

Miracle Mandate 2024 Lok Sabha Election: A Study in Electoral Geography

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Abstract

Electoral geography is study of democratic electoral system. In a democratic system, effective governance is characterized by participation, transparency, accountability, efficiency, equity, and adherence to the rule of law. During elections, the principle of effective governance allows all political parties to gain and relinquish power. Core elements of effective governance, such as *responsibility, accountability, and transparency*, highlight a government's success in achieving good governance.

Prior to 2014, the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) held power for two consecutive terms, during which significant issues such as corruption, inflation, violence against women, and unemployment came to the forefront, leading to a call for a change in leadership in the 2014 elections. The Bhartiya Janata Party leveraged the election outcome in its favor by pledging to deliver effective governance. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) assumed control and addressed various matters supported by the populace, including Ram Mandir, Triple Talaq, and Article 370. However, there was a notable increase in problems related to corruption, inflation, crimes against women, and the manipulation of constitutional institutions for personal gain. Both the opposition and voters have expressed dissatisfaction with the ruling party, as they seek socio-economic development and job opportunities for everyone.

The 2024 Lok Sabha election reflected the people's call for a stronger democracy and a more vocal opposition, driven by growing concerns over the weakening state of democratic institutions. One of the central issues for voters was the safeguarding of the Constitution, which emerged as a key point of focus during the election. This research paper seeks to examine the 2024 election results through the lens of good governance and the public's demand for a more accountable and resilient democratic system.

Keywords: Democracy, Election Process, Neofascism, Electoral abuses, skirt capitalism.

INTRODUCTION

Since the end of the Cold War, there is a wide consensus that democracy is the best system of government (Fukuyama, 1992). international survey data show that a vast majority of citizens worldwide think that democracy is a good system of collective governance (Anderson et al., 2020; Norris, 2011). In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the people of India gave a mandate against the UPA government and the NDA alliance led by the Bhartiya Janata Party formed the government with 336 seats(<https://eci.gov.in>). The corruption in the UPA government, inflation, terrorist attacks, Chinese intrusion into the border, increasing heinous crimes against women and the movement for the Lokpal bill created a wave of change among the people, which BJP leader Mr. Narendra Modi was able to capitalize on very well. The BJP alone won 282 seats in 2014. But gradually, by 2024, instead of any major improvement on all

issues, the problems increased even more, due to which BJP had to suffer a loss of 42 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections¹.

We will analyze what were the misgovernances of the government which the party previously won 282 seats in 2014 but witnessed some losses due to which it had to fall below the absolute majority. For this we will have to know the political, social and economic conditions.

A) MIS GOVERNANCES ON POLITICAL ISSUES

The purpose of politics in a democracy is to protect the interests of the people and to make and implement policies for their overall development (Yadav, Y. 2014). There are mainly two parties in democratic politics, one is the ruling party and the other is the opposition. While the ruling party makes policies and implements them, the opposition's job is to maintain pressure by questioning and criticizing the anti-people policies of the government so that, there is no dictatorship in governance (Diamond, L. 2008).

In 2014, when NDA came to power, it promised better solutions to all the important problems during the UPA government. The general public had brought NDA to power with full majority, so the expectations were also very high. But as time passed slowly, all those problems like corruption, return of black money, misuse of constitutional institutions, freedom of questioners, free environment for research in universities and increase in budget of education and health were promised but, instead of bringing any big change, the situation started getting worse which started having a negative impact on the public. The analysis of political problems is discussed below.

1) Misuse of constitutional institutions

Before 2014, the UPA government was accused of misusing constitutional institutions, which was raised as an issue by the NDA government. But institutions like CBI, ED, IT and EC were misused more than the previous government.

According to a report, there were 25 such leaders against whom corruption cases were going on, but after joining the BJP party, 23 leaders were given a clean chit by the CBI and ED. Between 2014 and 2024, CBI and ED registered 95% cases against opposition leaders only². Leaders like Manish Sisodia, Arvind Kejriwal, Sanjay Singh were put behind jail without any strong evidence in the liquor scam.

Table1.

Invitation agencies	Investigation Number		Against opposition	
	2004-14	2014-24	2004-14	2014-24
ED	26	121	54%	95%
CBI	72	124	60%	95%

In 2019, major changes were made in the Money Laundering Act which states that investigation can be done even without FIR. Between 2014 and 2022, charge sheets were filed in 888 cases and Rs 99,335 crore were seized but, convictions could be made in only 45 cases.

¹ Jha, Abhishek. 2024. 'From 2014-2024 – 282, 303, 240: Charting Shift in BJP's Tally.' *Hindustan Times*, June 6, 2024 accessed January 6, 2025, <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/from-2014-2024-282-303-240-charting-shift-in-bjp-s-tally-101717616309825.html>.

² Tiwary, Deeptiman. 2024a. "Since 2014, 25 Opposition Leaders Facing Corruption Probe Crossed over to BJP, 23 of Them Got Reprieve." *The Indian Express*, April 4 accessed January 5, 2025, <https://indianexpress.com/article/express-exclusive/since-2014-25-opposition-leaders-facing-corruption-probe-crossed-over-to-bjp-23-of-them-got-reprieve-9247737/>.

