



## Emergence of the regional political parties in India: an Analysis

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### Abstract:

*India has always had a diverse population in terms of languages, faiths, ethnicities, cultures, and geographical regions. For this reason, India is said to be a multilingual, multicultural, multiethnic regions. For this reason, India is said to be a multilingual, multicultural, multiethnic, and multi religious nation. The fundamental tenet of the Indian nation is multiculturalism. Despite its variety, India retains its national unity. Religion, language, location, caste, color, and the divide between the wealthy and the general populace, which is always expanding, are all ways that India's remarkable diversity in social and physical structure has been expressed. A country adopts its political institutions based on the makeup of its society, the diversity of its people and places, and its regional divisions. India's multi-party system is a good representation of the country's diversity and is crucial to the smooth operation of its democratic government.*

**Keywords:** Regional, Political, Parties, Population, Languages.

### Introduction:

In everyday usage, the term “regionalism” refers to specialization or loyalty to a particular location. According to the Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, regionalism is a federalist display and a transitional step between organizational decentralization and federalism. It includes several complexities of modern political and cultural life, primarily those of diverse minorities, local self-government, administrative decentralization, and autonomy, as well as the cult of one's place of birth and local devotion. (Bhambhari, & Chander Prakash., 2008) Regionalism and particularism are not always related. According to the average person, regionalism can be understood as a reaction to any repressive actions performed by the federal government. However, the idea or emotion of regionalism must not merely be understood from the perspective of political control or as a means of governing through the legislative and executive branches. The formation of regionalist perspectives, including historical, geographical, ethnic, racial, economic, and/or religious perspectives, is mostly the result of the amalgamation of several causes or issues. (Hofmeister, Wilhelm & Grabow, Karsten., 2011.)

### Regionalism: Its Nature and Context in India:

The word “regionalism” is a multidimensional composite phenomenon that derives from the word “region.” In the Webster's Dictionary, regionalism is described as “awareness of and devotion to a specific region with a homogeneous population.” A region is an area with a homogeneous population that shares comparable

physical and cultural traits, most of which differ from those of the nearby areas. This particular region can be sufficiently united, which can raise people's awareness of their customs, views, and ideals. As a result, they have a shared identity that can be distinct from that of the rest of the nation. The term "regionalism" refers to a local idea that is put into practise as a conviction or a social movement that can influence regional planning. The same holds true for the methodical task of defining and examining regions as entities lacking formal borders. [1]

Since independence, the pace of political engagement and economic growth has quickened, which has aided in the growing articulation of many groupings. The system continues to be overloaded by pressures and counter pressures coming from diverse organized interests, endangering the fragile fabric of national unity.

### **Meaning of the Regional /State Parties:**

Different criteria have been used to define regional parties. Regional parties are those that are confined to a single state and have strong ties to local aspirations and grievances. Because the party associates itself with specific geographic areas as well as cultures, languages, and religions, its support base is also restricted to that state. Regional and state parties are not differentiated by the Indian Election Commission, nevertheless. When choosing the type of celebration, two elements are taken into account. The number of states where it has widespread popular support for elections, as well as the proportion of votes it received in the state assembly and Lok Sabha elections, Political parties in India are divided into three categories by the Election Commission: national parties, state parties, and registered (unrecognized) parties. (Bhattacharyya, Dwaipayan., 2004) According to ECI, the National Party is the one that meets the following requirements: If a political party is treated as a recognized political party in four or more states, it will be referred to as a "National Party" throughout the entirety of India. However, this will only be true for the period of time that the political party continues to meet the requirements for recognition in four or more states based on the outcomes of any future general elections, whether for the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of any state. [2]

### **Rise of the Regional /State Parties:**

Regionalism has been in India since antiquity, but it has never been expressed with the same fervour and dedication as it is in modern India. (Kapur, 2006). While there were regional divisions during the colonial era, and some scholars have attributed them to it, the anti-colonial struggle was able to accommodate the regional forces and their demands within it, and the Indian National Congress played a crucial role in this process as it was an umbrella party that claimed to be representative of the various sections of the population. [3]

