



International Journal of Humanities & Social Science Studies (IJHSSS)

A Peer-Reviewed Bi-monthly Bi-lingual Research Journal

ISSN: 2349-6959 (Online), ISSN: 2349-6711 (Print)

Impact Factor: 6.8

Volume-XI, Issue-V, September 2025, Page No. 109-116

Published by Scholar Publications, Sribhumi, Assam, India, 788711

Website: <http://www.ijhsss.com>

DOI: 10.29032/ijhsss.vol.11.issue.05W.137



Resurgence of Regional Coalition Power in India: Post-2024 General Election Dynamics

Ms. Minoti Tripura

*Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya
Government Model College, Katlicherra, Hailakandi, Assam, India*

Received: 17.09.2025; Accepted: 23.09.2025; Available online: 30.09.2025

©2025 The Author(s). Published by Scholar Publication. This is an open access article under the CC BY license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

Abstract

The outcome of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections reflects a significant shift in India's political landscape challenging the prevailing notion that the rise of prime minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) since 2014 has led to the decline of regional parties, instead it highlight the continued relevance of regionalism in Indian politics .The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by the BJP secured around 293 seats in Lok Sabha while the opposition coalition ,INDIA bloc won 232 seats .Despite the BJP's emerged as the single largest party with 240 seats it couldn't obtained simple majority and had to depend on the supports of its allies for the formation of government of two crucial regional parties such as Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) (JDU) from Bihar and N. Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party (TDP) from Andhra Pradesh. This alliance underscores the enduring influence of regional parties and their essential role in shaping the future trajectory of Indian political dynamic. This paper discusses the resurgence of regional coalition power in India after the 2024 general elections while focusing on the contributing factors that lead to this shift. It also examines the time period of coalition governance from 1989-2014 which is also sometime referred to as golden era of coalition government and addresses the implications, challenges and opportunities that come with the formation of coalition government post-2024 General Election in Indian political context.

Keywords: Regional Parties. Coalition Politics, Indian Politics, NDA, INDIA.

Introduction:

The 2024 Indian general election also marked a pivotal shift in the nation's political trajectory, signaling the resurgence of regional coalition power .Despite the BJP-led National Democratic alliance (NDA) securing a majority, the party fell significantly short of required seats and settling at just 240 seats and becoming reliant on key regional allies such as TDP and JD(U).At the present scenario ,regional parties across states including the Samajwadi party in Uttar Pradesh in West Bengal in Tamil Nadu and JJM in Jharkhand register notable gains, reflecting the electorate's renewal affinity for local identities and governance structures. In southern India Andhra Pradesh's Kutami alliance comprising TDP, Jana Sena Party, and BJP achieved a political resurgence with commanding victories in both state assembly (164 of 175seats) and Lok Sabha poll's 21 of 25 seats. At the same time there is rural dissatisfaction sparked by huge inflation and unemployment that caused the decline

of rural support for the BJP particularly in its erstwhile stronghold of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, decreasing its electoral dominance and the posing vulnerabilities that regional parties capitalize on. Further illustrating this paradigm shift was the electoral rebound of the congress-JKNC alliance in Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir first election since the revocation of article 370. Though the elected government remains institutionally constrained the political outcome delivers a sharp symbolic rebuke to central authority. In Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party's remarkable electoral victory challenges the Bharatiya Janata Party's dominance, signalling a resurgence of regional political forces that contest the established hegemony of national parties. Similarly, in West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee's leadership of the Trinamool Congress has effectively resisted the BJP's efforts to expand its influence reaffirming the crucial role of regional identities within Indian political dynamics. Prominent figures such as Chandrababu Naidu, Nitish Kumar, Akhilesh Yadav, Mamata Banerjee and MK Stalin have garnered increasing attention amplifying regional aspirations and exerting pressure on the central government. These leaders with strong ties to their respective states engaged in active campaign focus on issue that directly affect their constituencies. From water rights in the southern regions to agricultural policies in the west and from employment generation in the east to infrastructure development in the north, regional parties crafted their manifestos to address the specific aspirations and concerns of their respective states. Together these developments herald the resurgence of regional coalition power backed by a renewed features of local identities, economic dissatisfaction and federal reassertion. This trend reflects a structural shift in India's political architecture away from majoritarian governance towards a multilateral power sharing infusing Indian democracy with renewed pluralism and negotiation centred policy making.

