

Emergence of Political Parties in Himachal Pradesh from 1951 to 2017

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ABSTRACT: Party system in India is inimitable and can be described by the singular nature of Indian politics on one hand, and state-society association on the other. In the last few decades, the nature of Indian politics has undergone transformation both in nature of relationship between the state and the society and the state of Himachal is no exception to this. One of the very significant indicators of transformation is evident in the context of the politicization of greater number of people, particularly those belonging to the underprivileged class of society. This describes the change in the nature of party system too. The unique characteristics which described the party system of India in the first two decades after independence are no longer seen. To comprehend the present evolution of party system, it is important to trace its history vis-à-vis its political rational in view of the changing state-society rapport. In 1948, when the state of Himachal Pradesh first came into being as a Union Territory till 1971 when it eventually attained the statehood, and up to present day, the political and administrative history of state has seen many ups and downs, which has molded the present day Himachal. In the present paper, an effort has been made to trace the origin and development of political parties in the state of Himachal Pradesh.

KEYWORDS -Bharatiya Janata Party, Himachal Pradesh, Indian National Congress, Political Parties, Party System, Praja Mandals

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I. INTRODUCTION

Political parties are vital for any democratic system [1]. According to Eckstein, party system is defined as ‘competitive interaction patterns among parties’ or, in terms of Duverger’s, ‘the forms and modes of their coexistence’ [2, 3, 4]. Broadly, the party system refers to intricate socio-political processes that go beyond individual front-runners, societal relations, political assemblies and organizations to an intricate pattern of their interface and interrelationships, which are governed not only by constitutions, statutes, rules, principles and institutes, but a variety of live issues that determine the political attitudes and behaviors at different stages of evolution in a society and polity. These patterns are revealed in ideologies and temperaments, party building and disintegration, union and division, collaboration and hostility, care and gripe, influencing the voters and democratic competition. In multi-cultural Indian society, alliance takes place at different level, ranging from national to interregional or regional levels. There are three types of party systems in the contemporary times, viz. single party, two party and multi-party systems. In single party system, one political party controls the government, while in two party system, two major parties rival for governmental power. In multiparty system, several smaller, non-majority parties with different interests seek power and form coalition governments.

The party system of India has evolved from a political center, which was shaped during the nationalist movement. The institutional manifestation of this center was Indian National Congress, whose evolution can be divided into three different stages during which it not only grew itself as a movement but also established the basis of Indian party system. The evolution of party system in Post-Independence era can be suitably divided into three phases, viz. [5, 6, and 7]:

- Congress Domination (1952-1967)
- Decline of Congress (1967-1989)
- Coalition Era (1989-till date)

However, the evolution of party system in India has also seen many ups and downs. In the following pages, an effort has been made to trace the changing face of politics in Himachal Pradesh. The analysis is based on the secondary sources both published and unpublished, besides reports of the Election Commission of India [8-19].

II. EVOLUTIONARY BACKGROUND OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

In order to understand the changing political scenario of Himachal, it is important to flip through the pages of political history of the state. Today's Himachal consisted of two hill regions, i.e., 'Simla Hills' or 'Old Himachal' and 'Punjab Hills'. Before independence, Shimla hills were under the control of native rulers and the struggle for independence in these areas was inspired by the nationalist movement, however, its goal was not to surmount the princely states. The other areas which got merged with the state in 1966 were under the direct control of British government and were known as 'PunjabHills'. The people in these areas fought for conquering the British rule. Thus, two movements started simultaneously in the region, i.e., the *Praja Mandal* movement, and the struggle for freedom [20].