### **Reasons for the Emergence of the Separties:**

India has a very diverse population in terms of culture, religion, and language. For a nation like India, the emergence of sub-national aspirations—which have subsequently manifested in a variety of social and political demands—is entirely normal. The development of the regional parties in India has been significantly impacted by a number of concerns. [4]

### **Cultural Diversity:**

The continuity and heterogeneity of Indian civilization, as well as its tolerant past and complicated nature, set it apart from other civilizations. India's political culture was influenced by this cultural diversity as well.

### **Regional Inequality:**

India is a very diverse country in terms of culture, climate, topography, natural resources, and many other factors. Following independence, the government faced a significant challenge in terms of development due

to the country's damaged economic system that it inherited from the colonial authority. The government instituted centralized planning to address this problem, but it was ineffective in resolving regional discrepancies, and development stagnated in many parts of the nation.

### **Centralization of Power:**

The federal provisions of India's political system are unitary in nature. In India's federalism, the central government predominantly plays a bigger role. Following independence, the Congress Party established the national and nearly all state governments. Numerous centralized measures have been placed in the constitution to safeguard national integrity. The federalist system in India was further concentrated by the states and the predominance of the Congress at the national level.

### **Factionalism and Splits in Indian Political Parties:**

Factionalism and divisions among political parties are not a recent occurrence in the Indian party system. Some national political parties saw the emergence of dissident factions, which contributed to the division within the party. A number of regional and state-based parties have grown as a result of factionalism and party splits. Trinamool Congress, Kerala Congress, Janata Dal, Bangla Congress, Janata Dal Secular, Janata Dal (United), Pattali Makkal Katchi, Lok Jan Shakti Party, Biju Janata Dal, Forward Bloc, AIADMK, Oriya Congress, and Tamil Manila Congress are examples of factional splits within political parties. [5]

### **Trajectory of The Separties In The Indian states:**

In various states, these parties' trajectories have varied. In the middle of the 1960s, the Southern states experienced a powerful surge of regionalism that later evolved into the foundation of numerous political parties. Since the middle of the 1960s, Tamil Nadu's politics have only ever been regional or state-based; in contrast, the northern states have only recently experienced significant mobilization. The national parties, particularly Congress, have largely controlled the North Eastern states, and the emergence of regional and minor parties has generally followed racial divisions. [6]

The TDP has been successful in maintaining its former arrangement of its support base despite the change in policies following the N.T.R. All age groups consistently favour it, with women significantly more so than men. Its foundation is primarily rural. Less than 30% of urban voters favor it, while people who lack literacy and have low levels of education are more likely to support it. As was previously mentioned, the TDP has the support of more than 70% of Kamma voters, who make up its primary constituency. However, it is not only dependent on the Kammas for its support; it also enjoys a sizeable following among tribal people and a sizable following among OBC peasants, both of which helped the Telugu Desam win the election.

The residents of Karnataka did not allow the regional parties an opportunity to seize the reins of power, unlike in the neighboring states. The state has seen a multitude of regional parties come into existence with a bang, but all of these parties—with the exception of a few—have ended with a fizzle. Dissident Congressmen like S. Chenniah, T. Subramanya, and GnanaMukhi Anna Rao decided to create the JanathaPaksha in April 1965, which became the state's first regional party. The Jana Congress was established in January 1967 by former congressmen like H.M. Channabasavappa, Avala Reddy, and others. In the same month, H.K. VeerannaGowda, V. Venkatappa, and N. HutchamasthiGowda announced their resignations from the Congress, and VeerannaGowda announced that he would resurrect the former Mysore Congress. In the next round of elections, none of these parties had any influence. Even former Chief Ministers' parties did not last very long. K. Hanumanthiah founded the Surajya Party in September 1977. DevarajUrs founded the Karnataka KrantiRanga in April 1982, and many of the party's candidates won seats in the state Assembly in the January 1983 elections using the Janata Party's logo. However, the Karnataka KrantiRanga rapidly lost its identity after joining the Janata Party. Other past chief ministers of Karnataka, such as GunduRao and S. Bangarappa, also started their own political organizations, the Karnataka Congress

