

## Politics in India:-At a Glance:A Study of Indian Political System and Elections

Dr. Nirmala Rana.

Associate Professor Department of Political Science Bhagini Nivedita College University of Delhi, Delhi.

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**ABSTRACT:** This article is an attempt to analyze the nature of transformation in the Indian political parties and to rethink their role in the contemporary times. That parties are motivated to 'serve' the people and inspired to 'win' elections is well documented. However, there are counter-examples of parties serving people at a price or being equally powerful even while losing elections. Forming or sustaining a party seems to be a survival strategy for political activists. Politics has become a business-like preoccupation. The recent climate of competition has led to the emergence of sizable rent-seeking professional leaders. They calculate the returns on the political and economic investments made, which is not confined to a zero-sum game of winning elections. There are pay-offs even when one loses an election. Being in politics, a party activist has a distinct identity that could reap dividends in the form of prestige, status and accessibility. These could be converted to pecuniary benefits. Parties look like business firms in a political market. India having a population of a billion and a quarter and an electorate of 814 million (2014) - is the world's largest democracy and this democratic system stands in marked contrast since independence. **Politics** is the way that people living in groups make decisions. Politics is about making agreements between people so that they can live together in groups such as tribes, cities, or countries. In most countries, people have formed political parties to put forward their ideas. There is usually some disagreement between people within a party, but they work together because they feel that they agree on enough things, and they will have more power if they join together. They agree to take the same position on many issues, and agree to support the same changes to law and the same leaders. An election is usually a competition between different parties. India have a multi-party system in which various parties take part in electoral system and forming the government on the basis of majority; these political parties time to time evolve political mechanism differently at different point of time. As these days, alliance governance is the main postulates of Indian political system. **Politics** involves making common decisions for a group of people. It is the activity by which differing interests within a given unit of rule are conciliated by giving them a share in power in proportion to their **importance** to the welfare and survival of the whole community. The study focus on understanding the knowledge of the political science discipline; its principal theoretical frameworks and applications, conceptual vocabulary, and methods of inquiry; its major subfields of study; and its interrelationships with the other political fields. The study focus on understanding of basic facts and concepts about the Indian political system, including its history, philosophical, constitutional and legal foundations, leading political values and ideas, governing institutions, and policy-making processes. The study also addresses diverse political systems, including empirical area-based knowledge; broader theoretical understanding of different political systems, institutions and processes; and the changing domestic and global contexts within which they operate. The study discusses the fundamental values and ethical issues contested in politics over time; and of alternative moral and ethical frameworks for interpreting and evaluating contemporary political discourses.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

The most common form of government is the multi-party system. In such a system, there are three or more parties which have the capacity to gain control of the government separately or in a coalition. In case, no party achieves a clear majority of the legislative seats, then several parties join forces and form a coalition government. Countries like India follow a multi-party system. Some people are of the view that a multi-party system often leads to political instability in a country.

India is the largest democracy in the world. India has the biggest number of people with franchise rights and the largest number of political parties, which take part in election campaign. In the 2014 national elections, almost 814 million people voted and taking part in democratic system. Politics (from Greek: Politiká, meaning "affairs of the cities") is the process of making decisions that apply to members of a group. It refers to achieving and exercising positions of governance, and organized control over a human community, particularly a state. The academic study focusing on just politics, which is therefore more targeted than all Political science,

is sometimes referred to as Politology. In modern nation-states, people have formed political parties to represent their ideas. They agree to take the same position on many issues and agree to support the same changes to law and the same leaders. Politics is a multifaceted word. It has a set of fairly specific meanings that are descriptive and nonjudgmental (such as "the art or science of government" and "political principles"), but often does carry a connotation of dishonest malpractice. A variety of methods are deployed in politics, which include promoting one's own political views among people, negotiation with other political subjects, making laws, and exercising force, including warfare against adversaries. Politics is exercised on a wide range of social levels, from clans and tribes of traditional societies, through modern local governments, companies and institutions up to sovereign states, to the international level. It is very often said that politics is about power. A political system is a framework which defines acceptable political methods within a given society. The history of political thought can be traced back to early antiquity, with seminal works such as Plato's Republic, Aristotle's Politics and the works of Confucius. The word comes from the same Greek word from which the title of Aristotle's book Politics also derives; polis means "affairs of the cities". The book title was rendered in Early Modern English in the mid-15th century as "Polettiques"; it became "politics" in Modern English. A political party is a political organization that typically seeks to attain and maintain political power within government, usually by participating in electoral campaigns, educational outreach or protest actions. Parties often espouse an expressed ideology or vision bolstered by a written platform with specific goals, forming a coalition among disparate interests.

The politics of India takes place within the framework of its constitution. India is a federal parliamentary democratic republic in which the President of India is the head of state and the Prime Minister of India is the head of government. India follows the dual polity system, i.e. a double government that consists of the central authority at the centre and states at the periphery. The constitution defines the organisation powers and limitations of both central and state governments, and it is well-recognized, rigid and considered supreme; i.e. the laws of the nation must conform to it. There is a provision for a bicameral legislature consisting of an upper house, the Rajya Sabha, which represents the states of the Indian federation, and a lower house i.e. Lok Sabha, which represents the people of India as a whole. The Indian constitution provides for an independent judiciary, which is headed by the Supreme Court. The court's mandate is to protect the constitution, to settle disputes between the central government and the states, to settle inter-state disputes, to nullify any central or state laws that go against the constitution and to protect the fundamental rights of citizens, issuing writs for their enforcement in cases of violation. Governments are formed through elections held every five years (unless otherwise specified), by parties that secure a majority of members in their respective lower houses (Lok Sabha in the central government and Vidhan Sabha in states). India had its first general election in 1951, which was won by the Indian National Congress, a political party that went on to dominate subsequent elections until 1977, when a non-Congress government was formed for the first time in independent India. The 1990s saw the end of single-party domination and the rise of coalition governments. The elections for the 16th Lok Sabha, held from April 2014 to May 2014, once again brought back single-party rule in the country, with the Bharatiya Janata Party being able to claim a majority in the Lok Sabha. In recent decades, Indian politics has become a dynastic affair. Possible reasons for this could be the absence of party organisations, independent civil society associations that mobilize support for the parties and centralized financing of elections. The Economist Intelligence Unit rated India as a "flawed democracy" in 2016.

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:-

The survey of literature plays a significant role in establishing the backdrop for any research work in social sciences. To analyze any field of study, it is vitally important to go through and discuss, various books and articles written by many eminent scholars and writers who have vividly and sagaciously studied and analyzed with their perception. So an attempt is made to review important work. William in his book **The Meaning of Democratic Participation (1975)** mentioned ten types of activities in political participation. Biju M. R., in his work **Parliamentary Democracy and Political Change in India (1999)** mentioned that there has been a perceptible change in the status of women in India in the last few decades. Palmer in his book **Elections and Political Development (1976)** opines that political participation is granted in a modern society than in traditional society; it is greater in a developed society than in developing societies. This study indicates a higher degree of political participation on the part of Indians. 84 percent of the Indian electorates engage themselves in more than one of the political activities including voting and almost half of the Indian electorate participate in politics in one or more ways other than voting. Hadimani in her article **The Politics of Poverty (1987)** reports that though the scheduled castes have seats constitutionally reserved for them in local village Panchayats to enable them to function on equal footing with others in decision making process, either they are absent or do not talk nor do they give their signature endorsing their consent simply for small gifts like petty cash or few measures of grains. Singh finds younger age group more politically conscious compared to older age group. However, political participation on the part of scheduled castes is more a group activity than an individual

activity. **Dr. Madhav Godbole (2011) “India’s Parliamentary Democracy on Trial”** Dr. Godbole has in his book under reference critically reviewed the Indian parliamentary democracy in vogue and analyzed the issue critically and provided a few suggestions which go a long way in improving the present system. Because of the various high positions that he had held in the government the book can well be treated as authentic. **Md. Manzurul Karim** mentioned in his article on “White paper on Political system of India: An example of a Sustainable Democracy, pointed out the current problems face by the political system and sustainable aspect of democracy.

