



Loksabha election 2014: An analysis

Farooq Ahmad War

Research scholar, Department of political science and public administration

Vikram University Ujjain (M.P)

Email: sahabwar10@gmail.com

Abstract: *This paper is going to examine the whole march of 2014 Lok Sabha Election. Ever since the inauguration of the constitution of free India on 26' January, 1950 so far as many as 16 general elections have been successfully conducted in the largest democracy of the world. The organization and conduct of general elections in India has always been highly complex and huge task. Large and ever increasing electorate (which registered a very big increase at the time of the lowering of the voting age from 21 to 18 years) the large number single member constituencies the creation of several*

Lok Sabha of India is bi-cameral parliament, with the upper house being the Rajaya Sabha. The members of Lok sabha are directly elected by the people on the basis of adult franchise, representing parliamentary constituencies across the country. It has 545 members. The house meets in the Lok sabha chamber of the Sansad Bhavan in New Delhi. A total of 131 seats (24.03%) are reserved for representatives of scheduled caste (84) and scheduled tribes (47). The quorum for the house is 10% of the total membership. The Lok sabha unless sooner dissolved, continues to operate for 5 years from the date appointed for its first meeting. However, while a proclamation of emergency is in operation. This period may be extended by the parliament by law.

Key words: *Lok Sabha Election, Constitution Of Free India, Democracy, Constituencies, Parliamentary.*

Objectives:

- To highlight the march of Lok Sabha Elections in India as general.
- To highlight the march of Lok Sabha Election 2014 in particular.
- To highlight the role played by the UPA and other political parties in general and BJP in particular.

Methodology: This paper is based on descriptive research and the secondary sources were used in the completion of this present paper.

Introduction

The entire nation gears up for the Lok Sabha elections 2014 to constitute the 16th loksabha. This election was spread over a long period of time from 7th April to 12th May 2014. Its longest time ever and it was held in 9 phases. Voting took place in all the 543

constituencies across India to elect the members of parliament. As we know the Lok Sabha elections in India is always witness a fierce battle, this time too, it promised not to be different. Loksabha elections 2014 exit poll results were favoring the opposition parties. The ruling alliance of UPA was predicted to be ousted from power. With this prediction the alliance of NDA was obviously over-enthusiastic. The main constituents of UPA which was the ruling alliance since the last decade were the Indian national congress party. Whereas the main constituents of NDA were Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) Lok Janshakti party, DMK, and Shiv Sena with other groups to back it.¹ The total elective membership is distributed among all the states in such a way that the ratio between the number of the seats allotted to each state and the population of the state is, so far as predictable, the same for all states. The number is divided among the 28 states and 7 union territories.²

The organization and conduct of general elections in India has always been highly complex and huge task. Large and always raise electorate(which registered a very big increase at the time of 1989 election because of the lowering of the voting age from 21 to 18 years), the large number of single member constituencies, the creation of several thousand polling stations throughout the length and width of the country.³ It goes to the credit of people of India in general and the election commission the machinery of the conduct of elections in particular that sixteen general election and a large number of elections to the state legislative Assemblies and bye-elections have successfully organizing today. The people have exercised with reasonably maturity, their sovereign power to elect their representatives. They have used these opportunities for approving or disapproving the act of commission on the part of ruling as well as opposition parties. Till today as for as Indian politics is concerned 16 elections have been conducted. The elections held in the year 2014 were the 16th general elections in India.⁴

Importance

The general election is a part of the constitutional process and takes place every five years to elect the new Government of the country in 2014, through a lot more was pointed through the following:

- The anti burden wave in India against the UPA which had ruled India for 10 years was going stronger due to all scandals and allegations of corruption against the UPA Government.
- Rise of NarendraModi as a Prime ministerial candidate from BJP due to his successful Gujarat model a fast increase in the “Modi wave” was shown, which attracted people from every part of India.
- In India everyone was looking for a change from the current Government, look for an awake India. India wanted a complete change of the Indian governance.