and the Congress (Indira Gandhi), respectively. GunduRao quickly re-joined the Congress after his party's lack of electoral success. Ten Assembly seats were gained by Bangarappa's party in the elections held in December 1994. But he too eventually returned to Congress. After being kicked out of the JD in 1996, Ramakrishna Hegde founded his own party, Lok Shakti. The party joined with other parties to establish a unified organization called Janata Dal in July 1991. (U). Yediyurappa and B. Sriramulu were two of the most recent leaders to create regional parties; after a short while, they united their respective organizations with the BJP. This could be the result of historical factors, social structures, or societal attitudes.

After India gained its independence in 1947, the name "Tamil Nadu" was given to the state of Madras. In south Indian politics, regional parties have a long history that dates back to the liberation movement. The country's southern states experienced regional movements mostly as a result of the system's unique social, political, economic, and cultural issues. The "Self-respect Movement," founded in 1925, the DravidaKazhagam, founded in 1949, the South Indian Liberal Federation, also known as the "Justice Party," founded in 1961, and the AIADMK, founded in 1972, were among the regional parties that raised the issue of non-Brahmins' ethnic and cultural pride. There were also several regional parties, such as the AarsuKazhagam and the Tamil DesiyaKatchi that proclaimed the exaltation of Tamil language, culture, and movements. [7]

The state politics of Tamil Nadu have been dominated by two regional political parties, the AIADMK and the DMK. The DravidKazhagam, led by Periyar, split into the Dravid Party, or DMK, which C.N. Annadurai helped create. Since realizing they had the power to both build and overthrow national governments, Dravidian parties have dramatically strengthened their influence in national politics. As a result, they began to assume an all-Indian and nationalistic stance and return to vehemently regionalist discourse, entirely altering their ideological viewpoint. The first is necessary to declare an all-Indian role, while the second is necessary to demonstrate that they have not lost sight of their fundamental ideological tendency. Political scholars have discovered that the DMK instance represents a change in the outlook of all Indian nationalism. As a counterbalance that pushed Tamil culture toward Hinduization, the DMK also replaced the Sanskrit prayers in temples with Tamil prayers (Archanas). The "Saiivites," who were devout Hindus but weren't Brahmins, supported this move by the DMK. The AIADMK has typically avoided talking about the Dravidian movement's non-Brahmin history. During the AIADMK's tenure in Tamil Nadu, the Vinayak cult has grown. In this sense, the DMK and AIADMK travel in the same ideological space.

Kerala has a different party structure than the other states of the Indian Union. Since 1977, the state has been affected by the anti-incumbency trend. Since the late 1970s, the Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Democratic Front and the Congress-led United Democratic Front have held sway over state politics. Since 1982, this partnership has alternately controlled the states. Except for the BJP, most of the other political parties in the state are members of one of these alliances.

Even before India gained independence, the states of North India were politically engaged. A region known as the "second democratic uprising" is made up of the states where caste-mobilization developed as a dominant force. As the current state of Punjab consisted of Haryana, Chandigarh, and Himachal Pradesh, the Congress initially controlled state politics in Punjab. The character of state politics dramatically changed with the redistribution of the state boundaries. ShiromaniAkali Dal (SAD), one of the oldest regional parties in India, has grown to be a strong regional force in Punjab. It was founded prior to the country's independence. In the early 1920s, the party was largely founded to reassert the traditional Sikh religious community's dominance over the "Gurudwaras," or houses of worship for the Sikh community. The Akali Dal played a crucial role in the fight to create Punjab as a distinct state with the majority of the Sikh population. The party served as the leader of the state's coalition government in 1967 and 1977. In 1985, it was successful in creating its government. The 1980s saw the rise of religion as a major political issue in Punjab, but the 1990s saw the return of normal politics and the democratic process, which brought regional identity issues and the financial concerns of various socioeconomic groups to the fore. The Akali Dal

progressively split into factions as the 1980s went on. Three Akali Dal organizations ran for office in the 1989 elections, winning a combined seven seats.