**Dr. B. L. Fadia: (2011) Book titled Indian “Government and Politics”** In the first section the author has take an overview of the Indian political system. The author has discussed the nature of the party system prevailing in India. This needs to be understood to know the importance of mechanism of the Electioneering. In a democratic set up Political parties assume greater importance. Although the political parties informally express and form the public opinion. They influence the electorate greatly. The political parties mobilize the electorate. In the parliamentary system any political party which secures highest seats becomes the ruling party and the party which gets minority votes becomes the opposition party. And therefore, to decide which party has the support of maximum electors the mechanism used is that of election

**India After Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy by Ramachandra Guha** explains the magisterial account of the pains, the struggles, the humiliations, and the glories of the world's largest and least likely democracy, Ramachandra Guha's India After Gandhi is a breathtaking chronicle of the brutal conflicts that have rocked a giant nation and the extraordinary factors that have held it together. **Indian Government and Politics has been written by Hoveyda Abbas** and a detailed study of Indian government and politics in 2010 A History Of Political Theory by **George H. Sbine** has discussed the history of political theory. Public Administration has been written by M. Laxmikanth and published by Tata McGraw Hill; explain the bureaucratic and administration structure of the country. **Pradeep Chhibber (March 2013)**. "Dynastic parties Organization, finance and impact". Party Politics by Sage Journals mentioned the parties’ organization and its dynastic character. Prakash Chander and Prem Arora has authored a book on "Nature of Party System in India". Comparative Politics & International Relations. Cosmos Bookhive; explained the party system in India and throw light on its comparative politics. **Basu, Amrita; Chandra (Editor), Kanchan (2016)** has written Democratic Dynasties: State, Party and Family in Contemporary Indian Politics (1 ed.). Cambridge, UK:- Cambridge University Press, opinions on the issues relating to the Contemporary Indian politics. **Shively, W. Phillips: Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science— Parliamentary Government in India.** McGraw Hill Higher Education, discussed on parliamentary government in India. **Arun Shourie** has written The Parliamentary System and mentioned in it “What we have made of it, what we can make of it”

A careful review of literature reviews that sixteen factors were identified by researchers as factors that influence electoral behaviour. They are caste, Rudolph and Rudolph (1967), Ram Sagar Singh (1969), Ramashray Roy (1970), Chibber, P.K. (1999), Zoya Hasan (2001), Lucia Michelutti (2004), Muneshwar Yadav (2004), Sandeep Shastri and Harish Ramaswamy (2004), Verma, A. K. (2004), Chandra, Kanchan (2004), Sandeep Shastri and Padmavathi, B. S. (2009), Rahul Verma (2009), Suri, K.C., Narasimha Rao, P. and Anji Reddy, V. (2009) and Ganshyam Shah (2010). Caste and Party, Kothari (1964), Andre Betelle (1970) and Rajeswari Desh Pande and Nitin Binnal (2009). Religion, Blair, H.W. (1979), Maria Do Ceo Rodrigues, Prabhat Kumar, William Joe, and Soland Da Silva (2004) and Mohd Sanjeer Alam (2009). Education and Performance, Madhu Varshney, Y.C. Nigam (2000) and Elkins, David, L. (1975).

### **III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:-**

The study focus on understanding the knowledge of the political science discipline; its principal theoretical frameworks and applications, conceptual vocabulary, and methods of inquiry; its major subfields of study; and its interrelationships with the other social science fields. The study focus on increase understanding of basic facts and concepts about the Indian political system, including its history, philosophical, constitutional and legal foundations, leading political values and ideas, governing institutions, and policymaking processes. The study also addresses diverse political systems, including empirical area-based knowledge; broader theoretical understanding of different political systems, institutions and processes; and the changing domestic and global contexts within which they operate. The study discusses the fundamental values and ethical issues contested in politics over time; and of alternative moral and ethical frameworks for interpreting and evaluating contemporary political discourses. The major objectives of the study are as:-

1. To understand the Indian Political System and to understand the Role of High Political Offices in India and of alternative moral and ethical frameworks for interpreting and evaluating contemporary political discourses:- a) President of India, b) Vice-president of India, c) the prime Minister and Union council of Ministers
2. To analyze and study the Indian Politics in terms of Elections of 2014 and the role of political parties and to assess the alliances of political parties,

3. To understand the Political issues of Indian politics:- a)Social Issues, b)Economic issues, and c)Law and Order

#### **IV. IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY**

In our country, there are several political parties that stand for the election. The presence of the political party is actually a healthy situation for the nation. It gives the people a choice to make a more evolved and effective decision. Moreover, it drives the other political parties to get better than their competitors to win elections and rule the nation. A democracy cannot exist without the presence of a political party. Every candidate in the election would be an independent candidate. Any individual candidate does not have the efficiency to promise any major policy change to the people. In such a scenario, no one will be responsible for how the country is run. In the long run, only a representative democracy can survive. Political parties are the agencies that gather different views on various issues and present them to the government. India, i.e. Bharat, as stated in her constitution is a 'Union of States' and follows a democratic parliamentary system of governance. The well developed and fully evolved form of democracy that we witness today in India has taken a long span of time to be matured. It has seen both ups and downs, but has managed to survive successfully. That is why the study important to analyze the pillars of democracy and how these pillars functions. There are many factors which worked for the success of India's democracy.

#### **V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:-**

The study is based on secondary data which has been collected from the various newspaper, online and offline media, election commission reports, magazines, journal and TV reports and books written by well-known authors. Furthermore, secondary data can also be helpful in the research design of subsequent primary research and can provide a baseline with which the collected primary data results can be compared to. Therefore, it is always wise to begin any research activity with a review of the secondary. Secondary data are those which have already been collected and analyzed by someone else. The sources of published data are as below:

- i. Official publications of Central and local governments.
- ii. Official publications of semi government statistical organization.
- iii. Official publication of foreign government or international bodies like the UNO, World Bank, ADB, WTO, UNESCO, etc.
- iv. Reports and publications of Trade union, Chamber of Commerce, Commercial Banks, Co-operatives, Stock Exchange etc.
- v. Report submitted to economists, re-search scholars, universities and various educational and research institutions.
- vi. Reports of various committees and commissions appointed by government.
- vii. Newspaper and Periodicals and Books

Now most of the information that is available to people and researchers in regard to social problems is to be found in form of reports. The reports published by Government are considered as more dependable. On the other hand some people think that the reports that are published by certain individuals and agencies are more dependable and reliable. Journals, Books and magazines are important public documents including a wide variety of information which can be usefully utilized in collection of data in this study. Most of these information are very much reliable. Newspapers publish news, discussion on contemporary issues, reports of meetings and conferences, essays and articles on living controversies and the letters of the readers to the editors; all this has been used in this research paper. Besides the above mentioned public documents, film, television, radio and public speeches etc., are other important sources of information for writing this paper. However, reliable materials have been sorting out, and distinguishing it from the unreliable material advanced by these sources.

#### **VI. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE STUDY**

India - with a population of a billion and a quarter and an electorate of 814 million (2014) - is the world's largest democracy and, for all its faults and flaws, this democratic system stands in marked contrast to the democratic challenges over the years. The Indian political system is a much more recent construct dating from India's independence from Britain in 1947 and different from American and British political systems. The constitution of Indian came into force on 26th January 1950 and stands on the pillars of justice, liberty and equality for all citizens. The Constitution of India is consisting of 444 articles, 12 schedules and 98 amendments, with approximate 146,000 words in its English language version and the longest written constitution of any sovereign country in the world. The constitution of India has been one of the most amended national documents in the world with 98 changes in just over 70 years. Most of the amendments have resulted over the strife between the parliament and Supreme Court on the issue of parliamentary sovereignty as they

clash with those of the judicial review of laws and constitutional amendments. The draft committee formed the constitution by keeping in mind Anglo-Saxon idea of federalism, as the Indian federal system had borrowed from the United States, Canada and Australia, while India lower house named as Lok Sabha modeled on the British House of Commons. While the framers of the Indian constitution certainly had in mind this Anglo-Saxon idea of federalism, historically the central government has dominated over the regional states. The constitution has granted under article (1) status to India as a "Union of States", and it's called as Quasi-Federal System.

