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- ❖ **India-Bangladesh Relations**
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Designed by: Pt. Tejpal

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From UPA to INDIA

The United Progressive Alliance (UPA), a successful coalition of non-BJP opposition parties, was first formed in 2004. The new alliance, which took embryonic form at the Bengaluru meeting held on July 17–18, has decided to change its name from UPA to INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance), which is a formation of 26 parties to challenge the incumbent NDA led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the upcoming general elections.

In 2004 and 2009, the UPA, a coalition of parties headed by Congress, established the Central government. However, the UPA lost many of its allies and weakened as a result of losing the 2014 and 2019 elections to the NDA. In India, both traditional and modern parties are represented, including the Trinamool Congress (TMC), Dravida Munetra Kazhagam (DMK), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Janata Dal (U), Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), Samajwadi Party (SP), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Shiv Sena (UBT), the Left Parties, and others.

The INDIA constituents assert that they have united in order to protect democracy and the constitution as well as to offer a contrast to the NDA's allegedly divisive, authoritarian, and anti-people policies. Additionally, they have stated that they will work on a common minimum programme (CMP) that will concentrate on issues like social justice, agriculture, employment, education, health, and federalism.

According to some experts, the INDIA alliance will likely have to overcome numerous obstacles in the future, including keeping its diverse partners united, projecting credible leadership, connecting with voters, and fending off the NDA's resources and support.

Since both the NDA and the INDIA alliances have their own strengths and weaknesses, many experts believe it is difficult to predict which of the two will have an advantage in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in 2024. However, it appears that the NDA has a slight advantage over the INDIA alliance in terms of popularity and vote share, according to some recent opinion polls.

In a survey conducted in June 2023 by India Today-Axis My India, the NDA is predicted to win 272 seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha, barely making it past the halfway point. 234 seats are predicted to go to the INDIA alliance, while 37 seats could go to others. According to the survey, Modi continues to be the top candidate for prime minister, receiving 44% of the vote, ahead of Banerjee (16%) and Rahul Gandhi (12%).

In a subsequent ABP News-CVoter poll taken in July 2023, the NDA received 269 seats, the INDIA alliance received 238 seats, and other parties received 36 seats. The poll also revealed that Gandhi had a 14 percent approval rating, Banerjee had a 21 percent approval rating, and Modi had a 51 percent approval rating.

The performance of the government, the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, the state of the economy, regional dynamics, campaign tactics, and voter turnout are just a few of the many variables that could affect the results of the 2024 elections, so these polls are only indicative and not conclusive. Furthermore, because they are based on samples and assumptions, polls may not accurately reflect the sentiments and realities of the populace. In light of this, it is too soon to determine which alliance has a distinct advantage over the other. In 2024, the Indian people will render the final judgment.

The results of the government, the COVID-19 pandemic's effects, the state of the economy, regional dynamics, campaign tactics, and voter turnout are just a few of the variables that will affect INDIA's electoral prospects in the Lok Sabha elections of 2024. However, it appears that the NDA has a slight advantage over the INDIA alliance in terms of popularity and vote share based on some recent opinion polls and news articles.

These survey polls, however, are only indicative and not conclusive because they are based on samples and assumptions. The upcoming meeting of the INDIA alliance partners, which is scheduled to take place in Mumbai soon, is likely to address all of the issues that this alliance is currently having and will probably give NDA a run for its money. INDIA is likely to fare well in the 2024 elections given the growing public discontent with the current government, the prime minister's declining credibility, and the lack of any notable accomplishments. The Indian people, however, will render the final judgment. — BK



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