Methodology:

The paper is entirely based on secondary sources such as reports from various newspaper, analyses by political analysts, research article from reputable journals and books. It takes an analytical approach.

A Brief Overview of Coalition Era (1989-2014)

The period from 1989 to 2014 in Indian political history marks a significant transformation in the country's democratic governance structure, particularly with the rise of Coalition Politics. Coalitions politics in India became a prominent feature of governance after 1989 general elections with no single party able to score secure a majority in the Lok Sabha thereby giving rise to multiparty alliances. The inability of any one political party to dominate the political landscape coupled with regional aspirations, ideologically diverse parties and a fragmented party system shaped the nature of governance during this era.

The Decline of Single-Party Dominance (1989-1991)

Since Independence, the Indian politics was dominated by the Indian National Congress. Nevertheless, the 1989 general election signalled the start of the downfall of the single party rule. The 1989 elections came after several socio-political crisis that took place such as the emergence of Mandal politics, economic liberalisation and religious and ethnic tensions especially after the emergence of the Bharatiya Janata Party after the Babri Masjid demolition in 1992. The internal dissent and the electoral disillusionment saw the INC led by Rajiv Gandhi lose the election in 1989 by a very huge margin. The outcome was as the coalition government of the V.P Singh and this was the beginning of non-congress

alternatives in Indian politics. It is during the 1989 elections that regional parties emerged like the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party that became influential in the coalition. This was the period, therefore, when Indian politics shifted to an era of congress dominated polity to a coalition era.

The Instability of Early Coalition Era (1991-1996)

Political instability prevailed between the year 1991 and 1996 as coalition government tried to hold a wavering balance. Following the elections in 1991, P.V. Narasimha Rao of the Congress party assumed a minority government which was largely contributed by his party having a strong grip in the national politics even though its support base had been weakened. India had gone through far reaching economic reforms during this period and this helped in transforming the economic scene but also created tensions within the coalition toward economic liberalisation. The second step in the Indian coalition politics was in 1996 when the election led to a disjointed mandate. The congress created a government which did not have a majority which saw the emergence of the United Front under the leadership of HD Deve Gowda. This government however didn't last long and collapsed after a year. This unpredictability underscored the structural weaknesses of coalition government in India, ideologically differences, a lack of discipline and competing interests of regional parties.

The BJP and the Rise of the NDA (1998-2004)

The 1998 general election represented a very pivotal day in the Indian Politics of coalition building with the emergence of Bharatiya Janta Party and the creation of the National Democratic Alliance. The BJP which in the past was viewed as a fringe party became a significant political party especially under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Vajpayee was elected prime minister of an alliance of right wing regional and smaller parties which formed government in 1998. The period of 1998-2004 witnessed the nationalisation of coalition government. The NDA, though ideologically varied had been able to serve its term despite differences on the nuclear test held in 1998. This can be attributed to gradual maturation of coalition politics in India. But still the fact that BJP was unable to reach a majority on its own showed that in Indian politics regional parties still played a significant role.

The UPA and Coalition Governance (2004-2014)

In 2004 the Indian national congress under Sonia Gandhi emerged as the largest party but felt short of a majority leading to the formation of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA). Manmohan Singh became the prime minister under this coalition government. The coalition era from 2004-2014 was characterised by relative stability in governance. The UPA led by congress successfully completed two terms with the support of regional and smaller parties. Prominent players like DMK and NCP played an important role in shaping national policies during this period. However, the period between 2004 and 2014 also showed the shortcoming of coalition politics. The UPA government faced serious internal challenges such as corruption scandal that weakened its model. Moreover, the growing fragmentation of the political scenario resulted in rising problems of governance. The emergence of Aam Aadmi Party in 2013 also brought to the limelight the discontent with the traditional political alliances and hinted at a shift towards newer non traditional political alternatives.

