



## Rise of BJP as a strong national alternative force

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### Abstract

In the last many years, the Bhartiya Janta party (BJP) has undergone a massive transformation and is today the country's most alternative political force. The BJP's rise to power in the leadership of Narendra Modi can be attributed partly to Advani's organizational skills, as well as the parties return to Hindutva agenda while keeping the liberal image of Vajpayee alive in popular memory what further helped the party was the fact that the electorate wanted a change from the long years of Congress rule. Slogans like "Party with a difference" and an appeal to the electorate to give the BJP a chance captured the confidence of the electorate.

**Keywords:** Hindutva, Electorate, Organizational, Congress Rule, Leadership, Liberal

### Introduction

The (BJP), a right-wing party, is closely connected ideologically and organizationally with the Hindu nationalist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). In 1951 Shyama Prasad Mukherjee traces the origins of BJP. Jana Sangh, along with other parties, sought to draw in various social and economic groups whose priorities were affected by Congress actions at both national and state levels. Jana Sangh strategies disclose the strong convictions with which the party functioned concerning which sections of society would identify with its overall outlook on societal and communal connections.

The BJP primarily attracted urban groups, including small business owners, traders, and people in lower-level professional roles. It also aimed to represent workers in small businesses and service jobs. Although it supported small traders and rural communities, it often stood with peasants in conflicts against large landowners and wealthy farmers.

The Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) was founded in April 1980 after the Seventh General Elections, when the Bhartiya Jana Sangh (BJS) constituent of the erstwhile Janta Party walked out of the latter. The leadership of the BJS gave a new name to their Party, i.e., the BJP. So far, the BJS is concerned, it was founded on 21 October 1951 as an alternative to the Congress as well the then existing opposition Parties – CPI, the socialist party, and the former congress president Acharya Jivatram Bhagwandas Party (KMPP). This organizational back bone of the BJS and now the BJP has been the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS) founded in 1925 by Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar. It was from the highly disciplined RSS that the BJS drew most of its cadres.

B.J.S. therefore, could not escape the ideological predilections and value preferences of the R.S.S. the participation in JP Movement (1973-75) was significant experience for the R.S.S.–BJS. Participation in JP Movement (1973-75) was significant experience for the R.S.S.–BJS.

### Origin of Bharatiya Janata Party

The emergence of the Janta Party in 1977 implied the extinction of its various constituents, including the BJS. The R.S.S. The controversy surrounding the connection rattled the Janata government in 1978–79, and the controversy also led to a nasty division within the Janta Party and eventually in the direction of emergence of the Bhartiya Janata Party in 1980. Thus, Bhartiya Janta Party inherited two different legacies; first, that of the erstwhile BJP and second, that of the Janata – the JP Movement of 1973-75 and anti-emerging struggle of 1975-77.

A.B Vajpayee, the party's first national convention president elected in Bombay in 1980, linked the BJP's formation to Jaya Prakash Narayan's (JP) vision of a magnificent India. At that time, he had stated that JP's "dream, labor, struggle, and unwavering vow was a priceless legacy that we have inherited." The BJP stays dedicated to completing the work he left undone.

The five guiding principles of BJP ideology are called "Our five commitments"; as given below: nationality and nation unity, a commitment to democracy, Progressive Secularism—"which means promoting shared moral values from different religions and cultural experiences"—and Gandhian Socialism. Gandhi's core values emphasize the importance of employment, freedom, and basic needs for all. The BJP aims to shape a nationwide consensus on these principles and make