In 1939, the idea of developing *Praja Mandals* started in the 'All India State Peoples' Conference' and subsequently the activities of *Praja Mandals* were initiated in the hill states of Himachal. The motive behind the *Praja Mandal* movement was democratization of hill monarchy. In December 1939, the '*HimalayanRiasti Praja Mandal*' came into being which facilitated the activities of political and social workers in many hill states. Concurrently, *Praja Mandals* were planned in Chamba, Sirmour, Mandi, Bushahr, Sundernagar and other small princely states. In the beginning, the *Praja Mandals* faced many problems and its activities were banned by the rulers and *rannas* of small hill states. The British authorities too were vigilant and warned the local administration against their activities [21]. The emergence of *Praja Mandals* eliminated the threats of bondage by the rulers and could not prevent the spreading of nationalistic feelings. In Kangra region, a *Satyagraha* was launched and the Quit India Movement received the response of people. Mahatma Gandhi also visited Shimla in years 1921, 1931, 1939, 1945, and 1946. In 1945 and 1946 Jawaharlal Nehru, Mulana Abdul Kalam Azad, Sardar Vallabhai Patel and other prominent leaders of Indian National Congress visited Shimla to attend Shimla Conference. The Muslim league leader, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, also attended the conference. These leaders came to Shimla on the invitation of the government of India to have talks with the cabinet Mission sent by the British Government to speed up the question of independence of India. At that, Lord Wavell was the viceroy of India and the Conference was held at the Vice regal Lodge now housing Indian Institute of Advanced Study. Gandhi did not attend the meetings but stayed on Shimla. This conference ultimately led to independence of India and withdrawal of British from the country in the year 1947.

Later, the *Praja Mandal* movement gained momentum and its components in various Hill-States were unified into '*Himalayan Hill States Regional Council*', which played an important role in the unification of Hill states and formation of state. After independence, the *Praja Mandal* launched the '*Suket Satyagraha*' for the union of princely states and rulers signed the merger agreement. On 15th April 1948, came into being the chief commissioner's province of Himachal Pradesh, which consisted of thirty big and small hill states [22]. Since no definite policy was followed by the Indian government for integration of princely states, the state of Himachal Pradesh could not attain a proper shape in the beginning.

Though, the merger of princely hill-states had great historical and administrative significance, but during the construction of Bhakra Dam, Bilaspur was made a separate Chief Commissioner's province. After independence, the *Praja Mandals* were merged to form the Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee, but the need was felt to have a proper shape for Himachal Pradesh without threatening its individuality, culture and Ethos [23]. When the constitution of India was finalized the state of Himachal Pradesh became a Part 'C' state and in 1954 Bilaspur was merged in Himachal Pradesh [24]. The Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee insisted for merger of Kullu and Kangra with the state. The final struggle demanding the conferring of statehood started on 24th January 1968 when the state legislative assembly unanimously passed a resolution which stated:

This House earnestly feels that it is high time for Himachal Pradesh to be recognized as a full-fledged state and to that end, it strongly urges that the Central leadership and the Union Government concede the demand of the Pradesh for statehood by bringing about the necessary legislations without further loss of time.

After long deliberations for creation of *Vishal Himachal*, on 31st July 1970, the central government decided to grant statehood to Himachal Pradesh. On 18th December 1970, the State of Himachal Act was passed and the new state came into being on 25th January 1971 [25]. The state legislative assembly started after the formation of Himachal Pradesh, on 15th April, 1948. At that time it was managed by a Chief Commissioner. In 1951, when it became a part 'C' state, Himachal came under a Lt. Governor with Legislative assembly having 36 members. First elections of the assembly were held in 1951 and Indian National Congress formed the first government and Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar became the first chief minister of the state. Thus, the present day Himachal Pradesh is the result of long struggle and still an ongoing process of political development.

III. DEMOCRATIC PERFORMANCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

The Indian National Congress, India's foremost political party and one of the oldest political parties of the world was formed in 1885 by A. O. Hume with W. C. Banerjee as its first president. It acted as a link between the British administrators and common people of India. In the beginning the party served the interest of British administrators but later turned into a mass movement for freedom. In Himachal, the party came into