Despite having a large number of Muslim supporters, the Jammu and Kashmir-based National Conference, a regional or state-based party, did not support the All-India Muslim League (Muslim League) during the independence movement. Instead, it allied itself with the Indian National Congress. Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, the party's most prominent political figure, and his son Farooq Abdullah, after he passed away in 1982, were strongly associated with the group. Jawaharlal Nehru had a good friendship with Sheikh Abdullah. However, despite their closeness, Nehru imprisoned Sheikh Abdullah when he was concerned that the "Lion of Kashmir" might push for the independence of Jammu and Kashmir. Sheikh Abdullah eventually managed to reach an agreement with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and in 1975 he was appointed Chief Minister of J&K. Through the 1980s, the NC remained the dominant party in Jammu and Kashmir and was able to maintain statewide control for the majority of the decade. NC won one of the six parliamentary seats in Jammu and Kashmir in the 1967 legislative elections, none in the 1971 Lok Sabha elections, two in the 1977 elections, and three in the three elections that followed in 1980, 1984, and 1989. However, the suspicions of electoral fraud in the 1987 assembly elections, which the National Conference won in a coalition with the Congress, drastically weakened the NC's broad support (I). The significant corruption charges against Farooq Abdullah's successor state government also played a role in the decline of electorate support. The National Conference, which at the time of Sheikh Abdullah was winning elections with a sizable majority, began to gradually lose its public appeal, which led to its demise and propelled the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the Congress toward victory. NC consistently made a number of mistakes that alienated the general populace and reduced its level of popularity. The NC's alliance with the BJP, which had never before enjoyed higher popularity in the Kashmir valley, proved to be its biggest mistake. The party's continued alliance with the BJP, even after the 2002 Gujarat riots, was the last straw, as Omar Abdullah acknowledged in the Indian Parliament.

Prior to the 1990 announcement of the President's authority in Jammu and Kashmir and the dissolution of the local government, the general public showed little support for the National Conference or Farooq Abdullah. It was challenging to determine the level of public support for the National Conference during this time because the President's reign had remained until 1996 without any elections. However, it is now a well-known fact that Farooq Abdullah and the National Conference continue to be despised by the general populace. [8]

The "Peoples' Democratic Party" (PDP), which also co-ruled the state with the BJP, is a significant regional party in the state. With the rise of PDP, the dominance of a single party within the Assembly was first contested, and party politics entered its third phase.

Uttar Pradesh (UP), a state with a population larger than Brazil, Pakistan, or Russia, a state that has produced several Indian prime ministers, and a state that elects one out of every seven members to the Lok Sabha, has been one of the major theatres of India's electoral politics, where new actors appeared on stage not only to compete for political power but also to replace the National Parties as the ruling parties. It is the only state in India where four of the country's major political parties compete in elections. Up until 2014, the main rivalry was between Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party (SP).

The BSP was founded in 1985 as a provincial party, mostly backed by Dalits, but over time it rose to become a national party. The Janata Dal is where the Samajwadi Party got its start. The party is now regarded as a state-based political party because it was unable to expand its base outside of Uttar Pradesh. The Samajwadi Party has made numerous attempts to expand its influence outside of Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Maharashtra, by relying on Hindi-speaking voters and Mumbai's Muslim population. SP had a significant impact on the political developments in Mumbai throughout the 1990s. SP is perceived as a Yadav and Muslim party in its own state of UP. The BSP's appeal to a sizable portion of the Dalit vote in Uttar Pradesh has pushed the SP's growth to the breaking point. However, the Samajwadi Party's success in Uttar Pradesh

can be attributed to its ability to successfully maintain its base during the tumultuous 1990s in the state's chaotic political spheres, such as the RJD (RashtriyaJanata Dal). The SP and BJP are in a fierce battle for UP's OBC electorate, just like the BSP and SP were for the state's Dalit votes.

