

Recent developments in **Indian politics**

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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 'anti Mandal' 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

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



Chandrashekhar



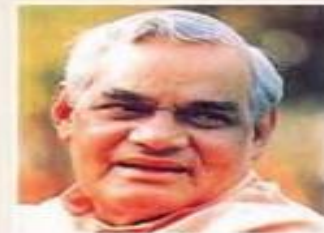
Narasimha Rao

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

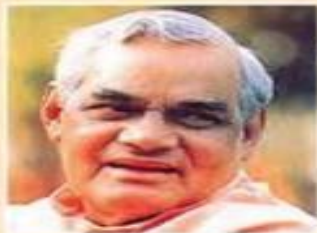
United Front with Congress support

April 1997
March 1998

United Front with Congress support



I.K. Gujral



A.B. Vajpayee

March 1998
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National Democratic Alliance led by BJP


May 2004
onwards

UPA United Progressive Alliance



Manmohan Singh

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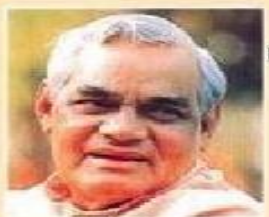
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MAJOR FEATURES OF POLITICS AFTER 1989

1. Emergence of **coalition at centre**. First time **hung legislature**.
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**. In 1984 BJP won only 2 seats and in 2014 BJP got absolute majority with 282 seats. In 2019 Lok sabha election BJP again became single party majority with 303 seats.

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.

❑ **New economic policy**- India adopted new economic policy in 1991, under the leadership of Dr Manmohan Singh (Finance Minister)

❑ Main features of new economic policy- Liberalization, Privatization, Globalization, Modernization.

❑ **Mandal commission**- Janata government appointed this commission on 1st January, 1979. this commission was headed by the former Chief Minister of Bihar Bindheswari Prasad Mandal. The commission submitted its report in December 1980.

❑ The most important recommendation of Mandal commission was 27% seats should be reserved for OBCs.

❑ Christopher Jaffrelot called the emergence of OBCs as “Silent Revolution”.

❑ The V P Singh led National Front government decided in August 1990 to implement the recommendations of mandal commission. The government declared that there should be 27% reservation for OBC in government jobs.

❑ Students belonging to upper caste started protest against this decision. A case was also filed in Supreme Court , which is popularly known as “Indira Sahani case”.

❑ **Emergence of Dalit politics**-In 1978, the “Backward and Minority Classes Employees Federation was formed. This organization supported the political rights of SCs, STs and Minorities.

❑ In 1981 Kanshiram formed the “Dalit Shosit Samaj Sangharsh Samiti (DS-4).

❑ In 1984 , the Dalit leader Kanshiram formed the Bahujan Samaj Paarty(BSP).

❑ Later the BSP party included the people from upper caste. This unity between Brahmins and Dalits is called “Bhaichara”.

❑ Dr B R Ambedkar was a leader and savior of Dalits.

❑ Poet Namdeo Dhasal related to Dalit community,

❑ **Dalit Panthers**- In 1972 some Dalit youths came together and formed a militant group called Dalit Panthers.

❑ The main aim of Dalits was to oppose caste based discrimination and ensure equality and justice .

❑ The main activity of Dalit Panthers was to oppose the oppression faced by Dalits in Maharashtra. Rseponding to the activities of Dalit Panthers the government passed the “Prevention of Atrocities Act” in 1989.

➤ **Communalism**- communalism is an ideology which promotes that a particular religion is different from other religion and its values are superior to other religious values.

➤ Causes of the emergence of communalism-

1. Divide and rule policy of the British
2. Communal organization.
3. Ineffective handling of communal riots.
4. Politics of appeasement.

➤ **Ayodhya dispute**-the Faizabad district court in February 1986 ordered that the Babri Masjid premises be unlocked so that Hindus could offer prayers at the site which they considered as a temple.

