

CHAPTER: ROLE OF ALL INDIA UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (AIUDF) IN ASSAM.

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INTRODUCTION:

Party system is the important factor in the working of representative form of Government. India is a democratic state. In the democratic state, political parties are said to be the life – blood of democracies. Modern democracies are indirect in character. They can function with the help of political parties. In the absence of political parties democracy cannot deliver the goods. Well organized political parties constitute the best form of democracy. India has the largest democracy in the world. It introduced universal adult franchise as the basis of voting right in the country. Now the voting age has been lowered down to 18. Most of the Indian voters are not politically matured and they do not have the political education in the proper sense. Political parties in India are classified by the Election Commission of India. It was classified for the allocation of symbol. The Election Commission of India classified parties into three main heads: National parties, State parties and registered (unrecognized) parties.

The Regional Political Parties are playing a very significant role in Indian political system, particularly in the post Congress era and in coalition politics. As far as the national level politics is concerned, the regional political parties play a 'king maker' role. Whereas, the politics at state level is concerned, the regional political parties have been playing an effective role for working of government machinery. The Assam has also not lagging behind this context. Although the state has produces some small political parties before 1985, but formation of the AGP, BPPF, BPF and the AIUDF playing a very significant role in the politics of Assam. The AGP and the AIUDF not only emerge as an alternative of the Congress party at the state politics but also could able to participate in the national politics. Following are the reasons for the growth of regional parties in Assam -

REASONS FOR THE GROWTH OF REGIONAL PARTIES IN ASSAM:

1. Economic inequality and unemployment: There is no economic equality and equal distribution of wealth. As a result it emergence of regional parties in Assam.
2. Non-implementation of the Directive Principles of State Policy: Now the regional political parties are more attention to the problems of people and gaining popularity among the people.
3. Utter neglect of particular region: There are utter neglect of a particular region by all India political parties for which it emergence of regional parties in Assam.
4. Awareness of the people: For awareness of the people of a particular region it emergence of regional parties in Assam.
5. Ambitions of politicians: For promotes the regional parties many politicians aspire for becoming ministers and chief ministers.
6. Safeguard language and culture: They constituted to safeguard the language and culture of the people of a particular region, for which it emergence of regional parties in Assam.
7. Failure of All-India parties: The All-India parties failed to solve the regional problems. This helped the growth of regional parties.
8. Protection of communal interest: For protect the communal interest the regional parties formed.
9. Discriminatory treatment of the Central Government: The Central Government cannot properly treat many of the regions. This helped the growth of regional parties in Assam.
10. State autonomy: The regional parties have been formed to get more autonomy for the States.

Let us discuss the role of AIUDF in Assam.

ROLE OF ALL INDIA UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT(AIUDF) IN ASSAM:

The All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) is one of the influential regional political parties of Assam. It was formerly known as AUDF (Assam United Democratic Front). It was formed on 3rd October, 2005 on the eve of Assam Legislative Assembly elections, 2006 and it won 10 seats of Assam Legislative Assembly. Maulana Baduruddin Ajmal was the first President and Hafiz Rashid Chowdhury was the General Secretary of the AIUDF

party. The AIUDF has been playing a significant role in the electoral politics of Assam. In the Parliamentary Elections, 2009 it won one seat and in the Assam Legislative Assembly elections, 2011 this party won 18 seats. In 2014 Parliamentary Elections, it has played a very effective role and won 3 seats. The Party President Maulana Baduruddin Ajmal is elected second time from Dhubri Parliamentary Constituency with a huge margin of votes. Sirajuddin Ajmal is elected from Barpeta Constituency and Dr. Radheswem Biswas is elected from Karimganj Parliamentary Constituency with a huge margin of votes. In Assam Legislative Assembly elections, 2016 it could manage only 13 seats which is the poor performance of the AIUDF. The party President himself has lost his seat from South Salmara Legislative Constituency.

The AIUDF plays a very effective role in the politics of Assam and it has been able to unite the minorities of Assam. Besides the problem of Muslim minorities, particularly the problems of Muslim peasants of the Char areas of Assam were generally articulated by the AIUDF. Before the emergence of the AIUDF, the religious minorities were treated as the 'vote bank', particularly by the Congress party. But the AIUDF entered into the electoral scene and a new articulation of vote sharing came out. For Example, in 2011 Assam Assembly Elections the party has won 18 seats which were earlier dominated by the Congress party.

The party's election symbol is Lock and key, and its flag is composed of tri-colored horizontal stripes of green (upper), white (middle) and black (bottom) with the symbol in the center. Black signifies deprivation and oppression, white rescue from deprivation and salvation and green signifies peace and progress.

