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Abstract

This article focusses on the formation of a new alliance, namely the India National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA). The Indian National Congress, which has long dominated Indian politics, leads the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance. Opposition parties formed the India National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) to challenge the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The coalition contends that the BJP is endangering India's multiparty democracy and secular principles. The "Collective Resolve" campaign includes a pledge to preserve and uphold the idea of India as it is expressed in the Constitution of India. Efforts are being done to resist the claimed systemic conspiracy by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to target, punish, and suppress specific Indians and address polarization. Findings of the reveal that there have been instances of Hindu extremist groups initiating anti-Muslim operations, resulting in numerous casualties and injuries among the Muslim community, as well as other minority groups within the region. The BJP challenged the Indian National Congress, the Nehruvian state, and secular democracy. The policies implemented by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from 2014 to 2019 were highly detrimental to society, as they strategically employed the Hindutva ideology for political gain and suppressed minority groups through their uncompromising ideological stance. Contrarily, the policies implemented by Congress subsequent to 2009 exhibited a greater emphasis on principles such as freedom, economic growth, liberalism, and prioritization of the welfare of the populace.

Keywords: INDIA, BJP, Secular Democracy

1. Introduction

INDIA, an acronym for Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance, currently encompasses a coalition of 26 opposition parties. The Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance is under the leadership of the Indian National Congress party, which has historically exerted significant influence over the political landscape of the nation. The formation of a new alliance, namely the India National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), with the objective of contesting the 2024 Lok Sabha elections against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The campaign ringtone was introduced, suggesting that the upcoming election in 2024 will be characterized as a competitive clash between India National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) and current Prime Minister, Modi, representing the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Mamata Banerjee of the Trinamool Congress party came up with the idea for the alliance's name, which was ultimately decided to be INDIA following negotiations on a dozen other potential names. In the most recent electoral contests, the Congress party successfully overthrew the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) governments in the southern state of Karnataka and the northern state of Himachal Pradesh. This outcome has significantly undermined the perception of invulnerability associated with the Hindu nationalist party. In his opening remarks, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge emphasized the importance of coming together to defend democracy and the Constitution. The policies implemented by Congress subsequent to 2009-2014 exhibited a greater emphasis on principles such as freedom, economic growth, liberalism, and prioritization of the welfare of the populace. (Rashid et al., 2022).

The tenure of Modi's leadership in India spanning almost ten years has been characterized by economic challenges, increasing unemployment rates, instances of Hindu nationalist aggression towards minority groups, particularly Muslims, and a diminishing environment for expressing dissent and maintaining a free press. The policies implemented by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from 2014 to 2019 were highly detrimental to society, as they strategically employed the Hindutva ideology for political gain and suppressed minority groups through their uncompromising ideological stance (Rashid et al., 2022). The 26-party alliance aims to critique the BJP on various matters, including the ongoing ethnic conflict in the northeastern state of Manipur, alongside numerous other domestic challenges. Opposition initiated a motion of no-confidence in parliament against the government led by Prime Minister Modi. The motion was prompted by the recent outbreak of violence in Manipur, resulting in the loss of over 130 lives and the displacement of approximately 50,000 individuals in the remote state.

The coalition claims that India's multiparty democracy and secular principles, which the BJP is frequently accused of attacking, are at risk. According to Rajeev Gowda, a member of the Congress party, he informed Al Jazeera that the opposition has come together in a unified manner with the aim of "reinstating democratic principles" within the nation. Numerous challenges are being encountered by individuals. One primary aspect of concern pertains to the lack of success in the economic domain. There has been a lack of job creation. There has been a significant increase in societal division, animosity, and instances of aggression. All of these must be altered. That is why we have gathered. We intend to expose the government's shortcomings, he said. During the 2019 general elections, the alliance led by Prime Minister Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured 37 percent of the total votes, yet managed to secure a significant majority of 303 out of the 543 seats available. The current prevalence of the Hindutva ideology constitutes a severe threat to the fundamental values of liberal democracy as well as the constitutional framework of India (Subramanian (2020).

2. Opposition Parties

Besides Congress, the other main opposition parties that form INDIA are the Trinamool Congress (TMC), which governs the crucial West Bengal state; the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), which is in power in the southern Tamil Nadu state; and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which rules in Delhi and Punjab states.

