Indian Politics & One Party Domination: Effects on Regional Politics

Prof. (Dr.) G. S. Rajpurohit* and Amandeep Kaur**
* Professor & Head, Centre for Post Graduate Legal Studies, Jagannath University, Jaipur
**Research Scholar, Jagannath University, Jaipur

ABSTRACT
Compared to other democratic countries, India has a large number of political parties. The political parties in India are generally woven around their leaders, the leaders actively playing a dominant role. The two main parties in India are the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Indian National Congress, after independence Indian National Congress has dominated Indian Politics for many years. But India has a history of alliances and breakdown of alliances too. India has a multi-party system, where there are a number of national as well as regional parties. Regional parties like Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Smaj Party, Shiromani Akali Dal, Indian National Lokdal, Haryana Janhit Congress and many more had played an important role in state politics as well as in national politics, but with the emergence of Bhartiya Janta Party in 2014, other national and major regional parties have to face political loss and the system of one party domination came back in Indian politics.

KEY WORDS: Indian politics, Regional parties, Single Party Domination, Campaign, Elections, National parties, State elections, Personality cult, Populist Politics, Slogans.

INTRODUCTION
The chief characteristic of politics is that its nature keeps on changing with the passage of time and situations. Lots of changes have taken place in its nature till present. India is a pluralistic society and the various groups, castes, religions, minorities and the people speaking various languages have influenced the Indian politics, as a result of which so many new trends have emerged in it. Although before 67 years ago one party domination system was coming to an end, but the general election of 2014 saw the return of one-party majority at the Centre, which India didn't see for three decades and moreover, it saw a politician, who didn't have a political surname and had also sold tea once, becoming the prime minister of the biggest democracy in the world. This one party domination has affected the regional politics also as many regional parties like Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Smaj Party, Shiromani Akali Dal, Indian National Lokdal, Haryana Janhit Congress and many more come to its decline stage with the emergence of national party in state elections.

INDIAN POLITICS: BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Politics in India takes place within the framework of its constitution, and India is a democratic country, hence the government is formed through elections which are held in every five years, by the parties that claim a majority of members in their respective lower houses, Lok Sabha in the Central Government and Vidhan Sabha in the States. India had its first general election in 1951, which was won by the Indian National Congress, a political party that went on to dominate the Indian elections until 1977. The first non-Congress government was then formed for the first time in independent India in the year 1977. The Indian politics in 1990s saw the end of a single party domination and rise of a coalition government. The elections for the 16th Lok Sabha, which was held in the year 2014, once again brought back the system of a single-party rule in the country, with the Bharatiya Janata Party, which was strong enough to claim its majority in the Lok Sabha.

Some features of the political parties in India are that the parties are generally woven around their leaders, the leaders actively playing a dominant role, and that the role of leadership can be transferred, thus tending to take a dynastic route. The two main parties in India are the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Indian National Congress, Indian National Congress dominates Indian politics. On the left-right political spectrum, the Indian National Congress is a welfare-heavy, centre-left party, whereas the BJP is a fiscally conservative, center-right party.
INDIAN POLITICS AFTER 2014

1. Return of One Party Domination

From the time of independence till 1989, the Indian politics witnessed the dominance of a single party and that was “Congress Party”. However, the period of coalition governments began after 1989 because no single party was able to get enough majorities in Lok Sabha to form their own government. In 1989, Shri. V.P. Singh, the then leader of the National Front formed the government with outside support of the Bharatiya Janta Party along with, some other parties which did not exist for a long time. Similarly. Shri H.D. Deve Gowda and Shri. Inder Kumar Gujral the then leaders of United Front formed a government with the outside support of Congress but could not stand for a long period of time. In 1988, after the elections of the 12th Lok Sabha, a coalition government was formed under the leadership of Shri. Aatal Bihari Vajpayee which remained for only 13 months and likewise the era of coalition- governments had started then again. Within no time history repeated itself and in 2014, a single party domination came back in the face of Indian politics, after the Indian National Congress, the single dominating party was the Bharatiya Janta Party. After winning the Lok Sabha elections with majority, BJP had emerged as a single largest party and had performed efficiently in the state elections, except for some of the states. Bharatiya Janta Party formed its government in the state of Haryana, Maharashtra, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Manipur. It lost its seat in Delhi and Punjab, where the Aam Adami Party and the Congress had won alone. Although, in Maharashtra, Goa and Manipur BJP had to take outside support, but it was still the major party who was in a condition to form a government. In Jammu & Kashmir, BJP was the second largest party, PDF formed government in coalition with BJP. Here PDP got 28 seats and BJP achieve 25 seats in elections.

