

Editorial Note

Dear Friends,

The concepts, ideologies and terminologies associated with the understanding of Indian polity in perspective of analyzing the largest democracy of modern world have, to a great extent, been shaped, determined and disseminated by either the scholars of western universities, (though some of them have essential Indian affiliations) or by Indian scholars having been mainly graduated in Western models and constructs and to a large extent the mental environment and set-up also. We have, that way, been fortunate enough to have some exceedingly brilliant expositions on different political movements and institutions with finest analysis and emphatic comprehension of the intricacies of Indian polity brought out by these intellectual leaders. There are good number of research papers, books and scholarly works presented by the collaborative efforts of western and Indian analysts. In addition to that, system analysts have also produced well documented descriptions of the events and developments of the polity both at macro and micro level. Whatsoever are the academic limits and boundaries of these research pursuits, the usefulness and relevance of them remains above average keeping in view their utility in increasing the understanding of different political and social institution of this 'oldest' and largest democracy of the world. Though some of my friends may vehemently argue that the ideological inclinations of most of these outstanding works have to be essentially contested because of their one-sidedness and the overwhelming 'left-liberal' approach and admittedly, to a significantly great extent the argument appears to be solid and valid and to the utter dismay of sound objective discourse lovers the point is never well taken by our intellectual giants, yet we must acknowledge the efforts and appreciate the amount of work produced which necessarily contains sufficient merit extraordinary labour. The critics of these research outputs are, unfortunately, very less in number and their whole exercise is limited only to make their observations either through some news media articles, comments or scholarly presentations in seminars. Their inability to produce their point of view in a systematic manner through well prepared and perfectly drafted research papers is great cause of concern for all the people craving for sound and sincere debate on various issues of academic importance.

The events and developments shaping the contours of Indian polity may sometimes essentially lead to overwhelming confusion and mis-understanding about the political parties, ideologies, manifestos, leadership and programmes thereof. The behaviour pattern of our political leaders is unfortunately not attaching the respect of the common masses. Their large scale involvement in corrupt practices while remaining in public offices has immensely affected the public faith in political institutions and administrative setups. The leadership of our political parties is being characterized primarily by self-promoting political actors concentrating mainly on the expansion of their vote banks so as to ensure electoral gains.

They are busy in making financial growth out of the positions occupied by them and thereby thwarting the process of democratization. The public anger is most of the time reflected in small upsurges against the administrative machinery and the one-sided victories and defeats of different political groups in parliamentary and legislative assembly elections. The ideological orientations have completely been relegated to the back-burner and the considerations of castes and sub-caste group with the exterior

decoration of 'social engineering' have emerged out of the attraction of subsequent success at the polls. The organizational structures of most of the political parties in our country have collapsed and the apparent hierarchy is comprised of either the family members or psychofants. Therefore, the debate and discourse as well as the elements of internal democracy are completely missing. The programmes of our political parties are generally based on adhoc issues and contingent planning.

The contemporary nature of the working of our political parties has not been promoting any recruitment with proper socialization. Therefore, the bondage of ideology has also not remained any kind of cementing force for the upcoming leadership. Their objectives of their entry into the main stream politics have also been shaped by the allurements of material achievements of money and positions. This has led to the almost lack of any wide spread cadre and the dedicated workforce capable of social mobilization and becoming opinion leaders to the masses, which has resulted in directionless political movements, upwardship of leaders with no mass base to the higher positions in the organizations, dearth of sustainability of the issues, complete withdrawal of ideological commitments from the common programmes only because of power combinations, and the loss of faith of the general masses in the whole political system. The imminent natural corollary of this has been the gradual apathy of the citizens in the political processes which is a serious threat to the democratic governance. This is our main concern as students of political science and public administration. Therefore, sincere efforts are required to it make possible that our important political institutions gain requisite respect and become properly democratized institutions of public governance through political recruitment and socialization, interest aggregation, interest articulation and political communication. For this we all have to perform our duties in such a manner that our social obligations are not in any case hampered by our academic pursuits. Therefore, the shastra says:

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12 October 2007

Meerut

(Sanjeev Kumar Sharma)