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The other prominent allies are the Janata Dal-United (JD-U) and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), which together govern the key state of Bihar in the east; and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), which rules over neighbouring Jharkhand with its allies. The National Congress Party (NCP-Sharad Pawar), the Shiv Sena (UBT), the Samajwadi Party (SP), the National Conference (NC), the People's Democratic Party (PDP), the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPM), the Communist Party of India (CPI), the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK), the Kongunadu Makkal Desia Katchi (KMDK), the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP), the Communist Party of India- Marxist-Leninist (CPI-ML Liberation), the Forward Bloc, the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), the Kerala Congress (Joseph), the Kerala Congress (Mani), the Apna Dal (Kamerawadi), and the Manithaneya Makkal Katchi (MMK) are the other members in the 26-party alliance. The policies implemented by the Congress during the period from 2009-2014 had significant historical implications for the well-being of the population and contributed to a decrease in the prevalence of extremism and terrorism within the state (Rashid et al., 2022).

3. Collective Resolve

The initiative known as 'Collective Resolve' encompasses a commitment to protect and uphold the concept of India as outlined in the Constitution. A commitment to combating and confronting the "assault on constitutional rights of democratically elected state governments". In order to address the significant economic crisis at hand, it is imperative to challenge the imprudent divestment of the nation's assets to privileged associates. In order to overcome the proliferation of animosity and aggression directed towards marginalized groups, it is imperative to devise strategies that effectively counteract such sentiments. In order to address the escalating incidents of violence targeting women, Dalits, Adivasis, and Kashmiri Pandits, effective measures must be implemented. In order to combat the alleged systemic conspiracy by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to target, persecute, and suppress certain individuals within the Indian population, as well as address the issue of polarization, efforts are being made.

4. BJP and Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA)

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has characterized the alliance as a coalition of political parties driven by self-interest, plagued by corruption, and perpetuating dynastic rule. According to Guru Prakash Paswan, the party spokesman, the sole factor that binds together the opposition parties is their shared objective of attaining political power. They exhibit a lack of concern for the progress of the nation or any other national interests. The sole commonality among them is their shared pursuit of power, engagement in corrupt practices, and perpetuation of dynastic rule. The speaker emphasized the significance of the aforementioned thread. An answer to them can be found in both our work and our vision. We are backed by the support of those who are here with us. We had it in 2014, and we will have it again in 2019, and we will have an even larger mandate in 2024. On the same day that the INDIA grouping was named, the right-wing BJP and 37 other parties held a meeting for their National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Two of the most important supporters of the NDA are groups that broke away from regional parties that support India. On Tuesday, Prime Minister Modi strongly criticized the recently established opposition alliance, drawing a parallel between its formation and the historical East India Company, a significant entity involved in the colonization of the Indian subcontinent during the 19th century. During a parliamentary meeting in New Delhi, Prime Minister Modi expressed his skepticism regarding the significance of forming an alliance called INDIA, highlighting that the East India Company also incorporated the term India in its name.

5. Bharatiya Janata Party and Indian National Congress

The current state of India can be characterized as embodying a form of extremist right-wing politics, specifically in the form of Hindu ideological politics (Siyech, 2021). The prevalence of extremism became more apparent following the general elections in 2014, when the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) assumed power and introduced a new era of extremist ideology in India's history (Khan & Lutful, 2021). According to Rashid et al. (2022), there have been instances of Hindu extremist groups initiating anti-Muslim operations, resulting in numerous casualties and injuries among the Muslim community, as well as other minority groups within the region. During the tenure of the Congress government, the state's economy experienced significant growth, particularly in the domains of the IT sector and technical services sector. The Congress government made efforts to bridge the technological gap in agriculture and enhance the agrarian economy by generating capital for farmers (Nath, 2021).

Contrarily, the policies implemented by Congress subsequent to 2009 exhibited a greater emphasis on principles such as freedom, economic growth, liberalism, and prioritization of the welfare of the populace. The implementation of these policies has resulted in a decrease in extremist tendencies within society, while fostering the active involvement of all segments of society, thereby strengthening the cohesion of the Indian state under the unified framework of India (Rashid et al., 2022). The aforementioned image depicting the current state of affairs aligns with the fundamental principles of the Indian constitution as a secular nation, a vision originally pursued by India's founding father, Mahatma Gandhi (De, 2017).

