



E-ISSN: 2664-603X
P-ISSN: 2664-6021
Impact Factor (RJIF): 5.92
IJPSG 2025; 7(12): 309-314
www.journalofpoliticalscience.com
Received: 09-10-2025
Accepted: 12-11-2025

Dr. Nagesha KL
GPUC Lakshmipura
Ramanagara, Karnataka,
India

Social engineering influence on politics and socialist movement in the state of Bihar: Assembly elections voting behaviour an analysis

Nagesha KL

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/26646021.2025.v7.i12d.805>

Abstract

The Bihar Assembly Election in 2025 is shaping up to be a pivotal moment for the state. The key issues unemployment, migration, infrastructure, and disaster management are deeply interconnected with Bihar's long-standing development challenges. The political dynamics are complex, with caste, governance, and social justice playing major roles. For the BJP, JD(U), RJD, and Congress, this election represents a chance to define the future of Bihar, focusing on solutions for the state's most pressing issues. The outcome will likely set the tone for future elections in the state and could reshape political alliances in the broader national context. To discuss how specific issues influence voter behaviour, or explore how parties adjust their strategies as Election Day approaches.

Special Intensive Revision (SIR) major political Significance in this election - The Election Commission of India SIR of electoral rolls in Bihar, which removed around 69 lakh names. The intent behind this "purification" is to clean up the voter list and make it more accurate. The large-scale revision signals the importance of electoral integrity. The revision is crucial because voter lists need to be accurate to ensure fair elections. However, removing such a large number of voters could also be politically sensitive, potentially leaving some citizens disenfranchised and opening up discussions on voter access and rights.

Keywords: Unemployment, migration, infrastructure, disaster, management, behaviour, purification

Introduction

Bihar's modern political history began with its separation from the Bengal Presidency in 1912 following Indian independence in 1947; it became a state, with Shri Krishna Sinha as the first Chief Minister and Anugrah Narayan Sinha as the first Deputy Chief Minister. The state saw significant shifts, including the Congress being voted out in 1967, the initiation of Zamindari abolition, and the rise of social justice politics around reservation policies. The period from 1990 to 2005 is often associated with the era under the Rashtriya Janata Dal(RJD) and is known for a high crime rate. More recent political history has been characterized by the leadership of Nitish Kumar and the emergence of different coalition governments.

The emergence of Socialists as the major opposition power in Bihar occurred against this aforementioned 'cultural crisis', existing within and emanating from the Congress. There emerged an ideology, which significantly influenced the emerging middle-classes among the backward castes and their rise as a political power. Subsequently, almost all parties reflected a socialist and populist creed. However, to adapt George Bernard Shaw, this 'social revolution' in Bihar, 'did not end tyranny; it merely shifted the burden to other shoulders'. After separating from the Congress in 1948, the Socialists had to face a two-fold struggle of establishing their separate political and ideological identity as well as consolidating their social base. This was met by the uncompromising Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia (1910-67) and the malleable Jayaprakash Narayan (1902-79), in their own ways, after the 1952 electoral debacle and the consequent difficult years. Within his 'New Socialism', Lohia retained Liberal Populism and Gandhism but replaced Marxism with his own understanding 'New Socialism' (since called 'Lohia-ism'), *Lohia retained Liberal Populism and Gandhism but replaced Marxism with his own* which linked the continuing caste and social-assertion movements of the backwards with the socialists.

Corresponding Author:
Dr. Nagesha KL
GPUC Lakshmipura
Ramanagara, Karnataka,
India

In so doing he recognised a home-truth of Bihar Politics, as *The Indian Nation* re-affirmed fifty years ago. The general impression is that almost everyone is casteist'.

