



Study of political parties in India

SAKET SHEORAN

saketsheoran@gmail.com

Abstract

It was on August 15, 1947, when Jawaharlal Nehru said that India's dark history had been put behind it and that India's assignment with nation-building had started. Scholars researching India found that Nehru's clever metaphor had come to pass. As a rule of thumb, historians tend to finish their work on India's past with the year 1947, signalling the end of a history, or the country's past. As if a line had been drawn in the sand, political scientists only begin their studies in 1947 in order to mark the commencement of a 'modern' India. With this division of labour, the convoluted chain of events has been hammered into form in an efficient manner.

Key words: Government, India, independent etc.

Introduction

When it comes to democracy, India is the world's biggest, with 1.3 billion people and an electorate of roughly 900 million (2019). This democratic system stands in stark contrast to the failures of Pakistan and Bangladesh, which were part of India until 1947. “The Indian political system, in contrast to the American and British systems, has only been since India's independence from Britain in 1947, and neither system has persisted in its present form for centuries. Since its inception on January 26, 1950, the present constitution has advocated justice, liberty, and equality for all residents. The Constitution of India is the longest written constitution of any sovereign nation in the world, with 444 articles, 12 schedules, and 98 modifications. In contrast to Japan's present constitution, which has stayed almost intact for over 70 years, India's constitution has undergone 98 revisions. Many of these changes are the consequence of a long-running disagreement between the Parliament and the Supreme Court over the rights of parliamentary sovereignty and the rights of judicial scrutiny of legislation and constitutional amendments that conflicted with each other.

However, India's lower house of parliament, the Lok Sabha, is based on the British House of Commons, while its federal structure is inspired by the United States. Despite the fact that the Indian constitution's authors had in mind the Anglo-Saxon notion of federalism, the central government has traditionally ruled over the regional states. The Constitution



refers to India as a Union of States, although the phrase quasi-federal system is also often used in the media.

Types of political parties

A symbol and registration with the Election Commission of India are required for any political party in India, regardless of size (national, regional, or state). Illiterate Indians may cast their votes by identifying the party emblems used to designate political parties in the country's political system.

The following five principles have been expressed by the Commission in the most recent revision to the Symbols Order:

- There must be a legislative presence for a political party, whether it is national or state-level.
- The Lok Sabha is the only place where a national party may have a legislative presence. The State Assembly is the only place a State party may have a legislative presence.
- A candidate may only be chosen by a political party from its own ranks.
- A party that loses recognition will not be stripped of its emblem immediately, but it will be given opportunity to reclaim it. But this does not entail the availability of additional services to the party, such as free time on Doordarshan or AIR, free delivery of copies of electoral records, etc., as are provided to recognised parties).
- To be acknowledged, a party has to do well in elections and not be a breakaway organisation of another party that is already well-known.

Alliances

In India, there has been a long history of political partnerships and alliance breakdowns. A nationwide alignment of three party coalitions to compete for government posts does occur, though. In order to achieve national goals, the parties work together in harmony, even though some of them have the ability to break away from the group. These are the three coalitions:

National Democratic Alliance (NDA) - After the 1998 elections, the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) established a center-right alliance headed by the party. The AIADMK withdrew its support for the NDA administration, which led to general elections in 1999, which the NDA won and returned to power. The coalition administration was the first non-Congress government to serve a full five-year term. The NDA won a remarkable 336 of the 543 Lok Sabha seats in the 2014 General Elections, bringing the party back to power for the second



time in a row. Narendra Modi was elected prime minister after the BJP won 282 seats. For the third time in its history, the NDA came to power in India with 353 seats, while the BJP won 303 seats and secured an absolute majority.

United Progressive Alliance (UPA) - After the 2004 national elections, the Indian National Congress formed an alliance with other parties on the center-left to establish the government. Manmohan Singh was reelected as prime minister in the 2009 General Elections, even though the alliance had lost several members. As the 2014 elections, the coalition has been in opposition, with the INC as the main opposition party, but without the formal role of Leader of Opposition since they failed to obtain the needed number of seats.

Third front - Some parties have decided to form a coalition that does not fit neatly into any of the three categories just described. The CPI(M), one of the parties in the coalition, was a member of the UPA before to the 2009 national elections. The alliance has no formal leader, and smaller parties often join and depart the coalition based on political need. At the national level, several of these parties work together, while at the state level, they compete against each other. Because they are not linked with either of the two 'main' coalitions or share comparable ideological viewpoints, the difficulty with a third front like this is that it is inherently unstable. However, it's typically interpreted to suggest that the current coalition lacks the power to compete with the two most significant alliances in history, despite the fact that this alliance has been in existence for a long time. Because of this, Indian politics remains largely a two-party system at the national level despite the emergence of the Third Front and other seeming alternatives for those seeking alternatives to the INC or BJP.

