

Decoding Electoral Dynamics, Regional Trends and Voter Behaviour in Karnataka- 2024 General Elections

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Abstract

Economically, Karnataka stands as the third-largest contributor to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and ranks second in revenue contributions to the central government. The state's robust economic performance is underpinned by diverse industries, including information technology, biotechnology, and manufacturing, positioning it as an economic powerhouse. This dual prominence in political and economic domains emphasizes Karnataka's strategic importance within the Indian federation. Understanding these dynamics is essential for analyzing Karnataka's evolving role in shaping both state and national narratives. This study provides an in-depth analysis of Karnataka's electoral dynamics, utilizing insights from the 2024 General Election results. Focusing on voter behavior and preferences across the state's four administrative divisions—Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Bengaluru, and Mysuru—it primarily relies on secondary data. The findings underscore the pivotal role of comprehensive internal assessments, strategic vote-bank targeting, and the effective implementation of welfare programs in determining electoral outcomes. These observations present critical implications for future political mobilization and governance strategies in Karnataka.

Key words-Karnataka, Lokh Sabha Elections 2024, Electoral Dynamics

Introduction

Karnataka, a southern Indian state with rich cultural and historical significance, plays a pivotal role in the India's political and economic landscape. The state's political structure comprises of 28 seats in the Lok Sabha and 224 seats in its Legislative Assembly, making it a crucial

stakeholder in national and state-level governance. Prominent political parties, including the Indian National Congress (INC), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and Janata Dal (Secular) (JDS), have traditionally shaped Karnataka's political milieu. Notably, the alliance between JDS and BJP in the 2024 general elections underscores the shifting dynamics and evolving strategies to consolidate voter bases. Key socio-political factors, such as community affiliations, profoundly influence the electoral outcomes in Karnataka. The Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities, constituting significant portions of the population, serve as decisive vote banks for political parties, often determining their success or failure. These communities' influence highlights the interplay of identity politics and governance in the region.

The Indian parliamentary elections of 2024 seemed to mark an accentuation of features that already existed in the Indian political landscape, expressed in the results achieved by two ideologically opposed poles: a center-right coalition rallying around a technocratic and market-oriented option, organized around the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), and a more assertive left-wing around India National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), which found an incarnation in the figure of Rahul Gandhi (Jaldi, 2024).

The 2024 Karnataka General Elections highlighted critical political dynamics, reflecting both strategic successes and failures across party lines. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), while maintaining a stronghold in urban constituencies, faced significant challenges in rural and semi-urban areas. Notably, the BJP's decision to overlook key insights from internal survey reports is seen as a strategic misstep that contributed to their diminished performance. These reports, reportedly highlighting shifting voter preferences and emerging discontent within certain demographic groups, were insufficiently acted upon, undermining the party's adaptability to ground realities.

A focal point of BJP's decline was its inability to effectively consolidate Lingayat votes, a traditionally strong voter base for the party. Political mismanagement, coupled with a lack of cohesive outreach strategies, eroded the trust of this influential community. This fragmentation was further amplified by Congress's targeted strategies aimed at securing support from Lingayat leaders, leveraging historical and regional issues to their advantage.

On the other hand, Congress, despite its impressive gains in certain regions, faced limitations with its flagship "guarantee scheme." Although the scheme garnered attention and appealed to economically vulnerable

segments, its implementation and perceived benefits failed to resonate widely across the electorate. The mixed reception underscored a gap between policy promises and voter expectations.

The BJP's urban dominance, largely rooted in infrastructure development and aspirational narratives, contrasted sharply with its rural setbacks. Congress capitalized on these gaps by emphasizing grassroots-level engagement and welfare-oriented campaigns. The results of the 2024 Karnataka elections highlight the significance of conducting thorough internal evaluations, implementing focused vote-bank strategies, and ensuring the effective execution of welfare initiatives in influencing electoral outcomes. These findings provide important guidance for future political strategies and governance in the state.

The Political Dynamics of BELAGAVI Administrative Division

Belagavi Administrative division consists of seven districts: Belagavi, Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Haveri, Dharwad, Gadag, Uttara Kannada and seven Constituencies: Chikkodi, Belgaum, Bagalkot, Bijapur, Haveri, Dharwad, Uttara Kannada. This is the largest administrative division of Karnataka. The headquarters of Belagavi administrative division is in Belagavi. This division was originally part of the Bombay region and integrated into Karnataka in 1956.

In the 2024 General Election, the Indian National Congress (INC) achieved a remarkable victory in the Chikkodi constituency, marking a strategic win in the region. However, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) demonstrated its electoral resilience and dominance by retaining key constituencies, including Belgaum, Bagalkot, Bijapur, Haveri, Dharwad, and Uttara Kannada. This outcome highlights the BJP's continued stronghold in these areas, contrasting with the localized success of the INC, and reflects a complex and regionally diverse electoral dynamic.