- The 2011 India against corruption movement led by Anna Hazare look a new move of the common man into politics.
- Emergence of AAP as a promising party start a new drive in India, by achieve citizens to fight against corruption by changing the system itself.
- Three times resignation of Delhi chief minister Sheila Dixit of the India national congress (INC) from her post after a shameful defeat in the Delhi legislative Assembly election 2013.
- BJP had won the Vidhansabha elections in Goa, M.P, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Punjab.
- Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) president M. Karunanidhi broke its alliance with the INC for loksabha elections.
- The congress is facing a leadership crises, with Rahul Gandhi, argued the strongest applicant for the position of PM candidate, not viewed as a good choice by political leaders and analysts alike.⁵

Results:

In the 2014 Elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 282 seats. The Indian National Congress (INC) secured 44 seats. The BJP for the first time has won a majority of seats on its own and it is the only the second time that a non-Congress party has succeeded at securing majority by itself. The number of registered political parties in this year's Lok Sabha polls was a record 1687. However, out of these 464 parties participated in the elections. In the First General Elections only 53 parties had participated. The number kept on increasing significantly and reached 209 in 1996 elections. The figure stood at 363 during the 2009 Parliamentary elections. A total of 8251 candidates contested the elections, out of which 668 were women and 7,578 were men. Five transgender also contested the polls. The winning percentage of women in the General Elections 2014 is 9.13 per cent while that of Men is 6.36 per cent. The average number of contestants per seat is 15.2.

Sl.No	Party	Number of Contestants	Won	Success Percent age	Seat Share %	Vote Share %
1	Bahujan Samaj party (BSP)	503	0	0	0	4.14
2	Bharitiya Janta Party (BJP)	428	282	65.89	51.93	31.0
3	Communist Party of India Marxist CPI(M)	93	9	9.68	1.66	3.25
4	Communist Party of India (CPI)	67	1	1.49	0.18	0.78
5	Aam Admi Party (AAP)	432	4	0.93	0.75	2.5
6	All India Anna Dravida Munerta	40	37	92.5	6.81	3.27

	Kazhagam					
7	Nationalist Congress Party	36	6	16.67	1.11	1.56
8	Indian National Congress	464	44	9.48	8.1	19.31
9	All India N.R. Congress	1	1	100	0.18	0.05
10	All India Trinamool Congress	131	34	25.95	6.26	3.84
11	Biju Janta Dal(BJD)	21	20	95.24	3.68	1.71
12	Indian Union Muslim League	25	2	8	0.37	0.2
13	Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party	5	3	60	0.55	0.13
14	All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF)	18	3	16.67	0.55	0.42
15	Indian National Lok Dal	10	2	20	0.37	0.51
16	Jharkhand Mukhti Morcha	21	2	9.52	0.37	0.67
17	Janta Dal Secular JD(S)	34	2	5.88	0.37	0.67
18	Janta Dal United	92	2	2.15	0.37	0.67
19	Kerela Congress	1	1	100	0.18	0.33
20	Revolutionary Socialist Party	6	1	16.67	0.18	0.3
21	Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK)	9	1	11.11	0.18	0.33
22	Lok Jan Shakti Party	7	6	85.71	1.11	0.41
23	National Peoples Party	7	1	14.29	0.18	0.1
24	Naga People's Front	2	1	50	0.18	0.18
25	Rashtriya Janta Dal	30	4	13.33	0.75	1.34
26	Shiromani Akali Dal	10	4	40	0.75	0.66
27	Samajwadi Party	197	5	2.54	0.92	3.37
28	Sikkim Democratic Front	1	1	100	0.18	0.3
29	Shivsena	58	18	31.3	3.31	1.85
30	Telgu Desam Party	30	16	53.33	2.95	2.55
31	Telangana Rashtira Samithi	17	11	64.71	2.03	1.22
32	Yuvajana Srimaka Rythu Congress (YSRC)	38	9	23.68	1.66	2.53
33	Swabhimani Paksha (SWP)	2	1	50	0.18	0.2
34	All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMUM)	5	1	20	0.18	0.12
35	Apna Dal (AP)	7	2	28.57	0.37	0.15
36	Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP)	4	3	75	0.55	0.19
37	Desiya Murpokku Dravidra Kazhagam (DMDK)	14	0	0	0	0.38

