



POLITICAL TRENDING IN INDIA : FROM DEGENERATION TO REJUVENATION

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Abstract

Politics is service and sacrifice for creating order out of chaos and maintaining peace in society for streamlining development, growth, health, economy and security among people and citizens of a country. Politics is not for amassing wealth and prosperity for one's own self by the political leader.

Emerging trends in Indian politics must show what politics is about. The erstwhile era from 1975 to 1998 and 2004 to 2014 appear to have changed the meaning of politics from self-sacrifice and service to defiling of Indian Constitution, amassing of personal political power and diversified self-aggrandizement through misuse of governmental state machinery. Power does not flow from the barrel of the gun. Power resides in love, affection and security of the people whom a leader is serving. This is not idealism but a reality that fills, to a great extent, our recent rendezvous with politics.

This perversion of Indian politics is again changing now though slowly. Bad things travel fast while good takes time to re-emerge and settle in soil deeply.

The aim here is to analyse these recent trends for a secure future policy making. Aim is high. It will indeed be very difficult to attain it.

In lieu of a Prolegomenon

Political trending — Does it mean “garlanding”, prominent behavioural patterns or emerging ways of politics? What does trending means? It means emerging and the latest happenings in north, east, west and south in India and the world. Indian context is of utmost priority here. These analyses are based on recurring news stories and authentic academic research driven conceptualisations in journals, newspapers, books and one's own actual though objective observations.

An interesting spotlight appears to be on receding import of money power and muscle power in politics since latest elections to Lok Sabha. This trend has not ended or vanished but it has started going down slowly with other far wider applications of political authority and legal manoeuvrings like demonetization. Latest cutting edge elections in Indian states and their results have shown impact of such policy manoeuvres. Such decisions indicate a change from erstwhile dog fights to slight policy orientation angled against opposition parties though apparently applied in the name of arid for benefit of larger population of the country. Electoral battles are becoming more entertaining and jocular with Prime Minister Modi, Rahul Gandhi, Mulayam Singh, Akhilesh Yadav, Lalu Yadav, Nitish, Mayawati, Prakash Singh Badal, Kejriwal and others often indulging in mutual mimicry in public rallies and gatherings. For example, phrases like “56 inches chest”, “earthquake” prediction and “potato factory” etc. spell out lot of fun.

End of previous dynastic rule is bringing a sense of greater public awareness against raging corrupt politicians and scams tinted ministers and governments. This is a good sign for national political health and evolving democracy. This does not bring complete end to corrupt practices. Yet it is a welcome beginning.

Politics in India has been made to go down the drain from 1969 to 1998 and 2004 to 2014. This is an era and period in which a political leader could charm ones' own self alone quite like, as it may be called in Hindi "Swa-manmohana". It is mostly Indian National Congress that has brought shambles to Indian politics with ever widening poverty, corruption and endless list of scams after scams in favour of self-aggrandisement and self-fulfilment of politicians at the cost of genuine tax payer citizens of the country.

Without Jawaharlal Nehru and Lal Bahadur Shastri and other earlier days' stalwarts of the Congress, this party appears to have lost its way and national direction. It seems that only self-destroying and other-destroying, as it were, "Congress grass" is growing in the ranks and files and leadership of this Congress party. Congress party, broadly speaking, had perverted politics in India during the above mentioned time frame. Politics had become synonymous with murders, manipulations, money power, flexing of muscles, whatever was bad and dirty behaviour by politicians.

May 2014 onwards, this gross perversion of politics has started reverting back to its past glory and real meaning of extending service to people and the nation. Therefore, it is high time to realise that whatever is political, it is not essentially bad because otherwise any kind of real democracy, rule of law and progress and development are not possible. It is proper political engineering that is the need of time in the country. Human life, various professions and development prevails only through politics and political decision making. Life and peace is possible with politics only. Development of the national citizenship in all aspects of life is possible when there is peace with equal opportunities for all. The Indian nation has again started moving in this direction now.

The year 2014 has seen the rise of patriotism once again in the country. National flag and national anthem are regaining their place and importance in these years. This is necessary. This is our national symbol self-respect and sign of national unity. It binds us together despite colourful diversity. The national tri-colour shows the strength of our traditions and culture and our goal towards imbibing modernity with unity. perverted politics is slowing down its pejorative trends. Policies of divide and rule are being replaced with national dignity and sense of oneness among masses. It will take time to engross the nation fully in its fold due to deep rooted penetration of nearly four decades old rotten influxes into the polity.

What does India Possess?

Indeed, the worst bargain of the present day Government is its sudden demonetisation announcement in an amateurish fashion. The Government did not know how to properly handle entire situation. Yet, on the other hand, despite mismanagement of demonetisation and its aftermath, this Government has ended endless lines and difficulties for crores of LPG consumers. It has also launched efficiently running schemes like Jan Dhan Yojana and Swath Bharat Abhiyan etc. Even otherwise, 125 crores of Indians are being given due international recognition on global fora. Personal equations of Prime Minister Narendra Damodardas Modi with other Heads of Government and State in foreign countries alongwith proper international representation of India are soft and hard fourfold and multiple strengths that have led to growing esteem for Indians in foreign lands. It was attempted by Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi also to some extent only.

