International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

Critical Review and Framework of Indian Politics with Special Reference to Regional and State Parties

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ABSTRACT:

Political parties are the most important component of contemporary democratic government, but there are significant differences in their role, structure, and number. Any nation's party system is influenced by a variety of elements, including its political system and whether it is parliamentary or federal. India's unique political and social characteristics have also influenced the country's party system.

Keywords: Indian, Politics, Regional, State, Parties

INTRODUCTION:

Political parties play a significant role and serve as a "link between the electorate and the elected" in the "representative democratic forms of government" that the majority of democracies have adopted in the modern era. In comparison to its neighbours, it can be said that India's democracy has succeeded. Although the emergency traumatised the system, it was only temporary, and the democracy was unharmed. Since India's independence, several parliamentary elections and numerous additional assembly elections have been held with great success, and political parties in India have been crucial to this process.

The federal nature of the nation is another significant aspect that has significantly influenced the Indian party system. Despite not fitting the definition of a "distinctive federal system," the federal government's authority has been divided between the federal government and the states under the constitution. State governments are established through assembly elections, which are primarily won by state parties with a variety of ideologies and platforms that represent the diverse interests of the populace.

FRAMEWORK:

Different viewpoints on the genesis of regional political parties in various political systems exist. Sociostructural characteristics and organisational and institutional aspects are the two basic points of view. Lipset and Rokkan introduced the social cleavages hypothesis in the context of the development of the European Party System. Additionally, it offered the fundamental framework for analysing party systems and election behaviour globally. But there have been questions raised about the notion in relation to developing and poor nations. The social cleavages theory, however, was unable to account for the short-term swings in support for regional and regionalist parties. In contrast to the regional parties' support base, the social fault lines are steady. This is the theory's primary flaw since it cannot account for relatively short-term variations in support for regional and regionalist parties by turning to socioeconomic inequalities that are far more stable over time. Another issue that this line of research frequently under-explains is how political elites and parties choose which cleavage is highlighted and why they believe it is worthwhile to exploit.

The study that stresses organizational-institutional elements in understanding regional party establishment and durability attempts to solve some of these inadequacies. This viewpoint focuses on the growth of smaller regional and regionalist parties and how this has caused subnational party systems to diverge from both one another and the national party system. It bases the core of its explanatory models on organisational characteristics and institutional traits in politics. The institutionalist perspective examines how different forms of governance, such as presidentialism and parliamentarism, affect party aggregation. According to this perspective, presidential systems of government encourage the formation of national parties that can guarantee electoral victories in direct presidential elections because they necessitate obtaining electoral majorities in order to hold the highest office. The second chambers, even or especially if indirectly elected by a state legislature as in the case of India, can give regionally powerful parties a way to influence national policies without having to try and establish a national party, according to another argument that states with bicameral legislatures will likely see lower levels of party aggregation and the existence of more and possibly stronger regional parties.

Another key aspect of India that has a significant impact on the party system is its diversity. India has four fundamental social divisions: caste, language, tribe, and religion. The first two are primarily linked to geographical diversity and are concentrated in specific regions, whereas the last two diversities are linked to social diversity and are widespread across the nation. Strong reflections of these differences can be observed in the nation's party system.

The aforementioned factors, in which regional and state-based parties have played a significant role, are what gave the Indian party system its distinctive shape. Regional parties have been a part of state politics for a lot longer than they have been a part of federal politics. Only after Congress lost ground in the majority of southern states did regional aspirations manifest themselves in the form of state-based regional political parties, but it took these parties nearly two decades to establish a significant national presence. Although the Janata Party government, which took office following the emergency, provided an early glimpse of the Congress's decline and the emergence of regional political parties during the brief period that it ruled, the true strength of regional parties could only be seen after the 1989 Lok Sabha elections, when the "National Front," a coalition of regional and state-based parties, formed the federal government under the leadership of Vishwanath Pratap Singh. The general election of 1989 marked a turning point in Indian politics. Regional parties officially made their presence in national politics known for the first time. Regional political parties like the TDP of Andhra Pradesh, the Congress (S) of Kerala, and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) of Tamil Nadu were all part of the coalition led by the Janata Dal.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