To build a powerful opposition to Congress, Lohia decided to turn to the backward caste agricultural groups as his political base. The rising groups within the backward castes were also looking for a party that could represent their political ambitions. It was here that Lohia's slogan, *pichhda pave sau mein saath* (60% benefits to the backwards/downtrodden), was popularised by Karpoori Thakur, the emerging Socialist leader from the lower Shudra nai or barber caste: 'Socialists *ne bandhi gaanth*' (Socialists have given their pledge). Lohia also launched the comprehensive idea of 'sapt-kranti' (seven-fold revolution) bringing together the issues of social exploitation with racial, national, sexual questions and linking them with the imagery triad of 'vote-spade-jail' thereby attempting to consolidate the anti-Congress forces. Another initiative was the anti-English emphasis of the Socialist's language policy, which emotionally resonated with the youth and the students of the north Indian backward-agricultural castes. In August 1965, the Socialists led the largest post-independence popular movement in Bihar on the issues of fee-increase in educational institutions, food crises, inflation and the corruption of the Congress government. 1966 followed with the devaluation of rupee leading to an unprecedented inflation. Bihar suffered famine and lawlessness. A new, post-independence generation was coming into its own and decidedly breaking away from the Congress, being thwarted by the vested status quo of the Grand Old Party.

The 1967 elections were held against this background ending Congress' two-decade long electoral domination and a 'non-Congress government was formed with tremendous goodwill... drawn from different political parties'. The number of Congress' Scheduled Caste MPs, for the first time, was reduced to about half of the reserved seats for them 23/45. The rest went to different political parties including 13 to Socialists and Communists. After the fall of this Samvid Sarkar (SVD ministry) of Mahamaya Prasad Sinha and Karpoori Thakur, followed by the ministries of B. P. Mandal 'the first person from the Backward Classes to become Chief Minister' and B. P. Shastri the first person from the Scheduled Castes to become Chief Minister mid-term elections were held in 1969 and the Scheduled Castes continued to move away from the Congress. The number of their MPs in Congress (15) was now equal to those in Samyukta Socialist Party (13) and Praja Socialist Party (2) combined. Later, the pro-Janata wave of 1977 saw the Congress being reduced to 2/45 in the reserved constituencies. *The 1967 elections were held... ending Congress' two-decade long electoral domination and a 'non-Congress government was formed with tremendous goodwill... drawn from [different] political parties'.*

However, in the elections held after the Bangladesh war in 1972 and after the fall of the Janata experiment in 1980, the Congress recovered. Similarly, after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in October 1984, the sympathy vote saw the figures regaining the heights of the 1950s in the 1985 elections. But, by/through the 1990s, Janata Dal/Rashtriya Janata Dal replaced the Congress in the vanguard of the political movement of the backward groups. Thus, the importance of those 1967 elections in Bihar's socio-political history can be gauged from the fact that it was that particular election, which 'brought in a

coalition politics setting urban disillusionment/apathy and rural splinter-ism/assertion'. Albeit, in the short-term, as *The Indian Nation* opined in 1968: 'There is one word to describe the present state of Bihar politics - ramshackle'. By now, the major demands of the Backward and Dalit movements, removal of untouchability and reservation in government jobs, had been given a constitutional framework by the 1950s-60s, though their execution had been far from satisfactory. Nevertheless, since independence, a middle class among intermediate castes had emerged. Writing prophetically, *The Indian Nation* warned the Congress in early 1972 that: "Politically conscious backward castes, classes and tribals are struggling for recognition and representation and Congress' drive for 'social justice' must embrace them. The coalition politics from '67 to '72 was an unstable disillusionary phase and Mrs. Indira Gandhi's golden period of '71- 72 has brought back stability in Bihar but complex social undercurrents should not be neglected."

The 1974 JP movement was to be the watershed, which decisively turned this class away from the Congress. As well-known, almost all of the later political leaders of the 1990s were a product of this movement. The Naxalite Movement, on the other hand, emerged from the ideological struggle and splits within the Indian Communist Movement. By early 1970s, the Naxalite Movement was losing support in the rest of the country but in Bihar, it continued till about 1976, even leading 'the Harijans of the Patna area'. By the early 1980s, a 'Naxalite Belt' would emerge in Bhojpur, Patna, Gaya and Aurangabad. Later, however, they would have to contend with Lalu Prasad Yadav. His revolution would remain 'incomplete', by getting reframed as 'Yadav Raj'. Even so, every failed revolution has its socio-political consequences, especially a democratisation of socio-political space that enhances subsequent mobilisation on the larger issues of public interest.

The main political players in Bihar are geared up for a competitive election. These points to a highly contested election with each party attempting to assert its dominance and secure its position. The upcoming election is critical for these parties, especially with Bihar's complex caste dynamics and socio-economic challenges. This is not only a local election but one with national implications for the larger political alliances, particularly the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and Grand Alliance (Mahagathbandhan).

