

ELECTIONS AND OPPORTUISM: EXPLORING THE DYNAMICS OF PARTY-HOPPING IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Party-hopping, a phenomenon in which elected representatives switch their allegiance from one political party to another, has become a prevalent and contentious issue in Indian politics. This abstract offers a glimpse into the dynamics of party-hopping in India, aiming to shed light on the motivations, consequences, and implications of this practice. The paper delves into the factors that drive elected officials to switch parties, ranging from ideological misalignment and personal ambitions to pragmatic considerations in a highly competitive political landscape. Furthermore, this research highlights the consequences of party-hopping on India's democracy, including its impact on voter trust, party structures, and the overall stability of the political system. It explores how party-hopping can both enhance and undermine democratic processes, depending on the context and the motivations behind the switches. Through a comprehensive analysis of historical and contemporary case studies, the paper seeks to provide insights into the underlying dynamics of party-hopping, its impact on Indian politics, and its broader implications for democratic governance. By understanding the multifaceted nature of this phenomenon, policymakers, scholars, and citizens can engage in informed discussions and potentially devise strategies to address the challenges it presents to the Indian political landscape.

Keywords: Elections, Party-hopping, Indian politics, Political Defections and Party Switching.