

Vol 4 Issue 2 Nov 2014

ISSN No : 2249-894X

*Monthly Multidisciplinary
Research Journal*

*Review Of
Research Journal*

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RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

ISSN No.2249-894X

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JAMMU AND KASHMIR A BOWL OF REGIONAL PARTIES

Mohd Younis Dar¹, Jadish Nigam² and G. K Sharama³

¹Research Scholar Vikram University Ujjain.

²Principal Govt. Girls college Nagda.

³Prof and Head, Vikram University ujjain .

Abstract:-The paper analyses the role of regional parties in Jammu and Kashmir in the context of conflict situation. The paper focuses on the 2002 and 2008 assembly elections and the Amaranth agitation, which took place a few months before the parliamentary elections of 2009.

Keywords:Regionalism and Forms, Regional Parties, Amaranth Agitation, Elections .

INTRODUCTION

REGIONALISM AND FORMS

India is a vast country with vast diversities such as ethnic composition religion customs and traditions, yet something has bound them together and binds them still. Since times of immortal India is known for unity in diversities.

As India is a country of different regions and every region is different from other regions of India, because of different factors like geography, economy, and religion etc. these diversities in regions give rise to regionalism. It has become quite significant subject of politics of our country. At present so many movements are going on for the creation of new region. we can say that a particular area of our country is demanding a separate region, because they are using a separate language than others or on the basis of religion customs and socio-economic grievances on the basis of regionalism.

Regionalism is not an evil as such but it is not good for national unity and for our constitution. After independence our country could spend most of time to solve the regional issues rather than the national issue. Every region is thinking the development of its own region and gave less importance to the nation as whole. it should be noted here that in regionalism the regional parties always use regional issues for mass mobilization or we can say that they give more emphasis to the development of their region or put forward their policies, accordingly and forget the welfare of the nation or other regions

ROLE OF REGIONAL PARTIES

The role of regional parties in Jammu And Kashmir State. The state of Jammu and Kashmir has affected by the conflict situation even since 1947. Before the emergence of people's democratic party (PDP). National conference (N.C) had hegemonised the politics of Kashmir region. National conference was the party of Jammu and Kashmir who organized the resistance movement against the offended Dogra rule before 1947 and the radical land reforms that it had indicated after it came

into power in 1947. In its new Kashmir manifesto, they emphasized on the economic and political reconstruction of the state. The greatest contribution of national conference was the redistribution of land to the landless, debt relief to the peasants was the basic motives of the party of state. National conference continues to operate as ruling party of the state under the leadership of Sheikh Mohd Abdullah, till 1975. After the death of Sheikh Mohd Abdullah, the party was now led by his son Farooq Abdullah started losing space. But in nineties the Ex-Home Minister Mufti Mohd Syed formed, People's Democratic Party (PDP). People's Democratic Party is one of the strongest regional party of Jammu and Kashmir, which challenged the dominance of national conference. Peoples Democratic Party brought the issue of common mass of the Jammu and Kashmir people to the centre and it was this 'people-oriented strategy' of PDP. That helped bring end the hegemony of national conference. During the 2002 assembly election the PDP managed to capture as many of 16 seats from Kashmir valley.

The Amaranth agitation

In 2008 Amaranth agitation was another landmark in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. This agitation engulfed the state throughout the summer of 2008. The entire issue revolved around a government order diverting forest land to the shrine to Amaranth Shrine Board (SASB), though the assembly elections were only few months away the political parties used it as a tool for mass mobilization in which PDP played a significant role. Though there was coalition government in Jammu and Kashmir PDP and Congress. Peoples Democratic Party resigned and broke the government first to satisfy the people and show them that PDP is the party of people and for their welfare they are ready to sacrifice their all wishes. Actually they were preparing for the assembly elections, which was scheduled to be held in 2008 and highlighted that the forest land was donated to shrine board by national congress in order to destroy their and the tool worked for them. As we seen in assembly elections of 2008 Peoples Democratic Party won 21 seats and, on other hand the political parties try to increase the regional diversities in the state. If the Peoples Democratic Party supported the sentiments of Kashmir people, on other hand National conference supported the Jammu people. Who were in support of giving land to the shrine board so the parties try to increase the regional sentiments among the people. This directly reveals that Jammu and Kashmir is totally dominated by the regional parties and i.e. people of the Jammu and Kashmir are supporting the regional parties and vice versa. So we can say Jammu and Kashmir is Bowl of regional parties.

CONCLUSION

This shows how Jammu and Kashmir politics is dominated by the regional parties, no other party is able to get majority and forms the government without help of regional parties. This shows that Jammu and Kashmir is the bowl of regional parties.

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Research Scholar Vikram University Ujjain.

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