In this regard Electoral Roll Purification is the one of the major setback to the election commission because BJP argued that this is common process to the elction preparation. The "purification" of the voter rolls by removing 69 lakh names is a significant move. While it aims to make the election process more accurate, it could also affect voter participation if eligible voters are wrongly excluded. The revision of electoral rolls will impact voter turnout and participation. If many voters are disenfranchised or face difficulties getting re-registered, it could lead to protests or dissatisfaction with the electoral process. Over 7.4 cr. voters will participate in the election. This large electorate means the election outcome will be highly representative of the state's political climate. With such a vast electorate, the election will likely be closely contested, with every vote crucial. Parties will need to appeal to both urban and rural voters, keeping in mind the differences in concerns and priorities across these demographics. This article discussed that how voters participated before and

now these to orientation became significant role state of Bihar election but these result will be effect nation politics in term of collation era in 2024.

The Caste Structure of Bihar Bihar's population is sharply divided along caste lines, broadly categorized into upper castes, Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs), Scheduled Castes (Dalits), and Scheduled Tribes. The upper castes, comprising Brahmins, Bhumihars, Kayasthas, and Rajputs, once dominated the political and bureaucratic machinery of the state. However, since the Mandal era, their dominance has been steadily eroded. The OBCs, particularly Yadavs and Kurmis, have emerged as central players in the state's political realignments. Yadavs, who constitute approximately 14% of the population, have been the core support base of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), while Kurmis, around 4%, have largely rallied behind Nitish Kumar and the Janata Dal (United). The EBCs, a diverse cluster of smaller castes constituting nearly 30% of the population, have become a crucial swing constituency, often courted through targeted welfare schemes and representation in local governance structures. Dalits, about 16% of the population, remain politically fragmented, with Paswans gravitating towards the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) while other Dalit sub-castes shift allegiances depending on local and regional dynamics.

Caste-Based Mobilization and Voting Behavior the consolidation of caste groups into political blocs has been a defining feature of Bihar's electoral politics. RJD under successfully crafted the "MY (Muslim-Yadav) alliance," combining the numerical strength of Yadavs with the substantial Muslim population, estimated at 17%. This social coalition enabled the RJD to dominate Bihar's politics throughout the 1990s. Although criticized for governance failures, the RJD's ability to articulate the aspirations of marginalized communities ensured its continued relevance in the state's political discourse. JD(U) adopted a strategy of mobilizing Kurmis, EBCs, and Dalits, projecting itself as a party of inclusive development. His policy of Mahadalit empowerment, which subdivided the Dalit category to extend targeted welfare benefits, exemplifies the instrumental use of caste categories for political consolidation.

By expanding the social base of his coalition, JDU was able to present himself governance reform while simultaneously reinforcing caste as the key to political legitimacy. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), traditionally supported by upper castes, has in recent years sought to broaden its appeal by courting OBCs and Dalits. Through strategic alliances with the JD(U) and by deploying leaders from marginalized groups, the BJP has attempted to neutralize its image as an upper-caste-dominated party. Its electoral success in the 2019 general elections in Bihar highlights the extent to which caste arithmetic, combined with a national ideological narrative, can shape electoral outcomes.

Caste and Representation While caste politics has been criticized for fragmenting the polity, it has also expanded the scope of democratic participation. Groups historically excluded from political power have gained visibility and representation. the presence of OBC and Dalit leaders in positions of chief ministership and cabinet portfolios marks a significant departure from the upper-caste dominance of earlier decades. This transformation aligns with notion of a "silent revolution," whereby caste has become a vehicle for democratization. At the same time, caste-based politics has

not fully translated into substantive social and economic change. While political representation of marginalized groups has increased, issues such as poverty, unemployment, migration, and education remain persistent. Critics argue that political mobilization around caste often prioritizes symbolic recognition and patronage over structural reforms, thereby limiting the transformative potential of democracy in Bihar.

Bihar caste census

The caste census data shows that the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) are the largest caste group in Bihar, accounting for 52.8 percent of the population. The Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) account for 16.9 percent and 1.4 percent of the population, respectively. The Forward Castes account for 28.9 percent of the population.