38	Dravida Munnettra Kazhagam	35	0	0	0	1.74
39	Communist Party of India (Marxist Leninist) Liberation (CPI ML (L))	82	0	0	0	0.18
40	Bahujan Mukti Party (BMUP)	232	0	0	0	0.14
41	Marumalarchi Dravida Munnettra Kazhagam (MDMK)	7	0	0	0	0.26
42	All India Forward Bloc(AIFB)	39	0	0	0	0.18
43	Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajantrik) (JVM)	16	0	0	0	0.29
44	Independent	3235	3	0.09	0.55	3.02
45	Others	---	---	---	0	2.81
46	Total	8251	543	100	100	98.92

	NOTA Votes	1.08
	Total	100

The performance of political parties in some States shows some interesting facts. In Odisha, the BJD's share of national votes is only 1.71 per cent while its seat share is 3.68 per cent. Out of 21 seats in the State, it secured 95 percent of seats (20) with a vote share of 44.1 per cent in the State. The AIADMK's national vote share is 3.27 per cent but its seat share is 6.81 per cent. Inside Tamil Nadu, it got 44.3 per cent of votes and bagged 37 of the 39 seats. In West Bengal, the AITC with 39.3 per cent of votes polled in the State bagged 80.95 per cent of seats. With a national vote share of 3.84 per cent, its seat share is one of the characteristic features of this election is that some of the parties got a proportionately fair share of votes but could not win a single seat. In Odisha, the INC got 26 per cent of votes polled in the State but no seat. While the BJP got 21.5 percent and won one seat. In Tamil Nadu, the DMK even though secured 23.6 per cent of votes polled in the State, did not get a single seat. While the BJP and the PMK with 5.5 and 4.4 per cent of vote share in the State, respectively, got one seat each. Similarly in West Bengal, the CPI (M) with 22.7 per cent of vote share in the State managed to get only two seats. In Uttar Pradesh, the BSP even with a vote share of 19.6 per cent in the State could not secure a single seat. While, the INC with only a vote share of 7.5 per cent in the State secured two seats. One of the new entrants to the poll fray during the General Elections 2014, the AAP had put up over 400 candidates across the country. However, it could win only four seats. But, in terms of vote share, its performance in two States, Delhi and Punjab, is creditable. In Delhi, it got 32.9 per cent votes, improving upon its vote share from the last State Assembly elections held in December 2013 when it had got 29.49 per cent votes. It lost out decisively to BJP this time

because BJP itself improved its vote share to 46.4 per cent from 33.07 per cent in December 2013. Despite an impressive vote share of 32.9 per cent, the AAP could not get any seat from Delhi. In Punjab, AAP got nearly 24.4 per cent votes, and secured four seats. Incidentally, if comparisons are drawn from the past, unlike BJP winning a majority on its own this time, no party has ever before won more than half the seats with a vote share of just 31 per cent. The previous lowest vote share for a single party majority was 40.78 per cent of the total valid votes polled in the General Elections 1967, when the Congress won 283 out of the 520 seats.

Independent Candidates

The 2014 General Elections have seen the lowest ever number of Independent candidates getting elected. Out of a total of 8251 contestants, 3235 were Independent candidates and out of this, only 3 candidates have been elected. In the previous General Elections held in 2009, the total number of Independent candidates was 3831 out of which 9 were elected. The highest ever number of Independents elected was 42 during the 1957 General Elections. The number of Independent candidates contested was highest at 10636 in the 1996 General Elections.

Winning Margins

The winning margins are significantly up this election. With the size of the electorate growing, large winning margins have become real and frequent. The last 2009 election was more closely fought, which was revealed in the winning margins. There were 27 winners in the over 2 lakh victory margin band in 2009 whereas in 2014, 166 candidates have won with over 2 lakh winning margin. 200 candidates have won their seats by securing more than 50 per cent of votes polled (206 candidates with NOTA votes).