**6.1.To understand the Indian Political System and to understand the Role of High Political Offices in India and of alternative moral and ethical frameworks for interpreting and evaluating contemporary political discourses:- a) President of India, b) Vice-president of India, c) the prime Minister and Union council of Ministers.** The study undertakes the objective to understand the Indian Constitutions and its working firstly. The following points brought out the importance of parliamentary system of India:-

**6.1.1. The Executive:** The head of state in India is the **President**. This is normally a ceremonial role, originally modeled on the British monarch to "advise, encourage and warn" the elected government on constitutional matters. The **President** can return a Parliamentary Bill once for reconsideration and, in times of crisis such as a hung Parliament, the role is pivotal. The President can declare a state of emergency which enables the Lok Sabha to extend its life beyond the normal five-year term. As members of an electoral college, nearly 5,000 members of the national parliament and state legislators are eligible to vote in the election of the President. The current President is Ram Nath Kovind, a member of the dalit (untouchable) caste. There is also the post of **Vice-President** who is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of both houses of parliament. **The Vice-President** chairs the upper house called the Rajya Sabha. The head of the government is the **Prime Minister** who is appointed by the President on the nomination of the majority party in the lower house or Lok Sabha. In May 2014, Narendra Modi, leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), became PM, having never previously held office at national level. Ministers are then appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Prime Minister and these ministers collectively comprise the Council of Ministers.

**6.1.1.1. President of India:-** The Constitution of India lays down that the Head of State and Union Executive is the President of India. S/He is elected for a five-year term by an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament and members of legislative assemblies of the states. The President is eligible for re-elections; however, in India's independent history, only one president has been re-elected, Rajendra Prasad. The President appoints the Prime Minister of India from the party or coalition which commands maximum support of the Lok Sabha, on whose recommendation he/she nominates the other ministers. The President also appoints judges of the Supreme Court and High Court. It is on the President's recommendation that the Houses of Parliament meet, and only the president has the power to dissolve the Lok Sabha. Furthermore, no bill passed by Parliament can become law without the president's assent. However, the role of the president of India is highly ceremonial. All the powers of the president mentioned above are exercised on recommendation of the Union Cabinet, and the president does not have much discretion in any of these matters. The president also does not have discretion in the exercise of his executive powers, as the real executive authority lies in the cabinet. The current President is Ram Nath Kovind.

**6.1.1.2. Vice President of India:-**The Office of the Vice-President of India is constitutionally the second most senior office in the country, after the President. The vice-president is also elected by an electoral college, consisting of members of both houses of parliament. Like the president, the role of the Vice-President is also ceremonial, with no real authority vested in him/her. The Vice-President fills in a vacancy in the office of President (till the election of a new president). His only regular function is that he functions as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. No other duties/powers are vested in the office. The current Vice President is M.Venkaiah Naidu.

**6.1.1.3. The Prime Minister and the Union Council of Ministers:-**The Union Council of Ministers, headed by the Prime Minister, is the body with which the real executive power resides. The Prime Minister is the recognized head of the government. The Union Council of Ministers is the body of ministers with which the PM works with on a day-to-day basis. Work is divided between various ministers into various departments and ministries. The Union cabinet is a smaller body of ministers which lies within the Council of Ministers, which is the most powerful set of people in the country, playing an instrumental role in legislation and execution alike. All members of the Union Council of ministers must be members of either House of Parliament at time of appointment, or must get elected/nominated to either House within six months of their appointment. It is the Union Cabinet that co-ordinates all foreign and domestic policy of the Union. It exercises immense control over administration, finance, legislation, military, etc. The Head of the Union Cabinet is the Prime Minister. The current Prime Minister of India is Narendra Modi.

**6.1.1.4. The States Governance<sup>7</sup>-**India has a federal form of government, and hence each state also has its own government. The executive of each state is the Governor (equivalent to the president of India), whose role is ceremonial. The real power resides with the Chief Minister (equivalent to the Prime Minister) and

the state council of ministers. States may either have a unicameral or bicameral legislature, varying from state to state. The Chief Minister and other state ministers are also members of the legislature. India is a huge country both demographically and geographically and consequently it operates a federal system of government. Below the national level, there are 29 States and seven Union Territories for a total of 36 entities. The states and union territories are further subdivided into districts and smaller administrative divisions. The largest of India's states is Uttar Pradesh (UP) in the north of the country. With 207 million inhabitants, UP is the most populous state in India and is also the most populous country subdivision in the world. On its own, if it was an independent nation, this state would be the world's fifth biggest country. Only China, India itself, the United States, and Indonesia have a higher population. In Indian general elections, it fills more than one-seventh of the seats in India's Parliament and, such is the state's caste-based and sometimes violent politics that, currently a quarter of UP's MPs face criminal charges. Over the years, India has evolved from a highly centralized state dominated by one political party to an increasingly fragmented nation, more and more influenced by regional parties and more and more governed locally by unstable multi-party alliances. In the General Elections now, Congress and the BJP face each other in a few of the 29 States; elsewhere, one of the two national parties faces a regional party.

**6.1.2. The Legislative:- The Parliament of India** is the supreme legislative body of the Republic of India. The Parliament is composed of the President of India and the houses. It is a bicameral legislature with two houses: the Rajya Sabha (Council of States) and the Lok Sabha (House of the People). The President in his role as head of legislature has full powers to summon and prorogue either house of Parliament or to dissolve Lok Sabha. The president can exercise these powers only upon the advice of the Prime Minister and his Union Council of Ministers. Those elected or nominated (by the President) to either house of Parliament are referred to as Members of Parliament (MP). The Members of Parliament, Lok Sabha are directly elected by the Indian public voting in Single-member districts and the Members of Parliament, Rajya Sabha are elected by the members of all State Legislative Assembly by proportional representation. The Parliament has a sanctioned strength of 545 in Lok Sabha including the 2 nominees from the Anglo-Indian Community by the President, and 245 in Rajya Sabha including the 12 nominees from the expertise of different fields of science, culture, art and history. The Parliament meets at Sansad Bhavan in New Delhi. The Indian Parliament consists of two houses called the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha with the President of India acting as their head.

**6.1.2.1. President of India:-**The President of India, the Head of state is a component of Parliament. Under Article 60 and Article 111, President's responsibility is to scrutinize that bills/laws passed by the parliament are in accordance with constitutional mandate and stipulated procedure is followed before according his/her approval to the bills. The President of India is elected by the elected members of Parliament of India and the state legislatures and serves for a term of 5 years.<sup>[11]</sup>

**6.1.2.3 Lok Sabha:-**The lower house in the Indian political system is the Lok Sabha or House of the People. As set out in the Constitution, the maximum size of the Lok Sabha is 552 members, made up of up to 530 members representing people from the states of India, up to 20 members representing people from the Union Territories, and two members to represent the Anglo-Indian community if it does not have adequate representation in the house according to the President. Currently the size of the house is 545 - made up of 530 elected from the states, 13 elected from the territories, and two nominated from the Anglo-Indian community. By far the largest state representation is that of Uttar Pradesh with 80 members. At the other end of the scale, three states have only one representative each. There are certain constituencies where only candidates from scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are allowed to stand. Each member - except the two nominated ones - represents a geographical single-member constituency as in the British model for the House of Commons. Each Lok Sabha is formed for a five year term, after which it is automatically dissolved, unless extended by a Proclamation of Emergency which may extend the term in one year increments. This has happened on three occasions: 1962-1968, 1971 and 1975-1977. The last election to the Lok Sabha was in May 2014, so the next election is expected to be in 2019.

