

## FLASHBACK 2014: THE BIGGEST FALL OF CONGRESS IN INDIA POLITICS

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### **ABSTRACT:**

*The present paper is going to examine the failure of the Congress Party in Lok Sabha elections of 2014. The Congress is a party which has ruled India the most anybody else. It was a dominant party between 1947 and 1967 and through it lost much of its gloss in the late 1960's it took another decade to fall it from power at the Centre for the first time. It was back to power after a break of three years and continued till 1989 when it was voted out for the second time.*

*The Congress could never again form a Government of its own at the Centre since 1984 when Rajiv Gandhi extract (governed) a large majority and subsequent governments were all coalition in nature ( the minority government of PV Narassimha Rao between 1991 and 1996 and the two government led by Monmohan Singh between 2004 and 2009 and 2009 and 2014. The Indian general election 2014 was held to constitute the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok sabha, electing members of parliament for all 543 parliamentary constituencies of India. This election was spread over a long period of time from 7<sup>th</sup> April to 12<sup>th</sup> 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 increase of 100 million voters since the last general election in 2009. As we know Lok sabha election in India always witness a violent (strong) battle, this time too. In this election the BJP got a historical victory and became the first party since 1984 (when Rajiv Gandhi won 414 seats) to win majority of its own.*

**Key words:** *Congress Party, BJP, Lok Sabha, Elections, Centre Government, Historical, Commission.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The congress is a gathering which has ruled India the most than anybody else. It was a dominant party between 1947 and 1967 and however it lost quite a bit of its shine in the late 1960's. It took one more decade to fall it from control at the Center for the first time.

The congress would never again from its very own administration at the Center since 1984<sup>1</sup>. Presently the general election 2014 was held to constitute the sixteenth Lok-Sabha, electing members of the parliament for all 543 parliamentary constituencies' of India<sup>2</sup>. This election was spread over a long period of time from 7 April to 12 May 2014<sup>3</sup>. It was longest election in the nation's history. As indicated by the election commission of India 814.5 million individuals were eligible to vote, with increment of 100 million voters since the last general election in 2009<sup>4</sup>. As we probably are aware Lok Sabha elections in India always witness a strong (violent) fight, this time too<sup>5</sup>. What's more, BJP got historical victory in this election and became the first party since 1984 (when Rajiv Gandhi won 414 seats) to win majority of its own.

What happened on May 16, 2014, can be described in just single word-MODI-fication. This was for the first time in the history of Indian election that Parliamentary election was battled as Presidential Election of a Presidential system. It was the charm of Narendra Modi that NDA got a mega 336 seats and BJP alone got 282 seats. This obviously demonstrated an individual can be characterize and dominate the election gave sense the mood of country properly and conduct the campaign in the right direction. A great parallel can be drawn between what happened on 16 May 2014 in India, and in 2008 in USA. A dark man winning presidential race in a nation dominated by whites, and a man coming from the backward class system is evidently dominated.

The all India total of the congress was reduced to a pitiful (little) 44 seats, which is very below the wildest imagination of the political examination. The beating was hard to the point that the congress couldn't figure out how to get 55 seats required to nominate the leader of opposition. The Uttar Pradesh, masses rejected the caste based politics reducing Mayawati's BSP to nothing and SP to a surprising 5 and that too of family only. Congress could just get 2 seats, those of Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi. It demonstrates that the voters never again can be influenced by caste and class based style. Indeed, even Muslims voted in favor of Mr. Modi in much a bigger number than was expected<sup>6</sup>.

## OBJECTIVES:

1. To highlight the role of Congress in different Lok Sabha elections.
2. To highlight the role of BJP (NDA) in 2014 Lok Sabha elections.
3. To highlight the failure of Congress in 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

**METHODOLOGY:**

This research paper is based on descriptive and theoretical bases and the data used were secondary only that has been collected from books which have been written by the distinguished authors. The data were also collected from magazines, chronicles, websites and articles. In this paper only descriptive method has been used.