Castes, which are always at odds over social dominance and political power, are at the centre of Bihar society and politics. The RJD and the Samata Party are the two main state parties in Bihar. These two parties share the Janata Dal as their common ancestor. The advancement and uplift of OBCs is important to the RJD's philosophy, while the Samata Party has made its name with its anti-Lalu campaign, which mainly focused on concerns about good governance. Samata Party is one of the BJP's first allies since 1996, with the exception of Shiv Sena. The Samata Party's support base is comprised of the OBC peasant population of Kurmis in Bihar.

Lalu Prasad's RJD was established in 1998, and in 1999, RJD forged a partnership with the Congress party, despite Congress' Bihar being less than thrilled about this alliance. In Bihar, Lalu Prasad established a powerful coalition of OBCs, SCs, and Muslims. The OBC's support, however, was unable to materialise for the RJD. Since the party is predominantly a Yadav-based party and operates with the support of Yadavs, whose population in the state is roughly 11%, Lalu Prasad Yadav's leadership and direction have been linked to a steady increase in Yadavs in Bihar.

Since the political parties' political bases shifted over this decade, the 1990s are typically regarded as a decade of political upheavals. Only a few political systems or parties were able to maintain a consistent portion of their core supporters. Because of its wide support base and the fact that the accusation that it is only a Yadav party fell hollow, it is noteworthy that the RJD has been successful in maintaining its core voter base during the chaotic 1990s. For instance, in the 1999 general elections, the RJD was able to win a balanced amount of support from voters across a range of ages and educational groups. RJD earned less support from younger voters and just slightly more support from voters who were 46 years of age or older. Additionally, contrary to popular belief, educated voters supported the party more than voters without a high school diploma. Compared to supporters from the opposing community, fewer women supported the RashtriyaJanata Dal. RJD has received more support in urban areas than in rural ones. Almost 17% of voters in rural areas and 32% of voters in urban areas chose the RJD in 1999. The RashtriyaJanata Dal has a broad support base in terms of the community, including Yadavs, low-OBCs, Muslims, and SCs. However, there was some decline in the support for the RashtriyaJanata Dal across various social classes. Numerous survey sets of data from the general elections in 1998 also show the same pattern of OBC, SC, and Muslim support for RJD.

It is important to note that over a third of RJD voters still reside in the lower OBC category. On the other hand, the Samata Party seems to have benefited from its alliance with the BharatiyaJanata Party. Apart from lower OBCs (who make up 1/3 of Samata votes), the voters and supporters of the Samata Party are a mix of upper castes and Rajputs. Together, they account for 30% of the party's votes. As a result, it is clear that both top and lower castes are represented in the Samata Party. It's interesting to note that the Samata Party receives support from roughly 40% of upper-caste voters and 65% of Rajput voters. This demonstrated that, unlike Lalu's RJD, the Samata Party is not seen by the upper castes as an OBC party, in line with the political description. Compared to their urban counterparts, rural voters are more likely to support the Samata Party. It's interesting to note that the Samata Party is somewhat more popular and widespread among male voters than the RJD.

Only Maharashtra in India's Central and Western States has a significant regional party presence. With the primary goal of advancing the interests of "Sons of the Soil," or essentially Maharashtrian youth, Bal Thackeray created the Shiv Sena in 1966. The Hindutva ideology remains the foundation of the right-wing political group known as the Shiv Sena. In the 1980s, the Shiv Sena saw tremendous growth, and in the 1990s, it attained national prominence. Sena has been charged with starting multiple riots in Maharashtra, primarily the riots in Mumbai in the late 1960s, the riots in Bhiwandi in 1984, and once more the riots in

Mumbai in 1992–1993. The youngest son of Balasaheb, Uddhav Thackeray, currently handles the everyday SHS business. For many years, Balasaheb presided over the party, leaving a significant mark on Maharashtra politics. Due to its declining political support, the party has turned to communal and regional radicalism but has instead suffered as a result.