Chikkodi : Chikkodi Constituency encompasses talukas like Athani, Hukkeri, Raybag, Nipani, and Kagwad. As per the 2011 Census, the population of Chikkodi is approximately 20 lakh. The area is predominantly rural (86%), with a smaller urban populace (14%). The Scheduled Caste (16%) and Scheduled Tribe (5%) communities contribute mostly to its social composition. Politically, the Chikkodi Lok Sabha constituency holds substantial sway, comprising eight Vidhan Sabha constituencies. In the 2019 elections, the BJP's Annasaheb Shankar Jolle emerged victorious with a commanding 6,45,017 votes, defeating Congress candidate Prakash Babanna Hukkeri, who got

5,26,140 votes. The BSP's Machchendra Davalu Kadapure managed to receive a marginal 15,575 votes. In 2024, Priyanka Jarkiholi brought Congress in power with 713,461 votes against BJP's Annasaheb Jolle with a lead of 90,834 votes.

Belgaum- The Belgaum Lok Sabha constituency has witnessed 17 parliamentary elections up to 2019, with the Indian National Congress emerging victorious 11 times and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) securing the seat on 5 occasions.

The constituency has a population of approximately 22.19 lakh, with 15.81 lakh registered voters. Among the electorate, 8.7 lakh are male voters, and 7.7 lakh are female voters. The population is distributed across rural (60%) and urban (40%) areas, reflecting a mix of socio-economic contexts. In the 2019 general elections, BJP candidate Suresh C. Angadi retained the seat with a decisive margin, securing 761,991 votes, while the Congress candidate, V. S. Sadhunawar, received 370,687 votes. The voter turnout for the election was recorded at 67.24%, indicating active political engagement within the constituency. In 2024, BJP candidate Jagadish Shettar won with 762,029 votes and INC candidate Mrinal Hebbalkar won 583,592 votes stood second.

Bagalkot: The Bagalkot Lok Sabha constituency encompasses eight Vidhan Sabha constituencies and has undergone significant administrative and political changes since independence. The Congress party has been a dominant force in this constituency, securing victories in 1957, 1962, and six additional elections until 2019. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has won the seat on four occasions, while the Janata Dal and Lok Shakti Party have each secured one victory. As per 2011 census, the constituency's population stands at approximately 2.1 million, with a predominantly rural composition (70%) and a smaller urban segment (30%). Socially, Scheduled Castes (16%) and Scheduled Tribes (5%) form a significant portion of the population. In the 2019 general elections, BJP candidate Gaddigoudar Chandanagouda retained the seat, obtaining 664,638 votes. Congress candidate Veena Kashappanavar finished second with 496,451 votes, while the None of the Above (NOTA) option ranked third, receiving 11,328 votes. In 2024, BJP candidate Gaddigoudar Chandanagouda again won with 671,039 votes against INC's Samyukta Patil.

Bijapur : The Bijapur Lok Sabha constituency, reserved for Scheduled Castes, is a significant electoral region, having a population of approximately 21.77 lakh with 16.22 lakh registered voters. According to the 2011 Census, 77% of the population resides in rural areas, while

23% lives in urban areas. Caste demographics indicate that Scheduled Castes constitute 20% of the population, while Scheduled Tribes account for 2%. The constituency comprises eight Vidhan Sabha seats. Bijapur was a Congress stronghold, dominating elections until the 1990s. Out of the 17 Lok Sabha elections held so far, the Congress has won nine times. The BJP, which had minimal presence for nearly five decades, gained ground starting in the 1999 elections and has since won the seat five times. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, BJP's Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi retained the seat with 635,867 votes, defeating Janata Dal (Secular)'s Sunita Chavhan, who secured 377,829 votes. In the subsequent 2024 elections, BJP's Ramesh Jigajinagi won the seat again, receiving 672,781 votes, while INC's Raju Alagur stood second with 595,552 votes. These outcomes highlight Bijapur's evolving political landscape, with the BJP consolidating its position in recent years.

Haveri Gadag: This Lok Sabha seat came into existence after the delimitation in 2008. The first election on this Lok Sabha seat took place in 2009, and since then, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has won the Haveri Lok Sabha seat thrice in succession. Haveri has a population of 21.11 lakh, of which approximately 15.58 lakh are registered voters. Around 72% of the population resides in rural areas, and 28% in urban. In terms of caste division, the population of Scheduled Castes is 15.38%, while the Scheduled Tribe population is 8.07%. In 2019 Lok Sabha election, BJP's Shivakumar Chanabasappa retained the seat, bagging 6,83,660 votes. Congress's DR Patil came second with 5,42,778 votes. BSP's Ayubkhan A Pathan came third with 7,479 votes. In 2024 election, BJP's Basavaraj Bommai secured 705,538 votes and won the seat by 43,513 votes. Congress could mobilise 662,025 votes through Anandswamy Gaddadevarmath.

