**BJP/ ECI Collusion**

[Omay Aimen](https://www.nation.com.pk/columnist/omay-aimen)

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In the intricate and often tumultuous realm of Indian politics, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been orchestrating a carefully crafted narrative rooted in extremist Hindutva ideology and the vision of Akhand Bharat. This vision, primarily centered on Hindu radicalism, aims to establish a uniform religious and cultural identity. While this philosophy enjoys a strong following in many regions of India, the Southern states — Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana — pose a significant challenge to the BJP. The educated, liberal, and syncretic populace of these states is well-known, and historically, the BJP has struggled to garner majority support there. The BJP has employed a variety of political strategies to overcome these challenges, raising questions about the upcoming elections’ legitimacy.
The execution of the Delimitation Act is one of the key tactics employed by the BJP to entrench itself in South India. This act grants the BJP the power to alter constituency boundaries, which, when manipulated, can consolidate areas with a Hindu majority in favor of the party. This calculated reshuffling of political boundaries puts the principles of equitable representation and regional autonomy at risk, especially in Southern states where diversity and pluralism have long been embedded in the political landscape.
Another noteworthy move by the BJP is the “One Nation – One Election” plan, which seeks to synchronize the dates of state and national elections. This initiative, rooted in the BJP’s extensive national appeal and ample financial resources, aims to expand the party’s influence in state-level elections. Regional parties with limited resources and logistical constraints face a formidable challenge when India’s elections are synchronized. This synchronization could potentially enable the BJP to increase its share of seats in state assemblies and bolster its support base.
There are concerns that national political forces might intrude into state politics due to the timing of state and federal elections. The distinct political agendas and strong regional identities of South Indian states are currently being disrupted by the ambitions of a national party. However, the most disconcerting aspect of this political landscape revolves around alleged collusion between the BJP and the Election Commission of India (ECI).
In the absence of electronic voting machines (EVMs), intended to enhance transparency and reduce electoral fraud, election fairness and credibility are called into question. Traditional electoral manipulation techniques such as voter intimidation and booth capturing may resurface and further undermine public confidence in the democratic process.
The alleged collaboration between the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the BJP has significant implications, particularly for the states in South India where the BJP’s political agenda faces strong opposition. These states are known for their diverse and complex political landscapes, with regional parties advocating for the specific goals and concerns of their local communities. Collaborative election manipulation jeopardizes the democratic values of representation and justice that have historically shaped South India’s political identity.
In the event that the BJP and other Hindutva-aligned parties manipulate the forthcoming elections, it could erode trust in the democratic process. This may foster further divisions along fault lines tied to political, regional, and religious affiliations, ultimately undermining the foundation of Indian democracy
India’s current political climate suggests that tensions between the North and South are escalating. As the elections approach, it is anticipated that the confrontation between the Southern states and the BJP will intensify. This growing tension might exacerbate India’s existing centrifugal tendencies, deepening divides and potentially triggering a social and political crisis.
The democratic and pluralistic fabric of the South Indian states is under threat from the strategies of the BJP and their alleged complicity with the ECI. Concerns have been raised about the integrity of India’s democratic processes due to the potential manipulation of elections, the erosion of regional autonomy and equitable representation, and other issues. India’s political landscape stands at a pivotal juncture, with profound implications for the nation’s future as the North-South divide widens. India’s democratic institutions and its people now bear the responsibility to ensure the preservation and safeguarding of the democratic principles upon which the country was founded.