

INDIA AND ITS CHANGING ORDER

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Sooner or later every country gets into a bunch of challenges that make it tedious to govern. India, which is still a functional democracy, has experienced chaos, ill management, and poor governance. Indian democracy is probably the oldest democracy that has ever existed. The sheer scale of India's breathtaking and sometimes bewildering diversity is comparable to that of the entire European Union, which is a multinational, supra-state entity consisting of twenty-eight sovereign nation-states. In India, a similar scale of diversity can be seen in the form of a single sovereign polity divided into twenty-eight states endowed with extensive powers of self-government. The Indian political system is distinguished from other transitional systems as Indian leaders are not drawn from any ethnicity or social background but cut across all social cleavages. Political power thus comes not as an entitlement but as a valued resource that one must compete for and the holders of the power are aware of its transience and of the imperative of accountability, both horizontally to their peers, the judiciary, media, and inquiry commissions, and vertically, to the electorate.

Engaging the world

Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi once quoted, "A stage has come where no country can now think of treating India with contempt or condescension. Every country today is looking at us either with deference or as an equal". Group of Twenty also known as G20 is a premium forum for global issues. As India calls herself a mother of democracy, G20 is an interesting element for showcasing to the world the culture, the beliefs of India. As a democracy, India's relations have revolved around some of the core issues which impinge on the South Asian region.

The growing tensions between China and its expansionist ideology, and the energy crisis because of the Russian - the Ukrainian war, the G20 will act as a catalyst for India to frame the pace for a multilateral world and inclusivity of all agendas that affect global politics. However, how India steps into this position is yet to be seen.

INTEGRATION AND DISINTEGRATION: The dark side of Indian democracy

India during independence in 1947, an emerging newly independent state was a poor, social, and spatially fragmented country that had the fresh memory of partition and Communal riots, especially in Bengal, Punjab with a low literacy rate that still made it up to being one of the successful democracy and consolidating it till now is an exceptional milestone. However, we cannot undermine that its conflicts and cleavages often manifest themselves in complex situations - such as ethnic conflict, and dogmatism. Leaders of ethnic groups have mastered the art of political manipulation through the combination of protest and participation. India has seen the records of translating identity-based issues into politics through the rearrangement of the institutional setup. The formation of the States Reorganisation Commission of 1957 and the recent formation of new states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Uttarakhand are examples of the tolerance of the Indian states. This integration is happening but at what cost?

COALITION AND FEDERALISM

Indian democratic set-up is so different from the entire world democracy, we even say it is the largest democratic country in the world. Indian democracy fully supports a multi-party system. India's large population and multi-party existence is less chance for a single party to win majority seats thus winning from majority seats and establishing government two different parties joining hands to make a coalition government. This coalition system reflects Indian democracy's dynamic character. The era of the coalition system India is experiencing is from 1977 when Morarji Desai formed his government with the help of a coalition government. After this phase of coalition government Indian Democracy frequently experienced coalition governments and alliances in 1989, 1996, 1998, 2004 and 2009, 2014, and 2019.

The coalition system in Indian democracy has widened the scope of representation and given a more broad view of a democratic setup.

Citizens come up with their problems and issues as no single party holds full power. Apart from its benefits in Indian democracy, there is some criticism of this type of government which refers to it as a weak and unstable form of government. Quoting the example of the Janta Dal-led United Front government in 1996-98 makes its base a more powerful one. A large country like India needs a federal system with a multi-party system. When we talk about federalism in the Indian context it means power-sharing and a coalition government is based on power-sharing between parties. We can say that coalition government is related to federalism.

JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT

Indian democracy is based on governance and constitution. And in this institution, the government has nil interference in judicial review. But then also many contradictions arise in terms of governance and constitution. Take a quite recent case of the Collegium system that determines the appointment of new judges by current judges. Articles 124 (2) and 217 deal with this. It is said that judges may prefer the one for the post of an upcoming judge whom they know and this may give rise to nepotism. This favored possibility is quite high because there is no proper reviewing for appointments in the collegium system. It even harms the transparency of the judicial system of India and harms the equality and equal opportunity of all. It also points out that it excludes the executive. 'National Judicial Appointments Commission' (through the ninety-ninth Amendment Act, 2014) was an attempt to correct this system but it was not passed by the court stating that this would damage the independence of the judiciary.

INDIAN DEMOCRACY IN WORLD POLITICS

In recent years, India is emerging as a world power in terms of different grounds. India's foreign policy is broadening its spheres and emerging as a soft global power. Indian democracy is playing an effective role in world politics. India's say in the UN is building its importance and due to a strong democratic setup, India is now working to seek a place as a permanent member.

As a whole, we can say that Indian democracy has both its positive and negative areas to work on, and being citizens of the largest democratic country it is our responsibility also to bind it in one. There are several issues that come in the path of becoming a global leader. Inequality, hunger, poverty, injustice, corruption, and several other roadblocks that we need to end if we want to really become a 'Vishwaguru'.

