
POLITICAL HISTORY OF BJP

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ABSTRACT

A powerful political movement in India, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was established in 1980 and has since grown to become important. With its origins in the Hindu nationalist philosophy of the Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh (RSS), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) saw its formative years under the leadership of prominent people such as Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Ayodhya, which culminated in the controversial destruction of the Babri Masjid in 1992, was the catalyst that brought the party to the forefront of public consciousness. The 1990s were a time when the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rose to prominence on a national level, creating administrations and cementing power. During the year 1998, the administration that was led by Vajpayee successfully navigated the Kargil War and conducted nuclear testing, highlighting the significant emphasis that the party places on national security. While it was in power, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) worked to improve India's economy by implementing economic reforms and investing in infrastructure development. The political trajectory of the party has been defined by its acceptance of the Hindutva ideology and the governance measures that it has undertaken, which has made it a significant participant in Indian politics. It is the purpose of this summary to offer a comprehensive overview of the political history of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), including its ideological foundations, prominent leaders, electoral triumphs, and policy directions.

Keywords: *Political, Bjp*

INTRODUCTION

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been able to expand its geographical reach and enhance its electoral and political domination across the country in the years that have passed since 2013, when Narendra Modi was announced as the party's candidate for the position of prime minister. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is now the most powerful, biggest, and wealthiest political party in India. It was the foundations that were created after the party suffered its first electoral setback in the general elections in 1984 that made it feasible for the party to have this expansion. The party then made the decision to reject the ideas of positive secularism and Gandhian socialism that it had taken in its formation in 1980, under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who would later serve as prime minister. This decision was made by the party. During the latter part of the 1980s and the 1990s, the Bharatiya Jan Sangh (BJS), which was the BJP's predecessor, reverted to the Hindutva philosophy that it had previously adhered to. As a result of the fact that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) only won two seats in the Lok Sabha during the elections held in 1984, the party and its ideological father, the Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh (RSS), engaged in severe reflection. Many people believed that the defeat of the election was evidence that Vajpayee's moderate agenda would not be successful. Lal Krishna Advani eventually succeeded Vajpayee as head of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and he soon resurrected the BJS's hard-line Hindutva philosophy as the central doctrine of the party. The Hindutva discourse of fake secularism and Muslim appeasement was utilised by Advani to great effect in order to secure popular support among Hindus. This was made possible by the soft-Hindutva politics that the Indian National Congress played at the time.

Joining the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), which was supported by the RSS and was in the forefront of the Ramjanmabhoomi agitation, was the next natural step they could take. Within a short period of time, Advani became the public face of a nationwide movement to construct a Ramjanmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya, the location where the Babri masjid had previously stood. there is a hardline As a result of Hindutva politics, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was able to secure 85 and seven Lok Sabha seats in the subsequent general elections, which took place in 1989. Its strength climbed to 120 in the general elections held in 1991, and its vote share increased to 20.1 percent, which was an increase from 8.1 percent in 1989 and 7.4 percent in 1984 during the same time period. In the parliamentary elections that took place in 1996, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) increased its number of seats in the Lok Sabha to 161. Additionally, it made a claim to form the government as the single biggest party, which was approved. The first ever administration led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was established under Vajpayee's leadership, but it only survived for thirteen days since it was unable to secure the backing of other political groups that were not affiliated with the Congress or the Left in order to constitute a majority. In order to avoid having to face a vote of confidence 9 in Parliament, Vajpayee decided to quit. When the next general elections were held in 1998, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 182 seats in the Lok Sabha and formed a coalition administration known as the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). This government lasted for thirteen months, beginning on March 19, 1998, and ending on April 17, 1999, when it was defeated by a single vote in a motion of no confidence. After that, in the general elections that took place in September and October of 1999, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by the BJP won 270 seats, while the BJP once again won 182 seats. Vajpayee was elected as Prime Minister for the third time, and by the time the next general elections were held in 2004, his administration had served out its whole term.

Formation and Early Years (1980-1990):

Several political parties and movements, such as the Janata Party, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, and the RSS, came together on April 6, 1980, culminating in the formation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which was formally established on that day. With the intention of providing a political forum for the Hindu nationalist philosophy, the party began its operations.