them the center of its developmental agenda. Fifth, “the BJP would work to establish a politics based on values and so seek to get rid of the filth that abounds in public life today.” D.L. Seth (2005), an eminent authority on Indian Politics and Political Parties, in his findings relate to the erstwhile Bhartiya Jan Sangh, but they apply to the BJP as well, though it has made significant inroads into new regions, sections and classes of people, giving it a wider Base. BJP supporters mainly come from early middle-aged groups (26 to 45 years), from middle and highly educated urban dwellers and from white collar workers, Professionals, traders and businessman. Compared to all other Parties, it has the largest proportion of upper caste supporters, constituting half of its support Base. Economically relatively greater proportion of its supporters come from middle- and high- income groups and from among landowners with middle and large size land holdings. It is true that the erstwhile Bhartiya Jana Sangh had a relatively Poor Base among the illiterates, the rural people and the land less and among the working class in Urban Area. But now a days BJP has made inroads into the Areas where the BJS was nearly non-existent. Among the Harijans and Tribals, the BJP has substantially enlarged the size of its support base. Additionally, it has numerous numbers of cells that serve different social groups, such as the Kisan Cell, the labor cell and the cultural cell to propagate the party’s Programme among the farmers, organised labour and intelligentsia. The discussion on the organizational base of the BJP will not be complete without mentioning its special relationship with the RSS. This ideology of the earlier BJS, which later became BJP, inspired by the RSS, though it claims to be a socio-cultural organization yet it provided BJP a strong base. Almost all, if not all members of the BJP are either the member of the R.S.S. or sympathizers of the ideology.

### **Organization and Structure**

As of April 2016, the BJP has a primary membership of 100 million and is the biggest political party worldwide. This is because within its rigidly hierarchical structure, the president of the BJP ranks as the highest-ranking official. According to the BJP constitution 2012, there is a possibility that every eligible member would serve a single three-year term as national or state president. There could be up to two consecutive amendments of the same. The national executive, which is made up of a number of senior officials from all parts of the country, is placed behind the president. It is the Party’s supreme policy-making organ. Among the members of the National Executive includes numerous VP, general secretaries, secretaries and treasurers. They engage closely with the President. This committee framework is mirrored at every level—state, regional,

district, and local—making the BJP a cadre-based party. It maintains tight ties to other groups that share its beliefs, including the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh. These groups’ cadres frequently support the BJPs. The majority of its lowest members are descended from the R.S.S. and its associates, together referred to as the Sangh Parivar, have at the national, regional, district and local level. R.S.S and Bharatiya Janata Party has established number of fraternal organizations:

- a. Its student’s wing is known as “Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad”.
- b. The farmer’s division, the Bhartiya Kisan Sangh (Indian Farmers’ Union).
- c. There is also the Indian Laborer’s Union, or Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, affiliated with the RSS.

The Party also has ancillary organizations of its own, including its women’s wing,

- a. Bharatiya Janata Party women’s wing is called BJP Mahila Morcha.
- b. Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha is the BJP’s youth wing.
- c. BJP’s minority wing is known as the BJP Minority Morcha.

### **Objectives and Policy**

As Per the Bharatiya Janata Party constitution the objectives is to make India into a strong, prosperous, and modern states that is also rooted in ancient culture and values of India. The BJP envisions India as a major world power that promotes global peace and a fair world order. It seeks to establish a democratic state which guarantees all citizens, regardless of caste, creed, or gender, social, political, and economic justice, equal opportunities and freedom of belief and expression. BJP is committed to upholding the Indian Constitution, socialism, secularism, democracy, and protecting India’s sovereignty, unity and integrity. While driven mainly by Hindu nationalism, the BJP’s objectives also focus on fostering a democratic, just, and progressive society. Such as:

1. Article 370 of the constitution, which has protected the majority Muslim state of Jammu and Kashmir by not allowing people from outside the region to hold property here.
2. The Uniform Civil Code gives Hindus, Muslims, and Christians the law codes that cater to their religious culture for personal and family matters. BJP advocates claim that this type of structure divides the nation between religious lines.
3. A Ban on cow slaughter, to respect religion of Hindu, culture and traditions; prohibits eating of beef and Pork.
4. BJP opposes the ban on religious conversions, as such a ban is too harsh in differentiating between "coerced" and voluntary conversion.

5. Ram Janam bhoomi temple in Ayodhya
6. Completing the territorial and political integration of J & K with India: At present, Pakistan and China occupy over 40% of the land.

The BJP believes in the strong external territorial security and defense, limited or minimal government intervention, and liberal fiscal policies. Since inception, the party's philosophy and identity centers on Hindutva. In the mid-1990s, the BJP's economic policy shifted dramatically from promoting swadeshi items to embracing free market ideas.