IDEOLOGIES OF AIUDF:

The main ideologies of the party are follows:

- a) Respect for democratic value bringing together of secular forces.
- b) To fulfill aspiration of Minorities.
- c) Popularity within all strata of society like as economic, social, religious and Ethnic.
- d) Trust on social justice.
- e) Special focus on regional growth along with the contribution of national development

From the above discussion it is clear that the regional party of AIUDF have been emerged for protection and development of minority community in Assam. The term of the 11th Assam legislative Assembly elections, 2006 was expired on 11th June, 2006. The Governor of Assam, by notification dated 10th March, 2006 declared the elections to 65 LACs for the first phase and by another notification dated 17th March, 2006, declared the remaining 61 LACs in the second phase.

The electoral rolls of all the 126 Legislative Assembly Constituencies of the state were intensively revised within 1st January 2006, as the qualifying date and updated till the date for filling up nominations. According to the rolls, the total number of electors in the state was 1,74,34,020. Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) system was used in the state covering all the 18,718 number of polling stations.

During the Assam Legislative Assembly elections, 2006, a large number of Micro Observers, Assistant Micro Observers Videographers was employed based on a vulnerability mapping exercise of polling areas undertaken by the Returning Officers, District Election Officers and District Superintendents of Police for ensuring free and fair polls. During this election a total of 28 political parties contested in the elections. A total of 971 candidates also contested in the elections. The performance of different political parties including the AIUDF in the 2006, State Assembly Elections can be observed in table – 1.

Table: 1
Performance of the AIUDF in the Assam Legislative Assembly Elections, 2006:

Name of Political Parties.	No. of Contesting Candidates	No. of Candidates Elected	Total No. of valid votes polled	Percentage of valid votes Polled

INC	120	53	41,02,479	31.07
AGP	100	24	26,92,123	20.39
BJP	125	10	15,81,925	11.98
CPI	9	1	1,34,438	1.01
CPI(M)	16	1	1,88,901	1.43
NCP	45	2	2,81,038	2.12
CPI (ML)	14	1	99,661	0.75
JD (U)	13	-	3,289	0.02
JD (S)	3	-	2,949	0.09
LJP	16	-	14,399	0.10
MUL	3	-	1,180	0.00
RJD	7	-	7,476	0.05
RSP	4	-	7,059	0.05
SP	7	-	80,538	0.61
AGP (P)	93	1	3,33,491	2.51
AIMF	3	-	2,027	0.01
ASDC	5	1	1,17,941	0.89
AIUDF	69	10	11,91,500	9.02
HSKP	1	-	915	0.00
LKS	5	1	32,511	0.24
NBNP	9	-	21,910	0.16
NLP	5	-	3,595	0.02
RCPI	2	-	2,129	0.01
RPI	1	-	587	0.00
SAP	2	-	1,646	0.01
TNGP	2	-	89,649	0.67
UMFA	2	-	1,427	0.01
URMCA	1	-	4,541	0.03
IND	315	22	21,90,425	16.59
Total	971	126	1,31,99,369	100.00

Source: Statistical Report on General Elections, 2006 to the 12th Legislative Assembly of Assam, State Election Office, Dispur, 18 September, 2006.P.11.

Thus, table 1 highlights the performance of the AIUDF in 2006 elections. In the Assam Legislative Assembly elections, 2006 a total of 28 political parties including national, regional and ethnic based political parties contested the elections. The AIUDF entered into electoral politics during the Assam Legislative Assembly elections and played a very significant role in the politics of Assam. The party contested 69 seats out of 126 seats and it has won 10 seats. It secured **11, 91,500 (9.02%)** votes. For the first time the AIUDF contested in the elections and secured 10 seats. The main motto of the AIUDF was to work for the unification of the minorities and forming anti -Congress and an anti- BJP political platform in Assam. The Indian National Congress (I) had contested 120 constituencies and it has won 53 seats. The total votes secured by the Congress (I) were 41, 02, 479 (31.07%). The AGP forged a pre-electoral alliance with their earlier partners CPI, CPI (M) and Samajbadi Party. But the electoral performance of the

AGP was very poor. The AGP contested the 100 seats and it won only 24 seats. The total votes secured 26, 92,123 (20.39%). During this election, the performance of the newly formed AIUDF was very significant.