A large number of candidates have forfeited their election deposits in the elections. A total of 7000 out of the 8251 contestants have forfeited their deposits. Thus, out of the 15.2 candidates contesting per seat, on an average, only 2.5 contestants per seat have been able to retain their deposits.

None of the Above (NOTA) Option

Pursuant to the direction issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 27 September 2013, a provision was made for button for None of the Above (NOTA) option on the Ballot Units (BUs), below the name of the last candidate, so that electors who did not want to vote for any of the Candidates could exercise their option by pressing the button against NOTA. The percentage of NOTA votes in the 2014 General Elections is 1.08. Among the States, the maximum number of NOTA votes were polled in Meghalaya (2.80 percent), followed by Chhattisgarh (1.83 per cent) and Gujarat (1.76 per cent). Among the UTs, Puducherry registered the highest share of NOTA votes (3.01 per cent) followed by Dadra & Nagar Haveli (1.79 per cent) and Daman & Diu (1.51 per cent). In certain constituencies, the number of NOTA votes was many times more than the winning margins. The position as it exists is that even if the number of electors opting for NOTA option is more than the number of votes polled by any of the candidates, the candidate who secures the largest number of votes has to be declared elected. In case there is only one contesting candidate in the fray, the Returning Officer has to declare the sole contesting

candidate as elected and the provision of NOTA option which is an expression of decision not to vote for the contesting candidates is not relevant in such cases.

Women Candidates' Performance

The 2014 General elections saw a record number of women contestants and a record number of women winners. Out of total of 8251 candidates contested, 668 were a woman which constitutes 8.1 percent. A record number of 62 women have been elected as compared to 59 women elected in the General Elections 2009. This accounts for 11.42 per cent of the 543 electives seats, while 88.58 per cent of the seats are being represented by men. The least number of women winners was in 1977 (19) followed by 1971 (21) and 1952 (22). In the 2014 General Elections, Uttar Pradesh recorded maximum number of women winners, i.e., 13, followed by West Bengal with 12 winners and Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra with 5 winners each.

Voting Pattern

The 2014 General Elections have earned the distinction of recording the highest voter turnout ever at 66.4 per cent with a record number of 11.4 crore voters added in the last five years. This election surpasses the last higher 64.01 per cent polling witnessed in the 1984 polls. The voter turnout was 58.21 per cent in the 2009 polls. The Voter turnout was at its lowest, i.e., 44.87 in the 1951 General Elections held to constitute the lok Sabha. The top performer constituency in terms of voter turnout was Dhubri in Assam, which recorded the highest turnout at 88.22 per cent followed by Nagaland at 87.82 per cent. Srinagar of J&K recorded the lowest turnout at 25.90 per cent, followed by Anantnag of the same State at 28.84 per cent.. The highest male voter turnout was reported in Nagaland (88.15 per cent) while the highest female voter turnout was reported in Lakshadweep (88.42 per cent). Female voter turnout (in percentage) was higher than male voter turnout in 15 States and UTs. The ones with difference of above 2 per cent of voters included Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Goa, Odisha and Uttarakhand. There are four Union Territories namely, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep and seven States namely, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand, where though male electors constitute majority, the female voter turnout outnumbered the male voter turnout. Details are as under:-

State	Male Electors	Male Voters	Male Turnout %	Female Electors	Female Voters	Female Turnout %
Bihar	34,092,938	18,779,230	55.08	29,668,858	17,106,136	57.66
Chandigarh	333,621	244,956	73.42	281,593	208,499	74.04
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	106,215	87,800	82.66	90,402	77,486	85.71
Daman & Diu	57,011	42,378	74.33	54,816	44,855	81.83

Himachal Pradesh	2,474,430	1,569,632	63.43	2,335,641	1,528,869	65.46
Lakshadweep	25,433	21,585	84.87	24,489	21,654	88.42
Odisha	15,194,309	11,032,523	72.61	14,001,732	10,499,752	74.99
Punjab	10,327,116	7,262,625	70.33	9,280,892	6,582,507	70.93
Sikkim	190,886	158,222	82.89	179,725	150,745	83.88
Tamil Nadu	27,571,785	20,249,949	73.44	27,542,720	20,370,491	73.96
Uttarakhand	3,751,098	2,268,767	60.48	3,378,841	2,123,123	62.84

Gender Dimensions in Voting Pattern

The difference in the male and the female voter turnout is showing a declining trend over the successive General Elections. From a staggering difference of 10.98 percent in the male and female voter turnout during the 1971 General Elections, prior to which gender-wise breakup of electors was not available, the difference is now at the all time low of 1.79 per cent. The next lower figure for the voter turnout difference was during the 1984 General Elections when it was 2.6 per cent.