### **Ideology**

The BJP identifies itself as a conservative, culturally rooted movement, promoting the preservation of India's traditional, cultural and religious systems such as Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism. Many nationalists view India (or "Bharat") as a nation of Hindus, or Hindu Rashtra. To the BJP, this is a form of cultural nationalism, where all people and traditions in India are considered "Hindu" in the sense of being native to the land and its history.

Although Bhartiya Jana Sangh, the party organization that founded the BJP, celebrates a literal expression of "Hindu Rashtra, the BJP, in contrast, has always found this concept disagreeable. The Party is working towards the aim of building India into a modern and progressive nation, while staying connected to its culture and values of Hindu. The party key thinker, Deendayal Upadhyay, came up with this ethos of thought through the publication "Integral Humanism." According to Upadhyay, the "monarch" and "state" represent the guiding principles and spirit of society, with national identity as the core foundation. BJP emphasizes the four aims of human life in Hindu philosophy: Kama (desire), Artha (wealth), Dharma (duty), and Moksha (spiritual liberation), advocating for a balanced and interconnected approach to personal and national growth.

Many regard partition of India in 1947 as a controversial act that crippled the life and activity of the BJP. For most of the Indian religious communities, partition left a terrible legacy. Millions have migrated to seek shelter in one of the two new states. In the communal rioting following the horrific carnage, more than 5 lakhs Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims were massacred during the chaos preceding Partition. The painful memories of being forced to leave their ancestral homes in the middle of the night, facing violence and chaos, have left deep scars on Hindu nationalists. The ideologically constant factors of the ideology of BJP are yet another vital aspect. This includes the perpetual territorial disputes over J&K and wars fought in 1947-48, 1962, 1965, and 1971, and the Kargil War. BJP and its followers believe that India must stay vigilant against threats from Pakistan. The BJP has

frequently been accused of stirring up violence related to religion, mishandling controversial religious matters just to gain political mileage. Such accusations, mostly a propaganda by other parties against the BJP, which has damaged the BJP's reputation, especially among Muslims. Journalists and analysts from the left often label BJP as a fascist party with an obvious anti-Muslim agenda. Ironically, the party has also elevated numerous Muslims, such as Mukhtar Abbas and Sikandar Bakht, as well as J.F.R. Jacob, a prominent leader in the Indian Jewish community. Some of the demands put forth by the BJP and some of the things that the party has done and continues to do are patently objectionable and have been termed provocateurs of communal violence. Muslims are accused of being intruders who destroyed an ancient temple in Ayodhya centuries ago and built the Babri Mosque on that place. During 1970s, Vishwa Hindu Parishad launched an organized push to restore the Hindu Temple at the location, which is regarded Lord Rama's birthplace. Though the protests were non-violent for two decades, in late 1980, they were divided by topics. VHP began demanding that the mosque be demolished directly, and the BJP took it up as their cause. The Ram Temple has been an important concern for BJP, and its workers including many instructors, have conducted large rallies in Ayodhya. The impact of this problem was a key reason behind the BJP's success in the 1991 state assembly elections in UP, India's largest population state and it helped party to gain nation's attention.

On 6 Dec, 1992, however, emotive influence took violent turns when a mob of protestors attacked the mosque and reduced it to rubble with pick axes and shovels. However, this surge in support led to widespread anger, violence, and destruction, resulting in nearly 1,000 deaths. In the wake of the communal riots, many people began to feel that India's secular identity was under threat. (VHP) was banned, and leaders like Advani and other BJP officials were arrested. Murli Manohar Joshi, Advani were named in a CBI charge sheet for their roles in the temple's destruction. Despite these arrests, the BJP's political power has become exponentially stronger.

### **BJP (1980—Present) Formation and Early Days**

Even though new BJP was different from Jana Sangh, many members are same, and its first president was Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Historian Ramachandra Guha notes that Hindu-Muslim violence skyrocketed in the early 1980s. To be more appealing, the BJP naturally toned down the predecessor's Hindu nationalism; at first, it played up its connections to the Janata Party, Gandhian Socialism. However, in 1984 elections, the BJP only managed to win 2 Lok Sabha seats. This was largely due to a surge in support for the Congress party following the murder of Indira Gandhi just few months ago, which allowed Congress to win a record 403 seats and

left the BJP with a low tally. This demise of Atal Bihari moderate approach resulted the party towards hard-line stance with strong religio-political overtones of Hindu nationalism. Soon after Advani became the party president in 1984, the party platform had become the political wing for the Ram Janmabhoomi campaign. (VHP) started working in early 1980s on the way to build a temple dedicated to Hindu god Rama, at the location of Babri mosque. This mosque had been built in 1527 by Babur. It undetermined whether there ever had been a temple on that site. The protest was founded on a belief that this was birthplace of Rama and mosque had been built after demolition. BJP incorporated this in their election agenda and supported it. Its victory in General Elections in 1989 by 86 seats meant that the administration run by V. P. Singh of the National Front needed its support.