Dharwad: The total population of Dharwad parliamentary constituency is 21.29 million, which includes 15.79 million voters. Among these, 8.09 million are men and 7.69 million are women. Around 47% of the population lives in rural areas, while 53% stays in urban areas. The population of Scheduled Castes is 10.11% and Scheduled Tribes is 5%. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has had a long-standing dominance on this seat, and currently, BJP leader and Union Minister Prahlaad Joshi is the Member of Parliament from here. The Dharwad Lok Sabha constituency was constituted after the delimitation in 2008. Sixteen elections have been held in Dharwad (North), with the Congress party winning on 10 occasions. BJP's Prahlaad Joshi has been the Member of Parliament from this seat since 2004. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, BJP's Prahlaad Joshi won by receiving 684,837 votes. The Congress

candidate, Vinay Kulkarni, came second with 479,765 votes and BSPs Irappa Bharamappa Madar came third with only 6,344 votes. In 2024, Pralhad Joshi retained the seat with 716,231 votes with a lead of 97,324 votes against Congress party's Vinod Asooti.

Uttara Kannada : The Constituency has a total population of 1.938 million, including approximately 1.45 million voters, with 742,000 male voters and 707,000 female voters. About 75% of the population resides in rural areas, with the remaining 25% in urban areas. The region also includes 8% Scheduled Castes and 4% Scheduled Tribes. The eight Vidhan Sabha seats under the Uttara Kannada Lok Sabha constituency are: Khanapur, Kittur, Haliyal, Karwar, Kumta, Bhatkal, Sirsi, and Yellapur. Until 2019, there have been 16 Lok Sabha elections in this seat. As of 2019, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) held 15 seats out of the 28 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka, while the Congress held 10 seats and the Janata Dal Secular (JDS) held 2 seats. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, BJP candidate Anant Kumar Hegde defeated Janata Dal (Secular) candidate Anand Asnotikar by 479,649 votes, receiving 786,042 votes, while Asnotikar received 306,393 votes. The None of the Above (NOTA) option came in third place with 16,017 votes. However, in 2024 elections, Vishweshwar Hegde won by a margin of 337,428 votes against INC's Dr. Anjali Nimbalkar with his total votes being 782,495.

The Political Dynamics of KALBURGI Administrative Division

Kalburgi division consists of six districts: Kalaburagi, Bidar, Ballari, Raichur, Koppal and Yadgir and five Lok Sabha Constituencies: Gulbarga, Raichur, Bidar, Koppal and Bellary. This division has the lowest literacy, income, crop yields and life expectancy in the State. It was identified as least developed region of Karnataka in 2000. The division has a long history under various empires and faced struggles during independence. Agriculture is the main occupation and it faces frequent droughts.

The 2024 General Election results indicate a significant shift in political dynamics within the Kalburgi division, as the BJP failed to retain its previous foothold in the region. Indeed, Kalburgi was a nightmare for BJP. Notably, the five legislative seats that were secured by the BJP in the prior election were won by the Congress party in this cycle. This outcome highlights a remarkable resurgence of the Congress party, reflecting a potential realignment of voter preferences and a renewed consolidation of political influence in the Kalburgi division.

Gulbarga: This seat has been represented by the former Chief Minister and Congress leader Dharam Singh. For the first time in the 1996 elections, a non-Congress leader won from this constituency, Kamar-ul-Islam of the Janata Dal. In the 1998 elections, the BJP won the Gulbarga seat. In the 2009 Lok Sabha elections, Congress Mallikarjun Kharge was elected from this seat and then he won again in the 2014 elections. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, BJP's Umesh Jadhav defeated Congress's Mallikarjun Kharge by securing 620,192 votes. Kharge received 524,740 votes. BSP's KB Vasu could only get 10,865 votes. In 2024 elections, INC's Radhakrishna won by 27,205 votes making his total votes to 652,321 votes against BJP's Umesh Jadhav who won 625,116 votes.

Raichur: The Raichur Lok Sabha constituency in Karnataka comprises eight assembly seats: Shorapur, Shahpur, Yadgir, Raichur Rural, Raichur, Manvi, Devadurga, and Lingasugur. Among these, four seats (Shorapur, Raichur Rural, Manvi, Devadurga) are reserved for Scheduled Tribes, and one seat (Lingasugur) is reserved for Scheduled Castes. Initially part of the Hyderabad state, the Raichur Lok Sabha seat witnessed Krishnacharya Joshi from Congress securing victory. Upon its integration into Karnataka in 1977, Rajashekhar Mayappa from Congress emerged victorious. Subsequently, Congress BV Desai won the elections of 1980 and 1984. In 1989, R Ambanna Naik Dore of Congress, in 1991, A Venkatesh Naik from Congress, and in 1996, Raja Rangappa Naik from Janata Dal clinched victory. A Venkatesh Naik then secured wins in the elections of 1998, 1999, and 2004. The BJP tasted success for the first time in 2009 with Sanna Pakirappa. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Raja Amresh Nayak of BJP emerged victorious with 5,98,337 votes, while Congress B.V Nayak secured second place with 4,80,621 votes. In 2024, G. Kumar Naik under Congress ticket won with 670,966 votes and BJP's Raja Amareshwara Naik secured 591,185 votes.