The current situation of Indian political parties was examined by Ketaki (2019). Additionally, it highlights the decisions and policies that were implemented for the country as a result of their party's political ideology. The voting process has been modified by the Election Commission. No matter which party wins the election and assumes power in India, the country will continue to be managed in the same manner. For various political parties in India, dynastic power, categorising citizens according to castes and faiths, purchasing media for election campaigns, etc., will continue to be regular procedures. The paradox of Indian democracy is that the educated middle class has shown apathy toward the electoral process. People in the age of globalisation are so focused on gratifying their insatiable desire for material pleasure that they fail to acknowledge their broader national obligations. In order to win elections, political parties employ this mentality and sacrifice morality, ethics, and ideals. This begs the question of how we can assume that our political system will automatically improve when the most intelligent and enlightened group disavows their duty to the country. The question is whether the democratic system in India has genuinely ensured that every demographic group votes. Before the benefits of democratic achievement are not dispersed to the less fortunate and less fortunate parts of society, democracy cannot be regarded to have fulfilled its goal. [1]

According to Andrew Wyatt (2019), India has experienced a political party explosion since the 1980s. The fierce competition among regional parties has been a notable aspect of the expansion of parties. Political entrepreneurs have split from existing parties and created unique parties that have competed in the Indian political system at both the state and national levels. A handful of the newly established parties emerged as fierce rivals in their home units, occasionally taking the reins of state administrations, proving that they were significant parties in their respective areas. After 1989, more regional parties were elected to the Lok Sabha, but most of these newcomers and some of the older parties remained small. In the context of coalition politics, many tiny parties were welcomed into national coalitions. However, a lack of Assembly seats typically prevented tiny parties from participating in state politics. This article creates a typology that separates the hundreds of smaller parties registered with the Election Commission from the major regional parties and the small parties running in local and national elections. In relation to the alteration of the party system and the general operation of politics, the larger relevance of the little parties is evaluated. [2]

In her work, Nirmala Rana (2018) attempts to investigate the nature of change within Indian political parties and to reevaluate their role in the contemporary era. Political parties are generally known to be motivated by a desire to "serve" the public in addition to a desire to "win" elections. However, there are instances of parties that have won elections while remaining equally powerful or offering people services for a charge. A method for political activists to survive seems to be to start or maintain a party. The professional obsession is now politics. The current competitive environment has resulted in the emergence of powerful, rent-seeking professional leaders. Election victory is not merely a zero-sum game; they also evaluate the returns on the financial and political investments made. There are benefits even if one loses an election. The political activity of a party activist offers them a distinct identity that may be advantageous in terms of prestige, status, and accessibility. These might be converted into cash benefits. Parties resemble businesses in a political marketplace. With a population of a billion and a quarter and an electorate of 814 million, India is the largest democracy in the world (2014). Since independence, this democratic system has been in sharp contrast. Politics is the method used by people who live in communities to make decisions. [3]

According to A. Jagan (2017), Indian democracy is very much alive as the 21st century progresses, and political parties play a significant role in the country's political system. The existence of a sizable number of regional parties is one of the distinguishing characteristics of the Indian Party System. By "regional party," we mean a party that often only exists in one or a small number of states and functions within a constrained geographic area. Furthermore, regional parties reflect the interests of a certain region as opposed to the numerous and wide-ranging objectives of national parties. In plain English, regional parties are different from all-India parties in both their worldview and the interests they support. They work in a small area and concentrate their efforts on certain regional challenges. They do not want to take over the federal government; instead, they just want to seize control of the state or regional governments. It is interesting to note that there are many more regional parties in India than there are national parties, and some of the states, such as Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, etc., are governed by regional parties. Numerous political parties have emerged as a result of the country's continental size, the diverse nature of Indian society, the adoption of the universal adult franchise, the unusual style of the political process, and other considerations. India, widely recognised as the world's largest democracy, is a country with a very large number of regional parties that have sizable memberships. Approximately 180 million people in India are currently under the control of regional parties. [4]