In fact, he launched a chariot trek, or rath yatra, to Ayodhya to promote the cause of a Ram temple in September 1990. The imagery of the yatra was filled with religious themes, strong emotions, and a sense of masculinity that often turned against Muslims. During this journey, Advani criticized the government for acting as an abettor of Islam and indulging in "pseudo-secularism" that prevented Hindus from enjoying their rightful aspirations. Advocate of yatra, Advani said that the violence that followed was due to the malice of English media and that the yatra had been incident-free till Somnath and hence Ayodhya. He then unfolds that at that time, Lalu Prasad Yadav, the then Bihar's C.M ordered the preventive custody of Advani.

Still, a huge flock of karsevaks gathered in Ayodhya. While 150,000 of them were detained on an order issued by the U.P's C.M, half of them reached Ayodhya where some of them attacked the mosque. Many kar sevaks were killed in the three days of battle with the paramilitary troops. VHP called upon Hindus to "take revenge" over these killings, which incited anti-Muslim rioting throughout UP. After BJP dropped its support from the V.P. Singh cabinet, fresh general elections were called. Thus BJP gained a majority in UP and increment in its total seats to 120. On December 6, 1992, over 100,000 supporters in VHP and BJP marched towards mosque site in rally organized by RSS and its affiliates. Thus rally soon turned into a frenzied mob attack and in the process, the mosque was demolished. In excess of 2,000 lost lives in waves of violence between Muslims and Hindus that swept across the country in the following weeks. The V. H. P. was implicated into a banned deal of the government, and Advani and other BJP officials were detained for making divisive remarks that incited demolition. Historians believe that, contrary to claims that it was a random affair, the destruction was a planned action by the Sangh Parivar.

According to 2009 study composed by Justice Manmohan

Singh Liberhan accused 68 persons — majority of them being BJP leaders—of demolishing the structure. Vajpayee, Advani, and Murlu Manohar Joshi also cropped up in this report. The allegations against the report challenged Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh for his actions during the demolition process. He was accused of deputing police officers and officials who would look away while the building was razed. An officer of Indian Police Service, well known throughout for her tasks, Anju Gupta - in charge of the security details of Advani - testified before the inquiry, stating that the aggressive speeches given by Advani and Joshi had a great deal to do with the actions of the mob.

The BJP rises as the largest party in Lok Sabha when it capitalized on the sectarian divide that followed the demolition into the 1996 legislative elections, winning 161 seats in the General Elections. The Vajpayee administration failed to get a majority in the general elections and was forced into resignation within 13 days of his elevation to the post of Prime Minister.

#### **NDA Government (1998-2004)**

It was formed in 1996 due to the merger of local parties, but it did not survive for too long because the elections were scheduled midway in 1998. The current political allies of this party include the Samata, Shiv Sena and Shiromani Akali Dal. In the elections, BJP conducted a coalition called National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which included parties like AIADMK and Biju Janata Dal. It was only regional party that was in line with the philosophy of the BJP and, as Amartya Sen termed, the entire alliance was "ad hoc". Telugu Desam Party providing outside support, enabled the NDA to win the majority and Vajpayee regained the seat of PM. Hence NDA ended in May 1999 when AIADMK leader Jayalalitha dropped her support, leading to new elections.