Bidar: The Bidar Constituency has a population of 2,236,250. Around 78% of the population resides in rural areas and 21.88% in urban areas. A quarter of the total population belongs to the Scheduled Caste category, and 11.17% of the population are Scheduled Tribes. Initially, this seat was a stronghold of the Congress party, but the BJP has won this seat several times in recent years. This seat is reserved for the Scheduled Caste category till 2008. A total of 17 elections have taken place on this seat until 2014. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, Bhagwant Khuba of the BJP retained this seat with 585,471 votes. Eshwar Khandre of the Congress party came second with 468,637 votes. In 2024 general

election, BJP's Bhagwanth Khuba lost to INC's Sagar Eshwar Khandre, who won the seat with a total votes of 666,317 votes. This loss was again a shock to BJP.

Koppal: With a total population of approximately 22 lakh, including 15 lakh voters, Koppal has a significant electoral presence in Karnataka. The constituency has around 770,000 male voters and nearly 764,000 female voters. It comprises eight assembly constituencies: Sindhanur, Maski (ST), Kushtagi, Kanakgiri (SC), Gangavati, Yelburga, Koppal, and Siruguppa (ST). The Congress party has dominated this seat, winning it 10 times out of the total 16 elections held until 2014. The BJP has also secured victory here twice. In the inaugural election held in 1952, Independent candidate Swami Shivamurti emerged victorious. The BJP clinched its first victory here in 2009, with Shivaramagouda elected as the MP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, BJP candidate Karadi Sanganna Amarappa secured a win from the Koppal seat with 584,997 votes, while Congress candidate K Rajashekar Basavaraj came in second with 547,573 votes. But in 2024 elections, INC's Rajashekar Basavaraj again emerged victorious with 663,511 votes and BJP had to satisfy with second position with 617,154 votes.

Bellary: The Bellary constituency has approximately 1.6 million voters. The population of the Scheduled Castes is about 21.6% and Scheduled Tribes is 18.38%. There are eight Assembly seats under this constituency. The Bellary Lok Sabha seat has been a stronghold of the Congress, with the party winning 15 times. However, the BJP has won here four times consecutively since 2004. The BJP won this seat in 2014, but the Congress regained it in the 2018 by-elections. The BJP reclaimed the seat in the 2019 polls, with Y Devendrappa bagging 601,388 votes, while Congress VS Ugrappa came second with 575,681 votes. BSP candidate K Gulappa came third with 9,961 votes. In 2024, Congress leader E. Tukaram won with a margin of 98,992 votes and BJP mobilised 631,853 votes under B. Sreeramulu.

The Effect in BANGALORE Administrative Division

Bangalore administrative division consists of nine districts: Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Chikkaballapur, Chitradurga, Davanagare, Kolar, Ramanagara, Shimoga and Tumakuru, and ten Constituencies: Davanagare, Shimogga, Chitradurga, Tumkuru, Bangalore Rural, Bangalore North, Bangalore Central, Bangalore South, Chikkaballapur and Kolar.

In Bangalore division, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) solidified its dominance by securing eight of the key constituencies in the region, demonstrating its continued appeal in urban and semi-urban areas. The Indian National Congress (INC), while less successful overall in the division, achieved a notable victory in the Davanagere constituency, showcasing localized support in certain pockets. Additionally, the Janata Dal (Secular) [JDS] maintained its presence with a strategic win in the Kolar constituency.

This distribution underscores BJP's urban stronghold, contrasting with the more targeted successes of INC and JDS in specific constituencies. The results highlight varying regional dynamics, influenced by factors such as candidate appeal, regional campaign strategies, and voter demographics. These findings underline the evolving political trends within the Bangalore division, offering insights for future electoral approaches in Karnataka.

Davanagere: According to the 2011 census, the population of Davanagere city was 435,125, with 52% males and 48% females. The Davanagere Lok Sabha seat has had 12 elections, with the Congress party winning 6 times. The BJP has won this seat six times, including five consecutive wins from the 1999 Lok Sabha election. This Lok Sabha constituency also includes eight Vidhan Sabha seats. Of the total population, 68% is rural and 32% is urban. Furthermore, 20% of the population in this constituency belongs to the Scheduled Caste category and 12% of the population is from the Scheduled Tribes category.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the BJP candidate GM Siddeshwara won this seat by securing 652,996 votes. The Congress candidate, HB Manjappa, came in second place with 483,294 votes, and the BSP candidate, Siddappa, came third with 7,736 votes. In 2024 election, INC won the seat by securing 633,059 votes against BJP's Gayatri Siddeshwara who pooled 606,965 votes