Factors Driving Regional Coalition Resurgence In Post-2024 General Election

The Resurgence of Regional Coalition in India following the 2024 General Elections can be attributed to several factors:

1. BJP's National Dominance and Regional Discontent

The BJP's consolidation of power at the national level, spearheaded by its centralising political agenda has significantly enhanced regional discontent. The party's dominance underpinning by a strong political machinery and a focus on national unity has led to tensions with regional actors who feel sidelined. The BJP's push for a uniform national narrative often perceived as undermining regional autonomy has triggered a backlash in various states. In response regional parties are increasingly forming coalitions to safeguard local identities, regional economic interests and political autonomy. These coalitions seek to provide an alternative to the BJP's top-down governance and to push for greater decentralisation of power.

2. Economic and Cultural Factors

Economic disparities between states particularly those in the North and South as well as the unequal distribution of resources have become key driver of regional coalition politics. Many states believe that the central government economic policies favour larger states and urban areas leaving rural and less developed regions at disadvantage. Additionally, Regional Parties have successfully capitalised on cultural identity politics with a focus on preserving local languages, traditions and religious practices. These cultural sentiments have resonated strongly with voter leading regional parties to emphasise their role as protectors of local culture and economic equity. Economic grievances related to uneven development, unemployment and agricultural distress have amplified calls for more localised governance which regional coalition can effectively represent.

3. The Weakening of Indian National Congress

The decline of the INC, once the dominant opposition party to the BJP has paved the way for regional parties to step into the leadership vacuum. The INC's failure to adapt to the changing political environment coupled with its struggles to assert a coherent national narrative has led to its diminishing influence on specially in states where regional parties have a stronger foothold. This weakening of the INC has created an opportunity for regional parties to form coalitions that present themselves as viable alternatives. These coalition aim to tap the growing dissatisfaction with the traditional national opposition and to offer more regional focused and dynamic alternative.

4. Shifting Voter Behaviour

Voter behaviour in India has undergone a significant transformation particularly in the wake of the 2014 and 2019 elections where issues of local governance, regional autonomy and economic development have become central to electoral choices. Voter are increasingly prioritising regional concerns over national issues as they feel that national parties including the BJP have not adequately addressed their unique needs. This shift is evident in the growing support for regional parties which are perceived as more attuned to the local realities and aspirations of their constituencies. As a result regional coalitions have gained momentum reflecting a broader trend towards regionalism in Indian politics.

5) Leadership and Strategic Alliances

Leadership plays a crucial role in the resurgence of regional coalitions. Charismatic regional leaders have emerged as key figures capable of mobilising support and providing

a clear alternative to the BJP's national leadership. These leaders have been able to turn into local frustration presenting themselves as champions of regional causes and effective managers of regional governance. Additionally, the formation of strategic alliances among the regional parties has enhanced the strength of these coalitions. Such alliances enable smaller parties to combine efforts, maximise electoral reach and strengthen their bargaining power both within states and at the national level.

Implication for National Governance

In the 2024 elections for the first time prime minister Modi require the support of coalition allies to retain power while also contending with a revitalised opposition. This situation may lead to a more inclusive and consensus driven approach by the BJP led government in its third term potentially resulting in the shelving of controversial policies such as the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code and the simultaneous conduct of national election and state election (One Nation, One Election). The resurgence of the Congress Party and the opposition more broadly is a positive sign for Indian democracy as it may enhance check and balances on the ruling government. However, this will largely depend on how effectively the opposition maintain unity both within and outside parliament. Rahul Gandhi has gained strength as a leader following the Congress Party's improved electoral performance though the party still needs to significantly boost its seats tally to pose a real challenge to the BJP. While the BJP's return suggest continuity, the 2024 results may also reflect voter scepticism due to the lack of a strong alternative. This election has also highlighted the renewed significance of regional parties in showing national politics. The 2024 result suggest a return to the post 1989 era of political competition between two major alliances one led by the BJP and the other by the Congress. It underscores the difficulty of maintaining single party dominance in a country as diverse India and point towards a more competitive coalition base party system as a more sustainable model.

