



The rise of BJP in west Bengal politics: A study

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Abstract

The most discussed topics during political debate season have been between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The fierce contest in West Bengal is reflected in the voter turnout, that's the very best of this election to date. This is great for the BJP, which continues to be a work in progress inside the state. The party does no longer have an agency in West Bengal, nor sufficient candidates from its own ideological pool. For many constituencies, it has needed to try to find disgruntled men and women from different parties to be its nominees. Assembly elections nowadays have attracted tonnes of interest because of the latest exercise in West Bengal. For a nation that has, since 1977, alternated between 34 years of uninterrupted Left Front rule and 10 years of a central authority led by the mercurial Mamata Banerjee, this eastern corner of India has suddenly been posited as a barometer of India's destiny politics. With Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, not to mention the entire countrywide management of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), throwing their entire weight behind the party's mission.

Keywords: organizational skills, organizational challenges, leadership crisis

Introduction

The BJP's access into the State is not unexpected, even if its 2014 victory within the trendy election widened its attraction in the State. Local RSS activists strain that RSS founder, K.B. Hedgewar, studied medicine in Calcutta and that his early inspiration got here from the State. They also strain that Syama Prasad Mukherjee becomes born in Calcutta. Senior RSS activist Dhanpat Ram Agarwal talks of attending a shakha inside the early Sixties in Siliguri in which he grew up. Conversations screen that Hindu proper-wing organizations had been operating in West Bengal for more than six many years. They labored first with Marwari investors and migrants from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, in Kolkata's Burrabazar, in the State capital's business hinterland in which the jute turbines have been located, and in north Bengal. By the overdue Sixties, the RSS commenced insisting that its conferences be performed in Bengali. In the last 6 years, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has undergone a big transformation and is today the country's most formidable political force. The BJP won the 2014 general election, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the main leader of the nation. It is the power party in 20 states, either on its own or with its allies. This upward thrust can be attributed to different factors, consisting of internal management, organisational skills, and an effective foundation. This is a quick analysis of the adventures of the BJP. The rot and decrease of the once-predominant Congress and close-by parties and the disappointment of the non-Congress, non-BJP gathering to produce stable states are the outer ones. The internal ones are the BJP's progressive political strategy to adapt to converting instances and the recognition of Narendra Modi. Therefore, the durability of the BJP's dominance depends on how those elements take on a similar shape. Modi's upward thrust symbolized all that had been modified in India. His upward thrust turned into a precursor to all that could alternate through the relaxation of the decade. And that changed because Modi was no longer just a character figure, but represented a rethinking of the concept and thought of political energy in India. With him, those who wielded power changed; those in whose interest's party was wielded changed; and the ends for which power was wielded changed. This change in the utilization of political power was an impression of a bigger change in Indian culture, which was helped by innovation. Yet, political strength itself had an impact in reclassifying society and the predominant philosophical perspective that supported it. It changed into this intersection between politics, society, and beliefs that fashioned the India of the 2010s.

Rise of BJP

The Bharatiya Janata Party has secured 18 seats from West Bengal inside the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections. They made advantage of 16 seats from its 2014 election. The BJP's rise in Bengal has been not anything quick and incredible. To honestly be capable of gauging the value of a saffron surge within the nation. In the last West Bengal elections, the BJP contested a total of 291 seats, managing to win the most effective 3 with a vote percentage of 10.16%. It turned into a 1/3rd of 3-manner warfare among the Trinamool Congress, the

Communist Congress, and itself. And no person could have doubted that the dismal result was precisely what the BJP deserved on that factor. The state unit turned into disarray, there was no visible organizational power, and more importantly, it didn't appear as if the BJP itself believed they'd had a chance.

Table 1: Saffron Spread in West Bengal [Source: The Times of India]

Party	Seats		Vote Share	
	2019	2014	2019	2014
TMC	22	34	43.3	39.7
BJP	18	2	40.2	17
LEFT	0	2	7.5	29.9
CONG	2	4	5.5	9.6

It is essential to realize the large organizational strength that the BJP evolved in an exceedingly short time frame. Until the cessation of the Assembly Elections, saffron was without a doubt nonexistent in the country as a possible opportunity. There had been no college campuses or universities in which ABVP or BJYM may have been perceived as a pressure point. Even for many of the youngsters, support became nonexistent and almost every teenager treated the saffron opportunity with derision.