During the early years of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a prominent figure in the party's leadership, and he was instrumental in the formation of the party's identity.

Ayodhya Movement and Ram Janmabhoomi (1989-1992):

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rose to popularity in the late 1980s and early 1990s as a result of its participation in the Ayodhya movement. This movement advocated for the construction of a Ram temple at the site in Ayodhya that was the subject of a dispute.

The culmination of the agitation was the destruction of the Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992, which was carried out by a collection of Hindu militants. The politics and society of India were profoundly influenced as a result of this occurrence.

Emergence as a National Force (1990s):

During the 1990s, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) steadily became a national power. In the year 1996, the party established a government that was centred on the centre, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee served as the Prime Minister of that administration. In spite of this, the government only survived for thirteen days.

In 1998, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which was led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), established a coalition government, and Vajpayee was appointed Prime Minister once more. Following the conclusion of the government's full term, the alliance led by the BJP emerged victorious in the general elections of 1999, therefore obtaining a majority.

Kargil War and Nuclear Tests (1998):

In May of 1998, India became a member of the nuclear club as a result of a series of nuclear tests that were carried out by the BJP administration working under the leadership of Prime Minister Vajpayee. As a reaction to concerns over the security of the region, the tests were carried out.

In addition, the Kargil War with Pakistan took place during this time period, which significantly influenced the position that the BJP takes on matters of national security.

Economic Reforms and Development (1998-2004):

As part of its strategy of liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation, the administration of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) successfully enacted economic reforms.

During its time in administration, the party prioritised the construction of infrastructure, the expansion of the economy, and the improvement of governance.

THE BJP'S RISE: A CONFLUENCE OF FACTORS

The ascent to power of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) may be partially credited to Advani's organisational abilities, as well as the party's return to the Hindutva agenda while simultaneously maintaining the liberal image of Vajpayee in the mainstream of public memory. A additional factor that was beneficial to the party was the fact that the public desired a change from the lengthy period of time that Congress had been in power. The confidence of the public was grabbed by slogans such as "Party with a Difference" and a plea to the electorate to give the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) a chance. Between the years 1998 and 2004, the Vajpayee government, which lasted for a little more than six years, was responsible for establishing the party as a serious alternative to the Congress. However, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which was led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), was defeated in the subsequent two general elections owing to a variety of issues. This resulted in the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), which was led by the Congress party, controlling the government until it was crushed in the 2014 elections due to a number of frauds, high inflation and unemployment, and policy stagnation. In the past, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was led by Modi, who served as the party's candidate for prime minister and was a four-time chief minister of Gujarat. He was successful in capitalising on the dissatisfaction of the general public with the UPA administration, which resulted in the party gaining a majority in the Lok Sabha sitting on its own. The Congress party gained 404 seats in the elections that took place in 1984, which were held in the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's death. This was the last time a party has achieved a majority power on its own. From the moment when Modi took office as Prime Minister on May 26, 2014, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been functioning like a well-oiled electoral machine. It is currently dominating the national conversation in a way that no other party has been able to do in recent memory, and it has gone on to win state elections after state elections.

Modi-Shah Partnership

The ascent of Modi coincided with the ascent of Amit Shah to the position of head of the BJP. According to reports, Rajnath Singh, who served as the leader of the party in the years leading up to the election victory in 2014, desired to remain in his position and avoid being involved in the administration. On the other hand, Modi did not find this to be acceptable because it may have resulted in a dual power centre. The fact that Rajnath Singh had a strong relationship with the RSS was the primary reason why Modi did not want him to stay in his position. The name of the party's General Secretary, J. P. Nadda, who is a politician from Himachal Pradesh, was brought into question, and the RSS was willing to accommodate him. It was decided to make a move that would pit Shah against Nadda. Modi was able to overcome the issue by naming Shah, his longtime and loyal colleague from Gujarat, as the head of the party. He also appointed Singh and Nadda to positions within his government. In contrast to the long-standing practise that the Prime Minister and the President of the Party should come from different states, this was an exception to the rule. The party has been galvanised by Shah, who has brought a certain ruthlessness and an administrative competence that has never been seen before into the way how the organisation is managed. It has been suggested that his fellow party members are more impressed by him than they are by 11 adoring him. As soon as Shah assumed leadership of the party, he made several adjustments to the administrative style and structure of the organisation. He made the party structure more up-to-date and devised a system that recognises and rewards those who meet their obligations. In contrast to the horizontal character of the party 12 under the previous presidents, he introduced a system of vertical heads for projects that was modelled after a corporate structure. When it comes to Shah and the party, elections are equal to or even more than war. Following his assumption of leadership, he offered the following piece of advise to his fellow party members: Elections should be fought with a clear mind and with the single purpose of winning. Not only does he have the full backing of Modi, but he is unwavering in his decisions and does not tolerate any interference from any other leader. According to the majority of testimonials, he is a leader who believes in a straightforward approach to leadership. He adheres to a strict schedule and works long hours, which motivates his staff to follow his example. As a result of Shah's efforts to cultivate better working connections with the RSS, the RSS leadership and officials are now playing a more significant role in the operation of the organisation.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