High Political Offices in India

President of India

According to the Indian Constitution, India's head of state and government is the President of the country. An electoral college of members from both houses of Parliament and state legislatures elects her/him for a 5-year term. In India's independent history, only one president has been re-elected, Rajendra Prasad. The President is eligible for re-election.

A party or coalition that has the most votes in India's lower house of parliament is chosen as Prime Minister by the President. He or she then nominates the other cabinet members based on the party's or coalition's recommendations. As well as Supreme Court and High



Court justices, the President chooses federal appeals court judges. Meetings of Parliament are called by the President, and the Lok Sabha may only be dissolved at his or her advice. Because of this, no measure enacted by Parliament may become law without the president's signature.

The president of India, on the other hand, serves mostly in a ceremonial capacity. The Union Cabinet makes all of the president's decisions, hence the president has very little say in how those powers are used. When it comes to using his executive powers, President Trump does not have a lot of leeway. Ram Nath Kovind is the man in charge right now.

Vice President of India

The Vice-President of India is the country's second-highest-ranking official, behind the President. An electoral college made up of representatives from both houses of parliament selects the vice president.

The Vice-job President's is merely ceremonial, with no actual power being given to him or her. The Vice-President serves as President in the event of a vacancy (till the election of a new president). The Rajya Sabha Chairmanship is the only position he holds on a daily basis. The office has no further responsibilities or powers. M. Venkaiah Naidu is the current Vice President.

The Prime Minister and the Union Council of Ministers

The true executive authority lies in the Union Council of Ministers, which is presided over by the Prime Minister. The government's highest ranking official is the Prime Minister.

Those who are in charge of day-to-day government operations are members of the Union Council of Ministers, which includes the Prime Minister. The work is split up among a number of ministers and divisions. Within the Council of Ministers, the most influential group of persons in the nation, the Union cabinet is a smaller group of ministers who play an important role in both legislation and implementation. Mohamad was one of the people that worked on it.

Everyone on the Union Council of Ministers must be a member or be nominated for election to either the Senate or the House within six months after being appointed to their position.

All of the Union's international and domestic policies are coordinated by the Union Cabinet. This organisation has tremendous power over all aspects of government and



military operations. The Prime Minister is in charge of the Union Cabinet.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India is in office at the moment.

Conclusion

As a result of the lack of party organisations, autonomous civil society organisations that organise support for parties, and centralised funding of elections, Indian politics has turned dynastic since the 1980s. From the national level down to the local level, this phenomena is evident. The Nehru–Gandhi family, which produced three Indian prime ministers, is an example of dynastic politics. Since 1978, when Indira Gandhi launched the party's then-Congress(I) division, family members have also headed the Congress party. Several regional political groups, such as Shiromani Akali Dal, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, DMK, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Shiv Sena, PDP, Telugu Desam Party, Telangana’ Rashtra Samithi, Janata Dal (Secular) and Samajwadi Party, and the Nationalist Congress party, also have a dynastic politics.

Reference

- [1] M.Lakshmikanth (2012). Public Administration (9th ed.). Tata Mcgraw Hill. pp. 389–390. ISBN 978-0071074827.
- [2] General Election 2014. Election Commission of India. Archived from the original on 23 May 2014. Retrieved 21 May 2014.
- [3] Need for accountability in politics of dynasty. www.dailypioneer.com. Archived from the original on 17 January 2017. Retrieved 17 January 2017.
- [4] Chhibber†, Pradeep (March 2013). Dynastic parties Organization, finance and impact. *Party Politics by Sage Journals*. 19 (2): 277–295. doi:10.1177/1354068811406995.
- [5] he Economist Intelligence Unit (8 January 2019). Democracy Index 2018: Me Too?. The Economist Intelligence Unit. Retrieved 13 January 2019.
- [6] Prakash Chander, Prem Arora (2001). Nature of Party System in India. *Comparative Politics & International Relations*. Cosmos Bookhive. pp. 129–134. ISBN 817729035-5.
- [7] Krzysztof Iwanek (2 November 2016). The Curious Stories of Indian Party Symbols. *The Diplomat*. Archived from the original on 19 April 2017. Retrieved 19 April 2017.



- [8] Election Commission Of India Press Note. Archived from the original on 5 March 2016. Retrieved 13 March 2014.
- [9] Allen Hicken; Erik Martinez Kuhonta (29 December 2014). Party System Institutionalization in Asia: Democracies, Autocracies, and the Shadows of the Past. Cambridge University Press. p. 205. ISBN 978-1-107-04157-8.
- [10] How political parties choose their candidates to win elections. Hindustan Times (26 March 2018). Archived from the original on 22 April 2019. Retrieved 22 April 2019