2) State control on personal information

“The problem is not simply that the government knows information about people, but how it uses that information to make decisions about them.” (*Solove, 2006, p. 490*). The upshot is that public trust is threatened as governments become preoccupied with issues that do not strike citizens as being central to their own security (Lyon, 2014). The free press is under attack. Censorship and state control of media is on the rise. Social media... sometimes serves to reinforce people’s prejudices rather than to broaden their perspectives (*Barack Obama, 2018*)

In August 2021, the Modi government was accused of spying on about 174 journalists³, activists and opposition leaders. This was done through spyware made by Israel. This was the biggest case of espionage by any government. This raised serious questions on the right to privacy.

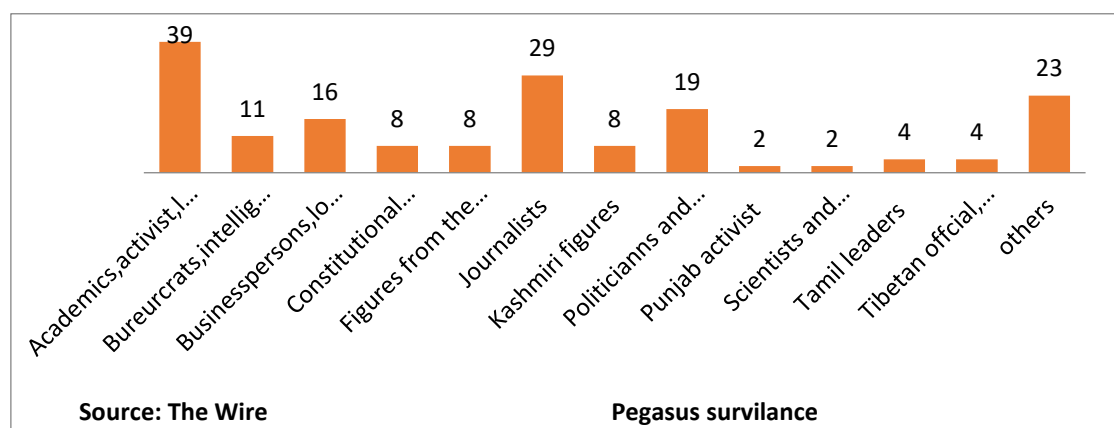


Figure 1: Pegasus Surveillance of Indian

The personal data law has been changed in such a way that the information of the administrator and the ministry is now out of reach of the public and hence it will also become difficult to detect corruption in the government. We should remember that a lot of corruption was exposed through the RTI Act.

3) Suppressing dissent and criticism

Dissent is vital to protect democracy (*The Guardian, 2024*). Suppressing dissent has become a common strategy for authoritarian-leaning democracies, where legal tools such as defamation laws, anti-terrorism measures, and regulatory controls are used to silence journalists, activists, and political opposition (*Roth, K., 2020*).

- The biggest political change that came after the Modi government came to power in 2014 was that people who questioned and criticized the Modi government were defamed by calling them anti-national so that no one could question the wrong policies of the government. A large section of the media was used for this task and students, activists, journalists and opposition leaders who questioned or protested against the government regarding the rights of the people were targeted by calling them **anti-national or anti-religion**.
- In the **Global Expression Index 2024**⁵, India has reached 123rd (Score 19) place out of 161 countries, which has made it one of the countries with the least expression. In 2013, the rank was

³ Ellis-Petersen, Hannah, and Michael Safi. 2021. “Modi Accused of Treason by Opposition over India Spyware Disclosures.” *The Guardian*, July 19. <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2021/jul/19/modi-accused-treason-opposition-india-spyware-disclosures>.

95th (Score54), which should be a matter of concern for our country because the democracy of any country progresses through freedom of expression⁴.