**“DECLINE OF CONGRESS PARTY IN 2014, LOK SABHA ELECTION”**

The INC was reduced to a meager 44 seats which was very below the wildest imagination of the political analysts. The beating was so hard that the congress could not even manage to get 55 seats required to nominate the leader of opposition. The congress miserably failed and could not even open its account in 9 states – Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Goa<sup>8</sup>. Important issue during the campaign included high inflation, lack of jobs, economic slowdown, corruption, security of terrorism, religious divisions and communalism and infrastructure such as roads, electricity and water<sup>9</sup>. In other survey economy and corruption is the main issue of the election<sup>10</sup>.

During the UPA II, a number of scams to public attention degenerate the image of the government among the common man. These scams included coal scam, 2G spectrum case, Agusta Westland chopper scam, common wealth games scandal, & Adarsh society<sup>11</sup>. They have combined to project a wrong image of the government. It looked as if most of the people in govt. are looting this country rather than ruling it. That is why 94% of the minister could not save their seats. This was the biggest factor in the defeat of UPA. All throughout the UPA, Govt.<sup>12</sup>

**“FACTOR’S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOSS OF CONGRESS IN 2014 LOK SABHA ELECTIONS:”**

- **Economy**
- **Corruption**
- **Price Rise**

**Economy**

India's slowing economy admits a record high current deficit and a falling rupee in summer 2013<sup>13</sup>. The absence of clear mandate as the result of the election could lead to an increase in the price of gold in the country<sup>14</sup>. Modi additionally bought up the issue of the farmer suicide that the outcome from high debt and poor yield on their crop<sup>15</sup>. In this way, that the economy was the fundamental issue in the campaign<sup>16</sup>.

## Corruption

During the UPA2, various scams came to open consideration, breaking down the picture of the government among the common man. These scandals included Coal scam, 2G spectrum case, Agusta Westland chopper scam and Common Wealth Games scandal. Also it was observed by the Election Commission a certain party is over spending for campaign than the allowable limit state in Election Commission of India book of rules.

## Price Rise

The price of onions, a staple of Indian cuisine faced a dramatic increase<sup>17</sup>. In the lead up to the election, consumer price inflation increased more than expected while, paradoxically, industrial production fell by more than expected causes a difficult (dilemma) amid slowing growth<sup>18</sup>. The cost of salt was also indicative of general food inflation<sup>19</sup>.

All through the UPA Govt. Monmohan Singh looked like a dummy PM with virtually no power to act or control his ministers. Decision making was always in the hands of UPA chairperson and vice chairperson. And decisions are changed just because your Vice Chairperson does not like it. What could show more clearly that somebody else is running the show? This was a dangerous precedent (arrangement) started by Congress where the accountable were not making decision and the people who were taking decisions are not accountable. This was dangerous mistake of Congress which they rightly paid for.