Without AIADMK, the NDA have 303 members in parliament and an absolute majority on 13th October, 1999. The BJP's tally was the highest ever, standing at 183. Advani became Home Minister as well as Deputy Prime Minister. Vajpayee was reappointed as Prime Minister for the third time. The five years of its term were fully served by this NDA government. Among other policy goals this NDA government was also guided by neo-liberal economic reforms, new precision in defense and in handling terrorism. In 2001, Tehelka journalists ran a sting operation in which Bangaru Laxman, BJP president, caught accepting a bribe of Rs. 100,000 (equivalent to Rs. 280,000 or US\$4,100 in 2016) to suggest procurement of thermal imagers for the Indian Army to Defence Ministry. The BJP prodded him to quit, and he was later indicted. In April 2012, he received a four-year sentence.

#### **2002 Gujarat Violence**

The killing of 59 persons in a train carrying Hindu pilgrims burnt outside Godhra on 27 February, 2002 caused an inflamed interpretation as an attack on Hindus. This inflamed people to widespread anti-Muslim riots for weeks in Gujarat. The death toll was reported at up to 2000, with 150000 affected. Rape, mutilation, and torture were also common. Many high-ranking members of the government, most notably

the then-C.M of Gujarat, Narendra Modi, was a suspect of provoking and sponsoring the violence. Policemen were also charged with inciting mob violence, besides allegedly directing rioters and providing them with Muslim name homes.

In 2009, the Supreme Court introduced a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to look into Gujarat riots. In 2012, the SIT cleared Narendra Modi of any responsibility for the riots, but BJP MLA Kodnani, who afterwards served in Modi's cabinet, was found guilty of being the mastermind behind one of the incident and was sent for 28 years in prison. Thinkers like Brass, Martha Nussbaum, and Gupta noted that state played significant role in these events.

### **General Election Defeats**

Vajpayee announced elections 6 months in advance of plan in 2004. The NDA election went to brand itself as the driving force behind India's rapid economic turnaround with the slogan "India Shining". Yet it was shocked to receive only 186 Lok Sabha seats and Congress and its allies bagged 222 seats. Manmohan Singh became the PM and leader of the United Progressive Alliance after Vajpayee. Two other reasons attributed to the downfall of the NDA were its inability to reach out to the Indian countryside or the rural mindset, coupled with its policy agenda that was divisive and was telegraphed as such.

In 2008, BJP won state elections in Karnataka, marking its 1<sup>st</sup> victory in a South India. However, in the general elections of 2009 the BJP's LS seats fell to 116, and the assembly election lost in 2013.

### **Lok Sabha Success in 2014**

In general election of 2014, the BJP won 282 seats, while NDA secured an overall of 336 seats. Narendra Modi, became the country's PM in 2014. BJP attained 31% of total votes polled, which is again a very small fraction when compared with the amount of votes it attain. It marked that since 1984 that a one party had achieved an absolute victory in the Indian Parliament, and the BJP still held a victory in LS. While BJP support was mostly limited to the Hindi regions of North-Centre India, many opinion polls did not predict the extent of the BJP's victory.

Political experts have offered numerous explanations for the BJP's success, involves the charisma of PM, and the lack of support of Congress because of prior corruption scandals. How did BJP manage, seemingly, open up traditional upper-caste, class base which attracting strong middle-class and Dalit support and also significant Others Backward Classes? However, the BJP received less support among the Muslim voters; it garnered only 8% of votes. The BJP was extremely successful in the mobilization of its people and increasing the participation rate between BJP members themselves.

### **Results of the General Election**

The BJP was formally formed in 1980, and secured just 2 seats in LS, 1984. After 1996 elections, it became the biggest party in the LS, though its govt. was short-lived. The largest party in 1998 and 1999 and the leading party in the government both times. In Lok Sabha election of 2014, the BJP victory was decisive majority.

### **The Ideology and Positions in Politics**

BJP's main philosophy is called "Integral Humanism," created by D.D. Upadhyaya. This philosophy is linked to Hindutva, which was popularized by V.D. Savarkar. For BJP, cultural nationalism represents by Hindutva, focusing on culture of India instead of Western influences. Some critics argue that Hindutva aims to reshape India into a Hindu nation, sidelining other religions, which labels the BJP as a Hindu nationalist party. It has softened its approach to accommodate other parties with different ideologies.