Opportunities And Challenges

Coalition government by their very nature present both challenges and opportunities as they involve the integration of diverse political interest and ideologies. The ability to build consensus among various coalition partners will be pivotal in ensuring the formulation of effective and cohesive policy outcomes. Political stability and coalition fragility: A primary challenge in the post 2024 political scenario lies in ensuring political stability amid a fragmented mandate.

Challenges

1). Consensus Building: A critical challenge for coalition government such as the post 2024 Modi led government lies in reconciling the diverse policy priorities and political agendas of multiple coalitions partners. Each party represents diverse regional constituencies and unique demands which led extensive negotiation and compromise. This consensus building process can slow decision making and often result in diluted policy outcome and reducing the overall effectiveness of governance. In the present electoral scenario, the increasing influence of regional parties signifies this challenge making it important for the central leadership to adopt structural and mechanisms for negotiations and conflict resolution.

2). Policy Continuity: Ensuring the continuity of policies remains a significant challenge in coalition government. Different perspective of coalition partners on critical issues such

as economic reforms, social welfare and infrastructure development may result in inconsistent policy implementation. Such unpredictability can create uncertainty in the investment climate and inhibit long term economic planning. In post-2024 India maintaining a steady policy trajectory is crucial to sustain investors' confidence and support strategic national initiatives

3). Political Stability: Coalition government are constantly vulnerable to internal disputes and withdrawal of support by alliance parties. This fragility can lead to frequent cabinet reshuffle, delays in legislative process and in extreme cases early dissolution of the government. Most importantly, political stability is essential not only to implement policy reform but also to maintain public trust by governing effectively.

4). Implementation Delays: Complex negotiations among coalition partners can result in delays in implementing large scale reforms and infrastructural projects, Policies often need to be modified to accommodate the interest of multiple stakeholders which can slow down execution and reduce governance efficiency. In the aftermath of the 2024 election where coalition politics has intensified the delays in implementing policies may pose a considerable risk to the timely delivery of development projects and welfare schemes.

Opportunities

1). Inclusive Governance: Coalition governance enhances the representational scope of policymaking by integrating regional and local interest into national decisions making. By accommodating diverse perspective, the government can develop policies that are more responsive to the social economic and cultural needs of diverse communities in the post 2024 context legitimacy and citizen engagement in governance processes.

2). Collaborative Policy Making: The coalition structure necessitate collaboration and negotiations which can foster more comprehensive and sustainable policy solutions. By incorporating multiple viewpoints, the resulting policies are more likely to reflect the complexity of social, economic and regional challenges. collaborative policy encourages creative problem solving and compromises that balance national priorities with regional needs

3). Regional development: Coalition partner often prioritise region specific development initiatives ensuring that local concerns are adequately addressed in the national policy agenda. This focus can reduce regional disparities, promotes balanced economic growth and reinforce cooperative federalism. Post 2024 ,the regional expertise and priorities of coalition partner could enable the government to design and implement policies that are better tailored to local socio-economic condition while maintaining national interest.

Conclusion:

To summarise the result of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, signify the beginning of a new era in Indian politics reflecting a serious change in the nation politics. As coalition politics become standard practices, the central government has to be more collaborative and strike a balance between nation goals and regional hopes. This change highlights the declining role of the national parties and the draining effect of the regional ones in the policy agenda of the national elections, the results of the elections also suggest that the electorate is moving not only beyond the binary of national party dominance but also seeking more localised and issue-based representation. This change presents both challenges and opportunities forcing the central government to be more inclusive and collaborative and

more practical. This transformation may ultimately result in more participative and representative politics that will balance populist pressures and budgetary restraint and support sustainable and equitable development for the people of India.