Table 2: Vote share in Consecutive assembly

Vote share in Consecutive assembly	
2021	38.14%
2016	10.16%
2011	6.52%
2006	1.93%
2001	5.19%
1996	6.54%
1991	11.34%
1987	0.51%
1982	0.58%

Table 3: Vote share in Consecutive Lok Sabha election

Vote share in Consecutive Lok Sabha election	
2019	40.25%
2014	17.02%
2009	6.14%
2004	8.06%
1999	11.13
1998	10.2%
1996	6.88%
1991	11.66%
1989	1.67%
1984	0.4%

Table 4: Change of Seats

Year	Election	Seats Won	Change of Seats
2006	13th Assembly	0/294	-
2009	15th Lok Sabha	1/42	-
2011	14th Assembly	0/294	-
2014	16th Lok Sabha	2/42	1
2016	15th Assembly	3/294	3
2019	17th Lok Sabha	18/42	16
2021	16th Assembly	77/294	74

Despite the BJP's seeking to discredit its former country-wide vice-president Mukul Roy by claiming that he did not make any difference to its prospects in West Bengal, a look at his four-year stint with the saffron camp paints a special image. Roy ended the Trinamool Congress (TMC) in September 2017 and joined the saffron outfit in November. Within a year of being in the BJP, Roy helped the party enlarge its organizational base to the grassroots and construct sales space committees. As a result, the party carried out nicely in the 2018 panchayat elections, although it came in second to the ruling party. The saffron outfit stowed 5,759 Gram Panchayat seats,

764 Panchayat Samiti seats, and 23 Zilla Parishad seats. The BJP performed properly within the districts of Purulia, Jhargram, Paschim Medinipur, and Bankura, which had been part of the Maoist belt in West Bengal. Roy's organizational talents and electoral techniques have been the driving forces behind the BJP's electoral success. Following the Lok Sabha election, he was instrumental in designing rebellions from the TMC. Many TMC MLAs, one of them Kolkata Mayor Sovan Chatterjee, joined the BJP camp. In addition, six civic bodies in North 24 Parganas district, from where Roy hailed, overnight went into the BJP's control following mass defections of TMC councilors.

Organizational challenges

In the significant explanations behind its inability to win, BJP pioneers bring up that the absence of a local face as an essential clerical up-and-comer hurt them, but extra importantly an over-dependence on TMC defectors for both organizational heft and as candidates didn't cross down nicely with the voters. Many of the excessive-profile turncoats together with former ministers inside the Mamata Banerjee authorities lost the polls. In West Bengal, it has emerged as clear that the constituency that rose to present BJP 18 seats within the 2019 General Elections has extremely shifted again to the Trinamool Congress, a union of young ladies and minority casts a ballot also seems to have helped Mamata Banerjee. As BJP trendy secretary in fee of West Bengal Kailash Vijaywargiya said, "It seems Bengal wants Mamata Banerjee as chief minister." He also delivered that the concern of contracting COVID-19 may have saved BJP voters at domestic. In the fundamental motives for its failure to win, BJP leaders point out that the dearth of a nearby face as a prime ministerial candidate hurt them, but greater importantly an over-dependence on TMC defectors for each organizational heft and as candidates didn't cross down well with the citizens. Many of the high-profile turncoats which include former ministers in the Mamata Banerjee authorities misplaced the polls. The large trouble, however, is greater deep, and that has to do with the huge second wave of COVID-19 that is battering India. The BJP, which always sought the "celebration of governance" badge for itself, is now floundering on that rating. BJP has ceaselessly discussed that the old Congress trademark towards the Jan Sangh (BJP's prior symbol) of "shaasan Karna koi khelnahin, Jan Sanghkediyaon fundamental telnahin (administration isn't consistently a game, those lights of Jan Sangh haven't any oil light being the Jan Sangh picture), not executed to them as legislatures drove by utilizing the party celebration had been reappointed for a long time each in States and at the Centre.

Leadership crisis

One of the essential factors that brought about the BJP's humiliating defeat within the 2021 West Bengal Assembly polls turned into the dearth of a credible chief to take on the famous and charismatic TMC Minister, Mamata Banerjee. Almost a hundred days after the election effects, the management crisis keeps plaguing the saffron party in West Bengal. In the 8-segment marathon elections, the BJP secured approximately 38.1 % votes and gained 77 seats however got here second to the TMC which gained 213 seats and secured 47.9 % votes. Using defections as a political tool and bringing in disgruntled Trinamool Congress leaders did not work for the BJP and a maximum of the defectors misplaced the elections. The handiest key Trinamool Congress chief who has been able to make a mark within the BJP is Suvendu Adhikari, who defeated Mamata Banerjee in Nandigram with a slim margin of 1,956 votes. Mr Adhikari has been chosen head of Opposition inside the State Assembly and passed the vital obligation of fundamental the party in the governing body.

Conclusion

As of nowadays, the BJP is the political party that is on the upward thrust and Trinamool seems to be on its manner down in West Bengal. Whether Mamata Banerjee can be able to stem the BJP's growth in her domestic turf remains to be visible. She has failed spectacularly. With her unabashed minority appeasement, it's miles a fact that she has alienated big sections of the Hindu community. And these disgruntled sections of the Hindu community, which grow in strength each day are liable for the BJP's upward thrust within the nation. Henceforth, Bengal politics will now not be polarized along the traces of political ideology because it was earlier. The fates of events can be determined by the extent of non-secular polarization of most of the electorate. At present, the BJP is working with J.P Nadda to provide support to make Sonar Bangla.

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