

## **Performance of Regional Political Parties in Assam**

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### **ABSTRACT**

There are many regional political parties in Assam. There are various factors which are responsible for growth of regional political parties in Assam. The factors are such as, economic inequality and unemployment, utter neglect of a particular Region, safeguard of language and culture etc.

The regional parties may be communal or non-communal. Some of the communal regional parties are Akali Dal, United Akali Dal, DMK, AIDMK, Muslim League, Hindu Mahasabha etc. In Assam the regional political parties are AGP, BPPF, BPF, AIUDF etc.

Key words: political, parties, regional, factors.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Assam has also not lagging behind this context. Although the state has produces some small political parties before 1985, but formation of the AGP, BPPF, BPF and the AIUDF playing a very significant role in the politics of Assam. The AGP and the AIUDF not only emerge as an alternative of the Congress party at the state politics but also could able to participate in the national politics.

**OBJECTIVES OF STUDY:** The study has been conducted on the basis of the following objectives:

- 1.To study the performance of regional political parties in Assam.
2. To study the role of AIUDF in Assam.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

Secondary sources of data have been collected from published books, journals, articles, magazines, newspapers etc. The descriptive method, analytical method and empirical method have been used for analyzing and interpretation of data.

### **THE ASOM GANA PARISHAD (AGP):**

The Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) is one of the influential regional political parties of Assam. It was formed in 1985 to protect against immigration problem of Assam from Bangladesh. It also emerged as a contender of the Congress party. The aims and objects of the AGP thus extend to social-economic, cultural and political aspects. It reflects the party commitment towards the socio-economic progress of state. Political harmony, promotion of education and health care system, rural development etc. which are some core issues of Assam's social,

economic and political life. The percentage of vote sharing of the party was 34.54. The party also received support from another 7 independent candidates and formed government under the leadership of Sri.P.K. Mahanta with the formation of government by the AGP, the politics of Assam experienced with new taste under the leadership of new political leaders. However the young leaders have failed to fulfill the promises and the expectations of the people of Assam. The AGP had to face with serious problems in 1991 Assam Assembly elections. The party could able to secure only 19 seats out of 126 seats. However, the party was able to come in power in 1996. This time the AGP secured 59 seats out of 122 seats contested. In its second victory the party, could not fulfill its electoral promises and solve the burning problems of the state. In 2001 elections, the AGP secured only 20 seats out of 126 seats of Assam Legislative Assembly. In 2006 elections, this party can able to secure 24 seats and stay on opposition party in the Assam Legislative Assembly. In 2011 elections it has secured only 10 seats in the Assam Legislative Assembly. The details performance of the AGP is given in table 1.1 bellow:

**Table: 1.1****AGP's Electoral Performance (Assam Assembly Elections):**

Years	Total numbers of seats won	Percentage of votes
1985	64	34.54
1991	19	18.36
1996	59	29.70
2001	20	28.64
2006	24	20.39
2011	10	16.39
2016	14	8.10
2021	09	7.91

Source: *Government of Assam, State Elections Office, Dispur, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, 2022.*

The study of electoral performance of the AGP signifies that the party has to prove through raise and fall. Various situations, circumstances and factors were there behind such rise and fall of the party. Table 1.1 has shown that the performance of the AGP from 1985 to 2021. The performance of the AGP is very poor in 2011 Assam Legislative Assembly elections. In 2016 Assam Legislative Assembly elections, it secured 14 seats as an ally of the BJP.

## 2 Bodoland Peoples' Progressive Front (BPPF):

The Bodoland Peoples' Progressive Front (BPPF) is one of the small political parties of Assam. The party was formed on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2005 with Sri Rabiram Narzary as president and Sri Hemandra Nath Brhama as General Secretary. The BPPF is a small political party as it is concentrated in to the Bodoland Territorial Administrative Districts (BTAD) which includes four districts viz. Kokrajhar, Baska, Chirang and Udalguri. The BPPF is a common platform of different Bodo organizations. Though it formed to represent all Bodo communities of Assam but after the division in to political parties the BPF and BPPF-two political parties were formed. The BPF is headed by Hagrama Mohilary, present Chief of the BTAD.

Formation of the BPPF was almost a repetition of similar incident as it was in case of the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP). The AGP was formed just before the Assembly elections of Assam in 1985 and mostly to provide opportunity to the leaders of Assam movement to contest in the elections. Similarly the BPPF was formed just before the elections of the Bodoland Territorial Council and to provide a common political platform for the Bodo leaders of the Bodoland movement. Now its role has been decreasing due to emergence of the BPF in the BTAD area. The BPPF is now known as UPP (United People's Party). The party has contested 4 seats to ally with Congress party but could not manage a single seat in the Assam Legislative Assembly elections, 2016.

