



# BHARAT MERITOCRACY @ 2047: A CLARION CALL TO ACHIEVE

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## ABSTRACT

This doctrinal study imagines to actualise the Meritocracy, the advanced state of democracy, which is inherent in our countrymen, touching upon the historical aspects of rule by people and republican governance, political communication then and now. As in past, and even after post-constitutional eight decades, WE THE PEOPLE have been in indirect-democracy, a representative democracy, which is showing its own demerits, observed and analysed as earlier political will taking over the peoples mandate, even to the imposition of unwarranted emergency, then witnessing political will being taken over by criminal will, ethics eroded, corruption exploded, unwilling to impose code of conduct. Bharat basically is a spiritual land and every Bharatiya aspires for individual as well as outer-public excellence. This paper is to re-conceptualisation of meritocracy within the nation, and to find out what possibilities? Approach methods? Political activism, movement needed to change the mind-set of vox-populi towards meritocracy, in native Bharatiya narrative. Movement is needed first to decolonise the vox-populi mind-set, to Bharatiya-manas narrative. It is high time, once again WE THE PEOPLE of Bharat, make the self-determination as real Vikasit Bharat is our nation undertaking course change to evolving its own meritocracy.

**Keywords:** Meritocracy, Decolonising, Self-determination

## Introduction

*Begin with yourself.*

*There is no time to waste.*

*It is your duty to do your part to bring God's kingdom to earth.*

*.....Paramhansa Yogananda*

Meritocracy (Latin-Strength, power) is a political philosophy, subscribes to the notion that the power of governance should be vested in the individuals almost exclusively based on their ability and talent. It is advanced state of democracy, excellence is the key root in all spheres of national life. Advancement in meritocracy is based on performance, measured through examination and demonstrated achievement in all the field of governance. It is holding of government power by people selected according to their selfless merit, who can always cause public good, a ruling class of educated and able people. Meritocracy in its path can bring up 'Statesmanship' than parochial, partisan, nepotistic leadership. The idea of meritocracy serves as an ideology through the argument that social inequality results from unequal merit rather than prejudice or discrimination. Most common concepts of meritocracy is a social system in which peoples' successes in life depends on primarily on their abilities, talents and efforts. Is there any constitutional grounding to bring this thought into action? Yes, Art.51A (h) to develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform; and Art.51A (j) to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement, given as fundamental duty of every citizen<sup>i</sup>. Taking these two as clarion call of fundamental duty towards nation building, this study is initiative is to break the shackles, and bring spirited action by 'WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA', to reconstitute, restructure and rejuvenate the meritocratic life again. Because the concept of Viksit Bharat @ 2047 should not be mere sloganeering, and in its understanding and realisation, results at end of 2047AD, Bharat as a nation should be placed in world order as a true meritocratic nation again.

## I. Relevance

Worldwide it is perceived as, India is a colonial country carrying the stigma of invaded rulers and lacks the self-determination, self-courage. Even the making of the constitution was influenced by the British, majority of the provisions of the present constitution represent working style of Government of India Act, 1935. Even the post constitutional developments lacked the spirit of self-determination. Scar of partition has left deep wounds and every now and then erupts with different problems. Post Covid-19 political administration in India and in world around has changed. United Nation itself got weakened, could not stop Russia, Ukraine, Palestine or Israel from war mongering. And latest general election results yet again showed that, peoples mandate can be manipulated by influence of regionalism, linguist, and gender, want of employment, poverty, religion, and caste and creed differences. Yet, as said 'democracy without education is knave over fools', its high-time 'WE THE

PEOPLE' debate and resolve to delve into deep inquiry and overcome all issues, and make our nation meritocratic one.

## II. Objectives

The study primarily considers following objectives;

- 1) Whether Meritocracy is achievable reality in India by 2047 AD? And,
- 2) And what are the means and methods?

## III. Methodology

Since the study is new initiative, it is rudimentarily doctrinaire, based on some thoughts, texts, current affair articles and web source commentaries.