Voting Percentage: Male v/s Female Since 1971

General Election	Year	Male %	Female %	Difference %
5 th	1971	60.09	49.11	10.98
6 th	1977	65.3	54.91	10.62
7 th	1980	62.16	51.22	10.94
8 th	1984 S-85	61.2	58.6	2.6
9 th	1989	66.13	57.32	8.81
10 th	1991-1992	61.58	51.35	10.23
11 th	1996	62.06	53.41	8.65
12 th	1998	65.72	57.88	7.84
13 th	1999	63.97	55.64	8.33
14 th	2004	61.66	53.3	8.36
15 th	2009	60.24	55.82	4.42
16	2014	67.09	65.63	1.46

Election Expenditure

The election expenses ceiling for candidates was revised by the Government of India vide Notification dated 28 February 2014. As per the revised ceiling, the maximum limit of election expenses for a Lok Sabha Constituency is Rs.70 lakh per candidate for all States except Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Sikkim. For these three States, it is Rs.54 lakh per candidate. For



the Union territories, the maximum limit is Rs.70 lakh per candidate for NCT of Delhi and Rs.54 lakh per candidate for other UTs.

Government's expenditure on an elector has gone up manifold since the 1st General Elections. In the first elections, the Government spent Rs. 0.60 on an elector whereas it was Rs. 12 in the 2009 General Elections and Rs. 41.6 in the General Elections 2014. Rupees 10.45 crore were spent in 1951-52 whereas an amount of Rs. 84667 crore was for General Elections 2009 and Rs. 3468.73 crore (provisional) in the General Elections 2014.⁶

An Analysis

BJP got a historic victory in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections and become the first party since Rajiv Gandhi landslide victory in 1984. What happens on the 16th May 2014 can be described just one word- MODI-fication. It was a charisma of Modi that NDA got mega 336 seats and BJP alone got 282 seats; this was first time in Indian history. This clearly shows that a man coming from a backward class in a country like India, where class system is evidently dominant. The congress was reduced to poor 44, all over India which was very below the wildest imagination of the political analysts. The beating was so hard that the congress could not even manage to get 55 seats required to nominate the leader of the opposition.

In Uttar Pradesh, people rejected caste-based politics reducing Mayawati's BSP to nothing and SP to an unexpected 5, and that too of family only. Congress could only get 2 seats, those of Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi. It shows that the voters no longer can be influenced by caste and class based wind. Even Muslims voted for MR. Modi in for more numbers than was expected.

The congress lonely failed and could not even open its account in nine states- Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Odessa, Tamil Nadu, Uttrakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Goa. On the other hand, BJP won all the seats in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Goa.

Now the elections are over, and we have a new government with new vision and new policies and all the promises made by BJP will be fulfilled by new government. For that we should have to wait for sometimes to see the ambitions and after the result 2014 loksabha elections, saw many fresh things occurring and will go a long way in defining the outline of Indian democracy. This time there was the highest turnout of the voters- 66.4% which was an indication that the people of India had made up their mind to throw out a corrupt and non-functional government. For the first time perhaps, that the political system of India was shaken up so badly after the elections. Many CMs finding it hard to save their chairs. Similarly, many political parties have been removed out of the political map of India. Many parties have dissolved their organizational



setups. The clear message of India is blunt perform, rise above from petty politics, rise above cast and religion or you will be shown the right path.