English Indian People's Party, the political party of India that supports Hinduism after the country gained its independence. To a large extent, the party has been supported by those belonging to upper castes and in the northern region of India. It has made efforts to garner support from members of lower castes, notably by appointing a number of people from lower castes to important posts within the party.

Origin and Establishment

In 1951, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee created the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS; Indian People's Association) as the political branch of the pro-Hindu group Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS; "National Volunteers Corps"), which is where the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJP) may trace its origins. In addition to advocating for the establishment of a powerful and unified state, the BJS fought for the reconstruction of India according to Hindu culture. During the year 1967, the BJS was able to establish a significant presence in the Hindi-speaking regions of northern India. After another ten years, the party, which was then led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, merged with three other political parties to establish the Janata Party, which then went on to assume control of the government. The administration, on the other hand, fell apart in July of 1979 due to the fact that it was plagued by factionalism and internal conflicts. In 1980, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was legally created as a result

of a rift that occurred within the Janata coalition. The leaders of this faction aimed to prevent elected BJS officials from participating in the RSS by establishing the BJP. (The RSS has been accused of political and religious extremism on several occasions by those who are opposed to it, notably due to the fact that one of its members was responsible for the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi?) Following that, the BJS reorganised itself as the BJP, with Vajpayee, Lal Krishan Advani, and Murali Manohar Joshi serving as its leading figures. An ideology that tried to define Indian culture in terms of Hindu principles, Hindutva (which literally translates to "Hindu-ness") was championed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which was also very critical of the secular policies and practises of the Indian National Congress (also known as the Congress Party). In 1989, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) began to achieve political success by capitalising on an anti-Muslim sentiment. It did this by advocating for the construction of a Hindu temple on a region in Ayodhya that was revered by Hindus but was occupied by the Babri Masjid (Mosque of Bābur) at the time. By the year 1991, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had significantly expanded its political popularity, as evidenced by its seizure of 117 seats in the Lok Sabha (the lower house of the Indian parliament) and its assumption of power in four states. The violent destruction of the Babri Masjid in December 1992 by groups that were believed to be affiliated with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) resulted in a significant reaction against the party. In addition, the destruction of the mosque sparked rioting across the nation, which resulted in the deaths of over one thousand people. Many individuals in modern India who were loyal to secularism viewed the party with scepticism and distrust. A series of rath yatras, also known as political marches, were undertaken by the leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in order to assuage concern among the general people, restore faith in the party, and broaden its base of support. During these rath yatras, the Hindu deity Rama was symbolically invoked as the emblem of a cultural renaissance.