## IV. History

Our nation is deeply rooted in agricultural and spirituality practices, making living consonantly with nature. Spirituality in essence provides self-less individual and collective performance and excellence. India as derived from 'Indica' of Megasthenes as excerpted speaks for meritorious life our ancestors have led. The historically accounted factual stories of world's first university 'Nalanda' having parliamentary form of debating culture on any thought and subject. The Republican form of government practiced in Vishali kingdom gives that, people here never feared for experimenting with the governance. 'Anubhava Mantapa' built by Sharana's of 12<sup>th</sup> century still having influence in Karnataka ascended by Allama Prabhu provides for fair debates on any subject of human importance in utmost meritocracy. Best historical part is of Maharana Pratap elected as democratic king of Mewar in place of his brother Jagmal who became king by treachery, and by the merits of Pratap all cabinet revolted against Jagmal and elected Maharana Pratap as their king is an instance that, in ancient native polity meritocracy was perceived at helm.

Political scenario changed after the Mughal's invasion, who attacked very native spiritual culture by destroying temples and looting the whole wealth. Later implant of British political and educational system changed by Macaulay further degraded the very idea of meritocracy existed then. Pre-independence and even Post-Constitutional journey of political movements to establish self-governance modules were always controlled by others. Erstwhile provincial governments lead by British high officials, having least preferential representation of native Bharatiyas had least significance for meritocracy. Transparency in governance and integrity of kings and ministers were tested earlier, the very Rama in Ramayana putting Sita

into 'Angipariksha' for just one doubtful allegation of one man is embodiment of bringing 'no confidence motion' to oneself declaring the authenticity. Now the very tradition of political thinking is more controlled by the media than the vox-populi i.e. popular voice of the people at large.

This motherland was an economic powerhouse, a civilizational cradle and an exporter of merchandise and ideas-philosophical, religious and scientific<sup>ii</sup> comments the author, further stating, Indians are aware that there is this world of Indian science and maths that has not received the due recognition..... how Indian trade led Indian ideas to spread around the world.... These comments are not false, but infuse further fillip. In fact Vedic mathematics is re-invented and being taught, this researcher has personal experience with spread of Vedic mathematics from Shringeri Sharada math in Karnataka. Sanskrit as a language can more suit the machine language in binary form. So meritocracy was inherent and ingrained in ancient India in all spheres of life.

Prior to imposition of emergency in 1975, socialistic pattern of electioneering and adherence to one party made peoples mandate to be easily manipulated politically. Atrocities practiced during emergency paved way for criminalisation of political parties, and criminals with muscle power started entering politics, manipulating legislatures, illiteracy and least education played its own role at that time. Subsequent era of regional parties, coalition governments, easy political defects and factionalism disturbed the nation for almost two decades. Now this concept of Vikasit Bharat should involve progress towards meritocracy by 2047 AD. Hence this paper peeps into possibilities of generic and indigenous practices.

## **V. Indirect democracy and its demerits.**

We the citizenry chosen to be in indirect democracy i.e. representative democracy where, we are voting for representatives and elect them to form legislature who in turn make laws and schemes of welfare. We are not governing ourselves directly. The elected representatives are not showing accountability to electorate, but mustering mandate by divisive forces, and creating their own corrupt oligarchy by number game, marginalising and victimising the largest goodwill and happiness of the highest number. The present bulk of political leadership class is mainly derived on aspects; of family lineage, tainted and accumulated money power, pseudo cast, drifted alliances, regionalist power hungry to be corrupt but pretending to be honest, unable to exhibit national interest rising above partisan politics. Plethora of corruption scams are results of dishonest representative practices.



Firstly, 'Personality worshipping culture' is the biggest root cause and antithesis to democracy/meritocracy. Single man-family based parties, supported by their caste are leading to multiplicity of political parties, which has resulted in unstable governments or creating difficulties in very establishment of a governments more so in states. Not having bipartite system and fixed tenure over turning the governments with no confidence motion became easy, post emergency. Many State governments are falling due to multiplicity of regional secessionist politics.

