

coordination and grip over the SGPC. It espoused the cause of the Sikh community.

Before Independence, it fought against the injustices of the British. After the Independence, it demanded creation of Punjabi Suba, and in November 1966 the

central government created Punjab state with the majority of Sikh by separating

Haryana from it. The Akali Dal has been mobilising people of Punjab and articulating their demands such as granting of full regional autonomy to Punjab,

protection of interests of farmers, distribution of river water, declaration of Amritsar as a Holy city. From the 1980s, Akali Dal got split into different parties

among which The Akali Dal led by Prakash Singh Badal continued to remain

active as a regional party in Punjab. It has been an ally of the National Democratic

Alliance (NDA) and member of central governments led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee

and Narendra Modi.

2.4.6 The Shiv Sena

The support base and areas of activities of Shiv Sena are confined to the state of

Maharashtra. It was established by Bala Saheb Thakre in 1966. It seeks to protect the interests and identity of Marathi people or Marathi Manus which include

Marathi language and culture, economic issues, interests of Maharashtra state.

Along with the regional demands it articulated the issues relating to Hindu identity.

The Shiv Sena started its activities in the 1960s by seeking to protect the economic

interests of Marathis in Mumbai. It had argued and campaigned that the non-

Marathis, south Indians, especially Tamils were dominating economic

opportunities that was depriving the Marathis. Consequently, many Tamils had to leave Mumbai. In the 1970s, the Shiv Sena shift its focus to the communists considering them as anti-national. From the 1980s, it has been involved in mobilisation on symbols relating to Hindu religion. It participated in movement for construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya. The Shiv Sena had been a member of the BJP-led NDA since the beginning of the alliance. It had been a member of the NDA led governments. Following the Assembly election of 2019, it left the NDA alliance and formed government with the support of NCP, Congress (I) and other party with Udhav Thakre as chief minister of Maharashtra.