Shimogga: With a population of 20.09 lakh, it boasts approximately 15.62 lakh voters and encompasses 8 Assembly seats. The BJP has dominated this constituency, with former Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa representing it. Out of 18 Lok Sabha elections held until 2014, Congress won 11 times, while BJP secured victory 5 times. The Socialist Party and the United Socialist Party each won once. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, BJPs Raghavendra clinched victory with 7,29,872 votes, followed by JD(S)s S Madhu Bangarappa with 5,06,512 votes. In the 2018 by-election, Yediyurappa's son BY Raghavendra emerged victorious against Congresss Madhu Bangarappa. In 2024, BY

Raghavendra again won with 778,721 votes and Geetha Shivarajkumar from Congress ticket secured 535,006 votes.

Chitradurga: This constituency is reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates. The Chitradurga Lok Sabha constituency includes eight Vidhan Sabha constituencies - Molakalmuru (ST), Challakere (ST), Chitradurga, Hiriya, Hosadurga, Holalkere (SC), Sira, and Pavagada (SC). A total of 16 Lok Sabha elections have been held here, with the Congress winning 11 times. In addition, candidates from the Praja Socialist Party, Swatantra Party, Janata Dal, and JD(U) have also registered victories here. BJP won from this seat for the first time in 2009, and wrested the seat again in 2019. The Chitradurga Lok Sabha seat in Karnataka is generally considered a traditional seat for the Congress.

2019 Lok Sabha elections was a win for BJP. BJP's A Narayanaswamy won this seat with 6,26,195 votes. On the other hand, Congress candidate BN Chandrappa secured 5,46,017 votes, and BSP candidate CU Mahantesh managed to get only 8,907 votes. In 2024, BJP retained the seat through Govind Karjol with 684,890 votes.

Tumkuru: The Tumkur Lok Sabha constituency includes eight Vidhan Sabha constituencies. The Tumkur Lok Sabha seat was initially part of Mysore state, but after 1977 it was included in Karnataka. Of the total 16 Lok Sabha elections held on this seat, the Congress party has won 10 times, while the BJP has captured the Tumkur seat four times. The Tumkur Lok Sabha seat is particularly considered a stronghold of the Congress, but in the past three decades, the BJP has won this seat four times. In the 2019 election, BJP candidate GS Basavaraj secured a victory with 596,127 votes. JD (S) candidate HD Deve Gowda came second with 582,788 votes. In 2024, V Somanna won with 720,946 votes against INC's S.P Muddahanumegowda who secured 545,352 votes.

Bangalore Rural: With approximately 24 lakh voters, this seat came into existence after the delimitation in 2008, and the first election was fought here in 2009. Former Chief Minister of Karnataka and JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy was the first MP from this seat. Since then, the Congress has won this seat twice in a row, including a by-election in 2013. Former Prime Minister and JDS leader HD Deve Gowda had won the election from this seat before delimitation. Congress stalwart MV Chandrashekhara Murthy has been an MP from this seat five times. This constituency includes eight assembly constituencies, seven of which were part of the former Kanakapura Lok Sabha constituency. The new Assembly constituencies of Bengaluru South, Anekal and Rajarajeshwari

Nagar, along with the Kunigal of Tumkur district, have become part of Bengaluru Rural. In the 2019 elections, the Congress-JDS alliance candidate DK Suresh retained the seat, receiving 8,78,258 votes. Meanwhile, BJs Ashwath Narayan Gowda came second with 6,71,388 votes. In 2024, BJP's C.N Manjunath won 1,079,002 votes with a lead of 269,645 votes against D.K Suresh of Congress.

Bangalore North: From 1957 to 1962, Bengaluru North was part of the Bengaluru city seat. In the first election held on this seat in 1951, Keshav Lingar of the Congress party won. From then until 1996, for 45 years, the Congress party consistently won this seat. The monopoly was broken in 1996 when C Narayanasamy of the Janata Dal won the Bengaluru North seat. After that, the BJP started winning here. Out of the 17 elections held so far on the Bengaluru North seat, the Congress party has won 12 times.

However, the BJP has been winning consecutively in the last four elections. This seat has also been won once by the Janata Dal. Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister CK Jaffer Sharif has been an MP from this seat for seven times, including five consecutive wins from 1977-96. This seat is the largest in the state and the third-largest Lok Sabha seat in the country. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, BJP's Sadanand Gowda retained this seat, receiving 8,24,500 votes. On the other hand, Krishna Byre Gowda of the Congress came second with 6,76,982 votes, and NOTA was third. In 2024, BJP retained the seat through Shobha Karandlaje with 986,049 votes and INC's M.V Rajeev Gowda secured 726,573 seats.

