The State of Indian Democracy-World's Largest and Succeeded one, A Paradox: Proof in Favour of S. C. Bose's Prescience

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Abstract. India is known as the biggest functioning and one of the succeeded democracies in the world. According to Bryce and other political thinkers there are some preconditions to prevail to have a successful democracy, the most important among them are the awareness and alertness of the people about the political affairs of the country especially the governmental policies, programs, upcoming threats to the integrity of the country as she (India) suffers much from it, recent trends as well as state of national and province level politics etc. and the other the participation of people in local governance. The aim of the present study is to show the paradox of success of Indian democracy without having properly the prerequisite of it and to defend Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's (S.C. Bose) prescience regarding Indian democracy.

Keywords: Indian democracy, Hollowness, Netaji's prescience

1. Introduction

India is regarded as the largest functioning democracy in the world with such a variety of cultures, creeds, races, languages, ethnic identities and so on. In the dawn of independence the founder of our constitution laid out the foundation of a truly democratic country which continues till today which is quite surprising and a subject to flaunt and be proud of it i.e. its rich legacy of democracy. In the aspect of democratic establishment India is truly a nation that tops many a chart and it is a significant fact about India that she has been able to make a remarkable impression on the rest of the world as being one of the largest potential democracy. David Cameroon, the British prime minister, during his recent visit to India regarded India to be the beacon of democracy in the world. Foreign observer from the British High Commission Kamaljeet Rattan said that the Indian democracy is one of the best in the world. People are silently involved in some kind of transformation so far as power is concerned. The entire system works like a well-oiled machine. An astonishing paradox can be seen as prevailing when one proceed to examine the effectiveness of the institutions and procedures of democracy in India, as she shows a dismal picture of it.

2. A brief introduction to India and Indian democracy

2.1. Geographical location and recent status

" India, that is Bharat" [1], is a country in south Asia, situated in the north equator from 6 ° 44' to 35° 30 " north latitude and from 68 ° 7' to 97 ° 25' east longitude (excluding Lakhsadip and Andaman Nicobar island), bordered by Pakistan in the west, China, Nepal and Bhutan in the north-east, Bangladesh and Burma in the east, Arabian sea in the south-west, bay of Bengal in the south east, Indian ocean in the south, having the seventh largest geographical area as she holds total 32,87,263 square kilometers, second most populace with 1,210,193,422 number of people having 74.04% of literacy [25-26] as per census of India 2011. The country at present the eleventh largest economy by market exchange rate and third largest by purchasing power parity and she placed herself in 134th position in the ranking of the Human Development Index [27].

2.2. A short history of Indian democracy

Democracy in simple word refers to a system of government under which the people exercise the governing power either directly or through their representatives periodically elected by them. In this type governmental system the government is directed by the will of the common people not by the will of the elite section [14-19].

The concept of democracy is introduced as well as developed in India by the British government during her (India) colonial period. Historical circumstances link us to a country (Great Britain) where the parliamentary democracy was originated as well as reached its peak of development. In free India our constitution-framers consciously adopted the democratic form of government due to the changes introduced in our political life during her connection to the motherland of parliamentary democracy. It was the decision of the drafting committee of the constitution of India to build upon the foundations already laid though the country was not filled with the preconditions to have a proper democracy (the economy was creped, literacy rate is low, political socialization of the common people regarding this was not yet completed necessary for democracy, more over nation building was not been completed) [4-13].

2.3. S.C. Bose and Indian Democracy

There were suggestions regarding the moulding of such democratic setup according to the unique historical situation at the moment of independence from Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, one of the prominent leaders of India's struggle for freedom. Though he was seriously against the colonial rule of the Britishers in India but he had a great praise about their liberal education and disciplinary orientation. After having an exchange of ideas on the future of independent India with British Labour party and political thinkers like Lord Halifax, George Lansbury, Clement Attlee, Arthur Green Wond, Harold Laski, Ivor Jennings, G.D.H. Cole, Sir Stafford Cripps and others he expressed his plan for administrative set up of free India. He asserted in the chapter namely "A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE" of his book "The Indian Struggle" some adjustments of democratic setup because of the unique historical background of India. His proposal regarding Indian democracy as follows:

- It will stand for complete political and economic liberation of the Indian people [20].
- It will stand for a Federal Government for India as the ultimate goal; but will believe in a strong Central Government with dictatorial powers for some years to come, in order to put India on her feet [20].
- It will not stand for a democracy in the Mid-Victorian sense of the term, but will believe in government by a strong party bound together by military discipline, as the only means of holding India together and preventing a chaos, when Indians are free and are thrown entirely on their own resources [20].
- It will endeavor to unite all the radical organizations under a national executive so that whenever any action is taken; there will be simultaneous activity on many fronts [20].

2.4. Structure of India's Democracy

The preamble of Indian constitution holds India as "Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic and to secure to all its citizens: JUSTICE, social, economic and political; LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all FATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation" [1].

India comprise of twenty eight states meaning province but Indian constitution has given the status of state (Art. 1) [1] and seven union territories including NCT of Delhi. President is the de zero head of this nation (Art. 53) [1] following the convention of parliamentary democracy. Every state has their own nominal head, Rajyapal (Part VI, Art. 153,154) [1]. The de facto head of the nation is the central council of minister (Art. 74)[1] headed by Prime Minister. All the states have their council of ministers headed by Chief Minister as the de facto head (Art.163) [1]. She has both central and state level legislative body, the Parliament (Art. 79, 80, 81) [1] and state legislature (Art. 168) [1] respectively. Judiciaries are also present in same manner – the Supreme Court of India (Art. 124) [1] is the highest appeal court (Art. 132,133,134) [1] followed by the various High Courts at state level.