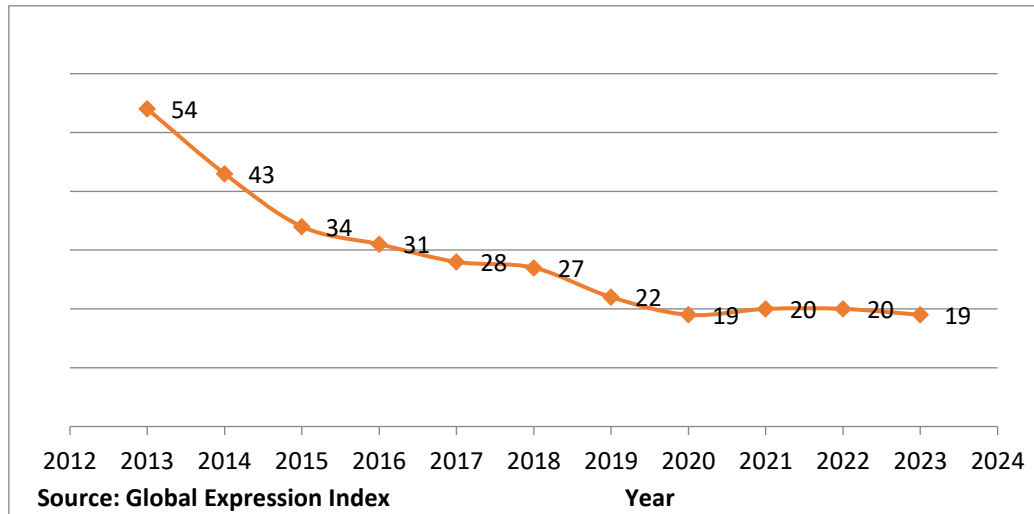


Figure 2: Global Expression Index

Many such journalists and media houses were charged by the government which was later proved wrong in the court. In the last 3 years, 7 journalists were put in jail which is the highest number since 1992. Out of these, 6 have been charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Between 2014 and 2020, cases have been booked against 135 journalists under various laws⁵. 8 influential media houses viz, The Wire, BBC, News Click, Dainik Bhaskar, NDTV, The Quint, Bharat Samachar, and Greater Kashmir were on corruption or criminal charges by government agencies. This is considered to be the biggest attack on media freedom in India after Emergency.

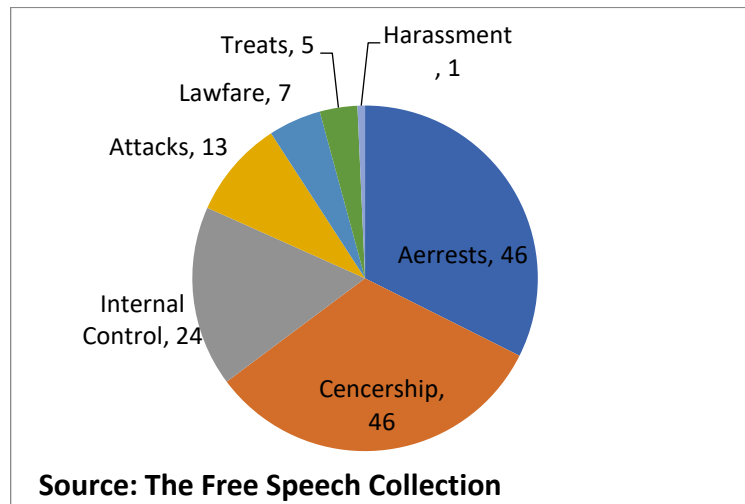


Figure 3: Different Cases Against Media Persons

⁴ 'The Global Expression Report 2024,' n.d.

⁵ NL Team, and NL Team. 2024. '7 Journalists behind Bars in India, 5 Charged under UAPA: CPJ.' *NewsLaundry*. January 19, 2024, accessed January 12, 2025, <https://www.newsLaundry.com/2024/01/19/7-journalists-behind-bars-in-india-5-charged-under-uapa-cpj>.

(4) A New Era of Hindutva Fascism

There are fundamental similarities between fascism in Europe and Hindutva fascism in India. The growing street violence, lynching and killing of Muslims, Dalits, Communists, prejudice against religious minorities, capturing state power by electoral means and infiltration of RSS into judiciary, universities, army, media, police and bureaucracy are some of the similarities between European fascism in early 20th century and Hindutva fascism in India today (*Bhabani Shankar Nayak*, 2020). The RSS and its leadership historically have been great worshippers of Hitler and Mussolini and their ideas. Nazism and Fascism have greatly molded the ideological as well as organizational frameworks of the RSS. They do not hide this love (*Radhika Desai*, 2013)

One ethnic type of nationalism is Hindutva. Its most ardent advocate since 1925 has been the right-wing Hindu nationalist para military group Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) (Christophe Jaffrelot, 2007). The RSS is an authoritarian, hierarchical, extreme far-right organization that was established on the idea of Hindu supremacy⁶. By imposing the Hindi language, the government aims to create uniformity, be it language, religion mythology and most important of all is unwavering national patriotism. It aims to suppress opposing viewpoints and remove secularism and religious pluralism from political discourse at all the levels.

In India, Fascism is an ideology that spreads hatred in society on the basis of caste, religion and minority of a country. The basis of this ideology is the landlordism and feudal system which does politics by dividing the society on the issues of majority (Hinduism) sentiments to maintain monopoly over the resources and system of a country (Banerjee, Sumanta, 2005). After 2014, fascism has emerged in a new form which has been named as *neo-fascism*. There are three important pillars of neo-fascism which make it very strong *politically, socially and economically*. The *first* is **crony capitalism**, which empowers economically, *the second* is the **government**, whose power is used to control those who question and criticize fascism, and the *third* pillar is **religion**, which confuses the people by dividing them into Hindu-Muslim. At present, neo-fascism is strengthening itself in India with the power of the afore mentioned three pillars.

After 2014, the influence of neo-fascism is being seen in India. We can also call it Hindutva fascism because the politics of Hinduism is being changed by religious influence, while the Constitution of India talks about secularism. There are many such incidents which are showing the influence of Hindutva fascism, which has been discuss below.