**6.1.2.4. Rajya Sabha:-The upper house in the Indian political system is the Rajya Sabha or Council of States.** As set out in the Constitution, the Rajya Sabha's has up to 250 members. 12 of these members are chosen by the President for their expertise in specific fields of art, literature, science, and social services. These members are known as nominated members. The remainder of the house - currently comprising 238 members - is elected indirectly by the state and territorial legislatures in proportion to the unit's population. Again, of course, the largest state representation is that of Uttar Pradesh with 31 members. The method of election in the local legislatures is the single transferable vote. Terms of office are for six years, with one third of the members facing re-election every two years. The Rajya Sabha meets in continuous session and, unlike the Lok Sabha, it is not subject to dissolution. The two houses share legislative powers, except in the area of supply (money) where the Lok Sabha has overriding powers. In the case of conflicting legislation, a joint sitting of the two houses is held. If there is a conflict which cannot be resolved even by the joint committee of the two houses, it is solved in the joint session of the Parliament, where the will of the Lok Sabha almost always prevails, since the Lok Sabha is more than twice as large as the Rajya Sabha.

The period during which the House meets to conduct its business is called a session. The Constitution empowers the president to summon each House at such intervals that there should not be more than a six-month gap between the two sessions. Hence the Parliament must meet at least twice a year. In India, the parliament conducts three sessions each year:- a) Budget session: February to May c) Monsoon session: July to September, c) Winter session: November to December Legislative proposals are brought before either house of the Parliament in the form of a bill. A bill is the draft of a legislative proposal, which, when passed by both houses of Parliament and assented to by the President, becomes an Act of Parliament. Money bills must originate in the Lok Sabha. The council of states can only make recommendations over the bills to the House, within a period of fourteen days.<sup>[15]</sup>

**6.1.3. The Judiciary:** - The judiciary interprets the Constitution as its final arbiter. It is its duty as mandated by the Constitution, to be its watchdog, by calling for scrutiny any act of the legislature or the executive, who otherwise, are free to enact or implement these, from overstepping bounds set for them by the Constitution. It acts like a guardian in protecting the fundamental rights of the people, as enshrined in the Constitution, from infringement by any organ of the state. It also balances the conflicting exercise of power between the centre and a state or among states, as assigned to them by the Constitution. While pronouncing decisions under its constitutional mandate, it is expected to remain unaffected by pulls and pressures exerted by other branches of the state, citizens or interest groups. And crucially, independence of the judiciary has been held to be a basic feature of the Constitution, and which being inalienable, has come to mean – that which cannot be taken away from it by any act or amendment by the legislature or the executive. This independence shows up in the following manner: No minister or even the executive collectively, can suggest any names for appointment as judges, to the President, who ultimately decides on appointing them from a list of names recommended only by the collegium of the judiciary. Nor can judges of the Supreme Court or a High Court be removed from office once appointed, unless an overwhelming two-thirds of members of any of the Houses of the Parliament back the move, and only on grounds of proven misconduct or incapacity. A person who has been a judge of a court is debarred from practicing in the jurisdiction of that court<sup>1</sup> s per the government, as held by the court in the Three Judges Cases – (1982, 1993, 1998), a judge is appointed to the Supreme Court and the High Court's by the President of India from a list of names recommended by the collegium — a closed group of the Chief Justice of India and the senior-most judges of the Supreme Court, for appointments to the Supreme Court, and they, together with the Chief Justice of a High Court and its senior-most judges, for appointments to that court. This has resulted in a Memorandum of Procedure being followed, for the appointments. Judges used to be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Union Cabinet. After 1993, as held in the Second Judges' Case, the executive was given the power to reject a name recommended by the judiciary. However, according to some, the executive has not been diligent in using this power to reject the names of bad candidates recommended. Earlier, one recommendation by a collegium came to be challenged in court. The court held that who could become a judge was a matter of fact, and any person had a right to question it. But who should become a judge was a matter of opinion and could not be questioned. As long as an effective consultation took place within a collegium in arriving at that opinion, the content or material placed before it to form the opinion could not be called for scrutiny in a court. The Supreme Court is the highest judicial authority in civil, criminal and constitutional cases. Since 2008, the size of the court has been 31. A judge is appointed to the Supreme Court by the President of India on the recommendation of the collegiums — a closed group of the Chief Justice of India, the four most senior judges of the court, and the senior-most judge hailing from the high court of a prospective appointee. However, a Bill is currently being considered which would provide that Supreme Court judges are appointed by the legislative branch with the collegiums functioning as an advisory body. The **Indian Judiciary** administers a common law system of legal jurisdiction, in which customs, precedents and legislation, all codify the law of the land. It has in fact, inherited the legacy of the legal system established by the then colonial powers and the princely states since the mid-19th century, and has partly retained characteristics of practices from the ancient and medieval times. There are various levels of judiciary in India – different types of courts, each with varying powers depending on the tier and jurisdiction bestowed upon them. They form a strict hierarchy of importance, in line with the order of the courts in which they sit, with the Supreme Court of India at the top, followed by High Courts of respective states with district judges sitting in District Courts and Magistrates of Second Class and Civil Judge (Junior Division) at the bottom

**6.1.3.1. Supreme Court of India:**-The Supreme Court is the highest court of the country or nation, which is established by the Constitution. According to it, the Supreme Court is a federal court, guardian of the Constitution and the highest court of appeal. Articles 124 to 147 of the Constitution lay down the composition and jurisdiction of the Court. Primarily, it is an appellate court which takes up appeals against judgments of the High Courts of the states and territories. However, it also takes writ petitions in cases of serious human rights violations or any petition filed under Article 32 which is the right to constitutional remedies or if a case involves a serious issue that needs immediate resolution. It had its inaugural sitting on 26 January 1950, the day India's constitution came into force, and since then has delivered more than 24,000 reported judgements. The Supreme

Court comprises the Chief Justice and 30 other Judges. The proceedings of the Supreme Court are conducted in English only. The Supreme Court Rules of 1966 are framed under Article 145 of the Constitution to regulate the practice and procedure of the Supreme Court. The same is amended and presently governed by the Supreme Court Rules of 2013.

**6.1.3.2. High courts:-**There are 24 High Courts at the State level. The constitution of India under Article (141) mandates that they are bound by the judgements and orders of the Supreme Court of India by precedence. These courts have jurisdiction over a state, a union territory or a group of states and union territories. Below the High Courts are a hierarchy of subordinate courts such as the civil courts, family courts, criminal courts and various other district courts. High courts are instituted as constitutional courts under Part VI, Chapter V, Article 214 of the Indian Constitution. The High Courts are the principal civil courts of original jurisdiction in the state along with District Courts which are subordinate to the High courts. However, High courts exercise their original civil and criminal jurisdiction only if the courts subordinate to the high court in the state are not competent (not authorized by law) to try such matters for lack of pecuniary, territorial jurisdiction. High courts may also enjoy original jurisdiction in certain matters if so designated specifically in a state or Federal law. e.g.: Company law cases are instituted only in a high court. However, primarily the work of most High Courts consists of Appeals from lower courts and writ petitions in terms of Article 226 of the Constitution of India. Writ Jurisdiction is also original jurisdiction of High Court. The precise territorial jurisdiction of each High Court varies. Judges in a high court are appointed by the President after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, Chief Justice of High Court and the governor of the state. The number of judges in a court is decided by dividing the average institution of main cases during the last five years by the national average, or the average rate of disposal of main cases per judge per year in that High Court, whichever is higher. The Calcutta High Court is the oldest High Court in the country, established on 2 July 1862, whereas the Allahabad High Court is the largest, having a sanctioned strength of judges at 160. High courts which handle a large number of cases of a particular region, have permanent benches (or a branch of the court) established there. For litigants of remote regions, 'circuit benches' are set up, which work for those days in a month when judges visit.

**6.1.3.3. District courts:-**The District Courts of India are established by the State governments of India for every district or for one or more districts together taking into account the number of cases, population distribution in the district. They administer justice in India at a district level. These courts are under administrative control of the High Court of the State to which the district concerned belongs. The decisions of District court are subject to the appellate jurisdiction of the concerned High court. The district court is presided over by one District Judge appointed by the state Government. In addition to the district judge there may be number of Additional District Judges and Assistant District Judges depending on the workload. The Additional District Judge and the court presided have equivalent jurisdiction as the District Judge and his district court. The district judge is also called "Metropolitan session judge" when he is presiding over a district court in a city which is designated "Metropolitan area" by the state Government. The district court has appellate jurisdiction over all subordinate courts situated in the district on both civil and criminal matters. Subordinate courts, on the civil side (in ascending order) are, Junior Civil Judge Court, Principal Junior Civil Judge Court, Senior Civil Judge Court (also called sub-court). Subordinate courts, on the criminal side (in ascending order) are, Second Class Judicial Magistrate Court, First Class Judicial Magistrate Court, Chief Judicial Magistrate Court. In addition 'Family Courts' are established to deal with matrimonial disputes alone. The Principal Judge of family court is equivalent to District Judge.