2. Decline of Regional Parties

Along with the increase of the number in regional political parties in India, their importance was also increased, after the demise of one of the party system in India. From 1989 to 2014 some important regional political parties like Shiromani Akali Dal in Punjab, National Conference and People's Democratic Party in Jammu and Kashmir, Indian National Lok Dal in Haryana, Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh, Rashtrya Janta Dal in Bihar, Biju Janta Dal in Orissa, Assam Gan Parishad in Assam, Telugu Desam in Andhra Pradesh, Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, D.M.K. and All India Anna D.M.K. in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra Gomantak Party in Goa, Shiva Sena in Maharashtra, Arunachal Congress in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizo National Front in Mizoram etc had played important role in politics. Though these parties performed an important role at the regional level, one cannot ignore their role and importance at the national level as well. But after 2014 Lok Sabha elections when BJP formed its Government in center, the regional parties got into trouble, as the Bharatiya Janta Party had successfully made its space in the state politics as well. Starting from Haryana, the dream of Indian National Lok Dal had broken up because of Bharatiya Janta Party, as after 10 years the Indian National Lok Dal was sure to form its government in Haryana. In Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party were the next in row, which had also been defeated by the Bharatiya Janta Party. The BJP got mandate and all the political dreams of SP and BSP were shattered then and there. Another was Shiromani Akali Dal of Punjab which was defeated by the Punjab Congress in 2017 in the assembly elections. Similar scenario was seen in other states of India, like, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Manipur, and Odisha. The regional parties of these states could not stand strong on the face of Bharatiya Janta Party’s success.

3. Growing Influence of Major National Parties in Center and State Elections

Between 1989 and 2014, the national political parties were losing their grip on politics. There was no single national political party which was in a position to form government in the centre on its own. In the 13th Lok Sabha, Bharatiya Janta Party acquired 182 seats, Congress 114 seats, the Communist Party of India Marxist 33 seats, however the position of other national political parties were quite poor. In 14th Lok Sabha, Congress won 145 seats, BJP 138 seats, Communist Party of India Marsixts 43
seats, Bahujan Samaj Party 19 seats, the Communist Party of India 10 seats and the Nationalist Congress Party had won 9 seats only. In comparison to this result the position of regional political parties like D.M.K., Samajwadi Party, Biju Janta Dal, Janta Dal (United) and Trinmool Congress were quite good. Similarly, in the elections of 15th Lok Sabha, the regional parties performed well and the national political parties had to depend on the regional parties to form a government in the centre. But as stipulated before, the present status of the regional parties was declining because the Bharatiya Janta Party had its influence in the state elections after winning the 16th Lok Sabha elections. In 2014, Bharatiya Janta Party won elections with majority and after that there was seen a chain of success for BJP in the state elections. From 2014-2017, the Bharatiya Janta Party had now formed its government in Haryana, Maharashtra, Arunachal, Assam, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Manipur. With this Success many of the regional parties has seen the exit gate from the race to win the elections. And the dominance of the National Party started since then.

LATEST TRENDS IN INDIAN POLITICS

a. Trend of Personality Cult in Politics
A cult of personality arose when any individual used mass media, propaganda, or other methods to create an idealized and heroic image, often through flattery and praise. Earlier it was not so popular. But today the sense of personality cult seemed to be quite strong among the people of India and they had developed more faith in the leader than in the ideology of the party. During elections, the voters were asked the name of the leader and people were asked to strengthen the hands of the leader of the party. Personality cult factor was seen more during the 16th Lok Sabha elections. A three term Chief Ministerial face in Gujarat and Prime Ministerial face of BJP was everywhere. The thoughtfulness had appeared on billboards, bus shelters, metro trains and in print ads in newspapers on front pages. In all that the parties were represented as a personality, and the projection of Shri. Narendra Modi won the hearts of people. Before election people were inclined to vote NaMo instead of casting vote for BJP. And after elections people referred it as the Modi Government than the Bharatiya Janta Party.