Bangalore Central: This seat came into existence after the delimitation in 2008, carved out of Bengaluru South and Bengaluru North. The constituency has a significant minority electorate. The constituency is home to around 5.5 lakh Tamils, 4.5 lakh Muslims, and approximately 2 lakh Christians. There are also a number of Marwaris and Gujaratis in this area. Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha constituency comprises eight Vidhan Sabha seats, two of which are reserved. The Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha seat in Karnataka has been held by the BJP. Only three elections have been held on this seat up to 2019, and all of them were won by the BJP. In the 2019 election, BJs PC Mohan retained the seat, securing 6,02,853 votes. Meanwhile, Congresss Rizwan Arshad came second with 5,31,885 votes, and independent candidate actor Prakash Raj came third with 28,906 votes. In 2024, BJP's P.C Mohan secured 658,915 votes and Mansoor Ali Khan from Congress ticket got defeated by 32,707 votes.

Bangalore South: The Bengaluru South Lok Sabha constituency includes eight Vidhan Sabha constituencies. The Bengaluru South Lok Sabha seat has long been a stronghold of the BJP in Karnataka. A total of 17 elections have been held in the Bengaluru South Lok Sabha seat till 2019, out of which the Congress party won six times. The Janata Party emerged victorious three times. Since 1991, the BJP has won this seat eight times in a row. The seat was a bastion of BJPs Anant Kumar, who has won six times in a row. Two former Chief Ministers of Karnataka, H Hanumanthappa and R Gundu Rao, have won elections from this seat on a Congress ticket. In the 2019 general elections, the BJP fielded young leader Tejasvi Surya as its candidate. Tejasvi Surya won this seat by defeating Congresss BK Hariprasad by a margin of 331,192 votes. Surya received 739,229 votes. Congresss BK Hariprasad received 408,037 votes. In 2024, BJP retained through Surya with 750,830 votes and defeated INC's Sowmya Reddy who secured 473,747 votes.

Chikkabalapur: The Chikballapur Lok Sabha constituency comprises eight Vidhan Sabha constituencies - Gauribidanur, Bagepalli, Chikballapur, Yelahanka, Hoskote, Devanahalli (SC), Doddaballapur and Nelamangala (SC). It is the 35th most populated district in the country and has a literacy rate of approximately 71%. Since 1977, a total of 12 elections have been held in Chikballapur. The Congress party has won this seat ten times, and once each by the Janata Dal and BJP. The Janata Dal registered its victory in the 1996 Lok Sabha elections, with RL Jalappa winning the polls. Jalappa, who served as a Union minister in the Deve Gowda government, contested the 1998 election on a Congress ticket and was elected as an MP from this seat four times in a row. In the 2019 election, the BJPs BN Bache Gowda won with 7,45,912 votes, while Congresss M Veerappa Moily was the runner-up with 5,63,802 votes. In 2024, K. Sudhakar secured 822,619 votes under BJP ticket with a lead of 163,460 votes. CPI(M) candidate Munivenkatappa M.P came fourth with 4,557 votes and NOTA secured third position with 6596 votes.

Kolar: According to the 2011 census, the population of Kolar was 138,462. This constituency is reserved for the scheduled caste and includes eight assembly constituencies. It wouldn't be wrong to call the Kolar Lok Sabha seat a stronghold of Congress as the party has won 15 out of the total 16 elections held since independence. BJP has not been able to make its mark here. The Congress party lost this seat only once in 1984 when V Venkatesh of the Janata Party won the election. In the 2019 election, BJP candidate S Muniswamy emerged victorious, securing 709,165 votes. The Congress candidate, KH Muniyappa, came in second

with 499,144 votes. In 2024, JD(S) candidate M. Mallesh Babu won the seat with 691,481 seats and K.V Gowtham of Congress party secured 620,093 votes.

An Overview of MYSORE Administrative Division

Mysore Administrative Division consists of eight districts: Mysore, Chamarajanagar, Chikmagalur, Dakshina Kannada, Hassan, Kodagu, Mandya and Udupi and six Lok Sabha Constituencies: Udupi Chikmagalur, Hassan, Dakshina Kannada, Mandya, Mysore and Chamarajanagara. The headquarters of Mysore Administrative Division is in Mysore.

Among the six seats, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured a notable majority by winning three constituencies, underscoring its strong foothold in the region. The Indian National Congress (Congress) achieved victory in two constituencies, reflecting significant voter support, particularly in Hassan and Chamarajanagar, which emerged as its strongholds.

The Janata Dal (Secular) [JDS] demonstrated its influence by clinching the Mandya constituency, a region traditionally marked by its loyalty to the party. The electoral outcomes highlight the varied political preferences across the division, with the BJP consolidating its presence while Congress maintained relevance in key constituencies.

This political distribution reflects an intricate balance of power, shaped by localized socio-political factors, party strategies, and historical voting patterns.