**6.1.3.4. Subordinate courts:-**Subordinate courts are also known as Lok Adalat (people's court), village courts, or Nyaya Panchayat (justice of the villages), compose a system of alternative dispute resolution. They were recognized through the 1888 Madras Village Court Act, then developed (after 1935) in various provinces and (after 1947) Indian states. The model from the Gujarat State (with a judge and two assessors) was used from the 1970s onwards. In 1984 the Law Commission recommended to create Nyaya Panchayat in rural areas with laymen ("having educational attainments"). The 2008 Gram Nyayalayas Act had foreseen 5,000 mobile courts in the country for judging petty civil (property cases) and criminal (up to 2 years of prison) cases. However, the Act has not been enforced properly, with only 151 functional Gram Nyayalayas in the country (as of May 2012) against a target of 5000 such courts. The major reasons behind the non-enforcement include financial constraints, reluctance of lawyers, police and other government officials.

**6.2. To analyze and study the Indian Politics in terms of Elections of 2014 and the role of political parties and to assess the alliances of political parties.** The study undertakes another objective to understand the Current Indian Political system and its working and issues relating to it. The study firstly analyzes the election of 2014, political parties and their roles and political issues prevailing currently. The study observed the following points in this respect:-

**6.2.1. Election:-**Elections in a country of the size and complexity of India are huge and difficult affairs. In the General Election of 2014, 814 million people were eligible to vote and 930,000 polling booths were required to enable them to do so. The Indian Constitution requires that voters do not have to travel more than 2

km (1.2 miles) from their homes to vote. There is no way that such a poll can be conducted on a single day and in fact the last election to the Lok Sabha took place over a period of six weeks, starting on 7 April 2014 and finishing on 12 May 2014 with all votes counted on a single day: 16 May 2014. The election was conducted in nine separate phases and almost 4 million staffs were deployed to run them. Administrative and security considerations meant that electoral staff and soldiers were moved around the country as the different voting phases took place. More than 150 million people had the vote for the first time. For the first time also, ballot papers included a 'none of the above' option for those who did not wish to vote for any candidate and around 1% selected this option. Historically only around 55% of those eligible to do so vote in Indian national elections. However, turnout for the 2014 election broke records with 66.38% of those eligible casting a vote. There is growing concern in India about what has been called the "criminalization" of politics. Almost one third of the members of the last parliament had criminal cases pending against them and, according to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), in the 2014 election between 20-30% of candidates had criminal charges against them. The severity of these charges varies and some charges may be unfounded, as the judicial process is often used to smear political opponents and police in many states are highly corrupt. Nevertheless, there is little doubt that overall criminality and corruption are high in Indian politics.

The **Indian general election, 2014** was held to constitute the 16th Lok Sabha, electing members of parliament for all 543 parliamentary constituencies. Running in nine phases from 7 April to 12 May 2014, it was the longest election in the country's history. According to the Election Commission of India, 814.5 million people were eligible to vote, with an increase of 100 million voters since the last general election in 2009, making it the largest ever election in the world. Around 23.1 million or 2.7% of the total eligible voters were aged 18–19 years. A total of 8,251 candidates contested for the 543 Lok Sabha seats.<sup>[10]</sup> The average election turnout over all nine phases was around 66.38%, the highest ever in the history of Indian general elections.

The results were declared on 16 May 2014, 15 days before the 15th Lok Sabha completed its constitutional mandate on 31 May 2014. The counting exercise was held at 989 counting centres.<sup>[10]</sup> The National Democratic Alliance won a sweeping victory, taking 336 seats. The BJP won 31.0% votes, which is the lowest share for a party to form a majority government in India since independence,<sup>[12]</sup> while NDA's combined vote share was 38.5%. BJP and its allies won the right to form the largest majority government since the 1984 general election, and it was the first time since that election that a party has won enough seats to govern without the support of other parties. The United Progressive Alliance, led by the Indian National Congress, won 59 seats, 44 (8.1%) of which were won by the Congress, that won 19.3% of all votes. It was the Congress party's worst defeat in a general election. In order to become the official opposition party in India, a party must gain 10% of the seats (54 seats) in the Lok Sabha; however, the Indian National Congress was unable to attain this number. Due to this fact, India remains without an official opposition party. The Chief Election Commissioner of India (CEC), V. S. Sampath, announced the polling schedule on 5 March. Voting was scheduled to be held in nine phases from 7 April to 12 May, and the results of the election were announced on 16 May. Simultaneous elections were held for the Vidhan Sabhas of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana and Sikkim. **National Democratic Alliance**:-The constituents of the National Democratic Alliance and the seats they contested and won are shown at the right in the table: The NDA garnered an overwhelming number of 343 seats in this election. This has propelled it to form the government in the country.

**Table No: 1**  
**NDA: Seats Contested and Won**

Party	Contested	Won
Bhartiya Janata Party	427	282
Shiv Shena	20	18
Telgu Desam Party	30	16
Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam	14	0
Shiromani Akali Dal	10	4
Pattali Makkal Katchi	8	1
Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	7	0
Lok Janshakti Party	7	6
Rashtriya Lok Samta Party	3	3
Apna Dal	2	2
Haryana Janhit Congress (BL)	2	0
Swabhimani Paksha	2	1
Indhiya Jananayaga Katchi	1	0
Puthiya Needhi Katchi	1	0
Kongunadu Makkal Desia Katchi	1	0
All India N.R. Congress	1	1
Republican Party of India (A)	1	0
Rashtriya Samaj Paksha	1	0
Revolutionary Socialist Party	1	0

(Bolshevik)		
Kerala Congress (Nationalist)	1	0
Kerala Congress (Nationalist)	1	0
National People's Party	1	1
Naga People's Front	1	1
Mizo National Front	1	0
<b>National Democratic Alliance</b>	543	336

(Source:- Election Commission report 2014)

Mr. Narendra Modi was chosen to lead the Bharatiya Janata Party's campaign after a party conclave in Goa. This came amid controversy as L. K. Advani opposed the decision and resigned from his party posts, only to later rescind his resignation. M. M. Joshi and Sushma Swaraj were part of the team for the campaign. Rajnath Singh, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani were the mentors for the BJP's campaign. A twelve-member committee had been nominated at Goa conclave under the leadership of Narendra for 2014 election. Modi contested the election from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and Vadodara in Gujarat. Arun Jaitley contested for the Lok Sabha for the first time from Amritsar against former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh. The BJP released its manifesto on 7 April 2014, and in its manifesto promised to set up a Price Stabilization Fund and to evolve a single 'National Agriculture Market' to check price rise and go for e-Governance, policy-driven governance and simplification of the tax regime to prevent corruption. It wanted to encourage labour-intensive manufacturing, focus on traditional employment bases of agriculture, the upgrade of infrastructure and housing and self-employment opportunities for job creation. Harnessing satellite technology; setting up National Optical-Fibre Network up to the village level; Diamond Quadrilateral project – of High Speed Train network were among several other things that the party promised. Modi's announcement "one rank, one pension" at an ex-servicemen's rally at Rewari on 15 September 2013, and promised to take steps immediately after the formation of the government. BJP campaign slogan on "Aab ki baar, Modi sarkar came up with the idea to out the UPA government and give opportunity to Modi government." By the last day of campaigning on 10 May, Narendra Modi had undertaken the largest mass outreach in India's electoral history by travelling about 300,000 km for 437 public meetings in 25 states and 1350 innovative 3D rallies according to the BJP.