being in 1948, with the conversion of *Praja Mandals* into congress committees. The second important party that emerged in the state is Bharatiya Janata Party, which in its ideological and organizational structure is the successor of Bharatiya Jana Sangh [26]. The Bharatiya Jana Sangh was founded in October 1951, which itself is believed to have originated from Hindu Mahasabha and Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh. Bharatiya Jana Sangh could not perform well during the first three general elections and later constituted Janata Party [23]. However, the rise of Bharatiya Janata Party in Indian politics corresponded with some vital transformations in the dynamics of electoral politics in India. The party expresses its commitment to five ideals, i.e. nationalism and national integration, democracy, positive secularism, Gandhian socialism, and a value based politics [27]. In social sphere it upholds adherence to Hindu cultural mores and on the economic plane, it believes in free enterprise with an inclination for *Swadeshi*. In Himachal, a separate unit of Bharatiya Jana Sangh was set up on 1st November 1966 after reorganization of Punjab [28]. Since the government led by Shri Shanta Kumar in Himachal Pradesh was fundamentally a Bharatiya Jana Sangh government, its performance during 1977-80 played a vital role in the emergence of Bharatiya Janata Party in the consequent elections. In Himachal, the Bharatiya Janata Party emerged as one of the largest parties and the politics of the state diverged around a typical two-party system.

At national level, the Communist Party of India (CPI) was founded in 1925 as a hostile action against British rulers in India. After independence, it emerged on the political platform but in 1964 it splits up and a new party known as Communist Party of India (Marxist) came into being [23]. Thus, CPI and CPI (M) are the major leftists of Indian politics. In terms of ideology, the CPI was globally aligned with the erstwhile USSR, while the CPI (M) maintained friendly ties with China [29]. Himachal Pradesh Communist Party came into being in January 1953 and attained the status of state party in 1961. Because of the ideological consideration, these parties have been winning the confidence of poor peasants and working class of the state. On a whole, these parties are not common in Himachal Pradesh and have seldom won a seat or two. Besides these four parties which have been contesting elections in Himachal Pradesh, a few other parties too emerged and disappeared in the subsequent elections. Thus, like in other Indian states, the political transformation in Himachal Pradesh remained sluggish in the beginning. However, with the transformation of *Praja mandals* into Congress committees, the sphere of political activity expanded. Indeed, during the course of party building in the state the *Praja Mandals* slowly got weaved into the fabric of one organization, i.e., the Himalayan Hill State's Regional Council. With the merger of hill states of the erstwhile Punjab in 1966, the party politics in the state underwent metamorphosis. There were two shareholders among whom the cake was to be distributed, i.e. the 'old' and the 'new' Himachal which later emerged as the major issues of politics in Himachal.

This organization formed the basis for fostering the superstructure of the party system of Himachal Pradesh. Since independence, a number of political parties emerged in India and the state of Himachal is no exception to this. In 1951, six political parties and one independent participated in legislative assembly elections (Table 1). This included All India *Bhartiya Jan Sangh*, *Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha*, Indian National Congress, *Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party*, All India Scheduled Caste Federation and Socialist Party Independents. In 1967, except Indian National Congress, all seven contesting parties were new. In 1972, there were five national contesting parties with an addition of Indian National Congress (Organization) besides one registered unrecognized party and one independent party. In 1977, the scenario changed and the number of participating political parties in Legislative Assembly Elections reduced to five with and one independent party. The evolution of assemblies in Himachal Pradesh is presented in table 2. Except for fourth assembly elections of 1977, till sixth assembly elections, the Indian National Congress remained in power. However, after seventh assembly elections, the scenario changed and the Bharatiya Janata Party and Indian National Congress alternately governed the state.

Table 2: List of Assemblies in Himachal Pradesh

Election Year	Assembly	Dominant party
1952-1957	Legislative Assembly of Part-C State of H.P.	Indian National Congress
1957-1962	Territorial Council	Indian National Congress
1962-1967	First Assembly	Indian National Congress
1967-1972	Second Assembly	Indian National Congress
1972-1977	Third Assembly	Indian National Congress
1977-1982	Fourth Assembly	Janata Party
1982-1985	Fifth Assembly	Indian National Congress
1985-1990	Sixth Assembly	Indian National Congress
1990-1992	Seventh Assembly	Bharatiya Janata Party
1993-1998	Eighth Assembly	Indian National Congress
1998-2003	Ninth Assembly	Bharatiya Janata Party
2003-2007	Tenth Assembly	Indian National Congress
2007-2012	Eleventh Assembly	Bharatiya Janata Party
2012-2017	Twelfth Assembly	Indian National Congress
2017-Current	Thirteenth Assembly	Bharatiya Janata Party