Bihar caste Category	Share of Population
Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs)	38.0%
Other Backward Classes (OBCs)	14.8%(approx., completing total 52.8%)
OBC+EBC) Total OBCs (EBC + OBC)	52.8%
Scheduled Castes (SCs)	19.7%
Scheduled Tribes (STs)	1.7%
Forward / Upper Castes	15.5%

<https://indianhistorycollective.com/history-of-bihar-elections-caste-politics-lalu-prasad-yadav/>

As Bihar gears up for the assembly elections, the ruling National Democratic Alliance and the opposition Mahagathbandhan have cornered each other over issues such as development, migration, and unemployment. However, it all appears to have boiled down to the perennial theme of caste-based politics, with every party finetuning its manifesto and candidate list to gauge how various caste communities will vote and how best to retain their traditional voter bases. Swearing by Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur's legacy of social justice, a caste survey was conducted in Bihar in 2023 to determine the exact population of each caste, aiming to bolster demands for expanded quotas.

As of 2011, the sex ratio was 918 females per 1000 males. Almost 58% of Bihar's population was below 25 years age, which is the highest in India. At 11.3%, Bihar has the second-lowest urbanisation rate in India after Himachal Pradesh. Most of Bihar's population belongs to a collection of ethnic groups speaking Indic languages, the most prominent ones being Bhojpuri, Maithili and Magahi. It also attracted Punjabi Hindu refugees during the Partition of British India in 1947. Bihar has a total literacy rate of 70.70% (79.70% for males and 60.5 % for females), recording a growth of 20% in female literacy over the preceding decade. According to the 2011 census, 82.7% of Bihar's population practised Hinduism, while 16.9% followed Islam. As of 2021, Bihar has highest fertility rate of 3.41 in comparison to the other states of India.

According to the 2023 Bihar Caste Census, Bihar had a total population of 130,725,310, nearly 89% of it rural. It was

also India's most densely populated state, with 1,388 persons per square kilometre. 82% of Bihar's population practiced Hinduism, while 17.7% followed Islam. Here is a list of the different castes in Bihar and their percentage of the population, based on the 2023 Caste Census. The EBCs are the largest caste group in Bihar, accounting for 38.0 percent of the population. Some of the major EBC castes include: Yadav, Kurmi, Koeri, Koeri-Kurmi, Teli, Kushwaha, Mali, Bind, Nishad, Rajbhar and Paswan. Perhaps the only other source of information on OBC population is UDISEPlus which presents enrolment

distributed by SC, ST and OBC detailed analysis can be found.

Bihar Assembly Election Result 2020 and 2015

NDA's Narrow Victory - National Democratic Alliance (NDA) secured 125 seats (37.26% of votes), just narrowly ahead of the Mahagathbandhan (MGB), which won 110 seats (37.23% of votes). This was a much closer result than many analysts and polling agencies had predicted where the MGB was expected to win.

Table 1: Comparative party-wise performance in the Bihar Assembly Elections of 2015 and 2020 (with 2025 projections), highlighting seats secured and vote share percentages, and reflecting the NDA's narrow victory over the Mahagathbandhan in 2020 (Source: ECI).

Parties	2025 Election Secured Seats & % 67.14% (▲9.85)		2020 Election Secured Seats & % 57.05% (▲0.14%)		2015 Election Secured Seats & % 57.29% (▲ 0.38%)	
INC	06	8.71	19	9.5	27	6.7
BJP	89	20.08	74	19.5	53	24.4
RJD	25	23	75	23.1	80	18.4
JDU	85	19.25	43	15.4	71	16.8
LJP	19	4.97	01	5.7	-	
BSP	01	1.62	01	1.5	00	
AIMIM			05	1.2	00	
CPM	00	0.84	03		-	
CPI ML	02	2.85	11	03	-	
CPI			02		-	
VIP			04		00	
HAM	01	1.17	04		01	
IND			01		04	
OTHERS			-	24.1	07	
TOTAL			243		243	
				Ref. ECI		

The BJP's strong performance with 74 seats (30% increase compared to previous elections) was a significant factor in the NDA's success, but RJD the largest party with 75 seats, lost ground compared to its previous election results.

The JD(U) (43 seats) and Congress (19 seats) saw significant declines in their seat counts. Newer players like AIMIM (5 seats) and VIP (4 seats) made inroads, reflecting shifts in voter sentiment and political fragmentation. The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), with its focus on the Seemanchal region, managed to secure 5 seats, while Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) won 4 seats. Both parties' success represents the rise of smaller, regional players that can now influence the political narrative in Bihar.