The concept of extremist ideology Hindutva, a political ideology championed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has been associated with the implementation of aggressive measures targeting Muslim and Christian minority groups in India. Additionally, it is worth noting that an individual affiliated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) was responsible for the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi (Visweswaran, 2009). Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has implemented numerous laws and policies aimed at promoting its Hindutva ideology. In doing so, it has marginalized secular policies and hindered the political engagement of minority groups and other political entities. As a direct response to the policies of the BJP, which endanger the safety of India's ethnic and religious minorities as well as the country's multiethnic fabric, the general population has organized demonstrations across the state (Venkatesh & Ahmad, 2020).

The emergence of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) posed a significant challenge not only to the Indian National Congress but also to the Nehruvian state and its commitment to secular democracy. The prominence of the Congress party both before and after the partition of the sub-continent can be attributed to its significant contribution in producing numerous leaders for both the sub-continent and India. The Indian National Congress, as the dominant political party in India, has played a significant role in shaping India's global standing, particularly in relation to its minority populations, with a generally positive and prosperous outcome. The constitution of India was written by one of the founding fathers of the country, who did it under the auspices of the Congress party. He declared India to be a secular state. Even in the state capitals, all minorities have a voice in Congress. In this way, the genuine character of a political party is revealed. The Congress party maintained its position as the primary political entity in the state until the elections of 2009. However, no political party secured a majority and established a government independently. The Congress party established a coalition with various political parties, collectively referred to as the United Progressive Alliance (UPA). Within this alliance, the leader of the Congress party, Sonia Gandhi, exercised her prerogative and once again nominated Manmohan Singh, a Sikh, for the position of Prime Minister (Rashid et al., 2022).

In this manner, Singh assumes the role of Prime Minister for the second occasion. Singh's policies exhibited a favorable disposition towards minority groups, resulting in positive economic advancements within the state. Government policies have had a positive impact on the infrastructure and quality of life in rural areas by creating employment opportunities. Similarly, the women in all provinces occupied the primary seats. Singh's noteworthy contribution lies in the formulation and implementation of anti-terrorism policies that effectively eradicated terrorism within the state and beyond. The foreign policies implemented by the Congress exhibited a high degree of amicability and were founded on principles of mutual respect, particularly in relation to neighboring countries, notably Pakistan (Rashid et al., 2022).

The government led by the Congress party made efforts to strengthen diplomatic ties with Afghanistan and increased financial contributions in various sectors such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and defense. The economic policies implemented by the government led by the Congress party were highly effective due to the introduction of economic liberalization and the adoption of mixed economic policies. The administration implemented initiatives aimed at stabilizing peace in the region and enhancing counterterrorism legislation to combat extremist activities. In this manner, the government that is led by the Congress party continued to be effective in its efforts to oppose extremist activities and insurgency in the various provinces of the state. The government led by the Congress party in 2009 prioritized social equality in addition to religion, freedom, and secularism within the state. The current prominence of the Hindutva ideology poses a significant challenge to the principles of liberal democracy and the constitutional framework of India. In the year 2019, there was a noticeable increase in the levels of uncertainty and insecurity. Narendra Modi, a prominent leader in Hindu representative society, actively endorsed an extremist ideology in order to legitimize the notion of Hindustan as a Hindu state (Subramanian, 2020).

6. Conclusion

The hard-line policies of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are challenging for India matters because of Hindutva. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) strategically embraced the Hindutva ideology as a religious instrument to secure electoral victory in 2014 and 2019. The formation of a new alliance, namely the India National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), with the objective of contesting the 2024 Lok Sabha elections against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The policies implemented by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from 2014 to 2019 were highly detrimental to society, as they strategically employed the Hindutva ideology for political gain and suppressed minority groups through their uncompromising ideological stance. The primary objective of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was to establish a Hindu state in India by promoting its Hindutva ideology. Contrarily, the policies implemented by Congress subsequent to 2009 exhibited a greater emphasis on principles such as freedom, economic growth, liberalism, and prioritization of the welfare of the populace. The welfare policies implemented by the government led by the Congress (2009) party received commendation from the international community, with a particular emphasis on safeguarding the rights of minority groups.

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