During that election no single party secured the absolute majority in the Assembly. As a result of which a post electoral alliance was held between the Congress (I) and the BPF. The Congress (I) formed the government under the leadership of the Tarun Gogai after gaining the support of 11-BPF MLAs. But the electoral performance of the AIUDF was very significant during the elections of 2006. The AIUDF emerged as influential regional political parties of Assam politics. The president of the AIUDF Maulana Baduruddin Ajmal elected himself from two constituencies like Jamunamukh and South Salmara Constituencies simultaneously. He resigned from the Jamunamukh LAC and his brother Sirajuddin Ajmal was elected from Jamunamukh constituency in the by election by a huge margin of votes. The party also elected two non-Muslim MLAs Mr Guneswar Das from Raha LAC and Dr. Aditya Langthas from Hojai LAC.

ROLE OF AIUDF ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2016: The poll declared in two different phases as the 4th April, 2016 (Monday) for 65 LACs in the first phase of elections. The 11th April, 2016 (Monday) for 61 LACs in the second phase of elections. The following table 2 shows the performance of the AIUDF in the Assam Assembly Elections, 2016. **TABLE - 2**

Performance of the AIUDF in Assam Assembly Elections, 2016:

Name of the Political Parties	No. of contesting Candidates	No. of candidates elected	Total no. of valid votes polled	Percentage of valid votes Polled
INC	122	26	52,38,665	31.00
AGP	30	14	13,77,482	8.01
BJP	89	60	49,92,185	29.05
CPI	15	-	37,243	0.02
CPI (M)	19	-	93,508	0.06
NCP	11	-	44,848	0.03
AIUDF	74	13	22,07,945	13.00
AITC	19	-	27,739	0.02
BPF	13	12	6,66,057	3.90
UPP	4	-	2,91,198	1.72
NOTA	-	-	1,89,080	1.01
Others	713	1	19,00,752	11.02
Total	1,109	126	1,70,66,699	100.00

Source: Statistical Report on General Elections, 2014 to the 14th Legislative Assembly, State Election Office, Dispur, 12 August, 2016. P.8.

Table,2 shows that the performance of the AIUDF in Assam Legislative Assembly elections, 2016. During this election, the BJP pre-allied with the BPF and the AGP party. On the other hand, the Congress (I) pre-allied with UPP party. The AIUDF was fighting alone against all other political parties. The CPI, CPI (M) and other small force took part separately in the Assam Assembly elections; 2016. The performance of the AIUDF was not up to their expectation. The AIUDF contested in 74 seats out of 126 seats of Assam Assembly elections and while it won only 13 seats which was 5 seats shorter of Assam Legislative Assembly elections, 2011. The total votes polled in favour of the AIUDF were 22, 07,945 (13.00%). Table 5.05 has clearly indicated that details performance of the AIUDF in Assam Assembly election. Similarly, the Indian National Congress (I) contested 122 constituencies out of 126 constituencies and it won only 26 seats. It was the very poor performance of the Congress party. The total votes polled in favour of the Congress (I) were 52, 38,665 (31.00%). The performance of the AGP was comparatively well. The AGP contested 30 seats out of 126 seats and it won 14 seats to ally with the BJP. The BPF contested 13 seats out of 126 seats of Assam Assembly elections and it won 12 seats to ally with the BJP. The total votes polled in favour of the BPF were 6, 66,057 (3.90%). The BJP contested 89 seats out of 126 seats and it won 60 seats and formed the government first time in Assam with their allied partners the AGP and the BPF. The total votes polled in favour BJP were 4,99,2185 (29.50%). The two national party CPI&CPM has not got a single seat in this election. In this election, one seat has won by other party. Independent candidates could manage a single seat.

The overall percentage in Assam Assembly Elections, 2016 was 84.72%. The 87.03 percent polling was recorded in second phase in Assam, which was the highest in Assam. During this election, one people died in police firing in Assam. The 89 EVMs were replaced in the final phase due to the technical reasons. The BJP was hoping that high voter turnout is in their favour, but many political parties and journalists believed that this may go in favour of the Congress (I) as a voting turnout was more than 90% in areas of the lower Assam where fighting is believed to be between the Congress (I) and the AIUDF, but result was totally opposite. A total of 1,109 candidates contested in Assam Assembly Elections, 2016 and their 122 were from the Congress (I), 89 from the BJP, 30 from the AGP, 74 from the AIUDF, 13 from the BPF, 15 from the CPI, 19 from the CPI (M), 714 from independents and others parties. The total numbers of the polling stations in Assam were 24,890, spread across 50 election districts in Assam.

The performance of the AIUDF in Assam Legislative Assembly elections, 2016 was not up to the mark. The party was expecting before the election that the AIUDF will be emerged as the king maker as no party will able to form the government without the support of the AIUDF. But the result was totally opposite. The AIUDF won only 13 seats and the BJP and its allied got absolute majority and formed the government.

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