This shift indicates growing dissatisfaction with traditional parties, particularly among specific communities and regions. AIMIM's success in the Seemanchal region (a Muslim-majority area) highlights how regional and caste-based parties are carving out their own spaces in Bihar's competitive political landscape. VIP's relatively strong debut shows that voters are open to new political alternatives, which could further fragment the traditional political alignments in future elections.

BJP's Significant gained significantly, winning 74 seats a substantial increase of over 30% from previous elections. This gain is notable in a state like Bihar, which has traditionally been dominated by regional parties such as JD(U) and RJD. BJP's gains signal a successful national strategy that resonates with urban voters and the upper

castes. The party has managed to expand its influence in a state traditionally controlled by caste-based alliances. The BJP's success can also be attributed to its strong national leadership, an appeal to Hindu voters, and its ability to align state-specific concerns with national narratives like economic development and anti-corruption. Decline of JD(U) and Congress.

Which has been in power under Nitish Kumar for nearly two decades, won only 43 seats, a significant drop compared to previous elections. This decline indicates potential voter fatigue with Nitish Kumar's leadership, particularly after nearly 20 years in power. While Nitish Kumar remains a stabilizing figure, his leadership may no longer be as appealing to a younger electorate, especially amid persistent issues like unemployment and flood management. Congress's Poor Performance party won just 19 seats, which underscores its weakening position in Bihar. In previous elections, Congress had a more significant presence in the state. Congress's weak performance in Bihar is part of a broader national trend where the party struggles to regain its footing at the regional level. Its focus on social justice and electoral integrity didn't resonate strongly enough with voters, especially in the face of the BJP's increasing popularity. In addition, its alliances with JD(U) and RJD may not have been perceived as strong enough to present a cohesive alternative to the NDA.

Role of LJP and Strategic Voting Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) despite winning only one seat, played a significant role in

splitting votes. The party's influence on JD(U) was particularly damaging, as LJP contested 54 seats and caused significant vote splits in constituencies where JD(U) came second. The LJP's performance highlights the tactical nature of Bihar's elections. Smaller parties can have an outsized impact, especially when they manage to siphon off enough votes to alter the outcome in key constituencies. JD(U)'s poor performance in these contested areas points to how strategic voting and alliances can shift the balance of power, even when a party like LJP wins few seats.

Performance of Women Winners among the 243, 26 are women all of them won with 27% and above of vote share in their constituencies. Among the women winners, Performance of Re-elected Winners 96, none have won with less than 30 % of vote share in their respective constituency. 12(13%) have won with more than 50% of vote share. 23(24%) re-elected winners have won with less than 5% of margin of victory whereas 5 have won with more than 25% of margin of victory. NOTA button instated by the ECI in 2013 gave the voters an options of rejecting all the candidates in their constituency. Out of 4,21,37,619 votes polled in Bihar Assembly- 2020, 7,06,252 (1.68%) were polled for NOTA. Out of 3,81,20,124 votes polled in Bihar Assembly, 2015, 9,47,279 (2.48%) were polled for NOTA. (ADR Report 2020).

In the past three elections in Bihar assembly turnout of women voters has been higher than that of men. In 2020, 59.69% of women voters cast their vote, while only 54.45% of men did. The gap was higher in 2015, with women voters recording a 60.48% turnout as against 53.32% for men. In 2010, 54.49% of women voted, as against 51.12% of men.

One of the most interesting findings is that in constituencies where female voter turnout exceeded male turnout, the NDA led. This suggests that the NDA has successfully attracted female voters, especially in rural constituencies. The higher female voter turnout in NDA held constituencies could be indicative of successful policies or initiatives targeting women's welfare, safety, and empowerment. This demographic could be crucial in future elections, as women's vote banks are increasingly seen as a key swing vote in India. This might suggest that the NDA's campaigns resonated with women, particularly in rural areas where issues like Security and welfare often dominate.

