



## Estimating Decline of Congress Party

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### ABSTRACT

The Indian National Congress (INC), or simply Congress, boasts a long and fascinating history, deeply intertwined with the fight for Indian independence and the country's development since. The Congress party has produced several Prime Ministers of India, including Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, and Manmohan Singh. It has faced criticism for its dominance, centralization, and occasional shifts in ideology. Despite facing challenges, Congress remains a significant voice in Indian politics, advocating for social justice, democratic values, and economic development.

The Congress's traditional ideology of secularism, social democracy, and a strong central government has lost ground to the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) emphasis on Hindu nationalism, economic liberalism, and regionalism. The party's organizational structure, once a strong network across the country, has weakened due to factionalism, lack of fresh leadership, and disconnect with the grassroots. The rise of young voters and assertive social identities like regionalism and caste-based assertion has challenged the Congress's broad tent approach.

**KEYWORDS:** Congress, Party, Bharatiya, Janata

### INTRODUCTION

The Gandhi family's dominance has led to accusations of dynastic politics and a lack of strong leadership outside the family. This has alienated younger voters and sections of the electorate seeking fresh faces. The party has struggled to articulate a clear vision for the future that resonates with voters, especially compared to the BJP's Hindutva-driven agenda. Public disillusionment with the Congress's performance during its last term in office (2004-2014), including issues like corruption and economic slowdown, has contributed to its decline.

The BJP's viable preparation of Hindu nationalism and its emphasis on issues like public safety and social personality has resonated with an enormous segment of the electorate. The ascent of solid provincial gatherings has additionally disintegrated the Congress' strength in a few states. The ascent of virtual entertainment and the changing media scene have made it more challenging for the Congress to arrive at voters and counter the BJP's story.

It's critical to take note that these are only a portion of the variables adding to the Congress' decline, and the overall significance of each element can be discussed. Also, the decline has not been uniform the nation over, with the party performing preferable in certain states over others.

Understanding the explanations for the Congress' decline is significant for anyone with any interest in Indian governmental issues and the eventual fate of the party. It likewise brings up more extensive issues about the changing idea of Indian culture, the job of philosophy in legislative issues, and the difficulties of popularity based union.

The absence of a solid, charming pioneer since the Nehru-Gandhi time has been a critical test. Rahul Gandhi's apparent inability and absence of a clear vision hampered the get-together's capacity to interface with voters.

The party's conventional mainstream and communist philosophy has been viewed as blurring in significance, especially despite rising Hindu nationalism. The party's endeavor to move towards Hindutva as of late has distanced its center base without actually testing the BJP.

Here's a glimpse into its journey:

#### **Early Beginnings (1885-1919):**

1885: Founded by Allan Octavian Hume, an Englishman, along with Indian leaders like Dadabhai Naoroji and Womesh Chunder Bonnerjee. Initial focus was on moderate reform within the British Raj.

1905: Partition of Bengal sparks widespread protests, leading Congress to adopt Swadeshi (boycott of foreign goods) and Swaraj (self-rule) as key principles.



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1919: Rise of Mahatma Gandhi marks a shift towards mass mobilization and non-violent civil disobedience. Jallianwala Bagh massacre fuels anti-colonial sentiment.

### **Independence Movement (1920-1947):**

1920s-30s: Gandhi leads nationwide campaigns like Non-cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, and Quit India Movement. Congress becomes the central organization for independence struggle.

1942: "Quit India" movement intensifies, demanding immediate British withdrawal. Many leaders imprisoned, but movement gains momentum.

1946-47: Congress negotiates with British for independence. India gains freedom on August 15, 1947, with Jawaharlal Nehru as the first Prime Minister.

### **Post-Independence India (1947-present):**

1947-1964: Congress dominates Indian politics under Nehru's leadership, focusing on economic development, social welfare, and secularism.

1964-1977: After Nehru's death, internal divisions and challenges like Indo-Pakistani wars and economic slowdown lead to Congress's decline. Indira Gandhi takes over, but her emergency rule in 1975-77 further erodes public trust.

1977-1980: Janata Party, a coalition of opposition parties, wins first non-Congress government at the center.

1980s-present: Congress regains power under Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, but faces challenges like Sikh militancy, Bofors scandal, and rise of regional parties. Party undergoes internal reforms and adapts to changing political landscape.

### **Current Status:**

Today, Congress remains a major political force in India, though it faces stiff competition from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The party continues to advocate for social justice, secularism, and inclusive development.

The most significant indicator is the party's declining electoral fortunes. In 2014, it suffered a historic low, winning only 44 seats in the Lok Sabha, down from 206 in 2009. The 2019 elections saw a slight improvement with 52 seats but still far below past dominance. The trend continues in state elections, with Congress losing power in numerous states since 2014. Its presence has shrunk from ruling over 16 states in 2006 to just 3 in 2023.

### **Estimating Decline of Congress Party**

#### **Reasons for Decline:**

**Rise of BJP and Hindutva:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has effectively capitalized on Hindu nationalism and anti-incumbency sentiments, offering a clear alternative to Congress's secular and center-left ideology.

**Leadership and internal conflicts:** Critiques of the Gandhi family's leadership, charges of nepotism, and lack of strong regional leaders have hampered the party's ability to connect with voters.

**Policy and messaging:** Accusations of being out of touch with the aspirations of young voters and rural communities, along with perceived policy failures during their past term, have eroded public trust.

