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ABSTRACT

The Major Key findings:

With a notion of ‘one nation, one people, and one culture’, BJP emerged as the national party in 1980. The existence of the BJP at the political podium and its remarkable upsurge in northern and western India proved unsurprisingly the success of its ideology of Hindutva. The study particularly aims at political functionaries of BJP and Hindu Nationalism. The major areas of comparative analysis are divided into various sections, the aspect of ideology, secularism, uniform civil code, democracy, development, and party structure.

This thesis aims to address this concern by taking up the relationship between the BJP, Hindu nationalism and secularism. This thesis is divided into five chapters following the introduction, chapter two discusses the comparative analysis of Gandhian, Nehruvian and BJP’s positive secularism. The third chapter gives details about the long journey of Hindu nationalism and how the BJP has sought to transform its ideological doctrine under the changing compulsions of time. The fourth and fifth chapter investigates the success of the Hindutva project in UP and Gujarat, party’s changing nature of strategies, tactics and its political expansion under the changing compulsion of time.

Since the emergence of the BJP, there appears to be enough evidence to support the general impression of a continuing hard line ideological agendas at the political platform even after

this the political compulsion Compelled BJP to bring changes in strategy on the political ground, but it does not remove the influence of Hindu Nationalism totally from the party rather it changes its position and has taken the back seat and is working as the backbone of the party. Almost the findings of the variables in particular Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, both states show that even after a modern makeover of the party, it failed to manage or could not remove the pro-Hindu tag from itself. The weak opposition party and leadership, the insignificant Muslim vote share and the support of Hindu Nationalism, BJP stabilized its position in the Indian political podium.

The entire evaluation of the Hindu Nationalism and its working from pre-independence, the journey from revivalist and reformist to social and religious movement which later on getting nurtured by political force. Hindu Nationalism managed to retain its presence in the political arena and gained some significance by criticizing the notion of Nehruvian secularism, the feeling of 'others' gained much support on the name of the majority. Hindutva as a whole has no place in the BJP's working manifestos and strategies, but the ideology speaks volume of Hindutva.