In 2019, the central government talked about preparing National Register Citizenship (NRC) in which Muslims were specifically targeted⁷. There was a fear of citizenship of this law because there was a provision in the law that if a person does not have sufficient documents and is a non-Muslim, he will be given citizenship but, if he has sufficient document, he will not get citizenship as he is a Muslim. There were big protests all over the country against this law, which has not been implemented yet. But whenever an election comes, NRC is used as an election issue.

Any form of dissent is met with brutal retribution. This is an obvious sign of a fascist government. A

⁶ Ellis-Petersen, Hannah. 2022. 'What Is Hindu Nationalism and How Does It Relate to Trouble in Leicester?' *The Guardian*, September 20, 2022, accessed December 5, 2024, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/sep/20/what-is-hindu-nationalism-and-who-are-the-rss>.

⁷ Meghnad S, and Meghnad S. 2019. 'Citizenship Amendment Act Is Simply a Muslim Filter.' *NewsLaundry*. December 14, 2019, accessed December 6, 2024 <https://www.newsLaundry.com/2019/12/14/citizenship-amendment-act-is-simply-a-muslim-filter>.

"predator of press freedom", Academic and journalistic freedom have reached all-time low. Legislation has frequently been passed without discussion and legislative debate has been stopped.

Three Bills on agriculture reforms – The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020; The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 – were introduced in the Parliament and but despite strong opposition from the opposition party, it was passed by voice vote. The MPs who opposed it were thrown out of the Parliament. A movement was launched by farmers across the country against the new agricultural law which lasted for more than 300 days. About 700 farmers were killed in this movement, after heavy pressure from the opposition and the farmers' movement, all three agricultural laws were withdrawn by the government.

Rise of Cow Vigilante:

Lynching is not merely a law-and-order problem, it is a social problem that reflects a majoritarian mindset that dehumanizes minorities (*Harsh Mander*, human rights activist and author). One of the most common causes of mob lynching is the murder of cows. Some significant occurrences related to cow slaughter include the mob lynching in Dadri in 2015, the Jharkhand mob lynching in 2016, the Alwar mob lynching in 2017, and others⁸. Society has devolved into self-proclaimed vigilantes who take the law into their own hands and relentlessly target minorities. Following the beef prohibition in some parts of the country, cow vigilantes have become more daring and vigilant in their attacks on innocent individuals based on mere suspicion or rumors. In mob lynching, not only Muslims were targeted but backward classes and Dalits were also targeted.

After BJP came to power in 2014, secularism and socialism are being constantly attacked. The chapter on secularism was removed from NCERT books and an agenda is being run against it by the RSS people. There is talk of changing the Indian Constitution by talking about Hindu Rashtra. Even BJP MPs have brought a proposal to remove the word secular from the preamble of the Constitution. RSS people believe that this word has come from foreign countries which are the biggest obstacle in making a Hindu Rashtra.

(5) Electoral process towards election autocracy

Many authoritarian regimes allow some degree of opposition participation but rely on media control, legal manipulation, voter suppression, and electoral engineering to ensure that the ruling party remains entrenched (I. Samuel and V. Sergio, April 2025)

In the last decade, many irregularities have been reported in the Indian elections, which include manipulation of the number of voters, particular caste and religion⁹. Even voter's names were removed from the voter list, allegations of tampering with EVM machines, allegations of keeping BJP's convenience in mind while announcing the election date and one-sided action in following the election code of conduct. This is the most serious issue for any democracy because in democracy, elections are the biggest medium for political progressive change. The irregularities of which lead to instability in the politics of a country, due to which anti-democratic forces like dictatorship and fascism become active. Due to which the constitutional rules and law starts ending and the society gets entangled in mutual conflict instead of development.

⁸ 'Violent Cow Protection in India.' 2023. *Human Rights Watch*. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2019/02/19/violent-cow-protection-india/vigilante-groups-attack-minorities>.

⁹ Martin, N., & Picherit, D., 'Special issue: electoral fraud and manipulation in India and Pakistan.' *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics*, 58(1), 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14662043.2020.1700016>

- In 2023, a law related to the appointment of the Election Commission was made to increase the government's control over the Election Commission. The Bill replaced the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991, which provided for the appointment, salary, and removal of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs). The CEC and ECs will be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee which consisted of the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and Leader of Opposition/leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha¹⁰.
- Through this law, an attempt was made to bring the Election Commission under its control because the government will have a majority in the committee that appoints the Election Commission, due to which the government will make appointments according to its interests. Currently, the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar has been done according to the new law, which was questioned a lot by intellectuals and the opposition. Many decisions of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections were made in such a way that they appeared to be favorable to the government, which made people even more suspicious.
- **The Electoral Democracy Index 2024** released by the V Dem Institute, has projected the state of India's electoral process to be in a poor state, which has been continuously declining since 2014. This is a matter of great concern for the democratic process of India.