➤ As soon as the locks of the Babri Masjid were opened, mobilisation began on both sides i,e Hindus and Muslims.The BJP made this issue its major electoral and political plank. Along with many other organisations like the RSS and the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), it convened a series of symbolic and mobilisational programmes. The BJP, in order to generate public support, took out a massive march called the Rathyatra from Somnath in Gujarat to Ayodhya in UP.

➤ On 6 December 1992 thousands of people gathered from all over the country at Ayodhya and demolished the mosque.

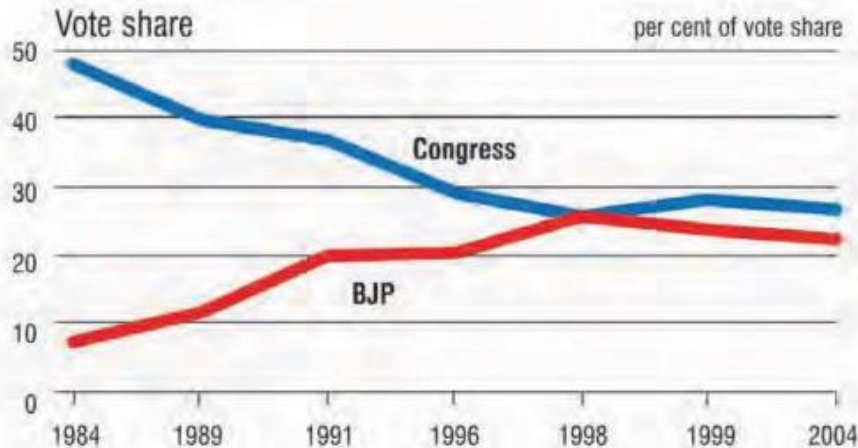
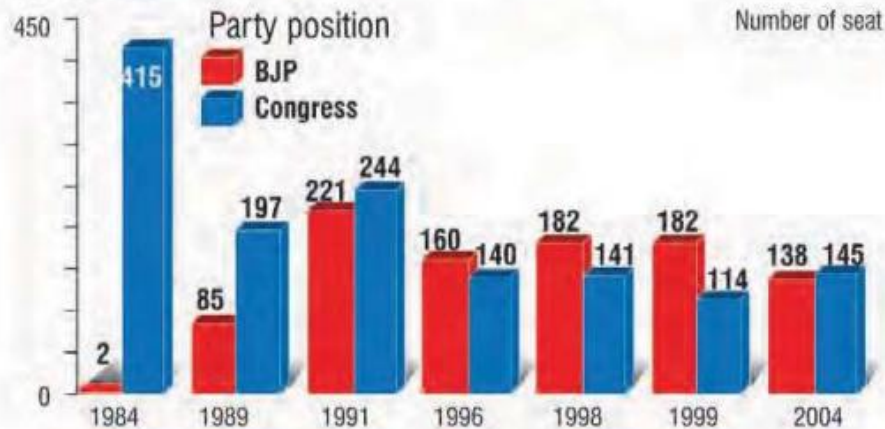
➤ On 9th November, 2019 a five judge bench of the Supreme Court led by ex Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi delivered a historic judgement to construct the Ram temple.

➤ **Gujrat Riots**-In February-March 2002, large-scale violence against Muslims took place in Gujarat. The immediate provocation for this violence was an incident that took place at a station called Godhra. A bogey of a train that was returning from Ayodhya and was full of Karsevaks was set on fire. Fiftyseven people died in that fire. Suspecting the hand of the Muslims in setting fire to the bogey, large-scale violence against Muslims began in many parts of Gujarat from the next day.

Emergence of a new consensus

➤ The period after 1989 is seen sometimes as the period of decline of Congress and rise of BJP.

Changing electoral performance of Congress and the BJP
1984-2004



- In the elections of 2004, the Congress party too entered into coalitions in a big way. The NDA was defeated and a new coalition government led by the Congress, known as the United Progressive Alliance came to power.
- NDA (National Democratic Alliance) was formed in 1998 and led by BJP.
- UPA (United Progressive Alliance) was formed in 2004 and led by Congress.
- Now the Congress party led alliance is known as INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance), founded in July 2023.
- In 2024 Lok Sabha general election, the contest is between **INDIA and NDA**.