Politics in West Bengal have historically sparked a lot of debate. When left-leaning forces began to exert their influence in the state's electoral system and other facets of mass politics in the 1960s, observers voiced significant concerns about the goals and practicalities of various left-leaning initiatives. The debate's first stage began when the Communist Party of India broke apart in 1964. On January 1, 1998, the AITMC split off from the Congress Party, which Mamata Banerjee had been a part of for 20 years. She confronted the CPM's three decades of uninterrupted rule in West Bengal, which seemed too entrenched to be challenged.

Localized forces had served as the foundation for non-Congress politics in Orissa. Even though the Swatantra Party also played a significant role in state politics, the Jana Sangh (1967–1971), Jharkhand Party, and Utkal Congress (1971–1972) were largely responsible for the formation of the administration. It might be argued that the nature of the middle class and upper caste political elites in Orissa has also contributed to the consolidation of Oriya politics based on the area. Even when Nandini Satpathy and Biju Patnaik decided to take part in non-Congress amalgamation at the national level, their state-level politics remained centred on the regional debate. The Orissa branch of the Janata Dal has a reputation for independent operation under Biju Patnaik's direction. It joined the pan-Indian party primarily to provide doors for a regional leader to enter the national political scene. Following the death of Biju Patnaik, the JD unit in Orissa swiftly fell apart under the leadership of Naveen Patnaik, who promptly shifted his allegiance to the BJP, the national party in India. This choice was made in light of two factors: first, the new leader was drawn to the BJP by the logic of anti-Congressism, and second, the BJP was expected to play a role at the national level. The collapse of the United Front was perceived as a threat to any regional or state-based party that believed that the only way to reach the national centre was to join forces with the BJP. Thus, Naveen Patnaik has established himself—and, by extension, his political party, the BJD—as the major hub of Orissa's anti-Congressism, despite political pundits' warnings that the BJP may eventually challenge the BJD's status as the state's foremost anti-Congress political force.

The multiple nature of these regions is sometimes disregarded when the northeastern region is described as a single homogenous entity for political, administrative, and geographical purposes. In the NE states, there are many distinctions and differences that are mostly based on language, race, political beliefs, religion, and geographical qualities—each state has distinctive traits. Despite these divisions, the majority of the populace and the states have come together to oppose the policies set forth by the Union government towards this particular region. Every ethnic group makes an effort to be distinct from other groups and has its own worldview; therefore, they have pushed for autonomy both inside and outside of the constitutional framework.

The largest state in India's north-eastern area is Arunachal Pradesh. However, there are around a million people in the population, and they are highly culturally, linguistically, and religiously diverse. In 1987, Arunachal Pradesh became a sovereign state. Prior to that, the first general election for the Legislative Assembly took place in 1978 after the first general election for the Parliament was held in 1977. As voters base their decisions more on the ethnic identity of the candidate than the political party, ethnic identities have had a considerable impact on the electoral outcomes in the states. In Arunachal Pradesh, regional and state-based parties are likewise seen to have sprung from ethnic reflections and have their own histories. The People's Party of Arunachal Pradesh was established in 1977 with the goals of addressing the aspirations and needs of the local population as well as preserving the unique culture of Arunachal Pradesh and its diverse tribes. "Arunachal Congress," the second regional movement in the shape of a political party, was the result of increased ethno-political consciousness among the Arunachal natives over the concerns of settlement and immigration expulsion.

Assam has long been a stronghold of the Congress. After 1952, the Congress maintained its hegemony in Assam's electoral history for another three decades. A non-Congress government came to power in the 1978 Assembly elections, which was the first significant obstacle. Since 1985, the multi-ethnic nature of the state's electoral politics has begun to emerge, and the Congress's single-party hegemony with its high degree of political fragmentation has given way to a multi-party system.

