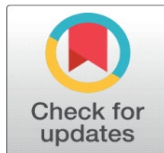
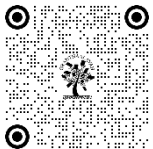


A REVIEW OF THE UTTAR PRADESH POLITICAL PARTIES REGIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the function and growth of local and regional political parties in Uttar Pradesh, emphasising their influence, governance-related effects, and historical development. In India, regional political organisations rose to prominence after 1967 as the Congress's hegemony waned, in contrast to national parties. The research looks at the main elements that led to the emergence of regional parties, as well as their organisational designs, election tactics, and influence on public policy. The study also looks at the region's shifting political landscape and voting patterns, showing how local political movements have impacted national politics. The report sheds light on the possibilities and difficulties various political parties in Uttar Pradesh confront by examining both historical patterns and recent advancements.

Keywords: Political Parties, Uttar Pradesh, Policy, Regional, Governance

1. INTRODUCTION

Unlike their national political counterparts, regional parties in the United States have a much longer history. It wasn't until 1967 that regional political parties based on states arose in response to regional desires, as Congress began to lose support in most southern states. It took these parties over twenty years, nevertheless, to establish a solid foothold on a national basis in India. Despite this, the Janata Party administration, which came into power in 1977 during the emergency (June 1975–March 1977), offered a glimpse into the Congress's fall and the rise of regional political groups during their brief tenure in office. Each of the three stages of political evolution were experienced by the Congress party. Jawaharlal Nehru ensured its safe and stable supremacy in Indian politics. [1] At the federal level and in almost every state, it has always won rather comfortably. Despite a steady fall in its vote share (with the exception of 1984, when it received 48.1% after Indira Gandhi's death), it remained in power because to the plurality system. [2] Nehru's recognition of the ineradicable characteristics of India's socioeconomic and regional variety and his belief that the political system should enable rather than stifle this was a crucial part of India's democratic rule throughout his tenure. Since the Congress Party of India was internally diverse, it was able to prevent a trend toward centralization and handle big problems pertaining to regional disputes and their resolution inside the party. This allowed it to primarily govern India.

Indira Gandhi became more involved in politics and a shift in leadership occurred after Jawaharlal Nehru's death. Upon becoming office in 1966, she altered some crucial aspects of the Congress party's coalitional and negotiated democratic system. Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi's work styles couldn't have been more different. Indira Gandhi became prime minister after the Congress party hurriedly sought the 1967 fourth general election. Among the many factors that led to 1966 being dubbed "the worst since independence"—the worsening economic condition, increasing prices, and food shortage—was the extensive public outrage and agitation against the ruling party.

An atmosphere of excruciating dissatisfaction, doubt, despair, and nearly constant anxiety pervaded the whole election campaign. Congress did well in the national government party election, but they fared far worse in the state assembly elections that followed. Out of the 16 states in India, it only managed to regain control in eight of them with absolute majorities, meaning it lost authority over almost half of the states. Kerala and Orissa are two other states that chose coalitions with opposing political ideologies. The Congress party was deposed and replaced by the regional DMK party in the city of Madras, which was once a bastion of the Congress and K. Kamaraj's home state. Even though Congress was the only significant party in West Bengal, Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab, it was unable to secure a landslide victory. [3] In this election, the Congress was challenged for dominance by seven prominent opposition parties: Jana Sangh, Swatantra Party, Samyukta Socialist Party (SSP), DMK, CPI, CPI (M), and Praja Socialist Party (PSP). Lok Sabha membership fell to 283 for the Congress. The Jana Sangh and Swatantra parties both saw significant increases in their seat counts in the Lok Sabha as a result of this election. With 44 seats, the Swatantra Party was victorious, whereas Jana Sangh had 35.

