

New challenges of Indian democracy

Dr. Arun Kumar

Associate Professor in political science, Govt. College Satnali, Mohindergarh, Haryana, India.

Abstract

India is a democratic state in which the process of governance is accomplished by the elective representative of the public. But democracy in our country has not been implemented correctly. There are new challenges for our democracy, in which we are facing brother nepotism, violence, caste, religion and representatives irresponsibility's towards their duties etc. In democracy, the government is elected by the people; in which people are given full opportunities for participation in governance. In Indian Constitution, such rights have been made, but even today; in the Indian democracy, the public is not aware of their rights. Today Indian democracy is facing problem of language, terrorism, ignorance, religion and caste poison, criminals participation in politics, poverty and social discrimination in society etc. To prevent these challenges, the public must be educated. People who are having influence upon vote bank on the basis of religion and bribe will have to refrain from them finally. It can be said that the government, N.G.O's and the people of country will have to take effective steps against Nepotism, communalism, separatism, casteism, terrorism and baseless alliances of political parties for good governance in democratic setup.

Keywords: democracy, nepotism, violence, separatism

Introduction

The election process in India is pivoted around the commonwealth concept of representative democracy which was once thought to save the world from monarchy and autocracy. Even though the representative form of democracy has succeeded in driving the nation for the past 60 years, in practice it has yet to be implemented fully. Some of the elected representatives enjoy all their privileges without being accountable for their duties, the dereliction of which goes unchecked along with influence peddling, nepotism, cronyism and will full negligence^[1]. They walk away scot-free, have no qualms about wrongdoing and get elected yet again, which bears testimony to their denigration of the democracy in India. India is still an emerging economy, setting the pace and shape of development. India began as an explicitly socialist nation and continues with a large public-sector and many constraints on private enterprise, although recent governments have reduced some of these restrictions. Their reward has been faster economic growth, particularly through the growth of trade-oriented industry. Some recent governments were voted out due to a sluggish economy^[2].

Democracy is a form of government in which people are governed by their own elected representatives. It is a government of the people, for the people and by the people. In this system of government, it is the people who are supreme and sovereign. They control the government. They are free to elect a government of their own choice. Freedom of choice is the core of democracy. Such a sharp contrast between the parliamentary and Gandhian constitution frameworks deflects our attention from their common, overlapping or complementary democratic values and principles^[3]. Democracy existed in ancient Greek and Roman republics but with little success. It had very little scope in ancient India. Many countries in the world today follow the democratic form of government. Democracy depends on the following conditions (i) co-existence of ideas and of parties; (ii) the right

to free discussion; (iii) universal adult suffrage; and (iv) periodic elections.

The Constitution of Indian was enforced on 26 January, 1950. India became a democratic republic infused with the spirit of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. The Preamble, the Directive Principles of State Policy and the Fundamental Rights reflect the Indian ideology as well as the caste, creed, religion, property, or sex have the right to cast their vote. After end election, the majority party or coalition forms the government and its leader become the Prime Minister.

Further, in democracy all the citizens are treated as equals. All enjoy equal rights. In our country, the poor and the rich are all equal before the law. No distinction is made on the basis of colour, caste, class or sex. Merit is the only consideration in a democracy. All the citizens get equal opportunities of rising to the highest office. Even a sweeper of today can become the president of tomorrow. Gandhi also made many publicly expressed appreciations of the constitution, not only for its democratic-national and liberal-secular character but also as being compatible with his constructive programme for the resuscitation, social reform, and empowerment of villages and their panchayats^[4]. But the young democracy in India faces many dangers. The ignorance of the masses is the greatest danger. Then, there is the rigid caste without any consideration of their merits. Our people care little for their duties. They always shout for more and more rights. But for the success of democracy duties are more important than rights. It is well known that there are problem with the various mechanisms used to translate the abstract ideal of political equality of political participation^[5].

Linguistic quarrels have weakened the country. Violent trends are visible in every sphere of life. Terrorism is on the increase cult of the gun is being cultivated on a large scale. But violence and democracy do not go together. Democracy implies that problems and differences would be resolved peacefully through negotiations. Violence shows a lack of

faith in democratic processes. Hence violence is a great danger to democracy. The political parties indulge in unhealthy, destructive criticism. They do not provide a strong, healthy government or opposition^[6].

The convocational interpretation of India strengthens our understanding of the Indian case by providing a theoretically coherent explanation of the main patterns and trends in its political development^[7]. Political parties are the vehicles of ideas. Parties act as the bridge between social thought and political decision in democracy. The Indian politics system is a multiparty system. However, gradually politics has become a game of opportunism and corruption. Most political parties are only interested in coming to power. Every party adopts different caste politics. Some try to influence the people thought caste politics. Some try to raise the religious sentiments of the people. The Indian ideology today is replaced by caste and religion. Religion as a major cultural influence plays an important role in politics. Political party support depends greatly on differentiating the electorate along religious lines. The major religious communities are those of the Hindus (although not a homogeneous block), the Muslims (again they too are differentiated as Shias and Sunnis) and the Sikhs; and many political parties are identified by the religion of their supporters. Many national religious issues are the key points of the success in elections. Even some of the political leaders use religion for their own sake and as a medium for their political stability.