From the Advisory Council to the Territorial Council to the first state assembly elections conducted in March 1972, Manipur had come a long way. Local issues like economic development, unemployment, the need for transportation infrastructure, and the role political parties played in the statehood campaign were the main topics of contention. In 1972, the Territorial Assembly became a fully-fledged state with a governor in charge. Congress's hegemony over state politics came to an end in the 1972 election, which also saw the development of a regional party as a rival to the former.

On December 26, 1968, a group of Indian National Congress dissidents created the Manipur Peoples Organization (MPP), a political party in Manipur. The party won five of the 60 seats in the state elections held in February 2007. With the intention of preserving the state's territorial integrity, MPP implemented various political changes in Manipur. A fundamental goal of MPP was to protect the ethnicity and identity of the Manipuri people, who, in the opinion of party members, were in danger due to the massive influx of "outsiders."

Regional parties like the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the Naga Nationalist Organization have primarily dominated Nagaland (NNO). The Congress did not come to power in the state until the Assembly elections of 1982, and under SC Jamir's leadership, Congress won every election from 1993 to 2003. The two themes of increased Nagalism and the Eastern region's backwardness made up the emotional aspect of electoral competitiveness that started to rule Nagaland at the beginning of the decade. [9]

#### **Expansion of influence of regional /Stateparties:**

Although the nature of the Indian party system appears to reflect the erratic nature of Indian electoral politics and has been analysed as a shift towards a "new one-party dominance," tumbling the role of the regional and state-based parties in Indian politics, it would be illiterate to draw any conclusions about the Indian party system. The results of the most recent parliamentary elections undoubtedly show that while regional parties' percentage of the vote has remained solid, their share of seats has declined. Regional parties won 51.3 percent of the vote in the 2004 Lok Sabha elections, and they then managed to reach a new high of 52.6% in the 2009 elections. However, the trend could not be maintained, and it fell to 48.6% in the 2014 parliamentary elections, which was on par with the performance of the regional political parties in the 1998 general elections. The seat share, on the other hand, has followed a completely different path. Regional parties controlled 47.9% of the seats during the 2004 elections; however, due to significant fragmentation, this number plummeted to 40% in the general elections of 2014. Every general election has resulted in the expansion and fragmentation of political parties; for instance, the 2019 Lok Sabha elections saw the participation of 7 national parties and 43 state parties.

Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Rajasthan do not have a significant presence from the regional political parties. Two tiny breakaway groups with roots in the Janata Dal and BJP had emerged in Gujarat, but none of them could endure for very long, which opened the door for a bipolar contest between the BJP and Congress. As opposed to Gujarat, Karnataka has some potential for regional politics because the two JD groups combine for a quarter of the electorate.

The United Democratic Front and Left Front are the two distinct political fronts that make up Kerala's political fragmentation. Minor state-level political parties are important allies in both of these alliances, but the Congress and the Communist parties control politics on a national level.



Orissa has a unique interplay of many historical, economic, geographical, and social variables that has produced a distinctive cultural trait. In the 1952 election for the legislative assembly, regional influences on the state's politics became apparent. The regional political parties Ganatantra Parishad and, later, Swatantra Party, first polarised politics along regional lines. Regionally focused parties like the Jana Congress, Utkal Congress, Ganatantra Parishad, and Swatantra Party won the most seats in the legislative assemblies from 1952 to 1974. The Ganatantra Parishad gained 31 seats in the Assembly in 1952, 51 members in 1957, and 36 seats in the 1961 elections. Later in 1967, the Jan Congress picked up 26 seats; in 1971, the Utkal Congress won with 33 seats; and in 1974, it strengthened its lead to 35 seats. The state politics of Goa were likewise dominated by the two state political parties, the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party and the United Goans Party. Local political parties in Karnataka were successful in winning 41 seats in the 1967 state elections alongside independent candidates, while local political parties in Andhra Pradesh were successful in getting 70 seats in the legislature alongside independent candidates. In total, RSP and the Forward Block won 22 seats in 1962, 13 seats in 1967, and 33 seats in the West Bengal state elections of 1969. The 1980s saw a rise in the AGP in Assam and the TDP in Andhra Pradesh. Following this analysis, it is clear that before 1990, when these parties first entered national politics, regional parties dominated state and regional politics in many states. To sum up, political parties with regional or state roots predominated at the state level in several states prior to 1990. [10] Ideological positions of the regional / State parties:

These parties don't fit into either the Left or the Right wing categories when their ideologies are examined. These parties primarily came into being on the basis of anti-Congressism, highlighting issues such as self-respect, state autonomy, and economic inequality; they filled the void left by the demise of the Congress. A wide variety of regionalist positions are covered by regional parties. The majority of the time, they bring up issues pertaining to local pride and identity, which also include requests for respect for local history, culture, and language. The appeal for the state to have more autonomy, which emphasizes the role of the governor and Article 356 of the Indian Constitution, is another aspect of regional ideology. These needs can occasionally coexist with concerns about investment, industrial advancement, and backwardness. Therefore, identity, statehood, autonomy, and development are the most frequently used justifications by the regional parties.

It is important to keep in mind that two or three parties may reflect the interests of the same class when assessing the ideological makeup of these parties. The operation of numerous conflicting and competing ideologies is reflected in the ideological classification of the major political parties. Based on their philosophies, it is obvious that these parties represent a variety of ideologies that occasionally clash with one another. Regionalist parties that primarily focus on identity issues, like the DMK in Tamil Nadu and a portion of the Akali Dal in Punjab, can also have an outlook on the future and a commitment to change. [11]

### **Social bases of the regional /State parties:**

The emergence of regional parties triangulated politics. The conventional pattern of voter preferences evolved along with the development of the regional political parties. Voter turnout increased with the entry of new voter groups. In the majority of the states, the regional parties were successful in securing a larger proportion of the vote. The Congress suffered a loss of support in states like Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal as a result of this mobilization. The social base of the regional and state-based parties undoubtedly increased as a result of the loss of the Congress's support base, but this article only addresses one facet of that social base. The division of the non-Congress and non-BJP votes, similar to the division of the Janata Dal into numerous groups that occurred in Bihar, Karnataka, and UP, was another significant element that contributed to these parties' support bases.

The concept of anti-Congressism was a regional party concept that arose in the majority of the states, which further influenced both their ideological position and social base. Additionally, it limited their options when forming the electoral alliance. These parties formed an alliance with the BJP while ignoring the Congress because they were founded on anti-Congress sentiments. The BJP's breakthrough into Karnataka in 1998

was largely made possible by the regional political parties' alliance with that party, Lok Shakti, which broke the Vokkalinga and Lingayat axis. It forced the Lingayat group into the BJP's union while isolating the Vokkaligas. Similar work was done by the Samata Party in Bihar, where their coalition with the BJP created a new social bloc of the lower castes. With the Marathas' consolidation in Maharashtra in 1999, the NCP advanced, which later made it possible for the BJP-Shiv Sena coalition to win over the OBC vote. [12]

### Conclusion:

In the various Indian states, regional and state parties have emerged in ways that differ from those described above. Contrary to some of the party system change literature on India, there is not a consistent trend for regional parties to arise in all the states. The main driving forces behind the emergence of regional parties in southern states have been regional pride, identity, and the aspiration for separate statehood. With the exception of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, the states of North India saw a strong caste mobilization, which further paved the way for the development of these parties. Regional parties like the Akali Dal, National Conference (NC), and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) developed along ethnic lines in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir and demanded greater autonomy under the nation's federal structure. The analysis of the various theoretical perspectives on the creation of regional parties reveals that no one theory can adequately account for the emergence of these parties. These parties' rise has been a complicated phenomenon influenced by many different reasons.

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