Aside from the PSP and SSP, the DMK's ascent was another notable aspect of this election. While DMK was the only regional or state-based party to make a dent in the Lok Sabha election, several other state-based parties did well in the state assembly elections. Even though DMK won more seats than any other party, regional parties were also visible in other states. As an example, the largest opposition party in Punjab was the Akali Dal (Sant Fateh Singh Group), in Maharashtra it was the Peasants and Workers Party, in Assam it was the All-Party Hill Leaders Conference, and in Jammu and Kashmir it was the National Conference. In this election, both the parliamentary and assembly elections were held at the same time. This may explain why some regional parties, like the DMK, the Peasants and Workers party, the Bangla Congress, the Jana Congress in Orissa, and the Kerala Congress, did better in the assembly constituencies than the parliamentary ones. 8 Obtaining 43 seats, state-based parties emerged triumphant with a 9.69% vote share.

The general public generally believed that regional parties fared badly in the 1971 election. The failure of some recently established regional parties to expand their influence on a national level was one of two factors contributing to this perception. No party from Maharashtra's Shiv Sena, Uttar Pradesh's BKD (Bharatiya Kranti Dal), or West Bengal's Bangla Congress was able to officially register for representation in the national parliament. The second reason for this assumption was that the regional parties' ability to play a substantial role in the negotiating for coalition governments had been diminished due to the Congress's great victory in the Lok Sabha and its rising influence in the states. [4] As the Congress's power grew, it pushed out other prominent parties and independents. The four nationally recognised parties—Jana Sangh, Swatantra, the SSP, and the PSP—got just 14% of the vote in 1971, compared to their 1966 combined total of 26.1%. The percentage of voters who backed independent candidates also dropped sharply, from 13.8 percent to 8.6 percent. Regional parties did better than they did in the 1967 election, even if their power in parliament declined.

2. THE 1989 LOK SABHA ELECTION: A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN BALLOT DISTRIBUTION

November 1989 saw the ninth general election for the Lok Sabha. The 64th Bill to Amend the Constitution, ethnic separatism, and communal concerns were some of the backdrops against corruption that this election took place in. [5] Indian intermediaries, including the prime minister and his close associates, were allegedly enticed by Swedish corporation Bofors to accept bribes in the 155mm field gun sale for one billion dollars. It was a major factor in VP Singh's decision to leave the Congress government. His resignation prompted VP Singh to establish Janata Morcha. Singh united

the political groups that were against Rajiv Gandhi's administration on October 11, 1988, when he established the Janata Dal by merging the Janata Party, Jan Morcha, Congress (S), and Lok Dal. He took the oath of office as Janata Dal president. The Telugu Desam, the DMK, the Congress (Socialist), and the AsomGanaParishad were among the regional political groups it allied with.[6] The 'National Front' coalition received backing from the CPI(M) and the BhartiyaJanata Party from outside sources. Following this, V.P. Singh established the National Front administration.

While they fought together on this front, the regional political parties battled separately. In this election, none of these parties did very well. The National Front included the TDP, the DMK, and the AsomGanaParishad. With a vote share of only 3.29 percent, the TDP received just two seats, while the DMK was unable to even create an account. There were no Lok Sabha elections in Assam because the Assam GanaParishad was a National Front member. The heterogeneous nature of the Indian voter was shown by the outcome of this Lok Sabha election. No political party could hope to maintain a uniform level of success throughout the nation. In contrast, the Southern states were swept by the Congress party. Andhra Pradesh had 39 seats won by the Congress, leaving just two for the TDP and the CPM. Tamil Nadu had 27 seats won by the Congress, leaving no room for the DMK. A total of 27 representatives from regional parties were chosen to serve in the 9th Lok Sabha.

While regional parties' seat percentages and vote shares were not particularly noteworthy, this election was notable because it gave a voice to sub-national problems in national politics for the first time. Caste and community lines were the primary appeals of regional political groups. The individuals who chose these parties did so because they were able to express their interests. All of the state parties combined for a total vote share of 27.1%. At this point in time, the ambitions of state level parties to influence Indian politics at the national level are starting to grow.

