sense of national identity. However, the idea of one nation one policy must be controversial and pursed with sensitivity to India, s federal character. Also, India is a full-fledged of diverse country in culture, ethnic, economy, socially, linguistic way. So that, s way is being controversial to adapt uniformity in national level Uniformity shouldn't, t came at cost of state autonomy, regional priorities and constitutional balanced So need to respecting diversity while applying uniform standards is essential for preserving India, s federal and pluralistic characters

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