Lessons for the country as a whole

These elections strengthen the principles of democracy and faith of the country has been stronger in democratic system. People of India have the power to punish rude, non-functional and corrupt, that can only be done with the power of vote. If you come out and vote, you can decide your own future and future of this nation at large. Youth has played a dynamic role in this election and will always important in shaping this country through democratic changes.

Lessons for politicians in general

In a democracy, people who can make you or defeat you, you can no longer ignore people of the nation, or take them for granted. You cannot bank on the caste and the religion card. Performance is the only tool for making your success. Defunct, corrupt, rude and indecisive leaders will be shown their right place.

Lessons for Congress

A party which was established in 1885 and ruled this country for more than 50 years was miserably defeated. The oldest party was reduced to an all-time low of 44 seats. Nothing could be more disgraceful for an established party like congress there are various reason for this kind of defeat. First of all there was the very bad image of the UPA, specifically UPA-II due to so many scams coming to limelight. Be it 2g, Coal Gate, Adarsh society, common wealth Games etc. They have combined to project a wrong image of the government. It looked as if most of people in government are looting this country rather than ruling it. That is why 94 % of the minister could not save their seats. This was the biggest factor in the defeat of UPA. All throughout the UPA government Manmohn Sing looked like a dummy PM with virtually no power to act or control his ministers. Decision making was always in the hands of UPA Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. What could be more disgraceful to a PM, than the fact that a decision taken by his cabinet is mocked by their own Vice-chairperson in open public? And, decisions are changed just because your Vice-Chairperson does not like it. What could show more clearly that somebody else is running the show? The question that naturally arose was: who is accountable for all the decisions being made by the government? This was a dangerous precedent started by the Congress were the accountable were not making decision, and the people who were taking decision are not accountable. This was a dangerous mistake lo Congress which they rightly paid for.

Congress should do a reality check and deeper introspection. If they find out that they have failed due to poor leadership (which is one of the major factors), they should give a thought to change



it we seem impossible at present. At present, we seeing more voices rising against leadership, which are bound to, and then is a much strong under current than what is visible. The unfortunate part is that nobody in congress is ready to listen to these voices. One more important factor in the defeat of congress is its strategy to handle social movements like Anna Hazare movement or Baba Ramdeve Agitation which went utterly wrong and congress paid for it in the elections. It is very clear that Rahu Gandhi has been time, and it is time to start seeing beyond the Gandhi family. Congress needs to nurture leaderships at various levels and respects social movements it wants to survive.⁷

Conclusion

In the 2014 Elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 282 seats. The Indian National Congress (INC) secured 44 seats. The BJP for the first time has won a majority of seats on its own and it is the only the second time that a non-Congress party has succeeded at securing majority by itself. The number of registered political parties in this year's Lok Sabha polls was a record 1687. However, out of these 464 parties participated in the elections. In the First General Elections only 53 parties had participated. The number kept on increasing significantly and reached 209 in 1996 elections. The figure stood at 363 during the 2009 Parliamentary elections.

A total of 8251 candidates contested the elections, out of which 668 were women and 7,578 were men. Five transgender also contested the polls. The winning percentage of women in the General Elections 2014 is 9.13 per cent while that of Men is 6.36 per cent. The average number of contestants per seat is 15.2. The 2014 General Elections have seen the lowest ever number of Independent candidates getting elected. Out of a total of 8251 contestants, 3235 were Independent candidates and out of this, only 3 candidates have been elected. In the previous General Elections held in 2009, the total number of Independent candidates was 3831 out of which 9 were elected. The highest ever number of Independents elected was 42 during the 1957 General Elections. The number of Independent candidates contested was highest at 10636 in the 1996 General Elections. The winning margins are significantly up this election. With the size of the electorate growing, large winning margins have become real and frequent.

The 2014 General elections saw a record number of women contestants and a record number of women winners. Out of total of 8251 candidates contested, 668 were a woman which constitutes 8.1 percent. A record number of 62 women have been elected as compared to 59 women elected in the General Elections 2009. A party which was established in 1885 and ruled this country for more than 50 years was miserably defeated. The oldest party was reduced to an all- time low of 44 seats. Nothing could be more disgraceful for an established party like congress.

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