Source: Election Commission of India

Table 1: Participation of Political Parties in Legislative Assembly Elections of Himachal Pradesh (1951-2017)

1951	1967	1972	1977	1985	1990	1993	1998	2003	2007	2012	2017
NATIONAL	NATIONAL	NATIONAL	NATIONAL	NATIONAL	NATIONAL	NATIONAL	NATIONAL	NATIONAL	NATIONAL	NATIONAL	NATIONAL
All India Bharatiya Jan Sangh (BIS)	Bharatiya Jan Sangh (BIS)	Bharatiya Jan Sangh (BIS)	Janata Party (JNP)	Janata Party (JNP)	Janata Party (JNP)	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
Akhil Bharatiya Hindh Mahasabha (HMS)	Communist Party of India (CPI)	Communist Party of India (CPI)	Communist Party of India (CPI)	Communist Party of India (CPI)	Communist Party of India (CPI)	Communist Party of India (CPI)	Indian National Congress (INC)	Indian National Congress (INC)	Indian National Congress (INC)	Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)	Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)
Indian National Congress (INC)	Indian National Congress (INC)	Indian National Congress (INC)	Indian National Congress (INC)	Indian National Congress (INC)	Indian National Congress (INC)	Indian National Congress (INC)	Communist Party of India (CPI)	Communist Party of India (CPI)	Bahujan Samajwadi Party (BSP)	Communist Party of India (CPI)	Indian National Congress (INC)
Kisan Praja Party (KMPP)	Communist Party of India (CPM, Marxist)	Communist Party of India (CPM, Marxist)	Communist Party of India (CPM, Marxist)	Communist Party of India (CPM, Marxist)	Communist Party of India (CPM, Marxist)	Communist Party of India (CPM, Marxist)	Communist Party of India (CPM, Marxist)	Communist Party of India (CPM, Marxist)	Communist Party of India (CPI)	Communist Party of India (CPM)	Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)
All India Scheduled Caste Federation (SCF)	Praja Socialist Party (PSP)	Indian National Congress (Organization)	INDEPENDENT	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	Janata Dal (JD)		Bahujan Samajwadi Party (BSP)	Communist Party of India (CPM, Marxist)	Indian National Congress (INC)	STATE PARTIES
Socialist Party Independents (SP)	Republic Party of India (RPI)	Sanyukta Socialist Party/Socialist Party (SOP)	Independent (IND)	Lok Dal (LKD)	ICS(SCS) Indian Congress (Socialist-Sarat Chandra Sinha)	STATE PARTIES	STATE PARTIES	Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)	Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)	Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)	Himachal Lokhit Party
INDEPENDENT	Sanghata Socialist Party (SSP)	REGISTERED UNRECOGNIZED PARTIES		INDEPENDENT	Janata Dal (JD)	Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)	Himachal Vikas Congress (HVK)	STATE PARTIES	REGISTERED PARTIES	STATE PARTIES - OTHER STATES	INDEPENDENT
Independent (IND)	Swatantra Party Independents (SWA)	Lok Raj Party Himachal Pradesh (LRP)		Independent (IND)	STATE PARTIES	REGISTERED UNRECOGNIZED PARTIES	INDEPENDENT	Himachal Vikas Congress (HVK)	Lok Jan Shakti Party (LJP)	All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)	Independent (IND)
	INDEPENDENT	INDEPENDENT			Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)	Doorbarsahi Party (DDP)	Independent (IND)	STATE PARTIES - OTHER STATES	Samajwadi Party (SP)	Lok Jan Shakti Party (LJP)	
	Independent (IND)	Independent (IND)			REGISTERED UNRECOGNIZED PARTIES	Himachal Kranti Party (HKP)		Samajwadi Party (SP)	REGISTERED UNRECOGNIZED PARTIES	Shivsena (SHS)	
					Doorbarsahi Party (DDP)	Indian Congress (Socialists) (CS)		REGISTERED UNRECOGNIZED PARTIES	Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha (ABHM)	Samajwadi Party (SP)	