b. Factor of Populist Politics in India
Populist basically means to make something more friendly and common among the people. And Populist politics is a well established strategy through which political parties pass their intent to voters. Populist politics help to attract voters. The leaders drag the attention of the people by raising populist slogans. E.g. in 1971 Congress Party raised the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao' and again in 1975, it tried to get the support of the people on the basis of the 20 point programme. During the Lok Sabha elections of 1977, the Janta Party raised the slogan of 'Democracy V/s Dictatorship' whereas the Congress Party raised the slogan of 'Stability V/s Anarchy'. Similarly, during the Lok Sabha elections of 1991, Congress Party raised the slogan of 'Stability and Development', Bharatiya Janta Party of 'Ram, Roti aur Insaaf' and Janta Dal of 'Social Justice'. Though there were no special waves in favour of any political party except to gain certain recognition. Although Populist politics is not a new term, but the way of using it has been changed with the exposure of advancement of print as well as electronic media. Every party now has a media platform to explore their ideas. From the year 2014 the trend of Populist Slogans has become more popular. BJP had raised the slogan of ‘Abki Bar Modi Sarkar’, Chalo Chalen Modi ke Sath ‘Ghar-Ghar Modi’, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’ and many more were popular during the Lok Sabha elections. Similarly in the State elections BJP raised such slogans. And on another side Congress sticks to its agenda of development, and its slogan was ‘Main Nahi hum’, Kattar Soch Nahi Yuva Josh’ etc. In 2017 assembly elections of UP Samajwadi Party raised the slogan of, ‘UP ke Ladke vs Bahri Modi’ was quite interesting but could not work. But all these slogans have become popular among the people.

c. Huge Campaign for Elections
The older version of Huge campaigning was mass rallies, which began in 1975 when Indira Gandhi imposed internal emergency. The supporters of Smt. Indira Gandhi organised mass-rallies in Delhi to support the imposition of emergency. Before this, under the leadership of Shri Jai Parkash Narayan,
mass rallies were organized in different parts of the country with the purpose to highlight the weaknesses of government. In return of this, the Congress Party organized mass rallies to prove its mass support and this process was continued for some time.

But today, this political measures of mass-rallies along with other campaign medium seemed to have become an important feature of the Indian Politics. Now the different political parties not even holding mass rallies, but were doing a huge campaigning to make their presence in the election. The ruling parties do it, with the purpose to show their popularity and strength and similarly, the opposition parties do that to highlight the shortcomings of the government. Whether it’s BJP, Congress or any other regional party, all have their own Web sites, Facebook Page, Twitter Account, and have an exposure in electronic media, outdoor media to communicate their ideas to voters. Among them the Bharatiya Janta Party’s huge campaigning is more successful. The popularity of NaMo and the victory of BJP in Lok Sabha and in many of the state elections have put a stamp on it.

CONCLUSION

With so many new trends, a sea of change has emerged in the Indian politics. From 2014 to 2017 many political parties has lose elections and one party had replaced all of them. It had started happening in 2014 with the emergence of the one party domination and India saw a turning point in its political history. This turning point is that now the Indian politics is moving around the leader than to a party. A big change is that the people now believe in a particular face rather than the party. Results have proven that after 2014 Shri. Narendra Modi has become a remarkable phenomenon in Indian politics for several reasons. A wave of anti-incumbency against congress is a big reason among these. He represents a new sort of leader in India’s politics. His campaign appealed to India’s middle-class because he too was from a middle class. So there have not been changed only leadership, but also the nature of choosing leaders too, which seems not to be a change early.

REFERENCES

1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_India
1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Assembly_elections_in_India
1 http://adaniel.tripod.com/national.htm
1 Ibid
1 Ibid
1 https://www.ft.com/content/96b8ca94-bed0-11e3-a1bf-00144feabdc0
1 http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/july-2-forty-years-ago-20-point-programme/
1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Emergency_(India)