**Organizational weaknesses:** Issues with party structure, funding limitations, and lack of effective grassroots outreach have hampered the party's ability to mobilize voters.

#### **Current Status and Future:**

The Congress stays a critical power in Indian governmental issues, however its future restoration relies upon resolving inward issues, offering a convincing vision, and successfully countering the BJP story.

Late endeavors to produce collisions with territorial gatherings and spotlight on issues like joblessness and rustic misery could offer a way ahead.



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The decline of the Congress Party in India is a complicated issue with different contributing elements. Here are a few central issues:

**Verifiable Setting:**

**Ascent of provincial gatherings:** The rise in areas of strength for gatherings has dissolved Congress' predominance in a few states.

**Disintegration of Nehruvian agreement:** The tradition of Nehruvian secularism and communism is presently not as binding together, confronting difficulties from Hindutva and monetary progression.

**Hostile to incumbency:** After a significant stretch in power, hostile to incumbency opinion assumed a part in their discretionary misfortunes.

The Congress has held a few fortresses in states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu, exhibiting its capacity to associate with explicit provincial personalities. As the primary resistance, the Congress assumes a critical part in considering the public authority responsible and molding public talk. The party has gone through inside changes and initiative changes, with an emphasis on more youthful pioneers and effort to new fragments of the electorate.

By and large, the decline of the Congress Party is a complicated peculiarity with various causes and results. While the party faces huge difficulties, its long history, various help bases, and potential for change suggest that it might yet assume a critical part in India's political future.

**Explicit elements:**

**Authority:** The administration of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi has been reprimanded for absence of magnetism and powerful correspondence.

**Struggles under the surface and surrenders:** Factionalism and unseen fits of turmoil host debilitated the get-together's association and assurance.

**Strategy disappointments:** View of defilement and inadequate administration under Congress rule have estranged voters.

**Ascent of BJP:** The BJP's successful preparation of Hindu nationalism and Hindutva philosophy has reverberated with a huge segment of the electorate.

**Social and financial changes:** The changing social and monetary scene, including the ascent of the optimistic working class, has introduced difficulties for Congress' conventional message.

The Congress Party in India faces a huge number of difficulties, influencing its discretionary exhibition and in general political standing. Here are a few central issues:

**Discretionary Decline:**

**Losing Ground:** Congress has consistently lost ground as of late, especially in the Hindi belt, with critical losses in significant states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh.

**Territorial Ascent:** The ascent of solid local gatherings like AAP, DMK, and TRS has eaten into Congress' customary citizen base, making it hard to produce public unions.

**BJP Strength:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has arisen as a predominant power, successfully outlining the public story and introducing itself as the sole other option.

**Inner Issues:**

**Initiative Emergency:** The absence of a reasonable, charming pioneer has been a significant downside. Rahul Gandhi's picture has been conflicting, and inner dispute inside the party debilitates its informing.

**Authoritative Shortcoming:** The party structure is viewed as obsolete and lacking grassroots activation capacities. Inner groups and a distinction with nearby issues block its viability.

**Philosophical Haze:** Pundits contend that Congress' philosophical position is hazy, neglecting to reverberate with voters and separate itself from the BJP's Hindutva and improvement plan.





### Outer Difficulties:

**Changing Political Scene:** The ascent of populism, virtual entertainment, and personality governmental issues has reshaped the political scene, making it harder for Congress' customary common and anti-extremist way to deal with getting some momentum.

**Monetary Discontent:** The financial log jam and rising joblessness have made public disappointment, which the BJP has successfully exploited, while Congress battles to offer a convincing elective vision.

### DISCUSSION

Possible Solutions:

**Rejuvenated Leadership:** Congress needs a strong, credible leader who can connect with voters, articulate a clear vision, and unite the party.

**Reinforcing Grassroots:** Modifying the party's authoritative construction, at the nearby level zeroing in on youth excess and tending to explicit provincial worries, is vital.

**Philosophical Restoration:** Returning to its philosophical position to resolve contemporary issues and separate itself from the BJP without leaving its fundamental beliefs of secularism and civil rights is fundamental.

**Key Coalitions:** Building collisions with territorial gatherings and other resistance gatherings to introduce a unified front against the BJP could be critical in impending races.

The eventual fate of the Congress Party relies on its capacity to address these difficulties and adjust to the changing political scene. It should rethink its story, address inward divisions, and propose a convincing vision for India that reverberates with voters.

It's vital to take note that these are only a portion of the critical difficulties and potential arrangements. The circumstances are complicated, and various points of view exist inside the party and among political investigators.

### Current situation:

- Congress remains a significant force in Indian politics, but its national presence has shrunk considerably.
- The party is facing an existential crisis and needs to reinvent itself to remain relevant.
- Some potential areas of focus include:
  - Strong leadership with a clear vision.
  - Effective messaging that resonates with diverse sections of the population.
  - Addressing internal conflicts and rebuilding a strong organization.
  - Adapting policies to address contemporary challenges.

### CONCLUSION

It's important to note that the decline of Congress is a multifaceted issue with different perspectives and interpretations. It's important to note that the decline of the Congress is a gradual process with deep historical roots. These are just some of the key factors that have contributed to its current state. The future of the Congress remains uncertain, and it will depend on its ability to address these internal and external challenges.

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