Udupi Chikmagalur: Till 2019, elections have been held three times in this seat, which includes a by-election in 2012. The BJP has a stronghold on the Udupi Chikmagalur seat, and Congress has only won once in a by-election. The first election in this seat was held in 2009. The constituency comprises eight Vidhan Sabha segments - Kundapura, Udupi, Kaup, Karkala, Sringeri, Mudigere (SC), Chikmagalur, Tarikere. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, BJP candidate Kumari Shobha Karandlaje won with 7,18,916 votes. The second position was secured by Pramod Madhwaraj of Janata Dal Secular (JDS) with 3,69,317 votes. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, BJP's Kota Srinivas Poojary won with 732,234 votes and INC's K. Jayaprakash Hegde secured 473,059 votes.

Hassan: The total population of the Hassan Lok Sabha constituency is approximately 2,016,000. Out of this, there are 1,561,000 voters. Around 78% of the population of the Hasan Lok Sabha constituency

lives in rural areas, while 22% resides in urban areas. The Hasan parliamentary constituency includes eight Assembly seats. Former PM Deve Gowda has won this Lok Sabha seat alone five times. He won twice on a Janata Dal ticket and thrice on a JDS ticket. In 2019 election, JDSs Prajwal Revanna won with 676,606 votes. BJPs A Manju came second with 535,382 votes. BSPs Vinodraj KH came third with 38,761 votes. In 2024, Shreyas Patel in Congress ticket secured the seat with 672,988 votes and JD(S) candidate Prajwal Revanna pooled 630,339 votes.

Dakshina Kannada: The total population of the Dakshina Kannada constituency is approximately 2.089 million, of which 53% is rural and 47% is urban. The scheduled caste population is around 8% and the scheduled tribe population is about 4%. So far, there have only been three elections in the Dakshina Kannada Lok Sabha seat. BJPs Nalin Kumar Kateel won all the three polls. In the 2019 elections, BJP candidate Nalin Kumar Kateel won this seat, receiving 774,285 votes, while Congress candidate Mithun Rai received 499,664 votes and SDPI candidate Ilyas Mohammed Thumbbe received only 46,839 votes. In 2024 election, Brijesh Chowta in BJP ticket won 764,132 votes with a margin of 149,208 votes against INC's Padmaraj Poojary with 614,924 votes.

Mandya: Mandya Lok Sabha constituency encompasses the entire Mandya district and a portion of the Mysore district. With eight Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly) segments under its belt, Mandya has experienced a rich political history since its establishment. Mandya has also been a battleground for parties, with the Janata Dal Secular (JDS) winning three times, the Janata Dal twice, and the Janata Party once. Originally part of Mysore State, Mandya transitioned to Karnataka post-1977.

In 2019 General Election, marked by independent candidate Sumalatha Ambareesh win with 703,660 votes, defeating Nikhil Kumaraswamy of the JDS and another independent candidate, M.L. Shashikumar. In 2024 elections, JD(S) candidate H.D Kumaraswamy won 851,881 votes. Under Congress ticket, Venkateramane Gowda secured 851,881 votes.

Mysuru-Kodagu: The Mysore Lok Sabha constituency, emerging in 1977, has witnessed a dynamic political narrative, predominantly under Congress influence, showcasing victories by notable leaders like HD Tulsidas, M. Rajashekaramurthy, and Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar. However, recent elections have seen a shift, with BJPs Pratap Simha securing the seat, indicating evolving political trends in this

historically Congress-dominated constituency. In 2024 Lok Sabha election, Yaduveer Wadiyar of BJP won 795,503 votes with 139,262 votes lead against M. Lakshmana from Congress ticket.

Chamarajanagar: This Lok Sabha seat is reserved for Scheduled Castes. The Chamarajanagar Lok Sabha seat came into existence in 1962. There have been a total of 17 elections on this seat so far, out of which Congress has won 12 times. Apart from this, Janata Dal has won twice, while JDS and JD(U) candidates have each won once. Notably, BJP has not been able to make its mark on this seat yet.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, BJP's V Srinivas Prasad won with 568,537 votes, while Congress candidate R Dhruvanarayan lost his seat by a mere 1,817 votes. Dhruvanarayan received 5,66,720 votes. BSP candidate Dr Shivakumar received 87,631 votes. In 2024 elections, Sunil Bose of Congress party claimed victory by a margin of 188,706 votes, making his total share to 751,671 against BJP's S. Balaraj with 562,965 votes.

Regional Trends and Voting Behaviour

There were several significant issues for voters in the general elections of 2024. The major concerns for voters were the economy and effect of Hindu nationalism (Jaldi, 2024). Although BJP made a significant win from the state, it is imperative to know what led to downfall of BJP from its previous glory. Following factors can be assigned to what significantly altered Karnataka's political landscape in 2024 elections.

Dilemma of Economic Development

Since taking office in 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has embarked on an ambitious mission to transform India's economic landscape. This proactive approach has sought to address key developmental challenges and promote sustainable growth nationwide. However, the 2024 general elections revealed intriguing political and economic dynamics, particularly in Karnataka, a state that has historically played a pivotal role in shaping South Indian politics.