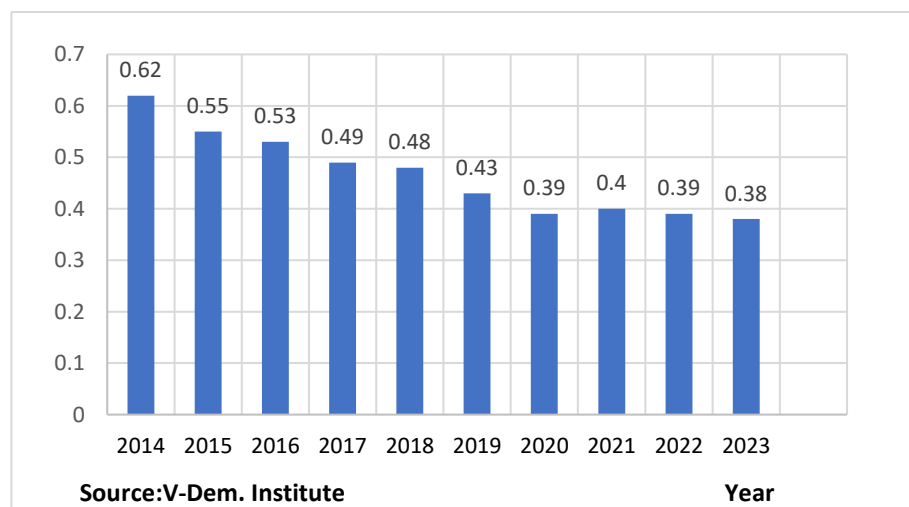


Figure 4 • The Electoral Democracy Index

(B) MIS GOVERNANCE OF ECONOMIC CONDITION

Modi's economic policies must be understood, first and foremost, as a political strategy to build political support and ensure the BJP's hegemony through the next decade. In addition, we show that Modi's success in building his personal image as a decisive leader perversely triggered institutional changes such as centralization of decision-making and political management of information that diminished India's state capacity and led to policies that failed to address, and in many cases exacerbated, India's economic problems (*Wyatt, Sinha, & Echeverri-Gent, 2021*)

In the last 10 years, the most criticized issue for this government is the deteriorating economic condition of India. In the 2014 elections, the NDA alliance came to power by promising to change the economic

¹⁰ The CEC and Other Election Commissioners Bill, 2023

condition of farmers, inflation, employment, and giving houses and food to the poor, but with time the government's performance on these aforesaid issues was not good, due to which it suffered losses in the 2024 elections. It has been discussing issues below.

(1) Increasing inflation

In the 2014 elections, the public and the BJP used to raise a lot of questions and protest against the UPA government regarding the prices of petrol, diesel and LPG cylinders¹¹. They even promised to control the prices of all the things but by 2024, the situation has become worse than before. This can be seen in the table below.

Table1. Price inflation

Year	Petrol rs/liter	Diesel rs/liter	Gas rs/cylinder
2014	66	50	414
2024	95	88	900

If we look at the impact of neo-liberalism and neo-fascism on the rupee in relation to the dollar than, in 2014, the value of one dollar was Rs. 54, while by 2024 it has reached Rs. 84, thus breaking all the previous records. But despite this, the statement of the government minister was very ridiculous. On being asked a question by a journalist, the minister said that it is not the fall of the rupee, but the dollar is getting stronger.

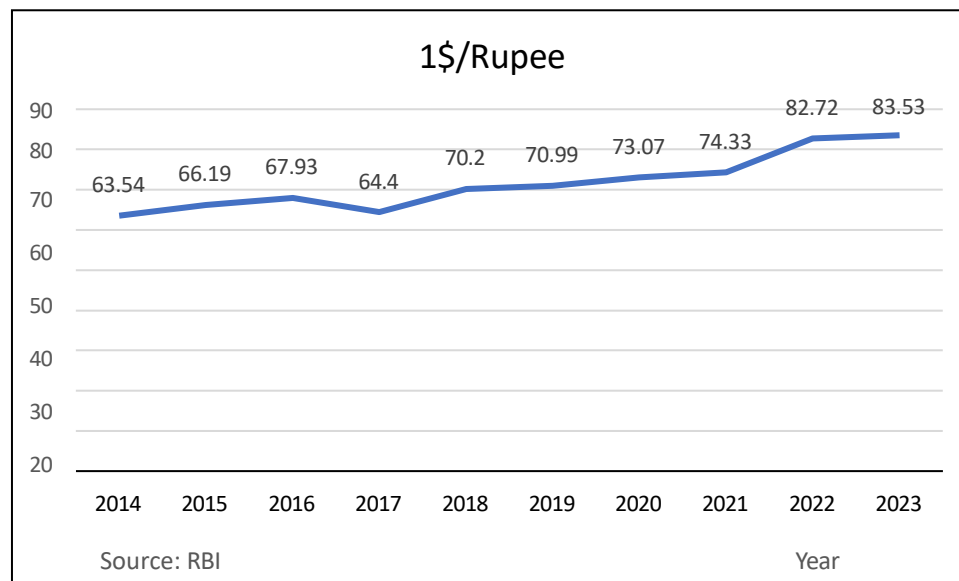


Fig. 5 US Dollar and India Rupees

(2) Highest Unemployment Rate

A leaked report on unemployment data confirmed that joblessness in the country stood at 6.1 per cent of the total Labour force during 2017-18, which was the highest in 45 years. The data released by the Labour Ministry also confirmed the pre-election leaked report¹². The consequences of this crisis are

¹¹ 'Indian National Congress.' 2024. Indian National Congress. Accessed February 9, 2025. <https://inc.in/media/press-releases/10-saal-anyay-kaal-2014-2024>.

