

## **(Chapter-18) RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIAN POLITICS**

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"From 1989 to 2009 , Indian politics witnessed the emergence of coalition governments, National front government, United front government, National Democratic Alliances and United Progressive Alliances. Many challenges emerged in the shape of communalism and castesism. Ayodha dispute and Mandal issue challenged the principles of democracy and secularism. New economic policy in the shape of liberalization, globalization and civilization emerged in Indian Economic policy. After 2014 Lok Saba election till date, Bharatiya Janta Party emerged as single largest party to form government on its own at Centre, thus dominance of BJP emerged in Indian politics by winning 2014 and 2019 Lok Saba elections"

### **AFTER STUDYING THIS LESSON YOU MUST BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND**

- a) Coalitions government dominated the entire Indian politics after 1989 to 2009?
- b) What was Mandal issue? How Mandal commission was formed?
- c) What was Ayodha dispute? Now jit challenged Indian's democracy and secularism?
- d) In 2004 election UPA formed its government explain How?
- e) How politics of back ward castes started in India after 1989?

### **RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN INDIAN POLITICS**

#### **(Era of Coalition Government)**

Since 1989, Indian electoral politics witnessed the era of coalition govt. No political party was in a position to obtain majority in order to form the govt. The most important development was the defeat of congress system party in the election held in 1989. The party obtained only 197 seats in the election of 1989. The congress imposed its position in the midterm election of 2991. But political scientists called it end of congress system and emergence of coalition government emerged in Indian electoral and political system.

Election in 2989 led to the defeat of congress party. A new coalition government in the form of "National front Government" (An alliance of Janta Dal and some other regional parties), come into existence. The 1990's saw yet another challenge to the predominant position of the congress from coalition parties. Thus 1990's era saw emergence of multiparty system in India.

With the elections of 2989, a long phase of coalition politics began in India, since then there have been eleven governments at the Centre, all of which have either coalition governments or minority governments. In this new phase any government could be formed only with the participation or support of many regional parties. This applied to the National front in 1989, united front in 1996, and 1997,National Democratic Alliance (NDA) 1997, BJP led coalition in 1998, NDA in1999, the UPA in 2004 and 2009. However this trend changed in the election of 2014 and 2019. In short from 1989 to 2013, new developments in the shape of coalition governments emerged on the scene of Indian politics.

### **POLITICAL RISE OF OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES**

Rise of the Mandal issue in national politics was one of the recent trends that emerged after 1989 in Indian politics. In 1990 National front government was formed under the Prime Minister ship of V.P Singh and then by Chandera Shekher. It was during the tenure of Janta Party Govt. In 1977-79 that demand for reservation for backward castes was raised. For this purpose central Govt. appointed a commission in 1978 to look into recommenced ways to improve the conditions of the backward classes. This commission is popularly known as Mandal Commission or Second backward Commission. The Commission gave the recommendation in 1980. The commission recommended

reservation of 27 % seats in educational Institution and government jobs for these groups. It also recommended for land reforms to improve the conditions of OBC'S

In August 1990, the national front government decided to implement one of the recommendation of Mandal Commission pertaining to reservation for OBC'S in jobs in central govt. and its under takings. This led to violent anti Mandal protests in different parts of country. This dispute between the supporters and opponents of OBC reservation was known as Mandal issue. This issue played important role in shaping politics since 1989. But now the policy of reservation for OBC'S has support of all major political parties in the country.

### **COMMUNALISM A CHALLENGE TO INDIAN NATIONALISM AND SECULARISM**

One important development emerged after 1989 that is rise of Hindutva and Communalism in Indian politics. A number of events culminated in the demolition of the disputed structure of Ayodha known as Babri Masjid in December 1992. This event symbolized and triggered various changes in politics of the country and intensified debates about the nature of Indian Nationalism, Democracy and secularism.

The other long term development during this period was the rise of politics based on religious Identity leading debate about secularism and democracy. The Bharatiya Janata Party began to emphasis the Hindu Nationalist element in the Ideology. The BJP pursued the politics of Hindutva and adopted the strategy of mobilizing the Hindus.

Two developments around 1986 became central to the politics of BJP as a Hindutva Party. The first was Shah Banu Case in 1985. IN this case Supreme Court decision in favour of divorced woman but later on govt. on recommendation of orthodox Muslims passed Muslim woman protection of rights on divorce act, 1986 that nullified the supreme court's judgment. The BJP criticized the action.

The Second development was the order by the Faizabad District court in Feb. 1986. The Court ordered the Babri Masjid premises be unlocked so that Hindus could offer prayer at the site which they consider as a Temple. A dispute had been going on for many decades over the Masque known as Babri Masjid at Ayodhya that was build by Mir Baqi Mugal Empire Babar's General. Some Hindus that it was built after demolition of Temple of Lord Rama in what is believed to be his birth place. This dispute went to the judiciary and has continued for many decades.

In December 1992 the organizations who were supporting the construction of Ram Temple organized a Kar sava\_\_\_ Meaning voluntary service by the devotees for building the Ram Temple. On 6<sup>th</sup> 1992 Dec. thousands of people gathered at Ayodhya and demolished the Mosque. This led to the emergence of what is known as communalism. This event led to serious debate over seculism and democracy in India.

In Feb. 2002 similar violence broke out against Muslims in Gujrat. Such violence against minority community and violence between different communities is threat to democracy and secularism in India.