Table 1: Participation of Political Parties in Legislative Assembly Elections of Himachal Pradesh (1951-2017)

1951	1967	1972	1977	1985	1990	1993	1998	2003	2007	2012	2017
					Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha (HMS)	Samajwadi Party (SP)		Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha (ABHM)	Adarsh Political Party (APP)	REGISTERED (UNRECOGNISED) PARTIES	
					INDEPENDENT	Independent (IND)		Loktantrik Morcha Himachal Pradesh (LMHP)	Rashtriya Garib Dal (RGD)	Himachal Swabhiman Party (HSIP)	
					Independent (IND)			Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya) SP(R)	INDEPENDENT	Himachal Lokhit Party (HLP)	
								INDEPENDENT	Independent (IND)	Hindusthan Nirman Dal (HND)	
								Independent (IND)		Indian Justice Party (IJP)	
										INDEPENDENT	
										Independent (IND)	

Thus, after Seventh Assembly elections, the political party system of the state is largely a two-party system, as the struggle for power in the state is mainly confined to two parties, i.e., the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party. The other political parties in the state are mere non-entities, as their impact on state's politics is limited. BJP as a party of mass electoral demand became popular during the late 80s. Table 1 shows that except Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party, most of political parties appeared and disappeared from the electoral scene with time. Till 1982 assembly election, the political scenario in Himachal was entirely dominated by Indian National Congress. Later the things have undergone transformation with the emergence of Bharatiya Janata Party in 1982 assembly election. The democratic performance of the parties is shown in table 3.

Table 3: Democratic performance of Political Parties in Himachal Pradesh

Political Party	1952	1967	1972	1977	1982	1985	1990	1993	1998	2003	2007	2012	2017
INC	24	34	53	9	31	58	8	53	31	43	23	36	21
BJS/BJP	-	7	5	-	29	7	51	8	31	16	41	26	44
Himachal Vikas Congress	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-
Lok Jan Shakti Party	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Loktantrik Morcha Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Janta/Swantantra	-	1	-	53	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CPI	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
CPI (M)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
PSP/KMPP	3	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bhaujan Samajwadi Party	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Independent/others	8	16	7	6	6	2	1	6	1	6	3	6	2
Total	36	60	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68

Source: Election Commission of India

Janta party was a group of several small parties which finished the dominance of INC in 1977 assembly elections. During this election, the congress vote bank came down to 38.6 percent, the lowest ever. In this election, the congress was completely ousted by Janta Party. Congress could win only nine seats in the house of 68. Under the leadership of Shanta Kumar, Janta Party secured a massive majority, winning 53 seats. The character of Janta Party in Himachal Pradesh was such that its major constituent was the *Jan Sangh*. Consequently, after the Assembly Poll, Shanta Kumar of Jan Sangh became the first non-congress Chief Minister in Himachal Pradesh, Government. He remained as impressive Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. In 1982 elections, BJS/BJP attained fifty percent of the seats. In 1990 assembly elections, the BJS/BJP had clean sweep with 51 seats out of total 68 seats but the situation reversed in 1993 elections when the INC regained its earlier status. The Bharatiya Janta Party made a serious bid during the 1990 *Vidhan Sabha* elections. To avoid diversion of non-congress vote, it entered into electoral alliance with the state unit of the Janta Dal. As a part of this alliance, BJP contested only 51 (75 percent) seats and left the remaining 17 (25 percent) for the Janta Dal. This strategy paid expected dividends to BJP which pulled 41.8 percent the vote and won 46 seats out of 51 seats. The performance of *Janta* party was equally impressive and the party increased its vote share to 10.8 percent and captured 11 out of 17 seats. However, having won a massive majority for itself, the BJP didn't opt for a coalition government. Rather, it decided to form its own government. This decision of BJP significantly affected the future pattern of politics in the state.

The *Janta Dal* having won eleven seats seems to arise as the third force. However, after the poll it was neither a part at government nor a part of the opposition because it had been BJP's electoral supporter. The *Janta Dal* remained a float for a while but gradually most of its legislators descended and joined the congress.