The constitution also grants adult franchise. It secures fundamental rights for the citizens by safeguarding the independence of the judiciary. Press in India is free and responsible. It is a multi- party system. She has total six registered recognized national party and fifty two registered recognized state party with regular election both in national as well as state level at an interval of five years in normal circumstances.

2.5. Election Details

The following table shows [Tab. 1] the nature of elections at national level like total number of participating political parties in various elections, number of constituency, percentage of voting [2].

Table 1: Total number of participating political parties in various elections, number of constituency, and percentage of voting

Year of Election	Total number of Participated political parties	Total number of election constituency	Percentage of voting
1951	53	400	44.87%
1957	16	403	45.44%
1962	27	494	55.42%
1967	25	520	61.04%
1971	53	518	55.27%
1977	34	542	60.49%
1980	36	542	56.92%
1984	33	514	63.56%
1985	09	27	72.23%
1989	113	529	61.95%
1991	145	524	56.73%
1992	10	13	23.96%
1996	209	543	57.94%
1998	176	543	61.97%
1999	169	543	59.99%
2004	230	543	58.07%
2009	363	543	58.19%

It is quite evident from the table 1 that the elections in India are usually held every five year gap, the numbers of political parties have immensely increased, and the number of election constituency has been raised. The above table also proves that the people's participation in election justifiable. It is commonly known that election is the main instrument for running a democratic system and this process is very much sound here. If any one picks up any year of election, for the analysis of electoral happenings to judge the election system, as a sample, he or she will get result in favour of the above discussion. The researcher here chooses, for analysing the same, the year of 1984-85 and it proved the same [27]. It may seem that democracy has taken its root in the Indian soil. It is true that super structure of democracy in India is well organized and it is like a well-oiled machine runs smoothly over more than a period of half century.

2.6. Hollowness of Indian Democracy

The phenomena of democracy in India are quite remarkable and worthy to have worldwide praise as she fulfils all the feature of a democratic system. But an astonishing fact is that one will be disappointed when he or she will go to explore the nature of base of democracy in India [21-22].

Without acquiring political literacy (of mass) India continues still her democratic set up very well. It is really magical and this magic hypnotized the whole world as the world has recognized India as one of the succeeded democracy.

Democracy demands some preconditions to have to maintain it properly. The historical context, in which Parliamentary Democratic setup took its firm form, was distinct from the Indian background at the dawn of independence. After a long period of colonial subjugation she (India) needs some time and effort to make herself stand on her own feet. India did not possess those preconditions that Great Britain contains. In spite of this, our constitution makers choose this kind of system and as obvious she has been facing wide range of problems like communalism, linguism, casteism, and regionalism and so on. One of the most crucial which

she faces most today is the problem of national integrity [28]. It is a clear picture that nation building i.e. the sense of "FRATERNITY" [1] quoting the preamble of the Indian Constitution yet not been established even after sixty four year of independence. More serious is that the issue of integrity now at a stake because many ethnic seditions. Proof regarding the statement can be easily gathered from various news papers.

Besides, Democracy may be said as most difficult administrative setup as it requires much from the mass. Their awareness and alertness regarding political affairs is the fundamental to establish democracy in its real notion. If the parliamentary democracy has to survive properly it is most necessary to establish legislature by the sovereign will of the people and to express sovereign will, one have to aware of political happenings primarily [23-24].

Researcher here conveniently chooses the area of the state of West Bengal for a study regarding the same. Sample was drawn through the random sampling method from the rural area as she encompasses much the rural areas. The survey results in very disappointing mode as the fact is revealed that much of them even don't know the name of the president or Prime Minister of the country or the happenings of the other state. So let the issue of awareness and alertness kept in distance as it is unimaginable in this context. The ratio of politically aware or alert person is very low. But the people's participation in election, the main instrument of running democracy, is much wider than that. So it is established that mere participation does not indicate political awareness or alertness while sound election stands on that. It can be inferred that election is not sound in India.

In other way inferences about Indian democracy can be established in logical way –

Sound election stands on political awareness of mass: All sound elections are political awareness.-(A)
Political awareness of mass does not have its hold in India: No political awareness is in India. – (E)

Sound election does not have its hold in India: No sound election is in India. – (E)

The above inference is a correct as there is no fallacy. It is a valid argument in fourth figure, called CAMENES. Again,

    Democracy is based on sound election   : All democracies are sound election. – (A)

    Sound election does not have its hold in India. : No sound election is in India. – (E)

    Democracy does not have its hold in India.   : No democracy is in India. – (E)

The above inference is a correct as there is no fallacy. It is a valid argument in fourth figure, called CAMENES. Further the same conclusion can be achieved in inductive way as follows –

    i. Nation building is yet not completed.

    ii. National integrity is at a stake to day.

    iii. Task of development yet not completed.

    iv. Political socialisation regarding democracy is far from achievement.

    v. Rate of literacy is not high.

    vi. Liberty and equality is not achieved.

From the above premises it can inferred that democracy in India is hollow and there is no inductive leap.

Democracy in India has its two fold. One is its structural side, from which it is possible to proof that democracy in India acquired a deep route, and the other is the basic side which create contradiction to the former assertion [29].

The present scenario is in favour of the statement that Netajee was right in his prescience that India should adopt the system of democracy with some changes according to her unique historical context or may adopt a new system of synthesis of Communism and Fascism which would be appropriate to the then situation [20].

3. Acknowledgements

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