Most of government's initiatives are an expression of the BJP's Hindutva ideology. It suggests a Lord Rama's temple at the place of Babri Masjid. It had been its signature campaign issue during the 1991 general election. Though, vicious backlash followed when the mosque was brought down at the rally of the BJPs in 1992, which made the temple much less relevant on the party's agenda. The NDA government rewrote the education policy of NCERT with directives to drastically rewrite Indian schoolbooks. Many historians believe this has led to efforts to "saffronize" Indian history, especially through changes in history textbooks. The NDA government even introduced astrology based on Vedic texts into college courses, despite pushback from scientists. The BJP opposes what it calls "pseudo-secularism," which they associate with the Congress party, and instead advocates for what they term "positive secularism." Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a prominent BJP leader, compared their version of Mahatma Gandhi's idea of equal respect for all religions with European secularism. He claimed that the secularism in India bends towards equal treatment of all religions, whereas European secularism was religiously neutral. Thus, the Indian secularism becomes more "positive." Whereas, the BJP advocates the UCC, that would enforce one uniform laws for all citizens irrespective of religion, rather than the religion-specific and existing differently in varied religious groups. Historian Yogendra Malik believes that this goes against the different needs to safeguard identity of culture. The BJP believes Jammu & Kashmir should have more autonomy due to its unique history before joining India, especially if Article 370 of the Constitution is revoked. They also think that the immigration of Hindus from Bangladesh, primarily affecting Assam and West Bengal, poses risks to national security and stability. Critics have highlighted that while BJP calls Hindus from Bangladesh "refugees," it labels Muslim immigrants as

"illegal." The Supreme Court of India reinstated Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code in 2013, which prohibited gay relationships. This decision sparked public protests, but some religious leaders, including Muslims, supported it. Initially, Rajnath Singh stated that the party favored Section 377 because it viewed homosexuality as unnatural. However, this has changed their victory in the 2014 elections of LS.

The fiscal agenda of BJP was far removed from its founding. The party encompasses a wide spectrum of beliefs in economics. In the 1980s, it reflected a way of thinking associated with the RSS and its sister organizations. So did the Jana Sangh. It espoused swadeshi which means promoting local factories and goods, along with an export policy. But advocate fiscal reform for the domestic economy and opposed the Congress's tendency to favor state-driven industrialization.

However, in elections of 1996, the BJP transformed protecting local industries to embracing globalization. In its election manifesto, it focused on encouraging outside investment in significant sectors while limiting it for others. Having assumed power in 1998, the party further adapted its policies toward globalisation. An unprecedented inflow of international enterprises was witnessed during the mandate period of the NDA. This change faced strong opposition from left-wing parties, as well as from BJP-affiliated groups like RSS and Swadeshi Jagran Manch. Communist parties held that BJP continuing its neoliberal policies to please the World Bank and the US administration. The RSS also said BJP was not committed to its Swadeshi doctrine.

From 1998 to 2004, the two NDA governments made significant moves to deregulate and privatize state-owned companies and reduce tariffs. These changes continued the economic liberalization that began under congress in the 1990s. As a result, GDP of India improved significantly when the NDA is in power. The slogan "India Shining" in the election campaign of 2004 reflected BJP belief that a free market would benefit everyone in society. After it received a shock defeat, analysts claimed that it was punished for its inability to attend to the interests of the poor to the detriment of its business-loving voters.

As Prime Minister, Modi introduced measures to boost India's economic productivity and simplify the bureaucratic processes that had long hindered business. He worked on reducing red tape, including simplifying permits and inspections, to make it easier to do business in India. Modi also initiated reforms in the IAS to run govt. more effectively. The Planning Commission was succeeded with the Niti Aayog, policy making focused on think tank. Additionally, the Modi government were lowered diesel prices in 2014. The BJP administration opened up more sectors to foreign direct investment (FDI), leading to

increased foreign involvement in the Indian economy. In May 2015, FDI in India surged by 61% compared to the previous year, making India the top destination for FDI in the world by September 2015, surpassing both China and the USA. In 2015, the govt. relaxed outside investment limits 15 key economic sector.

