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BJP's Decade in Power Under Modi Extends Into Coalition Era

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been at the helm of India's government since 2014, leading the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) through three consecutive general election wins. The party's rise to power in 2014 marked a significant shift in India's political landscape, as the BJP secured a clear parliamentary majority, ending a decade of coalition governments under the United Progressive Alliance (UPA). Modi's strong national presence, development-

focused rhetoric, and emphasis on governance reforms played a decisive role in securing that initial mandate.

In 2019, the BJP consolidated its position with another landslide victory, increasing its seat share in the Lok Sabha and reinforcing Modi's status as one of India's most dominant political leaders in recent decades. The second term was marked by significant legislative changes, including the revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), and the introduction of various economic reforms aimed at infrastructure growth, manufacturing expansion, and digital governance.

However, the 2024 general elections brought a shift in the BJP's political fortunes. While the party once again emerged as the single largest in Parliament, it fell short of the absolute majority mark it had enjoyed in the previous two terms. This outcome compelled the BJP to rely on coalition partners within the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to secure the necessary numbers to form a government. Parties such as the Janata Dal (United), the Shiv Sena (Shinde faction), and others played a crucial role in ensuring the NDA's return to power.

Analysts point to multiple factors behind the BJP's reduced margin. Regional opposition parties performed strongly in certain states, capitalizing on local issues and building alliances that prevented vote fragmentation. In addition, rural economic concerns, unemployment, and farmer protests are believed to have influenced voting patterns in several constituencies. Opposition parties also presented a more coordinated challenge compared to previous elections, which helped counter the BJP's campaign advantage in some regions.

The transition from a single-party majority to a coalition government marks a new phase in Modi's leadership. Political observers suggest that this arrangement will require greater flexibility and negotiation within the ruling alliance, as policy decisions and legislative initiatives will need to accommodate the interests of coalition partners. While the BJP continues to control key ministries such as Home Affairs, Finance, and Defence, smaller allies now hold greater leverage in shaping legislative priorities.

Despite this shift, the BJP retains considerable political influence at both the national and state levels. The party's strong organizational structure, extensive grassroots network, and proven ability to mobilize voters remain assets in maintaining governance stability. Supporters argue that Modi's leadership remains the unifying force behind the NDA, enabling the coalition to present a cohesive front despite internal differences.

Looking ahead, the success of the BJP's third term will depend on its ability to balance its political agenda with the demands of coalition politics. The government's performance on economic growth, job creation, infrastructure development, and national security will be closely watched by the electorate. With the 2029 general elections still several years away, Modi's challenge will be to maintain public confidence while managing the complexities of a coalition, a political reality India has often experienced in its parliamentary history.