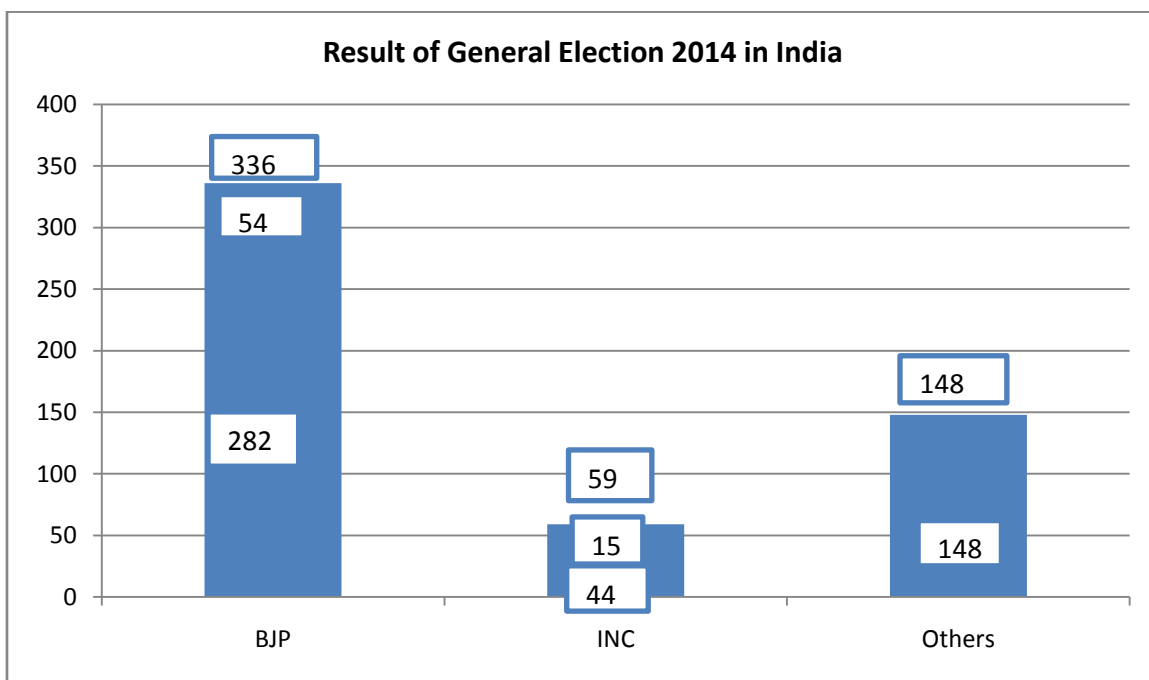
Further, it was very unfortunate for the party like Congress that they can't look past the Gandhi family and because of this they continuously eliminated leadership within the party and made one strong power center that works on the feedback of a few advisors who have no idea of the ground reality.

Congress should do a reality check and self observation. In the event that they find that they have failed due to poor leadership (which is one of the central points) they should give an idea to change it. At present we are seeing a few voices raising against leadership.

One more important factor in the defeat of congress is its strategy to deal with social movement like Anna Hazare movement or Baba Ramdev agitation which went totally wrong and congress paid for it in the election. It is very clear that Rahul Gandhi has been given enough time to start seeing beyond the Gandhi family. Congress needs to nurture (care and attention) leadership at various levels and respect social movements if it wants to survive<sup>20</sup>.

The working of congress party gave birth to new issues which accelerate its downward further. The dual control of PM Manmohan Singh government and the congress party by the Gandhi family at first worked appropriately and functioned well, but it ran into difficult weather in the second term. The remote control of the government and managing the alliance partners created conflict which snowballed into a serious of political crisis and electoral reaction in 2014 election campaign.

At present the party does not have a solid leader and workable structure and its ideological motivation of liberalism- welfarism policies for the poor has been hijacked by the BJP which is using it creatively to position itself as the single dominant party in Indian politics. The congress need to rewrite its broad scale of secular politics to combat the BJP wave in India. The party can re generate itself by rebuilding the party organization by again its frame roots level and setup realistic goals to do a political comeback in the distant future.<sup>21</sup>.



The above graph indicates that the opposition BJP won 31% of votes, which yielded them 282 out of 543 seats in parliament, or 52% of all seats. The BJP aligned with littler gatherings, for example, the Telugu Desam party, to frame the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Through and through, the NDA won 39% of the votes and 336 seats (62%)<sup>22</sup>. The Congress was reduced to manage 44 seats which was very below the wildest imagination of the political system exceptionally beneath the most out of control creative ability of the political syatem<sup>23</sup>.

## CONCLUSION:

The defeat in Lok Sabha elections of 2014 was the historical defeat for the Congress Party and the BJP (NDA) Party made history through this victory by defeating the Congress party. From the above discussion it becomes clear that why Congress party lost its power and prestige. The most important cause for the congress loss was the involvement of its leaders in corruption, economy and price rise. No doubt that the BJP party have no faith in the early sessions of the campaign in 2014 Lok Sabha elections that the party would come out with a huge victory. But the role provides for the big victory played by the all types of media's, especially by the print media and create a wave known as Modi wave. At last the Congress party should have to reform their policies in order to regain power.

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