Lok Janshakti Party leader Ram Vilas Paswan announced on 30 January that the LJP, RJD and INC will jointly contest the election from Bihar's constituencies. He later announced on 27 February that he will instead join the NDA. LJP contested polls with the BJP and Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP) on 40 seats with 30 seats for BJP, three seats for RLSP and seven seats for LJP. LJP and RLSP won all the seats allotted to them with BJP winning 22 seats. The election was seen by many BJP leaders as a show of strength after fallout with JD (U). After the election results, Nitish Kumar was forced to resign from the post of Chief Minister after being marginalized to just 2 seats. Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), led by Tamil film actor Vijayakanth joined the NDA. On 10 April, while campaigning in Telangana, Jayaprakash Narayan of the Lok Satta Party stated that while his party had a few differences of opinion with the BJP manifesto, they had decided to support the NDA in the "national interest".

The Swabhimani Paksha (SWP) a political party of Swabhimani Shetkari Saghtana (SSS) joined the Shiv Sena-BJP-Republican Party of India (A) alliance. In addition to the aforementioned four parties that were contesting from Maharashtra, RSP was also in the alliance. Shiromani Akali Dal contested 10 out of 13 seats in Punjab, India.

### United Progressive Alliance

The constituents of the United Progressive Alliance and the seats they contested and won are shown at the right in the table: This election turned out to be an unprecedented disaster for the UPA as they garnered the lowest number of seats in their history.

**Table No:-2**  
**UPA: (Seats Contested and Won)**

Party	Contested	Won
Indian National Congress	464	44
Rashtriya Janata Dal	28	4
Nationalist Congress Party	23	6
Rashtriya Lok Dal	8	0
Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	4	2
Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	3	0
Mahan Dal	3	0
Indian Union Muslim League	2	2
Socialist Janata	1	0
Kerala Congress (M)	1	1

Revolutionary Socialist Party	1	1
Bodoland People's Front	1	0
Communist Party of India	1	0
<b>United Progressive Alliance</b>	540	60

(Source: - Election Commission of India 2014)

The Indian National Congress had announced, on the fourth anniversary of the second United Progressive Alliance government, that its campaign for the election would be led by incumbent Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, INC chairperson Sonia Gandhi and general secretary Rahul Gandhi. Rahul Gandhi was appointed to head a six-member committee to formulate and implement alliances, the party manifesto and general publicity for the election. In March, the INC, RJD and NCP announced that they would jointly contest in Bihar. The INC contested 12 seats, NCP fought on 1 seat and the RJD, being a regional party, would seek the rest of 27 seats. At the Congress party meeting it was decided not to name a prime ministerial candidate amid fears it would turn the election into a presidential one. The INC was scheduled to hold its first meeting of the central election committee on 13 February to finalise all their candidates by the end of the month. Similarly, the screening committees for several unnamed part of the country had already occurred so as to shortlist the candidates. On 8 March, its list of 194 candidates was announced, including 35% of candidates that were below the age of 50 years. The INC was reported to be concerned by the possibility of a reduced mandate in Gandhi's seat of Amethi (Lok Sabha constituency) amidst an unusual challenge by his high-profile competitor, the BJP's Smriti Irani. It even led to his mother, Sonia, campaigning there for the first time in 10 years. The INC in its manifesto the party promised "inclusive growth" and that it would initiate a raft of welfare schemes, including a right to healthcare for all and pensions for the aged and disabled.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) was in alliance with the INC in the states of Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Maharashtra. Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) contested polls in alliance with INC and RJD in Jharkhand. JMM and INC contested in four and ten seats each, respectively. Rashtriya Janata Dal and National conference were the part and alliance of UPA.

### **Left parties**

The left parties were not the part of UPA alliances. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) declared their campaign slogan as "Reject Congress, Defeat BJP." On 3 April, the party published its fourth list of candidates for a total of 94 candidates. In West Bengal, CPI (M) contested as part of the Left Front. 32 out of the 42 Left Front candidates in West Bengal came from the CPI (M), while 20 of its candidates were running for the first time. In Kerala, the CPI (M) contested as a constituent of the Left Democratic Front. In the list of the 15 CPI (M) candidates in Kerala released in mid-March, four were incumbent Lok Sabha members and five others were independents. The Kollam seat was allocated to M.A. Baby after the RSP left the LDF and joined the United Democratic Front. In Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Odisha and Tamil Nadu, the CPI (M) made an electoral pact with the CPI and other left parties. In Andhra Pradesh, however, no agreement could be reached between the CPI (M) and the CPI due to differences on the Telangana issue; CPI (M) opposed bifurcation, while the CPI supported creating Telangana. In Telangana region, CPI contested one seat (in alliance with Indian National Congress), while CPI (M) contested two seats.

### **Other parties**

The **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)**, formed in 2012, contested 432 seats and won 4 seats. The party's manifesto focused on anti-corruption measures. Earlier in 2013, the party had made an impressive electoral debut by winning the second highest number of seats in the Delhi Legislative Assembly elections. After forming a short-lived minority government in Delhi, AAP was seen as a major challenger to the other political parties. However, the party lost deposits on 413 seats, surpassing the record of Doordarshi Party, which had lost deposit on 321 seats in 1991. AAP's leader Arvind Kejriwal unsuccessfully contested against the BJP's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi from Varanasi

**The All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK)** opted not to join any alliance and contested all seats in Tamil Nadu on its own. AIADMK managed to win 37 out of a total of 39 parliamentary constituencies in the state of Tamil Nadu.

On 21 March, **the All India Forward Bloc** released its first list of candidates that covered 38 seats in West Bengal, Maharashtra, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Odisha, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Delhi. In West Bengal the party contested the election as part of the Left Front. On 19 March, **Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)** leader Mayawati declared that the party would contest the election on its own and fielded candidates in all 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh. Mayawati was confident that the BSP would seek a mandate to form a government with support of secular parties. The party secured the third highest vote share in the Country and yet did not win a single seat.

**Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist)** Liberation elected 85 candidates to contest in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jharkhand and Pondicherry. **Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)** opted not to join an UPA pre-poll alliance and contested all seats in Tamil Nadu with its own regional alliance. Party leader Karunanidhi announced Democratic Progressive Alliance (DPA) with local parties like VCK, MMK, IUML and Puthiya Tamizhagam. DMK was not able to secure even a single seat throughout the country.

The BJP were in coalition with JD(U), Modi was not allowed to speak at rallies in the party by mutual understanding and was only allowed for special events such as a funeral or party conclave, even Modi's flood relief aid to Bihar was termed communal. Bihar was seen as test case for Modi's popularity if the BJP could increase its tally at the expense of the JD(U). There was also speculation that Lalu Prasad Yadav could make a relative comeback after the 2010 provincial election if he is not convicted over the fodder scam. It also suggested that this would be an eager race as it could determine if Kumar's decision to leave the NDA in June 2013 was prudent and if he has any national political scope left; while for Modi it would give crucial seats to the BJP and be able to attract potential allies as Bihar is largely based on caste politics. **The Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS)** announced its first list of seven candidates. Six of them contested against candidates of Shiv Sena. The party, however, also supported Modi's prime ministerial candidature. The move read as an implicit acceptance of the BJP's Nitin Gadkari's call not to contest against the NDA and to support its own candidates. Nav Bharat Democratic stepped into the political arena with 9 candidates spread across Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. The party was established by RK Misra. **Samajwadi Party** president Mulayam Singh Yadav claimed that the Third Front government will be formed in the center with the help of his party. To counter the "Modi-effect" on other constituencies near Varanasi, Yadav decided to contest from Azamgarh and Mainpuri. The party decided not to field any candidates against the INC's Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi from Rai Bariely and Amethi, respectively, in response to the INC's decision not to field any candidates against Mulayam Singh Yadav and Dimple Yadav from Mainpuri and Kannauj, respectively.

On 10 March, the Sikkim Democratic Front declared that its incumbent MP, Prem Das Rai, would run for re-election. The party also released a list of 32 candidates for the Sikkim Legislative Assembly election, 2014 that will be held simultaneously with the election. **All-India Trinamool Congress** leader Mamata Banerjee declared that the party would contest all 42 seats in West Bengal by itself, making this the first occurrence of the party contesting a general election in West Bengal without an alliance with either of the two largest parties, BJP and INC. Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy's **YSR Congress Party** fielded candidates across Andhra Pradesh(Rayalaseema & Coastal Andhra) and some districts of Telangana. The party fielded several bureaucrats, businessmen and relatives of politicians for Lok Sabha seats in Andhra Pradesh(Rayalaseema & Coastal Andhra), including D. Kishore Rao, the former secretary of the Gujarat Human Rights Commission.