We enjoy every right in theory, but not in practice, real democracy will come into being only when the masses are awakened and take part in the economic and political life of the country. There is inequality in every sphere- social, economic and political. Illiteracy is the main cause of inequality. The illiterate masses get easily lured by money during such an event. Also some of our legislators have criminal records against them. The people who make the laws themselves break them.

Even after more than sixty years of Independence, one fourth of the population today goes to bed with an empty stomach, live below the poverty line without access to safe and clean drinking water, sanitation or proper health facilities. Governments have come and gone, politics have been framed and implemented, crores of rupees have been spent, yet many people are still struggling for existence.

Casteism today is more pronounced than it even was. Untouchability remains abolished only in theory with frequent newspapers reports of Dalits being denied entry to temples or other public places. Violence has been taken a serious turn in country, Bandhs, strikes and terrorist activities have become a common affair. Every sphere of national life is corrupted. Our democracy is capitalistic. Here, the rich exploit the poor who have no voice or share in the democratic structure. For a successful democracy, all these need to be checked. But India, as a democratic country, has progressed in many aspects. It has achieved self-sufficiency in food grains as a result of the green revolution. People vote for change whenever a government fails to come up to the expectations of the people. India has been a successful democratic country only because the people are law-abiding, self-disciplined and have the sense of social and moral responsibilities.

There should be quality in every sphere of life. The politicians should also respect the true spirit of democracy. They should refrain from corruption caste and communal politics. The

citizens should elect leaders with good moral values and integrity. People should be guided to choose their representatives. They should not be influenced by anyone in this respect. Individuals should learn tolerance and compromise and understand that freedom is not unbridled but dependent on not another individual's well being.

Today Indian politicians and voters-as forward, backward Class, and Scheduled Caste Hindus, as Muslims, as Sikhs-continue to have to come to grips with the consequences^[7]. Democracy demands from the common man a certain level of ability and character, like rational conducts, an intelligent understanding of public affair, independent justice and unselfish devotion to public interest. People should not allow communalism, separatism, casteism, terrorism, etc to raise their heads. They are a threat to democracy. The government, the NGOs and the people together should work collectively for the economic development of the nation. Changes should come through peaceful, democratic and constitutional means. The talented youth of today should be politically educated so that they can become effective leaders of tomorrow. The importance of legislatures and Parliament is primarily for the rule of law, and it has to be safeguarded and enforced at all costs. This determination seems to be lacking.^[8]

What members do not realise is the extent of cynicism which is building up against the politicians. The very word, politics, has come to be derided^[9]. Democracy demands from the common man a certain level of ability and character, like rational conducts, an intelligent understanding of public affair, independent justice and unselfish devotion to public interest. People should not allow communalism, separatism, casteism, terrorism, etc to raise their heads. They are a threat to democracy. The government, the NGOs and the people together should work collectively for the economic development of the nation. Changes should come through peaceful, democratic and constitutional means.

References

1. Gauba OP. An Introduction to Comparative Politics, Mayur paperbax, Noida, 2007, 308.
2. Ibid.
3. Rajeev Bhargava, Politics and Ethics of the Indian Constitution, OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, New Delhi, 2010, 61.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid, 224.
6. Niraja gopal jayal, Democracy in India, OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, New Delhi, 2010, 349.
7. Ibid, p.79.
8. Kuldip Nayar, Thesis of a strong and decisive leader, The Tribune, New Delhi, 2013.
9. Ibid.
10. Benhabib Seyla. Democracy and Difference: Contesting the Boundaries of the Political. Princeton University Press, 1996.
11. Birch, Anthony H. The Concepts and Theories of Modern Democracy. London: Routledge. 1993.
12. Copp, David, Jean Hampton, John E. Roemer. The Idea of Democracy. Cambridge University Press. 1993.
13. Dahl, Robert A. A Preface to Democratic Theory. University of Chicago Press, 1963.
14. Davenport, Christian. State Repression and the Domestic Democratic Peace. Cambridge University Press, 2007.

15. Diamond, Larry, Richard Gunther. Political Parties and Democracy. JHU Press, 2001.
16. Emerson Peter. Designing an All-Inclusive Democracy. Springer, 2007.
17. Held David. Models of Democracy. Stanford University Press, 2006.
18. Maya Tudor, The Promise of Power: The Origins of Democracy in India and Autocracy in Pakistan. (Cambridge University Press): Chapter 5, 2013
19. Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica Online, 2008.