

Role of Regional Political Parties in India with Special Reference to Telangana State

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Abstract: This paper analyze the present trend in India that is becoming evidents is that Indian polity has undergone a fundamental transformation-from the Congress at pole position to strong regional satraps in key states (especially in the post-Mandal era; and most of these grew at the expense of the Congress) who existed along with the Congress, the strong regional satraps that now co-exist with the BJP. From West-Bengal to Odisha, Uttar Pradesh to Bihar and Telangana, Jharkhand to Delhi it is becoming clear that if there's a strong regional force to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party in future elections, the Congress gets reduced to a poor third. The Congress used to be the umbrella Party of OBC, Dalit and Muslim voters for a long time, due to these sections, support, it has dominates entire Indian states till 1967, and except the brief period of Janata Party rule (1977-79) Congress dominant Indian Union till 1989, but now regional parties and BJP have strong support base of these sections and Muslim have shifted towards the dominant regional parties like Trinmool Congress Samajwadi Party, BSP, RJD, BJD, JD(S), JD(U), BRS, NCP and Aam Aadmi Party realising they have potential to take on the BJP, which have become the Principle party of Indian democracy. So far, the regional parties have had their own problems. Without a National Party like the Congress, they do not stand much of a chance to take on the BJP government on foreign policy, defense and economic issues.

Key words: Bharatiya Rashtriya Smiti, Bharatiya Janata Party, Trinmool Congress,, Biju Janta Dal, Shiv Sena, Akali Dal (Badal).

1. INTRODUCTION:

Indian Federalism is unique, in the sense that it created a space for reconciliation of regional aspirations with the imperatives of national policy. The federal character of our constitution left no alternative but to recognize the territorial identity of the regions. India before 1947 was divisible into two distinct territorial segments, the British India and the Princely India, with the lapse of Paramountacy. India faced the problem of integrating these princely states into the Indian union to prevent country's balkanization. After independence several states such as those of Tranvan core and cochin, Hyderabad, Bhopal, Junagarh and Jammu and Kashmir, tried to create problems by delaying integration with the Indian Union, over six hundred princely states.

Recognised Parties:

Are given a unique symbol – only the official candidates of that party can use that election symbol

National Parties: A party that secures at least 6% of the total votes in Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four States and wins at least four seats in the Lok Sabha is recognised as a national party.

State Parties: A party that secures at least 6% of the total votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a State and wins at least two seats is recognised as a State party.

2. Evolution of Regional Party:

- Over the last four decades, the number and strength of regional parties has expanded.
- This has made the Parliament of India politically more diverse. Regional political parties have emerged to fulfill regional aspirations.
- No one national party is able to secure on its own a majority in Lok Sabha. As a result, the national parties are compelled to form alliances with State parties.
- The regional political parties started playing a crucial role in coalition politics since 1989.
- It is because of the regional political parties that our party-system has been federalized. The Centre has begun to address their problems and respond their aspirations through accommodation.
- The evolving nature of our party system has strengthened the cooperative trends of our federal system.

3. Features of Regional Parties in India:

- Regional parties are performing within a specific state or specific region. Its voting base is confined to a single region.
- It is based on local interests and identifies itself with a certain cultural, religious, linguistic, or ethnic group.
- The regional political parties are disturbed by the exploitation of local natural resources of discontent or preserving the local demands based on language, caste or community, or region.
- Regional political focuses on local or regional issues and aims to get political power at the state level. It has no inclination to expand and control the central government
- It has a political desire for greater regional autonomy of states in the Indian Union.

Soon after Nehru's demise, the gradual decline of Congress party and rise of regional political parties in Indian politics are directly responsible for the emergence of coalition politics in India. It is fact that the growth of regional political parties is directly linked to the decline of Congress popular support of the regional level. Most of regional parties are depends upon caste, language, region, religion for their survival and they do not give up their parochial approach and therefore are narrow in their outlook. A large number of regional political parties have proliferated since 1989 and playing a big role to form central governments with national parties. From 9th to 15th general elections witnessed the mushrooming growth of regional parties and the regionalisation of the national politics, 10 in these seven general elections, no single party has been able to achieve majority in the Lok Sabha and all centre governments were formed with the help of the regional parties.

In 1999 BJP, made pre-poll alliance with 24 smaller/ regional political parties of diversified character and back ground and won 300 plus seats, under the leadership of Atal Behari Vajpayee, 24 parties National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government was formed. It was largest party's coalition government formation at the national level and it served on political accommodation for full terms of Lok Sabha (1999-2004), of the 86 registered parties which contested Lok Sabha elections between 1989 and 2019. 64 continue to exist in 2019.

4. Cause of the rise of Regional parties:

- The decline of Congress:- after the death of former PM Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and later on Indira Gandhi, the masses felt the need for increased regional representation. This, in turn, invited the rise of many regional parties.
- The cultural diversity of India and plurality in terms of class, caste and ethnicity. This leads to the regionalisation of Indian politics based on dominant castes and classes e.g. Jats (in Haryana, U.P. and Rajasthan). Yadavs in Bihar etc.
- The linguistic reorganisation of India, leading to a rise of regional identities among people.
- Uneven development caused by the Green revolution, leading to prosperity in some areas and backwardness in other areas.
- Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi also gave rise to new parties.
- The self-interest of some previous Maharajas and Zamindars.
- Failure of National politics or Central Government to meet regional aspirations.

- Division among large parties on the basis of ideologies and political disagreements.
- Centralising tendencies of Congress party creating fear among people.

5. Role Of regional parties

The following points highlight the important role played by regional parties in a rich democracy like India.

- Making democracy more representative by widening the ambit of participation. by providing better governance at the regional level and especially in neglected areas.
- They have provided a place for better representation of local issues like Mizo National Front, putting forward the demands of tribes.
- Regional parties also have strengthened the federal axis of Indian democracy by providing voice and bargaining powers to the state.
- They have made the political process more competitive and brought leadership role out of the clutches of major parties only.
- They have challenged the One Party Dominant system, especially the Congress Era. And thus helping in breaking the monopoly of one party.
- They also have helped in widening the choices for the voters. Now a voter can vote the party representing the interest of his state.
- The political awareness of the people have been raised due to the efforts of Regional parties, they look at narrow and local social issues and brought them in front of the public. Therefore generating more political consciousness among masses.
- They provide a ground for the representation of minority, therefore making democracy.

6. Conclusion:

Social justice politics or regional pride weakened the congress party, they also viewed the BJP with scepticism despite their occasional association with it. Through deft coalition-building with regional parties, the BJP used many non-congress outfits to further its own growth and gobbled them up in several states of Northern, Western and north-east states, such as Gujarat, U.P Bihar, Jharkhand, Haryana, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh West-Bangal and Odisha. In Southern states, barring Karnataka, but the BJP made impressive inroads, in West-Bengal and Odisha, proving its potency even in areas where linguistic, politics and cultural factors have historically been unfavorable to it. BJP's strategy of blurring and muting regionalist aspiration indicates that polity-wide parties also want to be seen as a cohesive programmatic unit. In regionalist states, the BJP focused more on issues like development, good leadership and corruption rather than positional issues like restructuring, centre-state relations and regional pride.

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