



12. Reflections on current political scenario in India

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Current Indian politics is marked by communalism castism and annexation of vote bank by political parties. Ancient political thinkers such as Plato and Aristotle looked at politics as something pious and ethical. Politics was regarded as part of ethics. They were not mistaken. After independence till the declaration of emergency in June 1975 Indian politicians cherished values based politics. They were committed to certain ideologies till the end of their life. Declaration of emergency heralded a new era of opportunistic politics. All the opposition parties irrespective of their ideologies got together with the single objective of over-throwing Indira Gandhi's government. They succeeded in their mission under the leadership of Shri. Jai Prakash Narain but as expected they scattered like play cards in less than three years. Janta government fell and the alliance partners got back to their original destinations. Indira Gandhi regained power. Although stable government followed, but stability was provided not by honest activities, but either by sympathy factor or due to defection. Ethical conduct remained a distant dream.

Today the most talked about topic of discussion is the decision of BJP to protect Mr. Narendra Modi as the future Prime Ministerial candidate. Honestly speaking he was initially opposed by Advani camp on his inclusion not only in the central election committee of BJP but also on his making in charge of the election campaign. But Rajnath Singh, the party chief maneuvered his future installation for the top job and Mr. Advani was literally alienated. A pertinent question arises as to what are the factors responsible for Modis elevation to top position. Akar Patel former Gujarati newspaper editor analyses his strengths. There is clarity of message. The electorate stands informed: vote the BJP and get modi. There is no clear candidate for thee post of Prime Minister in congress- Manmohan Singh ? Sonia Gandhi ? Rahul ? someone else ? The voter does not really know. This confusion remains with the third front and other formations as well. The only candidate



at the moment is Modi. Secondly, Modi stands for uncompromising Hindutva and business friendly policies as his record shows. Thirdly, he represents' a tough-on- corruption image that broadened his appeal in the middle class. So Akar Patel concludes that Narendra Modi's elevation is more beneficial to the BJP than damaging.

But I disagree with this inference .This is true that there is no clarity of candidate for the Prime Ministers post in other parties of formations but as we all know Mr. Modi was indicted not only by citizen tribunal, human rights commission and minority commission but also by the supreme court and the Us government for his alleged complicity in post Godhara riot in Gujarat. Promotion of Hindutva is not objectionable but he has been alleged for suppression of a minority community, especially a community which boasts of second largest majority in the country, these can not be justified in a civilized society. A man who claims to lead six and half crore population of Gujarat , is being tried to make Prime Minister of a country with 125 billion people whereas there are so many towering personalities in BJP itself who have distinguished themselves as part of ruling party at centre. The million dollar question is whether Mr. Modi is capable of talking along with him every section of the society, the first and foremost qualification of a Prime Minister. This is an open secret that the dissidents in Modi's council of minister in Gujarat have time and again been convinced and persuaded by Mr. L.K.Advani to return to Gandhi Nagar when they reached New Delhi to protest against his style of functioning. These elements may prove a challenge to his authority during election periods. The senior, most experienced and more capable leader of the party would not allow an inferior person to grow. Besides, if the decision to project Mr. Modi as future Prime Minister, had been taken at a later stage there would have been less time for maneuvering by the dissidents. But since the general elections are too far the pitch of Modi will have been queered by them. Various editorials of newspapers also support my perspective.

Observations of certain leaders in this connection are thought –provoking. Mohd. Salim, Engineer , National secretary of the jamayat-e-Islami-Hind opined on general election due in 2014, "This will be referendum on whether India will accept Fascism or Democracy". Asaduddin



Ovasi, the outspoken M.P. from Hyderabad reacted on Modi's elevation, "This was expected, but I don't understand and respect diversity and pluralism. He would not be able to lead this country". "Neither a person who, because of his personal ambitions, broke his own alliance and created controversy in his own party can keep the nation united, nor will the people ever accept him." Leader of the opposition in Gujarat Assembly Shanker Singh Vaghela also slammed Modi stating, "I can understand the pain of BJP patriarch L.K. Advani today. The RSS has imposed modi on the BJP. The party will pay heavily for this misadventure". Interestingly, Vaghela himself has been a former RSS and BJP leader.

Going by the above mentioned observations I would like to conclude two things.

One Mr. Advani has been playing Godfather to Modi whenever he was in crisis but he became so blind in his personal ambition that he showed scant respect to his sentiments. A man who is so ungrateful to his Godfather or Mentor, how can he be grateful to the people who would vote him to power?

Two, Mr. Advani has no doubt praised Modi the other day not due to his love for him because of his helplessness in such a pathetic situation. Advani trauma may swallow his (Modi's) career.

There is no denying that whichever party is able to win most of the seats in Hindi belt of U.P., .Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan & Haryana, that one will rule the centre. If Andhra Pradesh, Kerala & Kashmir (non- Hindi states) are also added to this list, the majority of Muslim voters will be there in these states to decide the fortune of any party, and if polarization happens it will not be a smooth selling for BJP. If polarization does not take place BJP may gain.

No doubt in U.P. Samajvadi party is no more popular, among Muslims as earlier due to eruption of communal riots in Muzaffarnagar and other districts of western U.P. and to laxity on the part of civil and police administration to check these troubles. So third front, if emerged, or congress may gain in general elections herein. In Bihar the alliance between BJP and Janta Dal United has failed. Since Nitish Kumar has provided strict and clean administration in Bihar and has reinforced his



secular image by getting separated from BJP, Muslims may opt for Janta Dal United. If they get united and polarization does not happen Janta Dal United will have upper hand.

In Madhya Pradesh anti-incumbency factor and apathy of Muslims from BJP due to advent of Modi, may go against BJP. In Rajasthan anti –incumbency factor may go against congress and BJP may gain in both the elections- Assembly as well as Parliamentary. In Haryana much depends on Bhupendra singh Hooda, the congress Chief Minister’s guts and shrewdness to handle the election situation. Central government where congress is a major partner has both good deeds and misdeeds. Whether or not she is able to propagate good deeds and present valid reasons for her misdeeds, time will tell. Mr. Hooda is not much in the news, so the election results in Haryana is very unpredictable. The chances of both congress and BJP alliance are fifty-fifty. The upcoming assembly election result of Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh will prove to be acid test for the political parties and will certainly have repercussions on Parliamentary Elections.

To sum up, at the moment situation is fluid and confusing. Parliamentary election results are highly unpredictable. Since it is not so near, political scenario will witness ups and downs. Advent Modi at the helm of affairs may prove boon for BJP may backfire as well. One thing is crystal clear that if communal situation further deteriorates the country BJP will not gain.