**Third Front** formed fourteen political parties including the Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India, Revolutionary Socialist Party, All India Forward Bloc, AIADMK, Janata Dal, Samajwadi Party, Biju Janata Dal, Nationalist Congress Party, Janata Dal, Naga People's Front, Sikkim Democratic Front, Jharkhand Vikas Morcha and Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh participated in a convention of the parties not in alliance with the NDA nor UPA, which was held on 30 October 2013. On 5 February 11 parties announced that they would work as one bloc on a "common agenda" in parliament. These included the CPI(M), CPI, RSP, AIFB, Samajwadi Party, JD(U), AIADMK, AGP, JVM, JD(S) and BJD. However, there was speculation that the AGP and BJD were still in preparatory talks to re-join the NDA. A consensus on a prime ministerial candidate, however, was not achieved. Though CPI (M) has sought to build what it terms a "secular and democratic alternative" to the INC and BJP. Third Front would only emerge after the election.

### Opinion polls

Opinion polls generally showed the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to be the front runner in the election with the emergence of Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) as the single largest party.

**Table No:- 3**  
**Opinion Polls on Lok Sabha Elections**

Conducted month(s)	in	Polling organisation	<u>NDA</u>	<u>UPA</u>	<u>Other</u>
Jan 2014		CNN-IBN-Lokniti-CSDS	211 – 231	107–127	205
Feb 2014		ABP News-Nielsen	236	92	215
March 2014		NDTV- Hansa Research	230	128	185
April 2014		NDTV- Hansa Research	275	111	157

### Exit polls

The Election Commission of India banned the publication of all exit polls starting 48 hours before Phase 1 of the election until the end of Phase 9. This was intended to prevent exit polls from earlier phases affecting voter decisions in later phases. The ban ended after the close of Phase 9 voting at 6:30pm IST on 12 May 2014.

**Table No 4**  
**Exit Polls of Lok Sabha Elections 2014**

Publish date	Polling organisation	NDA	UPA	Other
12 May 2014	CNN-IBN – CSDS – Lokniti	276 (±6)	97 (±5)	148 (±23)
	India Today – Cicero	272 (±11)	115 (±5)	156 (±6)
	News 24 – Chanakya	340 (±14)	70 (±9)	133 (±11)
	Times Now – ORG	249	148	146
	ABP News – Nielsen	274	97	165
	India TV – C-Voter	289	101	148
14 May 2014	NDTV – Hansa Research	279	103	161
12 May 2014	Poll of Polls	283	105	149
16 May 2014	Actual results	336	58	149

(Source:- Newspaper/Magazines/News channels Report 2014)

India Today temporarily suspended its C-Voter opinion poll in late February after a News Express sting operation suggesting Polling Agencies like I-psos and C-Voter fudged the numbers to show BJP candidate Narendra Modi in the lead. However, with the final results matching the Modi landslide projected by the polls; the unsubstantiated charges were proved to be politically motivated. The 2014 elections confirmed the accuracy of the Election Polling in India. All the exit polls predicted the majority of NDA alliances and Modi led the way clearly. Results of Lok Sabha elections 2014

**Table No; 5**  
**Results of Lok Sabha election 2014**

Par ty	BJP	INC	AIADMK	AITC	BJD	SS	TDP	TRS
Lea der	<u>Narendra Modi</u>	<u>Sonia Gandhi</u>	<u>Jayalalithaa</u>	<u>Mamata Banerjee</u>	<u>Naveen Patnaik</u>	<u>Uddhav Thackeray</u>	<u>N. Chandrababu Naidu</u>	<u>K. Chandrash ekhar Rao</u>
Vot es	31.3%, 171,660,230	19.5%, 106,935,942	3.3%, 18,111,579	3.8%, 20,378,052	1.7%, 9,489,946	1.9%, 10,050,652	2.5%, 14,099,230	1.2%, 6,736,270
Sea ts	282 (51.9%) 282 / 543	44 (8.1%) 44 / 543	37 (6.8%) 37 / 543	34 (6.2%) 34 / 543	20 (3.6%) 20 / 543	18 (3.3%) 18 / 543	16 (2.7%) 16 / 543	11 (2.4%) 11 / 543

(Source:- Election Commission of India 2014)

The BJP vote share are 31.3% and secured 282 seats, whereas INC vote shares are 19.5% and secured 44 seats of Lok Sabha. The BJP secured 39% support from first time voters, while Congress received 19% of the first time votes. The NDA won 39 of 74 seats where Muslim voters make up between 21 and 95% of the total electorate. The BJP won all 16 seats in Uttar Pradesh. It also secured 5 out of 9 such seats in Bihar The BJP won all 26 seats in Gujarat, marking the first time a single party won all seats in the state. The previous record was held by the Congress which won 25 of the 26 seats in the 1984 general election. The assembly segment-wise result of Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh shows that the BJP was number one in 328 seats, while the ruling SP led in just 42. Congress was ahead in 15, BSP 9 and Apna Dal 9. Similarly, in Maharashtra BJP-Shiva Sena alliance has got a lead in 246 assembly segments out of the total 288. By securing seven of the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, BJP remained ahead on 52 assembly segments in the state.

About one-third of all winners had at least one pending criminal case against them, with some having serious criminal cases. Out of the 542 members analyzed, 443 (82%) have total assets of ₹1 crore (US\$140,000) or more. In the 15th Lok Sabha, out of 521 members analyzed, 300 (58%) members had assets of 1 crore (US\$140,000) or more.[153] The average assets per member are ₹14.7 crore (US\$2.0 million) (in 2009, this figure was ₹5.35 crore (US\$740,000)).

According to the Election Commission of India, 814.5 million people were eligible to vote, with an increase of 100 million voters since the last general election in 2009, making this the largest-ever election in the world. Around 23.1 million or 2.7% of the total eligible voters were aged 18–19 years.

In total there were 1.4 million electronic voting machines in 930,000 voting centres. The voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT) system which enables EVM to record each vote cast by generating the EVM slip, was introduced in 8 constituencies of Lucknow, Gandhinagar, Bangalore South, Chennai Central, Jadavpur, Raipur, Patna Sahib and Mizoram as a pilot project. Also, Braille ballot sheets for the blind were arranged at polling stations. The scale of the election required 1.1 million of civil servants and 5.5 million civilian employees to handle the election. The election was the longest and the most expensive general election in the history of the

country, with the Election Commission of India estimating that the election did cost the exchequer 3500 crore (US\$577 million), excluding the expenses incurred for security and by the individual political parties. Parties were expected to spend 30,500 crore (US\$5 billion) in the election, according to the Centre for Media Studies. This was three times the amount spent in the previous election in 2009, and was then the world's second highest after the US\$7 billion spent on the 2012 US presidential election. A clear majority for the Bharatiya Janata Party in the Lok Sabha and its spread across most states in the 2014 general elections marks a departure from the electoral outcomes of almost a quarter century. The BJP's success was made possible, among other factors, due to its electoral strategy of reinventing social engineering in what may be termed as its second transformation. As a result, it secured significant support among the Other Backward Classes as well as scheduled caste and scheduled tribe voters to gain a winning edge. Besides this, its promise of development and the projection of Modi as a strong and decisive leader attracted support among the lower and middle classes. This will have far-reaching implications to the structure of party competition in the coming years and shape the post-Congress polity. However, enthusiastic over-readings of the mandate would pose a challenge to the BJP even as it searches for ways to entrench itself as a dominant national party in India.

#### **1. Issues in the Lok Sabha Election 2014:-**

There are several issues driving the narrative in the election, including anger against the incumbent Congress-led United Progressive Alliance for corruption and mismanagement of the economy. But the election is also about electing a government that can fulfill the aspirations of an overwhelmingly young India; 52% of the voters are in the age group of 18-40 years.