References:

- 1) Biswas, S. (2024, June 4). Why India's Modi Failed to win outright majority. BBC News.
- 2) Chaudhury, R, R., & Azad, S. (2024, June18). The Modi 3.0 Coalition Government: Challenges and Priorities.IISS.
- 3) Duggal, M., Mahapatra, S., Plagemann, J., Anand, A., Betz., & Hansen, M., P (2024). India after the Election: Trends and Implications. German Institute for Global and Area Studies.
- 4) Editorial. (2024, December 30). Rise of Regional Satraps: How Local Parties Shaped 2024 Election Landscape. The Times of India.
- 5) Editorial. (2024, June 6). In a Historic Feat, PM Gets Third Consecutive Term But Opposition Slows BJP Juggernaut. India Briefing.
- 6) Editorial. (2025, July 27). Modi 3.0: A Mandate Under Circumstances. Corporate Affairs and Public Policy.
- 7) Editorial. (2024, June 5). Lok Sabha Election 2024: BJP-NDA's Decisive Victory, Regional Shift, and the Resurgence of Coalition Politics. The Logic Stick.
- 8) Ghosh, S. (2024, June 6). Why 2024 Election Verdict Signal a Strong Resurgence of regional Parties-These are Five Reasons. CNBC.
- 9) Jaldi, A., S. (2024, June). Retrospective Analysis of the 2024 Indian Election: BJP Wins the General Elections Against the Strengthening Opposition of the INDIA Bloc. Policy Center for the South.
- 10) Jha, S., J. (2024, June 10). The Return of Coalition Politics in India. Down to Earth.
- 11) Kumar, S., &Kaur, R. (2025, April 25). Coalition Government in Indis: A historical overview.2025;7(4):299-304.
- 12) Luckscheiter, J., Shah, S., Y., &Rahman M., Z. (2024, June 7) The 2024 Indian Election: A new Political Landscape unfolds. Heinrich-Boll-Stiftung.
- 13) Nooruddin, I., & Bokhari, K. (2024 June 12). The Aftermath of India's 2024 Elections. News Lines Institute.
- 14) Palshikar, S. (2024, November 14). Understanding India's 18th Lok Sabha Election Outcome. Sage Journals.
- 15) Ranjan, A. (2024, June25). Rise of the Regionals. Frontline Magazine.
- 16) Rai, P. (2025, September 2). Decoding Election Mandate 2024 and Party System Change in India. Sage Journal.
- 17) Rai, P. (2024, November 25). Indian National Congress Failed to Revive Itself in General Election 2024, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CDCS),Delhi, India.
- 18) Ranjan, R. (2024.December 31). BJP'S Shaky Start, Regional Resurgence, INDIA Bloc Woes: Winners and Losers of 2024.The Times of India.
- 19) Rather, T., A. (2024, January). Coalition Politics in India. Futuristic Trends in Social Science.
- 20) Rosso, R, M. (2024, June 4). India's National Election: Surprise and Stability.CSIS

- 21) Sridharan, E. (2024) India Election and the Renewal of Coalition Politics. The Hoover Institution's Survey of India.
- 22) Suri, K., C., Mitra, S., & Verma, R. (2024, November 30). India's 2024 General Election Continuity and Change. *Economic & Political Weekly*. ISSN (Online)-2349-8846.
- 23) Tirkey, C., A. (2024, August 30). Governing in Fragments: Coalition Politics and Power-sharing in India. *Stallion Journal for Multidisciplinary Associated Research*
- 24) Wyatt, A. (2024, June 18). Political Pluralism: India's Party Politics Deliver Uneasy Win for BJP. *The Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy*.
- 25) Yadav, S., K. (2024, September 18). Coalition Politics in India: An Analysis of Political Alliances. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Invention*.