¹² Express Web Desk. 2019. 'Unemployment Rate at 45-year High, Confirms Labour Ministry Data.' *The Indian Express*, June 6, 2019 accessed January 15, 2025, <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/unemployment-rate-at-45-year-high->

very serious. NCRB data shows that two unemployed persons commit suicide every hour.

1. Demonetization was a blunder

The demonetization move of 2016 will go down in history as a classic case of a policy blunder, marked by inadequate preparation, flawed assumptions, and poor execution (Jean Drèze and Amartya Sen, economists and public intellectuals). Demonetization was an ill-conceived and poorly executed policy that caused significant disruption with limited long-term gains (Ghosh, Jayati 2016).

In 2016, the Modi government took the decision of demonetization with the stated objective of striking a big blow against black money and corruption. But the result was just the opposite. On one hand, black money still exists and there is no evidence that demonetization has had any impact on it. And the other hand cash in circulation has increased between 2016 and 2023. It has more than doubled from ₹16 lakh crores in 2016 to ₹34 lakh crores in 2023. As a share of the country's GDP, cash has increased to 12.7% in 2023 from 11.6% in March 2014¹³. The price of this mistake has been high. It is estimated that more than 15 lakh jobs were lost in the first four months of 2017, mostly in small businesses and the informal sector. More than 100 people died while waiting in line to deposit and change their money. The Modi government is also yet to learn its lesson. Demonetization of Rs 2,000 notes is another example of painful lesson.

(4) Economic condition of Farmer

- With agriculture growing at a modest 3.47 percent under the Modi government between 2014-15 and 2022-23, the dream of higher income from farming seems a distant reality. According to a government survey, the average farmer earns just Rs 27 a day from growing the crop. The Modi government is adding to the rising input costs faced by farmers by imposing GST for the first time on several key agricultural inputs viz, Agricultural Item Tax Rate Agricultural equipment 12% Tractor tiers and other parts, machinery for processing and milling grains and vegetables 18% Fertilizers 5% Pesticides 15%¹⁴.
- In the Modi government, the subsidy on electricity, fertilizers and pesticides was reduced; For example, the fertilizer subsidy was reduced by nearly 13% - from a revised estimate of ₹1.89 lakh crores in 2023-24 to a budget allocation of ₹1.64 lakh crores in 2024-25. This had a direct impact on the farmers. Its effect was seen in rural areas where BJP had to lose most of the seats.

(5) Crony Capitalism

Crony capitalism is a by-product of big government because the more government is involved in an economy, the more the profitability of business depends on government connections rather than on market competitiveness (Randall G. Holcombe, 2013), Crony capitalism undermines market competition by privileging politically connected firms, leading to inefficiency, inequality, and corruption (Raghuram G. Rajan 2014), Crony capitalism in India thrives when wealth depends more on political connections than on innovation or efficiency, distorting the allocation of resources and deepening inequality (Kaushik Basu, former Chief Economist of the World Bank).

[joblessness-at-6-1-of-labour-force-5759095/#:~:text=The%20Centre%20on%20Friday%20confirmed,on%20unemployment%20data%20in%20January.](https://www.thewire.in/government/demonetisation-modi-govts-surgical-strike-on-black-money-missing-in-centres-white-paper/)

¹³ 'Demonetization, Modi Govt's 'Surgical Strike' on Black Money, Missing in Centre's White Paper. As Are Jobs.' n.d. The Wire February 9, 2024 accessed January 10, 2025, <https://thewire.in/government/demonetisation-modi-govts-surgical-strike-on-black-money-missing-in-centres-white-paper>.

¹⁴ 'Indian National Congress.' 2024. Indian National Congress. Accessed February 9, 2025. <https://inc.in/media/press-releases/10-saal-anyay-kaal-2014-2024>

The unnecessary collaboration between the political class and businessmen is called crony capitalism. It is an indicator of the overall health of the economic system and the nature of its governance (Ruddar Das, 2017). In India, skirt capitalism is the direct result of the license and the subsequent government liberalism and the new liberal economic policy that has nothing to do with their party. While we can return to the existence of skirt capitalism in almost every world economy due to the established structural problems, its existence in India is more violent¹⁵.

Simply put, crony capitalism is a system of favoritism and biasness in which only a few individual entrepreneurs or business houses are subjected to special treatment by the political class and bureaucracy. Such rewards and concessions are given not because of their outstanding or unique talent or inherited inherent abilities, but because of their inclinations and tendencies. This is a symbiotic relationship between the political class and the capitalist.

This problem in India started with liberal policies but after the Modi government came to power in 2014, its pace increased because the Gujarat model was a model of capitalism development and the same model was promoted. There are many such examples when the present government has taken decisions like changing the law for selected capitalists, refusing to investigate corruption and taking support from capitalists in elections, which raise questions on this government. We will discuss some such decisions of this government.