In tenth *Vidhan Sabha* elections which held in November, 1993, once again the voters favored Congress Party. The BJP government was thrown out of power and it could gain only nine seats out of 68 seats. In 1998, the Lok Sabha and *Vidhan Sabha* elections were held on same day, i.e. 28th February, 1998 for three *Lok Sabha* seats and 65 state assembly seats. There was no clear cut verdict of the voters in favor of any political party. These elections changed the entire political scenario of the state and for first time emerged the '*third force*', i.e., Himachal Vikas Congress (HVC) under the leadership of former Union Communication Minister Pandit Sukh Ram. As far as 68 state assembly seats are concerned, and congress party got 31 seats, while BJP got 29 seats, HVC got 4 seats.

In addition to two national parties, i.e. INC and BJP, small regional parties came into being in Himachal from time to time. This included Lok Raj Party Himachal Pradesh or People's Rule Party Himachal

Pradesh, which came into being in the beginning of the 1970s. It was led by Thakur Sen Negi, formerly leader of the Samyukt Vidhayak Dal in the state and former Congress leader J.B.L. Khachi. The party contested 1972 state assembly elections. In the 1972 state assembly elections LRP had put up candidates in 16 out of 68 constituencies. Two were elected. In total the party received 44067 votes. Himachal Vikas Congress which was formed when Sukh Ram split from the Indian National Congress. Later in 2004, HVC merged with Congress. Himachal Kranti Party or Himalayan Revolution Party was formed after the 1998 state assembly elections, when two Himachal Vikas Congress members of the assembly, Mansa Ram and Prakash Chaudhary, split to form HKP. HKP merged with Bharatiya Janata Party in 1999. Loktantrik Morcha, Himachal Pradesh (LMHP), was registered as a political party in 2003. It is led by Mohinder Singh Chaudhury, former Himachal Vikas Congress minister and convener of Him Loktantrik Morcha. Himachal Swabhiman Party was founded by former BJP ideologue Govindacharya on 10 August 2011. The party took part in discussions on the formation of a 'Third Front' to contest the elections. The Himachal Swabhiman Party fielded 16 candidates in the 2012 assembly election. None was elected and they could only fetch 6,571 votes. Himachal Lokhit Party was founded by few protesters of Bharatiya Janata Party ahead of 2012 Himachal Pradesh legislative assembly election. Maheshwar Singh was the president of the party and some senior leaders of BJP like Mahender Nath Sofat, Shyama Sharma also joined the party. In August 2016, half of the party got merged with Bharatiya Janata Party and in October 2016, rest of its member joined Aam Aadmi Party.

IV. AN ERA OF COALITION

The political history of Himachal also witnessed an era of coalition government. In the assembly election of 1977, coalition government was formed after emergency (1975-1977) which brought a change in the state. The first non-congress government which was led by *Jan Sangh* could not complete its five year. The two of non-congress government could not complete its, five year tenure, i.e. in 1977 and 1990, when both the governments was led by Shanta Kumar as a non-congress leader but he became victim of immoral politics. In 1998 elections, BJP and HVC coalition government completed five years in the state. It is for the first time that BJP led coalition government or non-congress government was able to complete its five years term in the office. In state assembly election of 1998, congress party got 31 seats, while BJP got 28; Himachal Vikas Congress got four seats. Himachal Vikas Congress joined hands with the BJP under the leadership of Prem Kumar Dhumal. The Non-Congress Ministry was formed in Himachal Pradesh on 24th March 1998 with the support of HVC and one Independent-candidate and Prem Kumar Dhumal became the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. In 2003, elections BJP-HVC alliance was separated and both political parties separately contested the election and got defeated. Once again congress came to power and successfully ruled Himachal Pradesh up to 2007. In 2007 assembly election, Bharatiya Janta Party won two third majority and formed Vishud BJP Government in Himachal Pradesh. Bharatiya Janta Party Government completed four years of its tenure.

V. CONCLUSION

Thus, during the entire course of evolution of political parties, *Bharatiya Janta Party* has emerged not only as one of the biggest party in the state of Himachal Pradesh, but as a potential alternative to the dominance of congress party which has enjoyed a status of majority in the politics of Himachal Pradesh.

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