Karnataka is significant in the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) strategy to expand its influence in South India. It holds a unique distinction as the first southern state where the BJP gained a substantial foothold. Despite this, the results of the 2024 elections revealed regional disparities within the state. Notably, the BJP faced challenges in the Kalyana Karnataka region—a relatively underdeveloped area—where

it failed to secure substantial electoral victories. The electoral outcomes in Kalyana Karnataka underscore the structural weaknesses in the region's economy. This area, characterized by low industrialization and limited access to basic infrastructure, has struggled to keep pace with the state's overall economic growth. Addressing these disparities remains critical for Karnataka's comprehensive development and is essential for any political party aiming to consolidate its position in the state.

Congress Party's Strategy: Guarantee Schemes

The Congress Party, which has traditionally been a formidable political force in Karnataka, aimed to counter the BJP's growing influence by implementing a series of welfare programs known as the "Five Guarantees." These schemes were designed to address pressing socio-economic challenges and appeal to a broad spectrum of voters, particularly marginalized and economically vulnerable groups.

The Five Guarantees included:

1. Gruha Jyothi: Provision of 200 units of free electricity per household every month.
2. Gruha Lakshmi: Financial assistance of ₹ 2,000 per month to women heads of families.
3. Anna Bhagya: Distribution of 10 kilograms of rice per month to every member of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.
4. Yuva Nidhi: Monthly financial support of ₹ 3,000 for unemployed graduates and ₹ 1,500 for unemployed diploma holders within the 18–25 age group for two years.
5. Shakti: Free bus travel for women in ordinary public transport across Karnataka.

These initiatives reflected Congress's commitment to welfare-driven governance, focusing on alleviating poverty, reducing inequality, and empowering women and youth. By introducing these schemes, Congress sought to consolidate its voter base and limit the BJP's electoral gains in the state.

While the Guarantee Schemes demonstrated Congress's intent to address socio-economic disparities, their impact on the 2024 election results in Karnataka was mixed. Despite their potential to mobilize support among specific demographic groups, these policies did not significantly alter the BJP's electoral trajectory. Several factors may explain this outcome:

1. **Implementation Challenges:** Effective delivery of welfare programs requires robust administrative mechanisms and consistent funding. Any delays or inefficiencies in the implementation of the Five Guarantees may have reduced their perceived benefits among the electorate.
2. **Electoral Sentiment:** Voter behavior in Karnataka appears to have been influenced by broader political and ideological considerations, including regional identity, governance issues, and party loyalty, rather than solely by welfare promises.
3. **Economic Context:** The structural weaknesses in regions like Kalyana Karnataka, coupled with uneven development across the state, may have overshadowed the immediate benefits of the welfare schemes. Addressing these deeper economic issues would require long-term strategies beyond short-term financial assistance.

Implications for Karnataka's Economy and Politics

The election results highlight the complex interplay between economic policies and political dynamics in Karnataka. The state's economy, while robust in certain sectors such as information technology and biotechnology, continues to grapple with regional disparities. Developing regions like Kalyana Karnataka require targeted investments in infrastructure, education, and healthcare to bridge the developmental gap.

From a political angle, the 2024 elections underscore the need for both national and regional parties to adopt nuanced strategies that address Karnataka's diverse socio-economic landscape. For the BJP, expanding its influence in Karnataka will depend on its ability to address regional imbalances and present a compelling vision for inclusive growth. Meanwhile, Congress must focus on enhancing the effectiveness of its welfare programs and communicating their benefits to a broader audience.

Conclusion

India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had anticipated a sweeping victory in the six-week-long 2024 general election. However, the party, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, secured 240 parliamentary seats, falling short of the 272-seat majority required to independently form a government. Consequently, the BJP relied on its coalition partner, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), to establish governance. The 2024

general election is poised to redefine India's political landscape for the next five years. The BJP's reliance on NDA allies for governance may introduce challenges, including potential conflicts and compromises. Meanwhile, the Congress Party, under Rahul Gandhi's leadership, seeks to rebuild its base by broadening voter support and introducing compelling policies, aiming for a return to power in 2029. The BJP's robust national organizational framework contrasts sharply with Congress's weaker foundations, which have remained largely unaddressed since their decline during the 1970s emergency under Indira Gandhi. Nevertheless, the 2024 election results, marked by the BJP's relative decline and Congress's revival, signal the potential for a renewed cycle of political rivalry between India's right and left.

The 2024 elections in Karnataka have revealed critical insights into the state's economic and political landscape. While Prime Minister Modi's economic initiatives and the BJP's political strategy have yielded significant gains at the national level, challenges remain in addressing the developmental disparities within Karnataka. Similarly, Congress's welfare-driven approach, though well-intentioned, must overcome implementation hurdles to achieve its desired impact.

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