- GST was implemented in 2017 to improve the tax system in India. It was said that one country one tax will reduce the tax burden on the people and people will be able to do business freely but with time its flaws started to appear due to which it became a problem for the poor and small businessmen. According to a report, 64% of the GST tax is coming from the bottom 50% of the people of the country and only 4% tax is being taken from the top 10%. This shows that some rich people of the country are getting benefit from the implementation of GST¹⁶.

The Modi government has been accused of taking policies and decisions in favor of some capitalist friends. Some examples of this are given below.

- This government reduced the corporate tax from 30% to 22% and if there is a new company then it will have to pay only 15% tax which resulted in fiscal loss of Rs 1.84 lakh crore.
- Between 2014 and 2024, loans worth Rs. 14,56,226 crores of capitalists were waived off, whereas when the farmers' loan waiver is pending, the governments started talking about fiscal deficit.
- The government took decisions on some contracts which show that decisions were taken for some capitalists without paying any attention to transparency and accountability viz., Anil Ambani was included in the Rafale deal, who had no experience in this field, rules were made according to Adani in the privatization of airports and refusal to investigate the allegations against Adani of taking unfair advantage in the share market.

(C) MIS GOVERNANCE ON SOCIAL ISSUE

In the last 10 years, people of the society have become intolerant on various caste, religion and gender

¹⁵ 'The Anatomy of Crony Capitalism in India.' 2023. Economic and Political Weekly. May 22, 2023, accessed February 10, 2025 <https://www.epw.in/journal/2023/20/commentary/anatomy-crony-capitalism-india.html>.

¹⁶ Singhal, Kalyan, and Kalyan Singhal. 2025. 'Oxfam Data on India's Wealth Inequalities Is Absurd. Sitharaman Must Make GST Collection Public.', ThePrint. February 13, 2025 accessed February 17, 2025. <https://theprint.in/opinion/oxfam-data-on-indias-wealth-inequalities-is-absurd-sitharaman-must-make-gst-collection-public/2275975/#:~:text=In%20its%20January%202023%20report,income%2C%20pay%2031.8%20per%20cent;>

issues, which create a very worrying situation for a diverse country like India. We will discuss some examples of this.

(1) Violence against women

In the 2014 elections, BJP had made many promises regarding the safety of women, which influenced the public and they formed a majority government. But if we look at the increasing crime records and the increasing level of insensitivity of the administration towards heinous crimes, it can be said that this government has failed to bring about any major reform. If we look at the records of NCRB, crimes against women were 3.37 lakh in 2014, whereas in 2022, it increased to 4.45 lakh, which is an increase of 30%¹⁷. In the last few years, the administration has shown a lot of insensitivity in cases where people associated with the government was accused. For example, the Nirbhaya case happened during the UPA government, in which even the Prime Minister had provided all possible help to the victim's family, while in the NDA government, many such cases have come to light, such as the rape of a daughter from Unnao, gang rape of Manipur women after stripping them naked, allegations made by women wrestlers, releasing the accused persons of Bilkis Bano case and welcoming him with garlands. The accused of gang rape in a university like BHU was not arrested till the election, cases of BJP MLA feeding cake to him when he came out on bail came to light¹⁸. The public warned the government¹⁹ about the increasing insensitivity towards crimes against women in the 2024 election results.

(2) Social Injustice

Social justice is not merely a question of economic distribution, but of giving every individual their due in terms of dignity, opportunity, and voice (*Amartya Sen*, in *The Idea of Justice*, 2009). The Indian society has been divided on the basis of caste for thousands of years and the lower castes have been exploited, on the basis of which many provisions have been made in the constitution to bring the society on par (Ambedkar, B. R., 1936). Many laws have been made in independent India that can improve the political, social and economic status of the lower castes. But, the opposition and the leaders of the lower castes have accused the current government of changing many rules to weaken social justice, which has been discussed below.

- Many scholars from lower castes are raising questions on privatization of government companies. Because people believe that after privatization, there will be no reservation in appointments, due to which the lower class will be discriminated against selection. It will become difficult for them to get equal rights.
- From Delhi University to SGPGI Lucknow, OBC and SC category seats are being made NFS (not found suitable) so that people from backward classes can be prevented from coming into the

¹⁷ Frontline News Desk. 2023. 'CRIME | Over 4.45 Lakh Crimes Against Women in 2022; One Every 51 Minutes: NCRB.' Frontline. December 7, 2023 accessed December 25, 2024, <https://frontline.thehindu.com/news/crime-in-india-2022-ncrb-report-over-445000-crimes-against-women-in-2022-one-every-51-minutes-murders-juvenile-crimes-uapa-offences-against-state-uttar-pradesh-delhi-kolkata-kerala/article67607146.ece>.

¹⁸ Kumar, Mayank. 2024. 'Justice to Daughters Cannot Be Imagined Under BJP Rule, Says Opposition as BHU Gangrape Accused Get Bail.' The Hindu. September 1, 2024 accessed January 16, 2025. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/uttar-pradesh/justice-to-daughters-cannot-be-imagined-under-bjp-rule-says-opposition-as-bhu-gangrape-accused-get-bail/article68593470.ece>.

