



Paradigm shift: A review of the changing nature of National Politics of India Since-2014

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Abstract

2014 general election changed the political dynamics in India. The grand victory of Mr. Modi and BJP created history in the general elections of India. It end the coalition government era in India, which was there in practice since the last decade of 20th century. It also created and glorify the personality base politics in India, which was turn off since the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

This research paper took the review of changing nature of Indian politics. Some interesting factors are playing such a crucial role in formulating the political process and working of the political system in India. These factors can be traced through the categorization. like historical, political, social, psychological, technological and economical. Since the changing nature is concern of national politics, BJP and INC played major role in national politics, but since the 2014 election, as compare to BJP, INC weakened its scope and influence over Indian voters. Regional political parties are struggling with against BJP, but in some states especially in the South and Eastern part of the country, regional parties still have control over state politics. This research paper will be analysing every possible variable, which are in concern with changing nature of India's national politics.

Keywords : Majoritarianism, One party dominance, Hindutva, Political narratives, social media.

Introduction

In 2014, a clear victory in the general elections gave a decisive majority to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the lower house of parliament. The BJP's majority in the Lok Sabha, in which it secured 282 (52%) out of 543 seats, was both unexpected and extraordinary. Furthermore, Congress, with less than 20 % of the vote, was reduced to 44 seats in the federal lower house. In this context, the 2014 election result was associated with the renationalisation of Indian politics in which the BJP had become the new 'dominant' party, replacing the Congress as the 'system-defining' party of the first- and second-party systems. Some authors have gone as far as to identify the 2014 elections as the start of a fourth-party system. Indeed, in a set of assembly elections that were held between May 2014 and March 2019, the BJP continued to extend its electoral footprint across most of the Indian states.

Although in recently published articles, scholars discussed the arrival of a new dominant party system, the outcome of the 2019 general elections appears to have made

it so. The BJP strengthened its vote share to 37.4% and its overall parliamentary majority to 303 seats (55.8% of Lok Sabha seats). In contrast, Congress added only 0.2% to its 2014 vote share (from 19.3% to 19.5 %) and increased its Lok Sabha representation from 44 to just 52 seats, less than the minimum 10% of the Lok Sabha seats which are required to gain recognition as a formal opposition.

Politics and Party System: Theoretical Aspect

Scholars of Indian party politics have identified three distinct phases or 'party systems' in India since 1952, the first two of which (1952–1989) were marked by the dominance of the Congress Party, the party which led India into independence and shaped its constitution. Within this period of one-party dominance, two distinctive phases have been identified. The first phase (or so-called 'first party system') lasted from 1952 until 1967 and was marked by Congress dominance at the centre and also in nearly all of the Indian states. During the second-party system, which lasted from 1967 until 1989, Congress retained its dominant

position at the national level (except for a brief period between 1977 and 1979), but faced fiercer competition from other parties in the states with which it engaged in an often-confrontational way. This period also featured higher electoral volatility and mobilising strategies of the Congress which varied significantly from state to state. One-party dominance broke down in 1989 with the emergence of a 'post-Congress' polity.

However, it took a decade of unstable coalitions and minority governments (1989–98) before multipartism tendencies in Indian politics had fully crystallised into a new party system in India. The third-party system featured strong electoral competition between two pre-electoral coalitions, namely the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance and the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance – it became known as the 'two national alliances' or binodal system. This pluralised party system also coincided with diverse forms of party competition in the states and the de facto decentralisation of the Indian polity.

Leadership

It is common place to say that India faced a crisis of leadership after Nehru and Indira. That deficit end with emergence of Mr. Modi in national politics. The role of political leadership in India has an added significance as the people look to the state as an agency of social change. Mr. Modi played significant role in same and present him as an iconic figure for to solved the problem of masses. Since the election process of 2014, he established his influence over national politics. Along with Mr. Modi, some regional leaders too, successfully established their leadership in their respective regions. Mamata Banarjee, Naveen Patnaik, Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Arvind Kejariwal and Yogi Adityanath are the examples to show that how elections are become leader base in India.

Family and Politics

From Gandhis to Yadavas to Thackarays and Nayadus, dynastic equations have always ruled the political scenario of India predominantly. Since the 2014 elections are concern with family and politics, from J&K to Tamil Nadu, we have such families, like the Abdullah family from Kashmir, the Chautala family from Harayana, Badals and Bajwas from Punjab, Giridhar and Hema Gamang from Odisha, YS Reddy from Andhra, Paswan from Bihar, Thackrayas from

Maharashtra and big one, Yadavas from UP and so many more have all got running feuds in their families. The bitterness has not only broken up families but has seen one pitted against the other in angry and high pitch electoral battles. These feuds have also changed political demography's in constituencies and in their own political parties.

Party Organisation

As the party organisation are concern, BJP, the ruling party at centre and some states have very strong and active organisation. BJP with the benefits from its parent organisation RSS, build strong enough cadre network in most north Indian states. However, as compare to BJP in national politics, no other national party have that kind of constructive party organisation. INC as one of the oldest party in India was failed to appoint the full time president for party since last general elections. Last year Mr. Kharge got elected as New Party president for Congress.

Since, the 2014 elections, we are witnessing the age of weak opposition in states and national politics. Specifically, Congress performed worst in elections because of its weak party organisation.

Politics of Religion

Hindutva, Ram Mandir, Tripal Talak, CAA, Sabarimala, Ram Navami Yatras and riots after same were all very burning issues in National politics since 2014 elections. This is very popular allegation that, the 2014 to 2019 period increased the radicalisation of politics in India. This radicalisation framed the Hindutva as core idea, not only in national but in the state politics also. However, the idea of secularism have been seen as in crisis. Even the parties, which are claiming their affiliation with the secular ideology, also been taking efforts to prove their connect with Hindutva. Minorities consistently cornered by almost all main stream political parties. Elections of UP and West Bengal are the examples, how Hindutva played significant role in the mobilisation of masses and securing vote bank.

Majoritarianism

Ideally, democracy is not the best form of government, wrote Mill, unless it ensures that the majority is unable to reduce everyone, but itself, to political insignificance. The winning of BJP in 2014 general elections and again in 2019,

established the one party majority in the lower house of Parliament. Even most of the state assembly elections are classic examples of, majority mandate by people to regional as well as national parties. This trend of majority mandates are not new for India, but since the last few decades, at national level and in some states, coalition form of government was settled by the elections and same was changed by the new pattern of politics.

We can discuss lot of the pros and cons of the majoritarianism, theorist like Suhas Palshikar and Pratap Bhanu Mehta shared their concerns in regards to this. Nera Chandhoke also call this way to grab power and sustain in, can be considered a giant threat to Indian Democracy.

Conclusion

Since the 2014 Lok Sabha elections in India, the political process in India continuously concentrated on the 'Personality Politics'. The BJP got, central position in the entire process and established their rule in centre and state as well. Religious ideas and beliefs are still part of main stream politics and influencing the whole process of election and political narratives.

Regional political parties are also performing well in some states. Emergence of new players like AAP and YSR congress are the best examples to prove for possible alternatives to the existing political parties.

At the conclusion this should must be noted that for to cheer the success of any democratic state, strong opposition is very much required, the same we lacking in our existing political process, and have must to be addressed in the near future for the smooth functioning and best results of democratic practices.

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