Electoral Success and The National Democratic Alliance Government

Following the elections that took place in 1996, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged as the single largest party in the Lok Sabha. As a result, the President of India extended an invitation to the BJP to form a government. On the other hand, its time in government was brief since it was unable to get the majority of votes necessary to rule in the lower house, which consisted of 545 members. With Vajpayee serving as prime minister, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies were successful in forming a majority government in the year 1998. In May of that year, Vajpayee issued an order for nuclear weapons testing, which resulted in considerable condemnation from the world community. The All India Dravidian Progressive Federation (All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam), which was a coalition partner, withdrew its support after Vajpayee had been in government for thirteen months. This caused Vajpayee to seek a vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha, which he ultimately lost by the margin of a single vote. As the organiser of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), a coalition of more than twenty national and regional parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) submitted candidates for the legislative elections that took place in 1999. A ruling majority was achieved by the partnership, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) securing 182 of the coalition's 294 seats. The election of Vajpayee as Prime Minister was once again successful since he is the head of the largest party in the alliance. Despite the fact that Vajpayee worked to bring an end to India's protracted dispute with Pakistan over the Kashmir region and to establish India as a global leader in information technology, the coalition that he led was defeated in the parliamentary elections of 2004 by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) coalition led by the Congress Party. As a result, Vajpayee resigned from his position as Prime Minister. During the parliamentary elections that took place in 2009, the UPA alliance once again emerged victorious, which resulted in the party's share of seats in the Lok Sabha decreasing from 137 to 116. Nevertheless, as the Lok Sabha elections of 2014

drew closer, the chances of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) began to improve. This was mostly due to the rising displeasure with the Congress Party's governance. Narendra Modi, who has served as the chief minister (head of government) of Gujarat state for a significant amount of time, was selected to lead the electoral campaign for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which also makes him the party's candidate for prime minister. The BJP emerged victorious in a resounding manner in the vote that took place in many phases over the months of April and May. There was a commanding majority in the parliament, with the party winning 282 seats outright, while its NDA partners gaining 54 additional seats to their total. Almost immediately after the results of the election were known, Modi was given the position of head of the party members in parliament. He then started the process of building a cabinet that comprised not only top officials from the BJP but also other leaders from parties that were affiliated with the coalition. On May 26, 2014, Modi took the oath of office as Prime Minister of India.

During its leadership, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) implemented a variety of policies intended to promote Hindutva and the economy. Only a few hours' warning was given for the demonetization of banknotes worth 500 and 1,000 rupees on November 8, 2016, with the intention of putting an end to "black money," which refers to currency that is used for illegal activities. The fact that more than 99 percent of the banknotes were returned and replaced is evidence that even "black money" was effectively exchanged and put back into circulation. However, the policy did extend the income tax base by increasing the amount of activity that banks engaged in and it also encouraged the use of cashless transactions. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) was implemented in 2017, which resulted in a substantial overhaul in the collection of consumer taxes across the country. During this time, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) made an appeal to the concept of Hindutva by enacting policies such as prohibiting the selling of cows for slaughter, a decision that was ultimately reversed by the Supreme Court. Similarly, the party enacted legislation that allowed for name changes in some jurisdictions.

Late in 2018, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) experienced significant electoral defeats. In November and December, elections were conducted in five different states, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was defeated in each of those states, including its strongholds of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh. The increase in the cost of living and the unemployment rate were cited as the reasons for the loss, and Modi's lofty promises regarding the expansion of the economy were not brought to fruition. As a result of the security situation that occurred in Jammu and Kashmir in February 2019, which in turn brought tensions with Pakistan to their worst level in decades, the party was able to regain some of its popularity. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was the primary focus of the media as the Lok Sabha elections came closer. In the spring of 2019, the party won a landslide win that brought it back to power, and it also increased the number of representatives it had represented in the legislative body.

CONCLUSION

Over the course of twenty years, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has undergone a remarkable transformation, becoming a political machine that is practically devoid of any identifiable characteristics. The party's quick development, which has resulted in its current presence over the entirety of India, has also resulted in the introduction of a new set of obstacles. There is a possibility that the party may suffer a setback in the national elections, which may prompt concerns to be asked about the current model that has been instrumental in the party's rise to power at the centre and in twenty states. In a similar vein, the effectiveness of the effort to broaden the party's support base among non-Jatav Dalits, non-Yadav backwards castes, tribal communities, and other socioeconomic groups may be called into question in the event that the party's electoral prospects take a turn

for the worst. An overview of the early years of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is shown below. The party's participation in Indian politics, election triumphs, and policy proposals are some of the subsequent changes that have taken place. A mix of Hindutva ideology, economic policies, and governance efforts have shaped the history of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has continued to be a dominant force in Indian politics.

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