### **Defence and Terrorism**

On the other hand, the BJP is relatively more aggressive and nationalistic in the issues of defense strategy and terror attacks. The NDA government conducted tests of nuclear weapons, passed the Prevention of Terrorism Act, it faced criticism over time. They also deployed troops to Kargil to remove infiltrators and supported the US in its War on Terror. While earlier government of congress laid groundwork for testing, the Atal govt. fell by avoiding such tests when it approved Pokhran-II, in 1998. This decision brought shortly when Pakistan launched a ballistic missile. This remained as much of the rest of the world as an effort to show, through its military prowess, that India was superior and also as an expression of anti-Pakistani feeling by BJP politicians.

The Indian government under Vajpayee told the forces to push back the soldiers of Pakistan who had occupied the Kashmir area, which has since been described as Kargil War. Although later criticized for intelligence failure, which was thought to have failed to detect the presence of Pakistanis in Kashmir, the government was successful in forcing them out of the disputed territory. The Vajpayee government expressed its support for USA, War on Terror to better address these challenges of terrorists and the insurrection in Kashmir. It has defense cooperation with United States which even includes negotiations over arms sale.

After 2001 attack on Indian Parliament, the NDA introduced the Prevention of Terrorism Act to give itself more power to combat terrorism. It ran into a roadblock in Rajya Sabha; hence, the NDA relied on what was then viewed as a drastic step-the session of Parliament, whereby the LS, being numerically stronger house, accommodated the measure. The statute later on sentence hundreds of terrorists. It was opposed by other parties and experts as a blow to human freedom, and the NHRC also argued that the act was misused against Muslims.

### **Foreign Policy**

Like Jana Sangh, the BJP's earlier foreign policy was largely colored by a strong nationalism of Hinduism allied with protectionism in the economy. The Jana Sangh was constituted solely for the purpose of undoing the division of India; hence, its stated opinion was that the creation of Pakistan was illegal. Hatred for Pakistan still exercises immense influence on the worldview of the BJP. This government strongly criticized nonalignment policy and chose to strengthen ties with the USA instead. Atal foreign policy

marked a significant change from traditional BJP views, while still keeping some of those ideas in place. The policy also showed a dramatic deviation as of previous government's Nehruvian idealism and towards reality. His party, however, did criticize him for being much more conciliatory toward Pakistan. In 1998, Vajpayee made history by visiting Pak and open the Bus route of Delhi to Lahore. He signed the Lahore Declaration to try to improvise connection between India and Pakistan, which had worsened after both countries conducted nuclear tests that same year. Months later, Pakistani forces and militants were traced to the disputed territory of Kashmir, which turned into 1999 Indo-Pak conflict. The War of Kargil, happened a few months later, ended with the removal of infiltrators from territory of India, but the LOC—acting as an unofficial territory—remained unchanged. Despite the conflict, Vajpayee was open to talking with Pakistan, which didn't sit well with some members of the BJP who accused his government of being too lenient. This faction influenced the discussions during the post-Kargil Agra summit, which ultimately didn't lead to any significant progress.

After winning the election in 2014, the BJP and the P.M Narendra Modi has made foreign policy the cornerstone of his administration. Modi travels frequently around the world. During the last two years he has visited 38 nations. He has injected personal zeal into India's foreign diplomacy. Within two years, he has met US President Barack Obama seven times, including as Guest at Republic Day celebration of India. In the last 2 years P.M Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj have stated:

1. No discussion on Kashmir, until India's concern on terrorism is addressed.
2. We will take back that part of Kashmir which is under Pakistan's occupation.
3. Speaking to Pakistan in its language.

On September 18, 2016, four armed terrorists attacked near Uri in Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in what was called the "deadliest attack on security forces in Kashmir in twenty years." While no group officially claimed responsibility, the terrorist group Jaish-Muhammed was suspected to be part in carrying out this attack.

After Uri incident India changed its stand on the rules of engagement with Pakistan. Indian special forces crossed LOC (Line of Control) on 28 September destroyed 7 terrorist launch Pads in Pak- Occupied Kashmir. Action takes place 1-3 km inside Pak held Territory, inflicting heavy casualties two Indian Army soldiers injured during four-hour operation.

### **Health and Sanitation Policies**

It has in store the draft policy on implementing a universal health care system designed by Modi's government-the NHAM. It aimed to provide free medicines, diagnostic treatments, and aid for critical illnesses, but financial issues have delayed these plans. In 2014, they introduced Swachh

Bharat Abhiyan, a nationwide cleanliness initiative to remove open defecation in villages and to minimize garbage across the country. With this regard for improving relatively low sanitation standards in India, the initiative launched public awareness over littering and increased toilet construction in rural areas while working toward encouraging their use. In this respect, the Indian government launched several new sewage treatment plants construction projects.

