

Modi 3.0: New Challenges and Alliances for BJP Post-2024 Elections

Indian Premier Narendra Modi is set to take an oath on Sunday for his third consecutive term as the Prime Minister of India. This milestone marks a significant achievement for Modi and his party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). However, the results of the 2024 elections, which saw the BJP's seats in the Lok Sabha reduced from 303 in 2019 to 240 out of 543, signal a potential shift in the political landscape and the party's governance strategy.

Reduced Majority and Increased Dependence on Allies

The BJP's loss of a clear majority means a greater reliance on its allies to form and sustain the government. Two of the BJP's major allies, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Janata Dal (United) [JD(U)], are poised to wield considerable influence. Both parties are expected to push for a more balanced mandate in the Lok Sabha, reflecting their voter base's preferences and priorities. Some analyst suggests both allies will be try to secure good position in the Lok Sabha and will come up with tougher demands to the BJP unlike 2019.

Secularism at the Forefront

TDP and JD(U) have consistently identified themselves as secular parties, advocating for the rights of all religious communities, including Muslims. This stance is particularly critical given the BJP's contentious policies and rhetoric concerning Muslims, such as the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the surge in hate speeches against Muslims during the previous term. In 2023, 75% of hate speeches and discriminatory remarks were reported in states governed by the BJP, exacerbating communal tensions. JD(U) and TDP are set to raise voice for the Muslim community as the majority of their voters belong to Muslim community. Keeping in mind the longing discrimination of BJP against religious minorities, it will be difficult for the party to adjust with the mandate of the allies and the reduction in the seats in Lok Sabha will be an influencing factor as well.

Party Stance

Despite these challenges and the speculated demands of their allies, BJP leaders remain confident. They assert that the new government will not only navigate through these complexities but will emerge stronger and more cohesive. Party spokespersons have dismissed concerns about internal discord and dependency on allies as rumors propagated by anti-BJP factions. However, the reduced majority in the Lok Sabha necessitates a more collaborative approach with allies like TDP and JD(U), who advocate for secularism and minority rights. The party's ability to address these dynamics while maintaining its core agenda will be crucial in determining the success and stability of the Modi 3.0 government. The reduction in seats can become a decisive factor in shaping the future of Indian government.

All in all, as Narendra Modi embarks on his third term as Prime Minister, the BJP faces a transformed political environment. Analysts and members of India's Muslim community have expressed a renewed faith in the world's largest democracy following the recent election results. They believe that the reduced majority of the BJP in the Lok Sabha and the consequent need for stronger alliances signal a shift towards a more inclusive and balanced governance. This new political landscape suggests that the upcoming five years under the

BJP will likely differ significantly from the perceived authoritarian regime of 2019-2023, fostering a more democratic and collaborative approach to governance.

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