

DEMOCRATIC UPSURGE AND **COALITION POLITICS**

KAPILDEV RAY

FIVE CHANGES OF THE 1990's DECADE

1. End of monopoly of Indian National Congress - the most crucial development of this period was the defeat of the Congress party in the elections held in 1989. The party that had won as many as 415 seats in the Lok Sabha in 1984 was reduced to only 197 in this election. The Congress improved its performance and came back to power soon after the mid-term elections held in 1991. But the elections of 1989 marked the end of what political scientists have called the 'Congress system'.
2. Implementation of the Mandal commission recommendations and its fallouts - the rise of the 'Mandal issue' in national politics. This followed the decision by the new National Front government in 1990, to implement the recommendation of the Mandal Commission that jobs in central government should be reserved for the Other Backward Classes. This led to violent 'antiMandal' protests in different parts of the country.
3. New economic policy - the initiation of the structural adjustment programme or the new economic reforms by Dr. Manmohan Singh.
4. Demolition of Babri Masjid and growing challenges of the secular indian state - a number of events culminated in the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya (known as Babri Masjid) in December 1992. This event symbolised about the nature of Indian nationalism and secularism. These developments are associated with the rise of the BJP and the politics of 'Hindutva'.
5. New forms of family based politics - the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991 led to a change in leadership of the Congress party. He was assassinated by a Sri Lankan Tamil linked to the LTTE when he was on an election campaign tour in Tamil Nadu. Following Rajiv Gandhi's death, the party chose Narsimha Rao as the Prime Minister.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS SINCE 1989



V.P. Singh

December 1989
November 1990

Coalition/ Parties
in Government

National Front (NF),
supported by Left Front and BJP

November 1990
June 1991

Section of NF led by Samajwadi
Janata Party; supported by Congress



Chandrashekhar



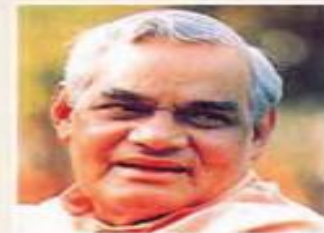
Narasimha Rao

June 1991
May 1996

Congress supported by AIADMK
and a some smaller parties.

May 1996
June 1996

BJP minority government



A. B. Vajpayee



H.D. Deve Gowda

June 1996
April 1997

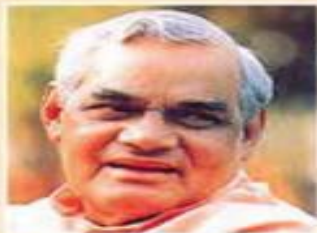
United Front with
Congress support

April 1997
March 1998

United Front with
Congress support



I.K. Gujral



A.B. Vajpayee

March 1998 October 1999
October 1999 May 2004

National Democratic Alliance
led by BJP

May 2004
onwards

UPA United
Progressive Alliance



Manmohan Singh

CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS SINCE 1989



V.P. Singh

Period
December 1989
November 1990


Coalition/ Parties in Government
National Front (NF), supported by Left Front and BJP

November 1990
June 1991

Section of NF led by Samajwadi Janata Party; supported by Congress



Chandra Shekhar




P.V. Narasimha Rao

June 1991
May 1996


Congress supported by AIADMK and a some smaller parties.

May 1996
June 1996

BJP minority government



A. B. Vajpayee




H.D. Deve Gowda

June 1996
April 1997

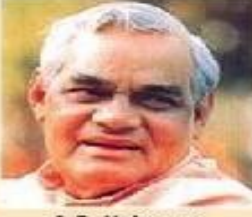
United Front with Congress support

April 1997
March 1998

United Front with Congress support



I.K. Gujral



A.B. Vajpayee

March 1998
October 1999

October 1999
May 2004

National Democratic Alliance led by BJP

May 2004
May 2014

United Progressive Alliance led by Congress



Manmohan Singh



May 2014
onwards

National Democratic Alliance led by BJP

MAJOR FEATURES OF POLITICS AFTER 1989

1. Emergence of coalition at centre.
2. Emergence and growing importance of regional political parties.
3. Emergence of political parties on the basis of caste ,dalit such as sc, st, obc etc.
4. End of one party dominance.
5. Emergence of third front. For example in 1989 National Front govt. and in 1996 United Front govt.
6. Pure form of multi party system emerged.
7. From 1999 onwards the contest held between two alliance based on common minimum programme such as NDA led by BJP and UPA led by Congress.
8. From 2014 elections , again one party dominance started and that party is BJP.

REASON FOR THE GROWING **IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL POLITICAL** **PARTIES**

1. Weakness of Congress Party.
2. Cultural pluralism of India.
3. Rise of regional aspirations
4. End of one party rule.