According to L. Tillin (2015), politics is the process of reaching agreements amongst people so that they can cohabit in social units like tribes, cities, or countries. In most countries, people have created political parties to advance their values. Even though there are frequently significant differences of opinion inside a party, the members work together because they think that by working together, they can have more political success. They share the same opinions and support the same political figures and legislation on numerous issues. Elections are typically battles between competing parties. In India, there is a multi-party system in which several parties compete in the elections and, if they receive a majority, form the government. On occasion, these political parties create political processes in diverse ways and at various times. Recently, coalition governance has been one of the essential principles of the Indian political system. Politics includes making decisions on behalf of a group of people. By allocating power in proportion to each group's importance to the prosperity and survival of the entire society, it is a method by which competing interests within a particular unit of authority are amicably settled. Understanding political science's fundamental theoretical frameworks, real-world applications, conceptual vocabulary, research methodology, as well as the field's main subfields of study and linkages to other political sciences, is the study's main goal. Understanding key facts and concepts concerning the Indian political system, such as its history, philosophical, constitutional, and legal foundations, primary political ideals, governing bodies, and decision-making processes, is the study's main goal. The study also covers a variety of political systems, including factual data unique to a particular area, a broader theoretical understanding of distinct political systems, institutions, and processes, as well as the changing national and global contexts in which these systems operate. The study discusses fundamental political beliefs and moral conundrums that have been argued throughout history, as well as numerous moral and ethical frameworks for deciphering and understanding contemporary political discussions. [5]

In his book, Ajay K. Mehra (2013) focused on practically all facets of Indian democracy's history, including its close ties to and identification with the political parties that were part of the party system. The book analyses socio-political developments before talking about the party system outside of just power dynamics. While carefully examining the political parties and the first general elections since 1952, the book believes that it is essential to consider the bi-nodal theory, which exemplifies the coalitional approaches, policies, and agreements made by the political parties. [6]

A book by Sudha Pai (2013) has made a significant contribution to the study of Indian state politics, particularly the politics of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The book is broken up into four sections that each cover a different component of the political system of a different state of the union. Pai identifies two significant developments in the book's introduction: the emergence of a common state political arena and the "relative autonomy" of each state's political system as it has evolved over time. The items in this section are divided into four main categories. political parties and electoral politics, social movements, economic changes, and state restructuring history Through these titles, the volume's eight main states—Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu—as well as an article on the North-Eastern states, discuss politics. Rob Jenkins on "Special Economic Zones," E. Sridharan on "The Coalition Strategies of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)," Sanjay Kumar on "The Survey Evidence for Regionalization," and A. K. Verma on "The Decline of Backward Caste Politics in North India" are a few of the articles that compare multiple states. [7]

Despite the worries of some academics who think regional parties in federal democracies are confined in direction, Devin and Joshi (2012) showed that regional parties can occasionally enhance both voter turnout and human development (HD) in their region. In addition to listing five obstacles that can prevent HD development even if voter turnout improves, this article proposes a hypothesis about how regional parties in developing countries might occasionally accomplish these goals. The concept is based on what the South Indian states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala have gone through. Between 1970 and 2000, they put this theory to the test across all of India's states, and they discovered that regional parties significantly increased voter turnout. They discovered using pooled regression analysis that beginning conditions, social spending, agricultural yield, and gender equality had a significant impact on the human development index's (HDI) performance. The findings do, however, point to a weak but positive correlation between rising HDI and regional party control of state governments. [8]

CONCLUSION:

India's declaration of independence, a representative, elected government was established at the union level, with state legislative assemblies following suit. The establishment of a parliamentary form of government served the purpose of ensuring that the executive was subject to constant scrutiny and restraint from the opposition.

The analysis of the parliamentary system's past revealed that the Indian party system was significantly influenced by it. The fragmentation of political parties happened to occur more quickly with the end of single-party rule and the rise of the coalition era, which resulted in the multi-party system in the nation.

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