The election 2020 saw a high number of seats decided by narrow margins, with 20% of the seats having a victory margin of less than 2.5% of the votes. In these tight races, the NDA won 21 seats, and the MGB won 22 seats. The fact that such a significant proportion of seats were decided by very slim margins suggests the volatile nature of voter sentiment in Bihar. Small shifts in voter turnout, last minute campaign efforts or even post poll coalitions could have swayed these results. This indicates a highly competitive electoral environment where minor shifts in strategic alignment or regional issues can have large scale impacts. The rise of smaller parties like AIMIM, VIP, and LJP, along with the decline of traditional players like JD(U) and Congress, points to the possibility of future political realignments. The existing alliances in Bihar may undergo transformations, especially as caste politics, regional issues, and leadership challenges continue to shape the political narrative. BJP gains are a sign of its growing influence in Bihar, but the NDA's overall victory margin is still fragile. Going forward, it will need to balance its strong national presence with local concerns (like employment, flood

management, and infrastructure). The BJP will also need to be wary of alienating regional allies like JD(U) and the Nitish Kumar factor. The RJD is the largest party in Bihar, but its reduced seat count suggests that it faces challenges in re establishing its dominance. The Mahagathbandhan (MGB) will need to regroup and focus on crafting a cohesive message that resonates with Bihar's youth, especially on issues like jobs, education, and infrastructure.

Table 2: Bihar Assembly Election Political Parties Representation & Secured Votes - 2025

Parties	secured Seats & 67.14% (▲9.85)	
INC	06	8.71
BJP	89	20.08
RJD	25	23
JDU	85	19.25
LJP	19	4.97
BSP	01	1.62
AIMIM		
CPM	00	0.84
CPI ML	02	2.85
CPI	01	0.61%
VIP		
HAM	01	1.17
IND	--	
OTHERS	--	
TOTAL	243	

The landslide victory of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections has created a perception that the voters have risen above caste and class considerations while exercising their franchise. This perception requires careful assessment based on evidence. One reason for this perception is that the NDA managed to win a large number of seats with a sizeable share of Muslim voters and also seats in a significant number of Scheduled Caste (SC) reserved constituencies. As a result, some people believe that the Muslim vote and the Dalit vote has shifted in favour of the NDA.

NDA 202 of 243 seats the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan was reduced to 35 seats turnout 67.13%. (JD(U)) continues in power. Vote shares & raw votes (top parties RJD 23.0%, BJP 20.08% JD(U) 19.25% important: RJD commanded the largest vote share but won far fewer seats due to distribution. Turnout 67.13% Very close contests several seats decided by razor thin margins Sandesh decided by 27 votes, other seats decided by margins under 200 votes. These tight results mattered in the final seat math. RJD's vote concentration, not conversion RJD had the single largest vote share but its votes were more concentrated or inefficiently distributed (winning large margins in fewer seats or losing many close seats), so fewer seats. This classic first-past-the-post effect explains the gap between vote share and seats. Organisation, messaging and welfare play Coverage and on-ground reporting point to strong BJP organisational reach and targeted local campaigning, JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar remained electorally resilient as a development-oriented incumbent. Analysts also highlight welfare and local governance narratives that resonated, plus an effective coalition campaign.

Local factors & candidates Multiple constituencies were decided by very small margins, showing candidate selection, local networks and last-mile campaigning mattered. Several expected local leaders won key seats for the NDA. NDA

made inroads in semi-urban and many rural seats where local leaders and coalition presence were strong. Caste equation traditional caste alignments shifted in places JD(U)/BJP combination appears to have blunted the consolidated anti-incumbency that had earlier benefited RJD.

Political Parties and Strategies - The Rashtriya Janata Dal led by Tejashwi Yadav, has made job creation a central theme of its campaign, appealing to youth voters who face unemployment and economic stagnation. RJD's focus on employment will likely resonate with voters frustrated by the lack of opportunities, especially in rural areas. The challenge for RJD will be to show it has concrete plans for job creation, not just promises.

The BJP, as part of the NDA, faces the dilemma of balancing national ambitions with local caste and development issues. It must carefully navigate the political dynamics in Bihar, where caste politics are a major influence. The BJP has national ambitions, but its success in Bihar will depend on how it addresses local issues, particularly unemployment and flood management. The party's stance on Nitish Kumar's leadership will also be a crucial factor, as the BJP may seek to replace him while keeping the alliance intact.

