



BJP: A GLORIOUS JOURNEY

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Abstract

Bhartiya Janta Party came into existence in 1980. In early years BJP has made several efforts to expand its all India base it enjoys supports from Trading class, educated middle class, working class etc BJP slowly emerged as a strong force in northern India and year by years it improved its position in National Politics. BJP starts its journey from 2 seats and now party is able to get absolute majority in the Lok Sabha by winning 282 seats.

The Bharatiya Janata party is a major National Political party of India it came into existence on April 6, 1980 as a result of a split in the Janata Party. As it mainly consisted of erstwhile Jan Sangh members, who had merged with other parties to form the Janata Party in 1977, it is often held that the BJP is old Jan Sangh with new label Bhartiya Janata Party had made several serious efforts to expand its all India base in the few years, even though maximum number of its supporters are concentrated in northern India. Further, its supporters in Urban area far exceed its supporters in the rural area as its supporters consists of educated youth, small businessmen, government servants. In certain areas even the backward sections of society have also extended support to the BJP.

On 29th December, 1980 Bhartiya Janata Party in its session at Mumbai accepted the constitution and regulations of the Party According to section-2 of the new constitution of the party, it stands for nationalism, national integration Gandhian Socialism, Positive Secularism democracy. Value based Politics and Economic and Political Decentralization of late, the party has given up its adherence to the Principles of Gandhian Socialism; The party believes in 'Positive Secularism' and is opposed to the policy of appeasement towards any community.

Bharatiya Janata Party First time took part in the by-elections to Lok Sabha held in 1982, the Party captured 2 of the 7 seats for which it put up candidates. In the Lok Sabha elections of December 1984 however the party miserably failed and could capture only two seats. Uptill the election of the 9th Lok Sabha BJP slowly emerged as a strong force in northern India. In the Lok Sabha election of 1989 the party gave a good account of itself and managed to capture as many as 88 seats and secured 11.36% votes in Comparison to the two seats in the eighth Lok Sabha. In the UP Assembly elections held in February 1990 the BJP gave a good account of itself. It stormed to power in Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and emerged as the second largest party in Gujarat after Janata Dal became a Partner in Coalition government. In short, the BJP's performance in comparison to its performance during the earlier elections was indeed very impressive. In 10th Lok Sabha elections held in May-June 1991, BJP made substantial gains and got 119 seats and 22.9% votes. In assembly elections held in six states along with Lok Sabha elections also the party gave a good account of itself. In Uttar Pradesh the party received a clear cut mandate and formed government in the state for the first time under the leadership of Kalyan Singh . Besides this, the Bhartiya Janata Party formed governments in Himachal Pradesh Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan which were dismissed on December 16, 1992 on account of unfortunate happenings at Ayodhya. In short the BJP's performance in Comparison to its performance during the earlier elections was indeed very impressive. The Lok Sabha elections of 1996 produced a hung parliament with none of the Political Party or Political groups able to secure clear cut majority. But BJP gave a commendable performance and emerged as the single largest party with 161



seats. In this capacity Mr. A.B. Vajpayee (as a leader of the largest single party in Lok Sabha) was invited by the President of India to form the government. He was given two weeks time to prove its strength BJP form government at the centre along with its coalition partners like Samata Party Shiv Sena, Haryana Vikas Party and Shiromani Akali Dal etc. However, the BJP government lasted for barely 12 days as it could not muster the support of number of M.P's compulsory to prove simple majority in Lok Sabha.

In parliamentary elections held in 1998 the BJP improved its position considerably In the parliament it captured 182 seats as against 162 in the election of 1996, and formed a coalition government of 13 parties under the leadership of Sh. A.B. Vajpayee. Notable feature of the elections of 1998 was that the BJP with support of its electoral allies succeeded in capturing some seats in southern as well as eastern states.

In the Parliamentary elections of 1999 BJP succeeded in retaining its earlier strength in Lok Sabha, 182 although its coalition partners put up a better performance. The BJP led National Democratic Alliance managed to secure comfortable majority in the Parliament. In short it can be said that BJP which played a leading role in the formation of the Democratic Alliance on the eve of 1999 elections, greatly succeeded in providing a stable government. The victory of the party in Chhatisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh gave extra-ordinary confidence to the party due to this reason Party decided to go for early elections of Lok Sabha. The 13th Lok Sabha was dissolved almost seven months in advance. Under the leadership of Sh. Vajpayee Party decided to contest elections of 14th Lok Sabha with other Partners of NDA. Though the party had full confidence of winning the elections, yet the results of the elections came contrary to their hope. Party won only 138 seats and many senior ministers of the Party lost the elections.

In the Lok Sabha elections of 2009 Party made the slogan of strong Leader Decisive Government under the leadership of Sh L.K. Advani and the party was able to win only 116 seats. After remaining out of power of 10 years, the party had decided to contest the elections of 16th Lok Sabha with full preparedness and they pledge to oust Congress led UPA government Later on Sh. Narendra Modi was declared the Prime Ministerial Candidate of the Party and it was decided to contest the Lok Sabha elections under his command and made the slogans like 'Ab Ki Bar Modi Sarkar', Har Har Modi Ghar Ghar Modi etc.

He had expanded the National Democratic Alliance-NDA with 3 parties 29 parties were included in it and BJP was also able to expand its base in different parts of the country and was able to become an All India Party for the first time. We can analysis the performance of the party from the given table :

Year	Total Seats of Lok Sabha	No. of Seats Secured	Percentage of Votes
1984	529	02	7.4%
1989	525	88	11.36%
1991	511	119	21.9%
1996	543	161	23.5%
1998	543	182	25.4%
1999	543	182	23.7%
2004	543	138	22.00%
2009	543	116	18.8%
2014	543	282	31.5%



In the elections of 16th Lok Sabha Party Keeping aside the issue of caste, religion etc. and contested the election on the name of development and for this purpose Narendra Modi raised the slogan of ‘Sb Ka Sath, Sab Ka Vikas’. He was able to reach the hearts of the youth of India as a result of which he was able to get the support of the youth.

Modi talked about the all round development of India. As a result of this party was able to get the support of minorities. Besides this, the party was also able to get the support of slum dwellers middle class, rich people, woman and youth. As a result of this after a gap of almost 30 years a single party was able to get absolute majority in the Lok Sabha by winning 282 seats. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by BJP was able to win 336 seats of Lok Sabha.

Thus a new era had started in the political history of India. A party which won only 2 seats in the 1984 elections of Lok Sabha was able to won 282 seats in 16th Lok Sabha and form a government of its own. CONCLUSION:- Bhartiya Janata Party came into existence in 1980 and from 1980 to 1984 BJP did accomplish some of organizational takes at various fronts BJP’s electoral performance in 1984 Parliamentary elections was indeed Pathetic. But since 1989 till today performance of Bhartiya Janata Party has been quite good but performance of the party in the elections of 16th Lok Sabha was a grand success of the Party for the first time BJP had contested the election on the issue of development leaving behind the politics of religion and caste etc as a result of which the party was successful in getting the support of the people belonging to different castes and religions. Under the leadership of Sh. Narendra Modi the party was able to expand their support base and was able to win some seats of Lok Sabha from North Eastern states, Andhra Pradesh etc. Now BJP became a most powerful National Political Party in India.

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