Secondly, 'Lack of Statesmanship' in national parties is also another reason for failure of indirect democracy. In the past three decades behaviour of members of different groups in every other party has weakened the authority of either the prime-minister in Centre or chief minister in States. It is not in the constitution provisions, yet poly-tricks came in practice to appoint once Deputy Prime Minister and we have many Deputy ChiefMinisters in single State/s. this has led to weak leadership in trying to resolve internal ministerial disputes, everybody wants to be the minister, but nobody wants to serve people. The moment simplest of dissatisfaction expressed, that leads to 'Bhinnmatiya' (of different opinion or opposing group within) politics.

Thirdly, 'Lack of integrity of voters', no doubt now the voters are baptised by 'Caste choice, money-liquor choice, language-religion-regionalist-boundary choices, being further divided and ruled in visceral affinity of parochial power choice. Vast majority of voters are still illiterate and lack political maturity. Given the option of NOTA, yet majority are not voting. Metro city urban rich are completely abstaining from voting is negative sign of non-participation. The present bulk of party-candidature is abusing the democratic system for their selfish ends. Votes are being cast to the candidate who gives personal selfish benefits. Frequent hung mandate and re-elections have made for 'game theory of democracy'. Individualistic nature of 'the elected' is hurting the social fabric. The elected are lacking ability to anticipate and react with reason and vision. Rather they are more preoccupied to control the damage created by them is burst as bubble. Disruptions of functions of legislative houses, almost causing autism, incurring huge costs and losses itself is serious indicator for destroying democracy.

Fourthly, 'Growth of regional parties' is another bane arousing parochial and provincial feelings, regional parties demand more autonomy especially in coalition forms, and threaten the stability of the

governments. Regional parties seek time and again the reconsideration of division of powers between States and Centre, which weakens the Union.

Fifthly, ‘Criminalisation of politics’, is affecting free and fair elections, booth capturing and bogus voting diminish the common man’s faith in the very system. Almost all parties have given ticket to criminals who have pending cases in courts. And no ruling party at any level is coming forward with code of conduct for its candidature. Corruption has become the normal course, huge amounts of money and other wealth recovered on raids by agencies shows, political morality is not shy for criminality and corruption.

In the light of the above discussion, it is said that, the current representative system is not standing for accountability, unable due to frequent change of governments, reduced moral character of people due to no criteria or code of conduct for representing candidature, diminished integrity of voters due to leaders power play political rivalry further diminishing morality. The very nature and future of national political policy is getting into negatives. Political dissent is not taken correctly, communication and propaganda are guided by vested interests. Increasing use of morally offensive language in election and as well in houses of legislature are not bringing any decency to democratic ethos. Norms of civility, public morality and health are being thrown to whirlwind. Every other, even to the post of Gram Panchayat are bitterly fought in unhealthy atmosphere. Hence it is high time for nationalist thinkers, academic bodies and the learned youth to take up clarion call and yet again resolve to constitute Bharat into a “Sovereign Pluralist Meritocratic Republic”.

## **VI. Way to Meritocracy**

Reaching to meritocracy by 2047 should have a road map. WE THE PEOPLE, should first take initiative to involve, participate fully and create a movement to evolve a culture of direct democracy at local levels, be it in Gram Panchayat and Municipal bodies, it is called pure democracy. Let we the voter decide governance and policy at our local levels without the interference of the elected, or make the elected obey and implement the decision of people on any issues, who have voted. In fact concept of ‘Gram Swaraj’ still reigns large at rural levels. This inculcation at young age by school Panchayat, school ministries, and mock parliament at collegiate level would enhance the participation and creates movement.