22 rainbownews times. 2024. 'OBC and SC Category Seats Are Being Given to NFS', Alleges SP MP Lalji Verma.' रेनबो न्यूज़, July 2, 2024 January 25, 2025. <https://www.rainbownews.in/2024/07/lalji-verma-on-not-found-suitable-for-obc-sc-st-seats-in-delhi-university-and-spggi-lucknow.html#:~:text=SP%20MP%20Lalji%20Verma%2C%20who,Ram%20College%20of%20Delhi%20University>.

mainstream. The candidates who have been awarded gold medal 15 times in different occasion. Is also being declared not found suitable for OBC seat???"

He said that the number of recruitments called for OBC category in Delhi University was 377. NFS was imposed after interviewing 377 people. That means NFS (not found suitable) has been written. Not a single one out of 377 people were qualified for Shri Ram College of Delhi University²⁰.

- Who had a PhD from Delhi University, was not found eligible among the NET qualified people. In this way, SGPGI College of Lucknow is a very good institute. There was an interview in 48 posts which were reserved for SC and OBC. Out of those 48 posts, not a single student of this category was selected. Of them, one girl got 15 gold medals. Even she was not considered worthy.
- There were allegations of corruption regarding OBC, SC seats in the 69000-teacher recruitment process, which was also considered correct by Allahabad High Court. In the 2024 elections, the opposition in Uttar Pradesh fought by raising such a bad issue which affected the vote bank of OBC and SC.

(3) Cast Census

Caste-based data is essential for evidence-based policymaking in India. Without accurate data, the extent of caste inequalities cannot be properly addressed (*Jean Drèze and A. Sen, 2013*), A caste census is not about dividing the nation; it is about acknowledging the divisions that already exist and addressing them through policy (*Yogendra Yadav, 2021*).

India's population census is conducted after every 10 years. After 2011, it should have been done in 2021 but was postponed due to Covid19. In the 2024 elections, parties doing politics on the issue of social justice raised the demand for caste census. Social justice experts believed that if social justice is to be fully implemented, then it is necessary to correctly assess the share of all people in the resources. For this, caste census becomes necessary. The opposition raised it as a big issue and tried to tell that if we have to implement principles like **Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam**, then all the members of the entire Bharat Parivar will have to reach the right to equality. This issue was quite successful in the 2024 elections, the result of which was seen in Uttar Pradesh where people of OBC and SC voted for India Alliance, which got 43 seats.

BASIC QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS on doing basic a quantitative analysis of the state wise voting percentage of the male and female, the following results have been obtained

Table 2. Basic Statistical Report

	Male	Female
Mean	69.07	69.25
Std. Deviation	8.24	9.07
Coefficient of variation	0.119	0.131
Skewness	0.073	0.007
Kurtosis	0.981	1.386
Minimum	52.28	55.67
Maximum	82.8	85.47

The data presented likely refers to a sociopolitical study examining the preferences of first-time Indian voters, particularly with respect to neo-liberalism and neo-fascism as political ideologies. Here is a step-wise analysis of the above table.

Standard Deviation: The variation around the mean for both genders is moderate, with females showing a slightly larger standard deviation (9.07) than males (8.24), indicating more variability in female responses.

3. Coefficient of Variation: This expresses the standard deviation as a percentage of the mean, providing a normalized measure of dispersion. Both groups show a relatively low coefficient of variation, with females being slightly more varied i.e. male: 0.119 (11.9%), female: 0.131 (13.1%)

4. Skewness: Skewness for both groups are very close to 0, meaning that the distribution of responses is nearly symmetrical. Male: -0.073 (slightly negatively skewed), Female: 0.007 (nearly symmetrical)

5. Kurtosis: Both groups show negative kurtosis, indicating the distributions are platykurtic, meaning the data has lighter tails and is flatter compared to a normal distribution. - Male: -0.981, Female: -1.386

6. Minimum and Maximum Values: These represent the lowest and highest values recorded. The females have a slightly higher range (55.67 to 85.47) as to the compared to males (52.28 to 82.8), suggesting females may have more extreme views within the sample. –

Male Minimum: 52.28 | Maximum: 82.8

Female Minimum: 55.67 | Maximum: 85.47

The statistical analysis suggests that there has been a general alignment between male and female for the first-time among the voters in terms of their preference for socio-economic upliftment policies. Both the genders seem to favor the ideologies of socio-economic upliftment with females showing a slightly broader range of responses. Additionally, the low skewness and kurtosis indicate that the responses are relatively uniform, with few extreme outliers in either direction.

Conclusion

In 2014, the public voted for NDA to form a government with full majority so that the UPA government could get rid of rising inflation, corruption and good governance. But with time, all those problems kept increasing against which the public had voted for UPA. Inflation doubled, BJP joined the corruption and was given a clean chit and there was no improvement in violence against women. Due to which the public gave the mandate of good governance to the government by strengthening the opposition in the 2024 elections. Due to which NDA formed the government but the opposition is also strong, which will also increase accountability and responsibility.

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