Indian Armed forces and uniformed police and paramilitary forces are being given due and respectable space alongwith providing them latest weapons and technology for further protecting the nation and its citizens from any internal and external danger. There are areas where the earlier governments did not even bother to think about, traverse and tread. Questions relating to effectively deal with terrorism, nuclear defence and protecting Indian citizens in case of a nuclear attack and second strike capability were left then merely to casual tinkering. The existing government has taken up all of these in a serious way.

The nation is now rising again to challenge terrorism, its enemies and negative trends of black money and hoarding economies etc. Surgical strikes, demonetisation, Jan Dhan Yojana, Digitalisation of LPG system, larger extension of digitalisation in every relevant area of human life, balancing of tax anomalies, strengthening national defence and launching of interceptive nuclear missile defence system etc. are but a few achievements of the Bhartiya Janata Party's Government at the Centre. All these and a few more of these are not meagre achievements in about three years and ten months' time.

India has never had an independent and realistic defence and security policy since independence. The BJP's governments have always taken an initiative in this regard as well. For example, in addition to Atal Bihari Vajpayee's good neighbourly policy (now it is 'neighbours first' policy) and the "Nuclear Doctrine" of 1998; there are actively implemented security and defence policies of "Offensive- Defence", "Cold Start Military Doctrine" for integrated attack and defence, "Strategic Strikes' Doctrine", "Second Strike Nuclear Capability" and doctrine of attacking Pakistan's posts with double strength when it ceasefire. Such policies boost national confidence.

Central and Government's policies such as 'less land, less production and more income' in agriculture and related areas of energy and improved mandi laws and e-trading etc. are helping farmers also. Agriculture and economy are getting new avenues within India and outside as well alongwith less-cash policy.

What India does not possess

But there are so many other areas that remain apparently neglected. Private enterprise and the Government both appear to be averse to these areas such as equal opportunities for fruitful employment and education to 65 per cent youth of the country. The self-respect of youth is at stake and there is no one to bother about. Skill development programmes do not serve the purpose of instilling confidence and self-reliance among youth of the nation. Leadership lacks vision to treat growing frustration in youth of the country.

The functioning of Prime Minister Modi is becoming ever more authoritarian and arrogant day by day. He announces policy decisions unilaterally in public. He is also known avowedly to misbehave with servants though he regards himself as the 'first' servant of the people of India. This type of behaviour and policy making is dangerous for any democracy. Indian democracy is stable despite quite a few onslaughts on its nature. Yet it continues. That is why Indian democracy does not easily bow down before authoritarianism of Indira Gandhi and Modi and the like. Prime Minister Modi, there is always scope for self-improvement.

Water, Solar, Coal and Wind energy resources are yet to be tapped to the hilt. India is far behind in these areas. Even human resources are still underutilised in a nation like India where 125 crores of population is subsisting without meaningful and just engagement for restoring their self-respect. Yes the Central Government is taking initiatives in this direction but much more is needed with time.

Interesting statistics are there about Indian citizens below the poverty line. Governmental figures put those below the poverty line whose income is about 370 Rupees per month. As such, there are nearly 21 per cent people belonging to BPL category. Very hopeless statistics are these. In my opinion, all those earning 15000 or less than this amount per month must belong to BPL category in view of incredible price rise and reducing purchasing power of Indian citizens. What a mockery the governments tend to make of people who are really suffering. From this angle, there can very well be nearly 60 per cent people who maybe below the poverty line in India. No government is taking account of this reality. All population below the poverty line is not having access to healthy drinking water. What a travesty of facts and figures vis-à-vis hyperbole of development and progress!

This mockery of peoples' faith and trust is there in the agriculture sector as well. Agriculture in India is dependent mostly on monsoon rains even today despite governmental surging ahead with modern technological agriculture and connecting it with digitization. How all this can be possible without vast and actually working network of electrification. This problem is especially applicable to about six Lakhs villages (out of total about seven Lakhs) in India still needing electricity, drinking water, digitisation and modern technological irrigation system.

Existing reality in the area of legal requirement of equal opportunities for all including simple employment of the under-employed and unemployed youth in particular is also seldom noticed. Out of 65 per cent population of youth in the country, only about 10 per cent are having proper job and the rest are in effect unemployed. What after all the Indian Government, private enterprises and non-Governmental organisations including frustrated youth are doing in this direction? The answer is no one is doing anything purposeful in this matter also. That is why Indian youth is going haywire. This youth is the future of India! One reason behind increasing drugs' use and abused terrorism is this opportunity less-ness for the youth since the time of India becoming independent nation. This trend is further widening with every passing day. Therefore, parallel black economy is resurgent with Mafia power becoming ever more powerful.