## 3 Bodoland Peoples' Front (BPF):

The Bodoland Peoples' Front (BPF) is one of the influential regional political parties of the BTAD as well as in the politics of Assam. Sri Hagrama Mahilary is the president of the BPF party. In Assam Assembly elections, 2006 it has won 11 seats and aligned with the Indian National Congress (I) and took opportunity to twice part of the Government of Assam. In the Parliamentary Elections, 2009 Sri. Sangsuma Khunggru Bismutary was elected to the 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Shaba from 5 No. Kokrajhar (ST) Constituency. Biswajit Daimary was elected as a member of the Rajya Shaba in May, 2008 from this party. The BPF had 11 members in the 12<sup>th</sup> Assam Legislative Assembly and it is a constituent of the Indian National Congress- led ruling coalition in Assam. In the 2011 Assam Assembly elections, the BPF won 12 seats and once again become the partner with the Congress Government led by Sri Tarun Gogoi. In 2014 Parliamentary Elections the BPF has contested two seats but it could not win their earlier seats. In the Assam Legislative Assembly elections, 2016 the party has won 12 seats as ally of the BJP.

The BPF party under Sri Hagrama Mahilary has been playing a very effective role in the politics of Assam. Now it is ruling party in the BTAD. The BPF has been capturing the power third time in the BTAD politics.

**Table: 1.2 Electoral performance of the BPF (Parliamentary Elections):**

Years	Seats won	Vote share
2009	1	5.41
2014	0	2.21

Source: *Government of Assam, State Elections Office, Dispur, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, 2022*

Table 1.2 has shown the performance of the BPF in Parliamentary Elections, 2009 and 2014. In 2009, Parliamentary Elections has won seat and votes polled in favour of the BPF is 5.41 percent. The party could not win their earlier one seat in 2014, Parliamentary Elections and votes polled in favour of the BPF were 2.21 percent. The performance of the BPF was very poor in the Parliamentary Elections, 2014.

**TABLE :1.3**

Years	Seats won	votes share
2006	11	5.19
2011	12	6.13
2016	12	3.90
2021	04	3.39

Source: *Government of Assam, State Elections Office, Dispur, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, 2022*

The above Table 1.3 has shown the performance of the BPF in 2006 and 2016 Assam Legislative Assembly elections. In 2006, Assam Legislative Assembly elections the party has won 11 seats with 5.19 percent votes and Assam Legislative Assembly elections, 2011 the party has won 12 seats with 6.13 percent of the total votes. In Assam Legislative Assembly elections, 2016 it secured 12 seats and in 2021 it secured 04 seats. Table 1.3 has clearly shown that the performance of the BPF was very significant in the politics of Assam.

#### **4 All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF):**

The All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) is one of the influential regional political parties of Assam. It was formerly known as AUDF (Assam United Democratic Front). It was formed on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2005 on the eve of Assam Legislative Assembly elections, 2006 and it won 10 seats of Assam Legislative Assembly. Maulana Baduruddin Ajmal was the first President and Hafiz Rashid Chowdhury was the General Secretary of the AIUDF party. The AIUDF has been playing a significant role in the electoral politics of Assam. In the Parliamentary Elections, 2009 it won one seat and in the Assam Legislative Assembly elections, 2011 this party won 18 seats. In 2014 Parliamentary Elections, it has played a very effective role and won 3 seats. The Party President Maulana Baduruddin Ajmal is elected second time from Dhubri Parliamentary Constituency with a huge margin of votes. Sirajuddin Ajmal is elected from Barpeta Constituency and Dr. Radheswem Biswas is elected from Karimganj Parliamentary Constituency with a huge margin of votes. In Assam Legislative Assembly elections, 2016 it could manage only 13 seats which is the poor performance of the AIUDF. The party President himself has lost his seat from South Salmara Legislative Constituency.

The AIUDF plays a very effective role in the politics of Assam and it has been able to unite the minorities of Assam. Besides the problem of Muslim minorities, particularly the problems of Muslim peasants of the Char areas of Assam were generally articulated by the AIUDF.

Before the emergence of the AIUDF, the religious minorities were treated as the 'vote bank', particularly by the Congress party. But the AIUDF entered into the electoral scene and a new articulation of vote sharing came out. For Example, in 2011 Assam Assembly Elections the party has won 18 seats which were earlier dominated by the Congress party. Apart from the Congress (I), the AGP and the BJP had to suffer because of the emergence of the AIUDF. The AIUDF in fact, stand as a parallel contestant of the Congress (I) among the minority voters.

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