Due to its reliance on two unlikely allies the Communist Party on the left and the Hindu nationalist BhartiyaJanata Party (BJP) on the right the National Front administration of 1989 was doomed to fail. The administration was in place for a just eleven months. The Ayodhya Ram temple dispute and the BJP's support for a policy to set aside a portion of prestigious government positions for "other backward castes" were the two main points of contention between the two parties. On November 7, 1990, the BJP finally withdrew from the VP Singh cabinet. This withdrawal resulted in a vote of no confidence for the VP Singh administration in Parliament. [7] Along with 58 other members of parliament, Chandrashekhar founded a new political party called the SamajwadiJanata Party because he wanted to be prime minister. With the support of eleven regional allies and 196 members of Congress (I), he stepped forward to establish a new coalition administration. On November 16, 1990, Chandrasekhar was sworn in as the new prime minister after the government won a vote of confidence in parliament. Since ties between Congress (I) and Chandra Shekhar were already tense from the start, this administration barely survived for four months. When the new administration, under congressional pressure, submitted an interim budget instead of the customary comprehensive one, the distinctions were apparent (I). Fresh elections were held in the nation after Chandrashekhar resigned on March 6, 1991, due to the uncontrollable tensions between Congress and UF.

The interval between the ninth Lok Sabha election and the subsequent elections was exactly two years. The Congress Party made national instability and uncertainty its top priority, and for the second time, the Non-Congress administration collapsed as a result of internal strife and factionalism. Members of Congress contended that the 16 months of non-Congress control had resulted in social and sectarian unrest, which had undermined the notion of a unified and stable government and the effectiveness of its administration. The National Front and its communist partners made social justice their core message, while the BJP raised the issue of Hindu nationalism. Due to the controversy surrounding the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid and the results of the Mandal Commission, these elections were also known as the "Mandal-Mandir" elections. [8]

Since the Nehru-Gandhi family did not have a suitable candidate for leadership, Rao was selected to head the government. It was the first minority administration in central India to finish its term, and it was headed by PV Narsimha Rao. He presided over a minority administration, yet he made significant political and economic choices while in office.

Table 1: Parties' and Alliances' Seat Counts in the 1996 General Election

United Front	Seats	BJP+	Seats	INC+	Seats	Others	Seats
Janata Dal	46	BJP	161	Congress	140	BSP	11
CPI(M)	32	Shiv Sena	15			AIFB	03
CPI	12	Samata Party	08			IUML	03

TMC	20	HVP	03			MGP	01
DMK	17	SAD(B)	08			UGDP	01
TDP	16					Ind. & Others	17
SP	17						
AGP	05						
RSP	05						
M PVC	02						
Total	172		195		140		36

New misunderstandings arose as a result of the Eleventh General Election in 1996. A hung parliament was the expected result of the elections, according to many political analysts. Without each other, the three main political groups the Congress, the BhartiyaJanata Party, and the National Front/Left Front (NF/LF) were able to secure a majority. The National Front-Left Front combination captured 120 seats, the Congress (I) secured 141 seats, and the BJP emerged as the top party in Parliament with 161 seats. All parties either lost or won this election, making it the first of its kind. In this historic election, the two largest political parties in India vied for central office, marking the beginning of a new era in the country's electoral politics known as "region-based" multi-partyism.[9]

President Shankar Dayal Sharma requested the BJP's formation of a government based on its plurality in parliament. The result was the swearing-in of a minority administration headed by the BJP on May 16. The prime minister of this government was the seasoned A.B. Vajpayee. After 13 days in office, Prime Minister Vajpayee resigned to avoid a vote of confidence in Parliament, knowing full well that he would have been defeated. As a result, the government fell. [10]

H.D. Deve Gowda was asked to succeed Vajpayee by Shankar Sharma, who was the president of India at the time. A coalition of regional and communist parties came together under his leadership to establish a new administration. The NF-LF alliance, now known as the United Front (UF), selected H. D. Deve Gowda, a former chief minister of Karnataka, as prime minister after extensive discussion that included West Bengal communist veteran Jyoti Basu. Gowda succeeded Rao as prime minister, being the second southerner to do so. Congress did not want to be a part of the government, but they did provide their support to the coalition anyway.

3. REGIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES' DECLINING INFLUENCE IN THE 2014 LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

This trend of electoral judgements was drastically altered in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, after twenty years of it. In spite of the BJP's meteoric rise to power and easy assumption of the government, the NDA cooperation remained maintained. As a result, the gains made by most regional and state parties in the last election were diminished. The number of seats and percentage of the vote were both unchanged from 2009 at 212 each, but the performance of the several regional political groups was drastically different. Three percent or more of the vote went to only five regional political factions.

Table shows that no major political parties were able to gain traction in the last election, with the exception of the three regional parties in West Bengal (the Trinamool Congress headed by Mamata Banerjee), Tamil Nadu (AIADMK led by Jayalalitha), and Orissa (BijuJanata Dal led by BijuPatnaik).

Although the majority of post-election analyses characterized the party system as a "emerging one-party dominant system," a closer look at the results of this election reveals that the system is really entering a new phase rather than a fundamental shift. 'Fifth phase of regionalisation' characterized this shift. [11] "The regional parties in North India founded on caste suffered a devastating tragedy. Yogendra Yadav and Suhas Palshikar said that the 2009 general elections showed indications of the politics of identity reaching a saturation point, which might lead to different forms of mobilization. Regional political parties in the South and East made up for the North Indian parties' lackluster showing.

Table 2: List of State and Regional Parties, together with their 2009 and 2014 parliamentary totals and percentages of the vote

Party Name	2009		2014	
	Vote Share (in percentage)	Seats Won	Vote Share (in percentage)	Seats Won
Trinamool congress	31.21	19	38.41	34
CPI (M)	32.11	9	22.71	2
BJD	37.24	14	44.77	20
AIADMK	22.91	9	44.45	37
DMK	25.12	18	23.64	0
TDP	25.02	6	29.36	16
TRS	6.16	2	14.03	11
YSR Congress	0.00	0	28.94	9
SP	17.30	23	22.35	5
BSP	27.42	23	19.63	0
SHS	17.01	11	22.82	18
NCP	19.28	8	15.04	4
JD(U)	17.79	20	16.04	2
RJD	20.13	4	15.46	4
LJP	6.55	0	6.50	6
SAD	33.85	4	26.37	4

In late 2018, a number of regional parties made an effort to recover some of the ground they had lost. The new initiatives were spearheaded by prominent members of several regional parties, including KC Rao of the TRS in Telangana, Mamata Banerjee of the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, Chandrababu Naidu of the TDP in Andhra Pradesh, Akhilesh Yadav of the SP, and Mayawati of the BSP in Uttar Pradesh.⁵⁴ In the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the regional parties that would be challenging the NDA were trying to get on the same page.” Despite the leaders' best efforts, the proposed Federal Front which would have been separate from the Congress and the BJP was unable to mount a serious challenge to the BJP in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. [12]

With a resounding majority in the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the BJP was once again able to form a government. There were 542 seats up for grabs in the Lok Sabha election, and the BJP-led NDA increased their lead by 16 seats, winning 349 of them. Prior to this election, there were unclear and perplexing coalition scenarios. Initial projections indicated that the fight would be a two-sided showdown between the BJP-led NDA and the Mahagathbandhan, a coalition of opposition parties. But the political landscape shifted, and in most states, the NDA, the Congress-led UPA, and other regional parties formed a triangle.[13] Table shows that the UPA received 90 seats, while other parties received 98 seats; the BJP's 303 seat haul brought the NDA's total to 351.56 After a little improvement over its 2014 record of 44 seats, the Congress party was pushed to become the second-largest political party in the Lok Sabha with 52 seats. Both the Trinamool Congress, headed by Mamata Banerjee, and the Congress, led by YSR, emerged as significant players, with each party capturing 22 seats.