*"Hindutva literally means Hinduness and was defined by its originator S.D Savkar as the basis of India Nationhood. It basically means that to be a member of Indian Nation every one must not only accept India as their father Land/ Mother Land but also as their holy land. Believers of Hindutva argue that strong nation can be built only on the basis on strong united Hindu Culture"*

### **LOK SABHA ELECTION 2004**

The 14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha was held in 2004 there was a strong competition between United progressive alliances led by congress and Nationa Democratic Alliances led by BJP. In 2004 Lok Sabha election NDA was defeated by United Progressive Alliances led by Congress. Not only did the congress party emerged as single largest party with 145 seats in Lok Sabha but its prepool Alliances climbed

up to 219. Thus 14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha election have led to the formation of coalition Govt. in the form of UPA. The election 2004 witnessed the partial revival of congress party. It increased its seats for the first time since 1991. A silent feature of Manmohan Singh led Govt. was that many state level parties agreed to be part of UPA. Thus in 2004 elections UPA 1<sup>st</sup> led by congress formed the Govt. with the help of regional parties in states of India.

The UPA partners have concretized their mandate in National common Minimum programme expected to act as a road map for the Govt. at the centre. In short, in 2004 elections UPA 1<sup>st</sup> formed the Govt. by defeating NDA. In 2009 UPA 2<sup>nd</sup> also came into power under the Prime minister ship of Manmohan Singh by defeating NDA.

### **THE BHARTIYA JANTA PARTY**

The Bharatiya Janta Party was formally launched as independent political organization in Feb. 1980 after split of the Janata Party on the RSS issue. Most of the erstwhile Jana Sang members along with few others, left the Janta Party to form the BJP. Thus the BJP is a reincarnation of Jana Sang, the Hindu Nationalist Party founded in 1951 by sham Prasad Mukherjee. The party adopted four fundamentals:- One country one nation, one culture and rule of law that would determine its future course of action. Secularism for Jan Sang was simply a disguised policy of Muslim appeasement. Most of the Jana Sang's support came from the Hindi Speaking states of North India. From the Ideology of Hindu Chavinism with an emphasis on Bharatiya Culture, Hindi Language and militant anti Pakistan foreign policy, It has moved to non communal and pragmatic political and economic policies.

On April 24, 1980, the election commission granted recognition to the group led by Mr. Atal Behari Wajpayee as national party with distinct name of Bharti Janata Party. The BJP was allotted the symbol of Lotus.

If we look at electoral history of BJP, it is evident that from 1989 to 2013, Bjp was not in a position to form government of its own. It was dependent on the allies/ Partners. The BJP and its allies are popularly known as National Democratic Alliances (NDA). NDA formed the govt. in 1997, the BJP led coalition 1998 and NDA in Oct. 1999- May 2004. For the first time in India's electoral history BJP obtained 282 seats and formed the govt. at centre in 2014. Then again in 2019 Lok Sabha elections BJP alone got 303 seats. The BJP led government was again formed at centre under the Prime Minister ship of Mr. Narendra Damodardas Modi. Thus from 2014 till date BJP is ruling party at centre.

### **EMERGENCE OF COALITION GOVERNMENT LED BY JANTA DAL**

Janta Dal was an Indian Political party which was formed through the merger of Janta Party, the Lok Dal, Indian National Congress and the Jan Morcha United on 11 October 1988 on the birth Anniversary of Jay Prakash Narayan Under the leadership of V.P Singh.

It first come to power in 1989, after allegation of corruption known as the Bofors scandal caused by Rajive Gandhi's congress to lose the elections. The national front coalition that was formed consisted of the Janta Dal and a few smaller parties in the government and had outside support from the left front and Bharatiya Janta Party V.P singh was the Prime Minister. In November 1990, this coalition collapsed and a new government headed by Chander Shakher come to power for a short while. Its second spell power began in 1996 when Janta Dal led united front coalition coe to power choosing H.D Deve Govda as their Prime Minister. The congress withdraw their support in less than a year hoping to gain power with the support of various united front constituent group and I.K Gujral became the next Prime Minister. His govt. too fell in a few months and in February 1998 the Janta Dal led coalition lost power to the Bharatiya Janta Party. Thus Janta Dal formed National front (1989-1991) and united front 1996-1998.

**Following were the policies and programmes of Janta Dal**

1. The party promised a responsive administrative structure.
2. Religious and ethnic minorities will be accorded full protection and their personal laws will not be tempered.
3. The party shall take steps to fight for the welfare of SC, ST and other Social Disabilities.
4. The party will take all efforts for electoral reform.
5. The party would promote cooperative federalism involving all states government in policy and decision making process.
6. The party will appoint a commission that will look into the demand for formation of small states.
7. The party is committed to secularism and social justice into the demand for formation of small states.
8. The role of power and functions of governor will be reviewed so as to ensure their constitutional accountability.
9. The party is committed to provide uniform and universal education to all.
10. Economic globalization would be gradual where ever needed.

**Learning Outcome**

1. How Indian political has witnessed emergence of regional parties.
2. How demand for autonomy and separate nation state(secessionism) emerged in Punjab
3. What was regional aspiration in North East India.
4. How demand for greater autonomy and insurgency for self determination emerged in J&K.
5. Write the names of North eastern states.
6. What were three regions of J&K
7. Name two Union Territories formed after the abrogation Article 370.
8. What was Raju longwal accord.
9. What was Shimla Agreement.
10. When was Article 370 abrogated.
11. Name some political parties of J&K, Punjab and North eastern states.