Many may think meritocracy is against the reservation policy, it is not so, reservation can be further accommodated only to the minimum needy-socially and economically backwards. Adopting the creamy layer

concept stringently to alleviate further demands and bring to total meritocracy. Caste has to be understood as quality of person in his upbringing behaviours and adopting to his/her life, not as a class or community. The objective of reservation was that the government would extend special attention to education and infrastructure to enable the backward classes to bridge the knowledge, social and economic gap with the rest. This unfortunately did not happen in correct ways. Dr. B.R.Ambedkar was a great meritocratic, his life inspires meritocracy. His call to “Be Educated, Be Organised and Be Agitated” exhibits meritocratic statesmanship. Unfortunately now more and more people, even of forward majority have started claiming reservation, General to IIIB, to 2A to OBC to SC & ST, if it goes so and so forth, where all WE THE PEOPLE shall end up? Introspection is needed in national interest. What progress is there in being called as backwards?

Thus practice of meritocracy is required in all fronts, first in education, let there be all facility and preferential treatment be given on strength and abilities of students, let there be personal care for students weak in intelligentsia, but there should not be any reservation in passing percentile or grading systems. Because this is creating big void in count of merits, causing unemployment recruitment scams.

Meritocracy is required in legislative, executive and judiciary also. Presently bureaucrats efficiency in administration is hurt in personality worshipping of their ‘corruptly elected bosses’, as they bow to politicians or higher authority. They have absurd task of training their bosses, and going along with their politics. The authority granted in indirect democracy to the politicians makes patronage, not performance. With no scrutiny from any other branch of government, the two become cohorts in corruption. And the ‘fence starts eating the crop’. Executive performance and Executive accountability bill needs to be mooted. The salaries should be measured and paid according to performance in public services rendered by executives. Though Right to Information Act, 2005 did little, yet executive surpass some things in the administration and lack of positively motivated citizens fail to ask accountability. The kind of ‘SAKAL’ law in Karnataka is having minimal effect. Unless people become vocal and ask directly executives remain to be corrupt under their political bosses.

Code of conduct to politicians at all levels is demand of the day. All policy recommending bodies, including Election Commission should come forward and should make it possible. Without such code it is not easy to curb or curtail criminality and corruption in legislature. Strike out the candidate who has defective history without any commitment to voters.

Judicial accountability is within the inherent powers of the every court. As the guardian of the Constitution hon'ble Supreme Court has welcomed the meritocracy in appointment of judges. However more transparency is needed in judicial appointments.

Electorate citizenry be educated more on constitutional and nationalist ideology than personality worshipping in any sphere. We must worship the nation by patriotism and adhere to feelings of motherland in voting. As personality worshipping is antithesis to meritocracy or even direct democracy. We have inculcated personality worshipping either out of joint family system-following Kartha, following Swami-Baba more so in southern States film-stars becoming demi gods and entering politics, certain instances are really baffling, more than 100 deaths after accidental death of Dr. Y. S. Reddy, stampede deaths during matinée idol Dr.Rajkumar's cremation, and entire state becoming stand-still when he was kidnapped by jungle brigand, people eating mud-mixed rice for rescue of their screen hero, hon'ble supreme court opining dissatisfaction against state government, stampede deaths during saree/cloth distribution during some politicians birthday celebration, all show that, we the peoples mind-set has not developed with 'scientific temper', which is a fundamental constitutional duty.

We must bring out statesmen by holding the elected for accountability. Who is a Statesmen? A person with characteristic integrity, wisdom, intellect, active, influential, with sense of national history, perception, insight and visionary, dynamic and experienced with public issues, formulation of government policy, selfless and tactful in administration of public affairs and justice minded. The very word 'Mantri' (minister) originates from 'Mantra' having an impact and manifestation of words and deeds by such person on public realm. A Statesmen beholds the belief of his countrymen, exhibiting the strength of reason, scientific temper application with excellence in performance, being calm whether in crisis or celebration. To quote Edmund Burke- "A disposition to preserve, and an ability to improve, taken together would be my standard of a statesmen".

Under the current circumstances how many we find statesmen by these standards? Except few, majority other elected are big no to be statesmen, whom we are electing. It is because of this we are experiencing pessimism and negatives every minutes. We are missing statesmen who can think of next generations, finding right and eliminating wrong, wellbeing, an integrated visionary operator in administration of justice, diligent and rendering sacrificial services to people. The soul of the nation, with its organic development in citizens is



delimited and unbecoming in troubles and problems, because very voter is getting corrupted. Hence educate the voting mass and inculcate national spirit first.