Nitish Kumar's JD(U), currently in power, is focusing on governance and development but faces challenges in delivering on its promises, especially regarding employment and infrastructure. Nitish Kumar's long tenure as Chief Minister (nearly 20 years) is both a strength and a liability. His experience and leadership are seen as stabilizing forces, but the state's development under his rule has been uneven, and issues like corruption or slow progress in infrastructure may hurt JD(U)'s prospects.

Congress is positioning itself as a force for electoral integrity and social justice, but it faces the challenge of regaining influence in Bihar, where it has been in decline in recent years. Congress' role in Bihar will depend on how well it can present itself as a viable alternative to both the JD(U)-led government and the BJP. Its focus on social justice could help it win over caste-based voters, but its ability to address core issues like unemployment and migration will be key.

The influence of female voters and the broader youth vote's especially first time voters will be critical in future elections. Politicians will need to tailor their strategies to appeal to these demographic groups, focusing on empowerment, education, and employment.

Conclusion

Bihar Assembly Elections 2020 were highly competitive, with narrow margins and shifting alliances. The results show that Bihar's political landscape is in flux, with rising support for smaller regional parties and a significant challenge to traditional powerhouses like JD (U) and Congress. BJP's gains, AIMIM's inroads, and LJP's strategic impact all point to a more fragmented and dynamic future for Bihar politics. Parties will need to adapt quickly to gendered voter preferences and regional issues to remain competitive in this evolving political environment. The results of the 2025 Bihar Assembly election surprise us too much. They are simply a repeat of the results of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, when the NDA polled 47.2 per cent of the votes and led in 177 Assembly segments, while the

Mahagathbandhan polled 37.7 per cent of the votes and led in 62 Assembly seats. In the 2025 Assembly election, the NDA, which won 202 seats with 46.6 per cent of the votes, secured a huge margin over the Mahagathbandhan, which won only 35 seats and polled 37.7 per cent of the votes. The pre-election debate over the SIR process. The political opposition had warned that the deletions could disproportionately affect the results in tight contests. The final results now allow that claim to be tested with data, identifying the specific battlegrounds where the number of removed voters is higher than the margin separating the winner and the runner-up. At the heart of this electoral juggernaut was not just robust governance but also impeccable political engineering from flawless seat sharing among alliance partners to resurrecting deep-rooted fears about past lawlessness encapsulated in the widely known 'Jungle Raj' scare. The alliance's success was further amplified by broadening caste coalitions beyond traditional alignments, disrupting longstanding vote banks, and capitalising on the enduring Nitish Kumar factor, which brought JD(U) back to a dominant position within the coalition.

References

1. Rakesh Ankit- Caste Politics in Bihar: In Historical Continuum, 12(2).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/2230807518767968>
2. Bipan Chandra - In The Name Of Democracy: JP Movement and the Emergency, publication; c1974, No.16.
3. MG Devasahayam P movement- emergency and India's second freedom ISBN: 978938082861
<https://www.vitastapublishing.com/component/virtuemart/shop-store/non-fiction/jp-movement-emergency-and-indias-second-detail>
4. Election commission of India report from 2020-2025
5. ADR analysis report, adr@adrindia.org
6. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bihar_Legislative_Assembly
7. <https://www.thehindu.com/elections/bihar-assembly/bihar-assembly-polls-kharge-rahul-priyanka-among-congress-40-star-campaigners/article70207174.ece>
8. <https://www.scoobserver.in/cases/challenge-to-the-ecis-revision-of-electoral-rolls-in-bihar-sir-association-for-democratic-reforms-v-election-commission-of-india/>
9. <https://indianhistorycollective.com/history-of-bihar-elections-caste-politics-lalu-prasad-yadav/>
10. Jaffrelot C. India's silent revolution: The rise of the lower castes in North India. Ranikhet: Permanent Black; c2003.
11. Kumar S. Caste, class, and politics in Bihar. *Econ Political Weekly*. 2010;45(14):48-55.
12. Palshikar S. Regional parties and democracy: The case of Bihar. *J South Asian Stud*. 2018;41(2):223-240.
13. Verma A. Youth and electoral politics in Bihar: Beyond caste and identity? *Stud Indian Polit*. 2021;9(1):45- 62.
14. Kumar S. Kumar. Ultra wide field imaging of coats like response in Leber's congenital amaurosis. *Saudi J Ophthalmol*. 2017;31:122-123
15. http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/125322714.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=txt&utm_campaign=cppst