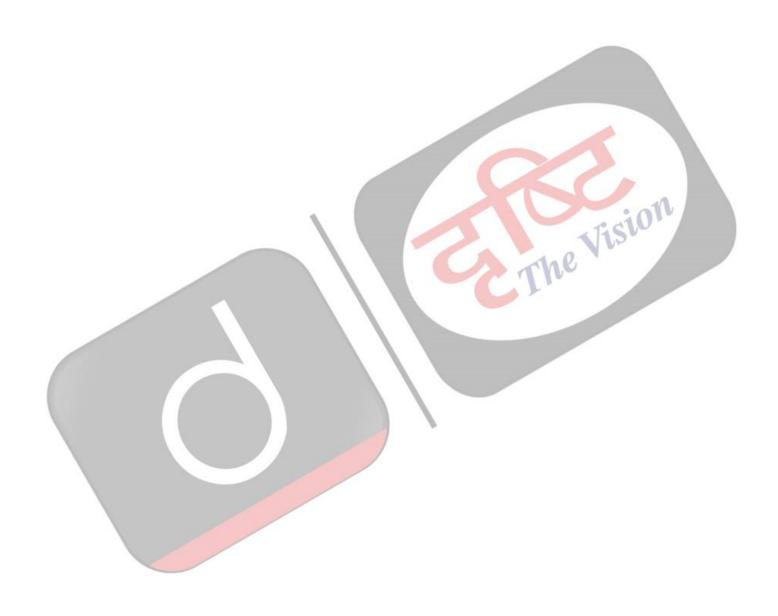


Rise of Regional Parties in India



Introduction

- ☐ India has a multi-party system of democracy.
- ECI based on poll performance grants recognition to political parties as national or state parties.
- ☐ There are eight "recognized national" and more than 50 "recognized state" political parties.

Regional Parties in India

In India regional parties are based on themes

- □ **Identity:** Based on the recognition of the cultural rights of the inhabitants of the states.
- □ **Statehood:** It demands an independent state within the country.
- ☐ **Autonomy:** Asks for greater powers to the states.
- □ **Development:** Thinks only regional party can bring development in the region.
- Sometimes regional parties create these 'cultural specificities' for electoral gains.

Various Stages of the Indian Party System

- □ **1952-64:** Indian democracy was a one-party system, termed as 'Congress system'.
- 1964-77: After the Nehru era and 1967 elections growth of regional parties came about.

1977-80: Emergence of a multi-party system, in the aftermath of emergency, led by Janata Party in 1977.

- 1980-89: More assertive role of regional parties in centre politics. For eg: TDP as the regional party was the main opposition party in 1984 Lok Sabha.
- □ 1989-2014: Era of coalition politics started.
- 2014 till now: Return of Single party dominance; 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Implications of Regional Parties

□ Compulsions of coalition

- Policy paralysis and delay in decision making.
- Rainbow' coalitions: 1996-1999 had 3 general elections, which cost a lot of public money.
- Competition for vote banks based on caste and community.

□ On the positive side

- Regional parties have strengthened the cooperative federalism trends of our federal system.
- Regional parties filled a vacuum by projecting the issues related to minorities and safeguarding their interests.
- They provided a new dimension to the process of national integration and nation-building.

Way Forward

- Regional parties are a natural consequence of diversity and democracy in India.
- ☐ Thus, their growth is in synergy with the entire spirit of democracy.







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