It is in our collective public psyche to hold for accountability and performance, national spirit is never lost. When a world cup cricket match is lost due to under performance, we the people held the players accountable by agitation and stone pelting at their houses. Same spirit is needed by us, in holding the corrupt political class to bring accountability. What went in neighbouring Srilanka and Bangladesh as a political activism, socio-political movements? Same can forth come in India the protests for Nirbhaya and Abhaya rapes at then Delhi and now in Kolkata can infuse spirit. Once again being educated with scientific temper, organised and agitating can bring us the nobles within and to nation.

Resources Natural, Human and Technological make for strong nation. We have abundant of them all. Conducting a public survey, generating public opinion, asking for plebiscite on any public issue or affair is not difficult now, due to hand held mobile technology and AI application available with native languages, it is better opportunity to campaign for meritocracy in digital platform, only to use responsibly and in the best interest of nation.

Concerned public institutions for public policy, social sciences, environmental organisation, gender issues, crime and security can may involve largest people and generate strong public opinion by hand held tips of mobile technological devices, thus paving way for more and more direct democracy seeking accountability and thereby achieve meritocracy.

23 years are left for Vikasit Bharat, hope the paper has initiated right thoughts at right time. What needs to be done is right education in the direction of achieving meritocracy as a first step. Initiation for small measure of direct democracy at local level within short-term period. Raising clamour everywhere for accountability and integrity in spheres of public life. Creating tides of meritocracy by 2034 taking every other step, having a plan of action to implant constitutional meritocracy by 2044 and our nation triumphing the world over by 2047 AD.

## VII. Conclusion

To conclude, the objective of achieving meritocracy is possible within time span, i.e. by 2047AD, because meritocracy is within genes of this spiritual nation, people are honest and their mind and lifestyle need

to be remoulded to act in the interest of nation in every sphere of life, as quoted in fundamental duty to excel. For that change of mind set to Bharatiyas as unique blend of nation-people, not worried by their invaded past, but ready to experiment, to excel and be meritorious human beings as ancient civilisation having all resilience, adopting newer means, chalking their own details can make God's kingdom.

For the national life, personality worshipping culture should be transformed to national spirit-constitutional ideology worshipping. Caste and religion based political practices need to be gradually abolished and voting pattern should be based on quality and traits of Statesmanship, for that, open public debate of the candidates scrutinised by the voters before casting votes need to be arranged in every elections. It is possible to involve common man in decision making process by advanced new technology in conducting opinions, asking for plebiscite online. Direct democracy should first start in schooling and education systems, and gradually be infused in local bodies to national bodies. Recruitment scams can only be stopped then. Categorisation for reservation needs to be reduced to accommodate most needy downtrodden and oppressed class. Concept of creamy layer needs to be adopted to the children of specifically to those who have secured high offices. At any cost criminalisation of political bodies need to be openly agitated and be stopped, bringing necessary amendments to 'The Representation of The People Act, 1951'. As per delineations sovereignty is vested in the people, it is only WE THE PEOPLE can bring the change, change is the growth, growth is vikas, change first the thoughts, then bring changed positive thoughts into action, put continued efforts, results do appear. And for that suggested first change is to Article No.1 of The Constitution of India;

1. **Name and territory of the Union-**(1) Bharat also known as Bharatvarsh, Bharakhand, Hind, Hindustan and as India, shall be a Union of States.

Hope the idea with its right time has come and its tide ripples.

<sup>i</sup>PART IV A FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES, *The Constitution of India*, Forty-second amendment w, e.f.3-1-1971.

<sup>ii</sup>The Hindu daily, Sunday Magazine dtd:15/9/2024 Hubballi edition, literary review pg-3 extracted from interview of author William Dalrymple for his book *The Golden Road, How Ancient India Transformed the world*.

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