### **Defence Policy**

BJP government significantly expanded defense investing to modernize and improve the armed forces of India, with an 11% rise in the military budget in 2015. It also reached an agreement of peace with the NSC of Nagaland to terminate an insurrection that had been continuing throughout the 1950s.

### **IT Policy**

He likewise introduced the scheme of Digital India plan, which has been a step toward making all government services accessible to Indians electronically with a view to remove paper work and to introduce infrastructural facilities for rural India. He secured high-speed Internet connectivity, upgraded electronic manufacturing in the domestic space, and increased digital literacy, mainly for the lower strata. On 1 July, he launched Digital India Week in Delhi. Modi visited Silicon Valley in the United States in September 2015 to advance the plan of Digital India with Zuckerberg, Pichai, and Nadella. Railway stations across country began to get Wi-Fi.

### **Recent Programme of BJP Government and International Diplomacy**

In 2014, he unveiled the campaign named as Make in India that aims at enticing worldwide companies to manufacture their products in India and further settle there with an objective of making the country a worldwide manufacturing hub. The government of Modi enhanced expenditure on infrastructure with an aim to significantly improve the country's transport infrastructure. The government started renovating and building new roads and railways, focusing heavily on modernizing the railway system. In November 2015, India signed important agreements with General Electric and Alstom to produce 1,000 new diesel locomotives under "Make in India" initiative. In 2015, with Japan the BJP government also done a deal to collaborate to construct a bullet train line from Mumbai to Ahmedabad.

The Govt. of India initiated an elaborate development of highway infrastructure to connect every corner of the country. A plan expand the water transport network of the country by converting 101 rivers into National Waterways for carrying products and passengers was proposed. Plans for waterbus and hovercraft services began along with construction of more sea and river ports. On June 25, 2015, Modi unveiled an

ambitious plan for making 100 cities. In addition to this BJP introduced "smart villages" program aimed at bringing net access, drinking water, sanitation, and low-carbon energy to rural areas. MPs were assigned to oversee the development of selected villages, with a goal of achieving 2,500 villages till 2019.

On January 22, 2015, Modi launched two important schemes: the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana, which focuses on saving and educating girls, and the Sukanya Samridhi Account, a savings program for girls. In 2015, he announced "Housing for All By 2022", aimed at providing over 20 million homes to poor urban people. In 2016, Modi reported that they had saved about ₹360 billion (around \$5.3 billion) by identifying and preventing 16.2 million fake ration cards. He also promised to increase farmers' incomes and launched the PMFBY in 2016 to support them, started the PMJDY in August 2014, led to the opening of 219 million bank accounts and deposits of ₹377.75 billion (about \$5.6 billion) by May 2016. Additionally, on May 1, 2016, he introduced the PMUY, given LPG links to women from low-income families.

Narendra Modi took the oath of office as PM of India on 26 May, 2014, at President's house. All SAARC leaders were invited for his swearing-in ceremony as a prime minister to enhance the relationship between its members. Seeking close relations with neighboring nations, his first foreign trip was to Bhutan, followed by a visit to Nepal on August 8, 2014. He then set out for a five-day visit to Japan from 30th August. It was followed by the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping in India, which began on September 17, 2014. During these visits, both countries signed agreements to enhance their economic cooperation. In the last week of September, Modi successfully hosted a visit to the United States, which improved relations b/w India and U.S.A on September 27, 2014, at the UNGA, he proposed that June 21 be declared International Yoga Day, and the resolution was accepted by 193 member countries. He celebrated the day in 2015 by doing yoga in Delhi and in 2016 by doing it in Chandigarh.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct, 2014, Modi began a regular program known as 'Mann Ki Baat.' In his first two years, he repealed 1,159 outdated laws, surpassing the overall of 1,301 laws suspended by all prior govt. in the last 64 years. Modi Government itself completes two years in power, with new vision and programs we can say that BJP has come up as a strong national alternative force in Indian politics.

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