Despite such mockery of peoples' sufferings by various governments in India, one can still depend on the existing Government at the Centre because what it has done in favour of Indian citizens in about three years' time, no other government of any political party has ever achieved even in previous 67 years of their rule! It must be appreciated despite all other drawbacks and continuity of national challenges. Majority of leaders and cadres of Bhartiya Janata Party are sincerely devoted to the cause of their Motherland and great patriotism.

Prime Minister Modi's trustworthiness is beyond any doubt. He is a through and through patriot and unpatrolled servant of his Motherland and he is incorruptible to the core. But he lacks a proper vision of the future. Otherwise he would not have acted the manner in which he has in so many contexts. He is a saintly person. He is following his Raj Dharma or his principles of politics rather selectively and not for vaster general public suffering from so many routine and other difficulties.

Politics Everywhere

Prime Minister Modi is trying to apply Raj Dharma without balancing it with realities of life of the people. He has left his home and abode to serve the people of the country. But it was his own decision. No one asked him to do this. He is himself responsible for all outcomes of leaving his home. He has to serve but not expect.

One more thing is good about our Prime Minister Modi. It is that he has understood the top most importance of 'politics' for changing the life of the people in India. Politics alone can do this and no other activity and profession because political engineering and political health can really run the nation and nothing else. Proper direction and opportune time is needed for the successful realisation of the vision of a visionary. As such, quite a bit of work is being done and massive task is ahead to achieve. Hopeful patterns are visible, indeed, for a brighter future for everyone in the country.

There is also one perennial or permanent feature of the Indian politics. It is deeply rooted and ever present trend of ad holism in political decision making and policy making. It is a pointer to a bit of "visionlessness" on the part of our political leaders. Whenever there emerges a challenge or a problem, only then our leadership starts thinking of resolving it. Be it surgical strike, natural disaster, price rise or any other difficulty. Deep thinking and meaningful preventive advance policy making is largely missing on the political horizon.

Chanakya's stress on politics, Hobbesian avowedly scientific materialism with politics at apex over and above all other types of activities and specializations in the State, Locke's necessity of political organization for order in the State — especially in a democracy; and Rousseau's authoritarian interpretation of voice of people by an apparently elected or nominated 'Legislator' in the processes of pluses and minuses of public opinion display four trends always present in the Indian politics since time immemorial. Chanakya, Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau show the necessity of politics in every type of State for order, bringing development and keeping peace in society. Otherwise, no one can become a doctor, engineer, teacher, media person or army men etc.

In India and elsewhere in the world, politics and politicians are working like professionals in other professions. This appears to be yet another, among others, reason for corruption as well as terrorism. Both corruption and terrorism disturb peace and order in every country of the world. This must end. Politicians in politics and society will have to work as servants of the people and not as masters and corrupt officials. Such servants of the people can resolve several prevailing problems such as diverse divisions in Indian society in the name of minority, majority and politics based on caste categorisations. Every Indian citizen has to be equally treated as a human being.

In lieu of Drawing Limitations and Conclusion

Latest elections in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur show a highly rejuvenating trend of the beginning of breaking of communal and caste barriers in Indian politics. Voting, to a great extent, has occurred beyond communal and caste lines in these elections. BJP is emerging as a party uniting India as a powerful nation from within and also in foreign countries. India's resurgence is taking place. Victories in elections depict onward journey of India or Bharat as Hindu Rashtra encompassing all its citizens into religious and other freedoms without any biases while moving towards "development of one and all with all in one together" as a nation that stands united and upright.

India is now resurrecting, resurging and rejuvenating towards its goal of reviving the ancient 'golden age' era. There are so many goals yet to be achieved. But India is moving in right direction after a lapse of several decades. Demonetisation, Swach Bharat Abhiyan, Jan Dhan Yojana, Slight reduction in income tax, clear, strong, surgical and just messages to Pakistan, terrorists and the world, reforms in banking system, changes in educational policies, reforms in agriculture etc. all show a positive trend for India on the move. And yes, most of our ministers in the Central Government are now NOT CORRUPT. Corruption is also receding.

India is becoming stronger and more liveable despite selective price rise.

The Indian government has also given a clear message to the entire world that it has zero tolerance to unconstitutional violence and insurgence. Such an act towards national unity has been taken after several decades.

An overall and all-encompassing trend is emerging in India which suggests that the Indian nation as a united entity is breathing a new life quite like a stanza in Aadi Shankracharya's *Kaalikashtak*:

*Surapaan-matta subhakta-nurakta
Lastpoot-chittae sadaa-vir-bhavastae
Jap-dhyaanam puja sudha dhaut pankha
Swaroopam Twadeeyam Na Vindanti Devah*

It means, to paraphrase for our purpose, a new life and energy are being breathed in and out in our system full of ever new strength and unity. India is becoming ever more powerful and pure. India is now alive. Never to be seen ever earlier like this. Let youth of India take its reigns.

References

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