**1. Caste- based and religion based politics** was one of the main plank of political parties. The lack of homogeneity in the Indian population causes division between different sections of the people based on religion, region, language, caste and race. This has led to the rise of political parties with agendas catering to one or a mix of these groups. Parties in India also target people who are not in favour of other parties and use them as an asset. Some parties openly profess their focus on a particular group; for example, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's focus on the Dravidian population and Tamil identity; Biju Janata Dal's championing of Odia culture; the Shiv Sena's pro-Marathi agenda; Naga People's Front's demand for protection of Naga tribal identity; People's Democratic Party and National Conference's calling for Kashmiri Muslim identity. Some other parties claim to be universal in nature, but tend to draw support from particular sections of the population. For example, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (translated as National People's Party) has a vote bank among the Yadav and Muslim population of Bihar and the All India Trinamool Congress does not have any significant support outside West Bengal.

**2. Development** became the core issue of 2014 Lok Sabha Elections. Economic issues like poverty, unemployment, development are main issues that influence politics. Garibi hatao (eradicate poverty) has been a slogan of the Indian National Congress for a long time. The well known Bharatiya Janata Party(BJP) encourages a free market economy. The more popular slogan in this field is **Sab Ka Sath, Sab ka Vikas** (Cooperation with all, progress of all). The Communist Party of India (Marxist) vehemently supports left-wing politics like land-for-all, right to work and strongly opposes neo-liberal policies such as globalization, capitalism and privatization. India's flagging economic performance is the election's central issue.

**3.Terrorism, Naxalism, religious violence and caste-related violence** are important issues that affect the political environment of the Indian nation. Stringent anti-terror legislation such as TADA, POTA and MCOCA have received much political attention, both in favour and opposed. Terrorism has affected politics India since its conception, be it the terrorism supported from Pakistan or the internal guerrilla groups such as Naxalites. Law and order issues, such as action against organized crime are issues which do not affect the outcomes of elections. On the other hand, there is a criminal-politician nexus. Many elected legislators have criminal cases against them.

**4. Dynasties in Indian Politics:-**In recent decades, Indian politics has become a dynastic affair. The reasons for this state of affair could be the absence of a party organization, independent civil society associations that mobilize support for the party, and centralized financing of elections. This phenomenon is seen both at the national level as well as the state level. One example of dynastic politics has been the Nehru-Gandhi family which produced three Indian prime ministers as well as leading the Congress party. At state level too, a number of political parties for example, Shiromani Akali Dal, DMK, Shiv Sena, PDP, Telugu Desam Party, Telangana Rashtra Samithi and Samajwadi Party are led by family members of the previous leaders.

5. A slew of massive corruption scandals involving public funds and resources battered the Congress-led coalition. Anti-graft protests inspired a fierce anti-incumbency wave among voters against congress led UPA government and this becomes the core issue of election of 2014.

## VII. CONCLUSION:-

Politics in India is much rougher and much more corrupt than in the democracies of Europe and North America. Assassination is not uncommon: the revered Mahatma Gandhi in 1948, the Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984, and the Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 were all murdered, although it has to be noted that these were not really political assassinations which happen more at local level. Communal, caste and regional tensions continue to haunt Indian politics, sometimes threatening its long-standing democratic and secular ethos. The language used by political candidates about each other is often vivid. One key question will be the influence on the new government of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the vast conservative Hindu revivalist organisation where new Prime Minister Narendra Modi started his career as an activist. The RSS was heavily involved in the 2014 election and Modi and many other senior officials of the BJP, which is independent of the RSS though ideologically close, are still members of the organisation. Recent years have seen the emergence of so-called RTI activists - tens of thousands of citizens, often poor, sometimes almost illiterate, frequently highly motivated - who use the Right To Information legislation of 2005 to promote transparency and attack corruption in public institutions. In the first five years of the legislation, over a million RTI requests were filed and so threatening to authority have some of the RTI activists become that a number of have been murdered. More recently than the RTI movement, there has been a related - if rather different in caste and class terms - movement around the demand for an anti-corruption agency (called Lokpal). This movement has been led by the hunger-striker Anna Hazare and draws most of its support from the growing Indian middle-class which feels alienated from politics since the votes are to be found in poor, rural communities while the power is to be found in rich, urban elites. In spite of all its problems, India remains a vibrant and functioning democracy that is a beacon to democrats in many surrounding states. The study observed that the country and its culture, parameters, postulates, governing norms, and others political dimensions goes on changing and affecting the political systems and new kind of political diversity has been evolved over the period of time. The study found the specific cardinal factors which directly facilitated India to preserve their democratic government in the last decades like, Panchayati Raj system, Federalism, electoral practices, Multi-party system, written constitutions and Independence of courts and supreme court, and loyalty of Military to government.

**The Panchayat system** of ancient India helps the people of India to cope with the culture of democracy. Panchayat means a council of five and it usually refers to a village council which may or may not have five members- which has a great deal to say about the life of people of village in social, religious, economic and political matters. Officially speaking, the Panchayat is today the lowest and in a sense the most basic- unit of self government in India. In India, the centre largely depends on the states for implementing many of public policies which encourages decentralization process. The term '**federation**' has nowhere been used in the Constitution. Instead, Article 1 of the Constitution describes India as a 'Union of States'. The Constitution establishes a dual polity consisting of the Union at the Centre and the states at the periphery. Each is endowed with sovereign powers to be exercised in the field assigned to them respectively by the Constitution. Federalism helps the Indians to handle the problems of multi-culture, multi-language and different religions successfully and strengthen the democracy of India.

India ensured the voting right of people of India by the Constitution of the India which is supreme law of the country. The framers of the Constitution of India described about election of India in the Part XV, Articles 324 to 329 of the Constitution. The article 326 says that elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage. Thus, since the independence of India the participation of the people is always growing.

India is known for **its multi party system**. There are many parties in India ranging from 6 National Political parties and more than 48 state parties and many registered regional parties. The multiparty system in India make unique in the world. In Indian political system one can find the rightist, centrist, leftist, regional, even local political parties to deal with the political issues. The Constitution is not only a **written document but also the lengthiest Constitution** of the world. Originally, it contained a Preamble, 395 Articles (divided into 22 Parts) and 8 Schedules. At present (2013), it consists of a Preamble, about 465 Articles (divided into 25 Parts) and 12 Schedules. It specifies the structure, organisation, powers and functions of both the Central and state governments and prescribes the limits within which they must operate. Thus, it avoids the misunderstandings and disagreements between the two. This constitution clearly describes about the nature of the Republic, the organization and powers and mutual relations of the Centre and the States, the Fundamental rights of the citizens (Articles: 13 to 35), the directive principles of State policy (Articles: 36 to 51), and so on. This constitution spells out almost all pros and cons of functions of the country. At present, the **independence of Judiciary** is considered crucial feature of the democratic country. According to the constitution the Supreme

Court of India was to consist of a Chief Justice and not more than seven other judges. The Supreme Court of India has gained a respectable position in the Indian political system. Its many decisions and interpretation have been played a great role in maintaining the stability of democracy in India. Many of its most important judgments on constitutional issues have related to the interpretation of Article 14, guaranteeing equality before the law, Article 19, guaranteeing important freedoms to the individual, and Article 31, regarding property rights. Therefore, without any doubt we can say that the Indian Supreme Court performs its role as perfect guardian of the country and guide the all democratic institutions in the right path of democracy to enhance the stability of democracy in India. In maintaining a democratic system of government intact in India the loyalty of military toward the government plays a cardinal role. This culture guides the Indian military to perform their prime role and duty which increase the development of democracy in India. We do trust that in spite a developing state and having many challenges like overpopulation, poverty, multi-languages, multi-religion, multi-tribes, multi-culture, corruption etc if India could uphold their democracy in their own way and standing tall as an icon of influential democracy then any developing nation could also anticipate for a sustainable democracy. To make that feasible they just need to follow the democratization process of India which is also not a very hard thing to do. Finally, we can say that the democracy is a continuous process which is not possible to accomplish entirely. Therefore, India is still functioning on their democratization process and same way every country should also strive for the development as much as they could.

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