Table 3: Results of the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections Broken Down by Alliance, Seats Won, and Vote Share

Alliance	Seats	Votes %	Contested Voteshare
NDA	351	38.4	38.5
UPA	90	26.4	27.2

Similar to the last election, this one was a defeat for the majority of the country's regional parties. With the overwhelming support of the Bhartiya Janata Party, they were introduced. Regional parties who partnered with the BJP did not do very well, with the exception of JDU, which increased their seat total from two to sixteen. An crucial BJP partner, the Shiv Sena, maintained its strong showing and held on to the 18 Lok Sabha seats it had previously won in Maharashtra. The incumbent AIADMK party in Tamil Nadu, which is an ally of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), took a hit when it lost 36 Lok Sabha seats compared to the last general election. Its 2014 Lok Sabha victory total was 37 seats; this time around, it managed only a single victory. Along with the BJP coalition, the LJP retained their parliamentary share with six seats. Similarly, the SAD only managed to capture two seats via its alliance with the BJP, down from four in its previous election. [14]

In a number of large states, the Congress formed an alliance with local political groups. Party of Maharashtra (NCP), RJD in Bihar and Jharkhand, and Democratic Malayali (DMK) in Tamil Nadu were the main Congress allies. The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC) and the Janata Dal (Secular) in Karnataka were also a part of it. With 23 Lok Sabha seats won and rising to third place in the Lower House, DMK stood out as the only UPA partner to seem to have reaped the greatest benefits. In 2014, it failed miserably in capturing a single seat. In Maharashtra, the NCP lost one seat but gained five. After winning four seats in the 2014 election, the RJD took a devastating hit in Bihar.

Important regional parties did not form alliances with either the NDA or the UPA. There were a number of minor parties represented, including the TMC in West Bengal, the TDP and the YSR Congress in Andhra Pradesh, the BJD in Orissa, the SP and the BSP in Uttar Pradesh, the TRS in Telangana, and others. Only the YSR Congress and the TMC made it through the fray unscathed, capturing 22 seats each. [15]

This election was the most successful for the YSR Congress in Andhra Pradesh, which increased its number of Lok Sabha seats from eight to twenty-two. The TMC took a hit, losing 12 seats, bringing its total down from 34 to 22. The TDP was the worst hit, with only three seats gained. The BJP and N Chandrababu Naidu's TDP were allies in 2014, when the NDA's total strength was 17. [16] Another party that lost ground was the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), whose representation in the Lok Sabha dropped from 20 in 2014 to 12 this year. Besides the BJP, the SP and BSP were two other notable regional parties who banded together to halt their march to victory. Both of these parties have alternately ruled Uttar Pradesh for the last twenty years before to the BJP's 2017 election victory. Both the SP and the BSP had weak individual campaigns in the 2014 general election, but they came together to create a coalition to defeat the BJP. With just 15 seats won, it was clear that this coalition had failed. The BSP increased its seat total to 10, while the SP kept its seat total at five.

4. CONCLUSION

The research emphasises how important local and regional political parties are to Uttar Pradesh's political system. These parties have been effective in igniting regional ambitions throughout the years, influencing state and federal government and policy. Their rise is indicative of how India's democracy is developing, accommodating a range of political objectives within a multi-party system. Their stability and expansion are nonetheless hampered by issues like internal factionalism, inconsistent policies, and the power of national parties. The results emphasise that in order to guarantee sustainable government, coalition politics and strategic changes are required. The study concludes by restating the importance of regional parties in India's political system, which will continue to shape future elections and policy choices.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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None.

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