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SANSKRITI TRIVEDY

**AIR - 352
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POLITICAL SCIENCE



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Feedback:

~~S-12-2020~~

S-12-2021

Dear Sirs

I am extremely sorry to trouble you with my
concerning your recent letter. I have to inform you
that we have to wait until the 1st of June to receive
the money due us. We have been waiting for a long time
and have not received any answer from you. We have
been in touch with the Captain of the ship and he
has told us that he will be here on the 1st of June.
We hope that you will be able to pay us as soon as
possible. We would appreciate it if you could let us
know when you expect to pay us.

SECTION-A

QJ

(A) Religion as an identity marker has been a major factor in Indian electoral politics.

Indian independence had paid the huge price of partition and thus electoral politics based on religion, communal voting, e.g. religious minority marginalisation has been a common phenomena.

Initially in the years of 'Congress System' this was not very prominent but as various events unfolded, it became an election issue.

Uniform Civil Code has been often~~for~~ discussed in this context where certain groups want uniform personal laws.~~for~~

congress in the 1980s was criticised for its appeasement politics towards minorities and sacrificing basic human rights for protection of religious rules as seen in the famous Shah Bano case.

Other set of events that have greatly shaped the electoral politics are ~~called~~ the Babri Masjid demolition & subsequent Godhra Riots case. Paul Brass has written about such religious violence episodes as being planned program.

Religion till date continues to shape the electoral politics. despite being secular and

(B)

Indian culture and living has been deeply rooted to the environment. With the extensive exploitation of resources to achieve growth and development, the environmental degradation has taken place. Environmental movement thus has emerged to counter this degradation. It has identified a type of New Social Movement in India, where there is negotiation and agitation for quality of life.

We can identify certain ideologies trends in the environmental movement as Grha writer;

(i) Gandhianism thought is against this kind of technocratic, profit oriented development model. This economic process is not real progress because there is lack of moral progress. Rather the Swadehi, village based mode of development needs to be revisited.

Theological Marxist thought says that the rich and the haves who own the resources have exploited the environment which is being suffered by the poor and have not.

II Ecofeminists like Vandana Shiva have pointed how women who are closer to nature have suffered from the exploitation of nature on a larger extent.

thus all ideological trends agree to the environmental degradation.

(c)

Dalit movements and women's movements both have been long drawn struggles for basic rights, dignity, ^{against} exploitation. Like all marginalised sections - dalit and women movements has been active in gaining popularity.

If we talk about how dalit question has ~~of~~ had an effect on women's movement we see a number of overlaps.

We see dalit women in rural areas fighting vigorously for change, against exploitation by upper class men & women.

They have engaged themselves in self help groups, associations to be economically self reliant.

Though dalits have received the benefits of reservation, dalit women are demanding extra affirmative action because they are most marginalised of all.

Discuss the answer from the Standpoint of Dalit Feminist / detailed view of Capitalism - Mainstream perspective

(D) Green revolution refers to the collective steps of HYV seeds, extensive fertiliser application, enhanced irrigation that led to ~~an~~ increase in food grain yield

in the 1960s.

It is called short term remedy because -

It helped in securing food security for India at a time when it was borrowing to feed its people. The geopolitics was also against India at that time as it was dealing with aggression from Pakistan.

Thus Green revolution helped India being self-reliant.

But it has been termed long-term tragedy because -

→ As Byres mentions this revolution was concentrated only in states of Punjab and Haryana as it has achieved land reforms, thus deepened regional disparities.

→ P. B. Mehta writes that green revolution was tailored for large farmers thus small farmers suffered.

→ Vandana Shiva has critiqued green revolution for the deep ecological impact it had has.

→ Those farmers who were successful often became very strong pressure groups and dominated the political space, leading to marginalisation of the poor.

Thus Green Revolution as a strategy needs to be relooked before trying to adopt it in other places in India.

(2)(c) India at the time of independence had few parties in which the Congress party was the most prominent. It had no opposition from outside and thus Rajani Kothari called the Congress system of Government.

Till 1967, Congress was in power both at the center and states. Post 1967 and the Congress split, we see the opposition take strength waiting for the opportune moment to replace it. Janata Party was successful in doing so in 1977 but this didn't last long when Congress again came to power in 1979. This continued till 1989 and then ~~the~~ the political scenario changed.

We see rise in coalition governments due to no party being able to gain majority. In coalition, a number of parties come together to form the government. These parties comprise both regional and national parties.

This form of government has impacted working of the constitution and there are different views on it.

Certain thinkers like Suhas Palshikar have written in favor of coalition governments → coalition government has justified the hugely diverse country that we are because of representation from across region.

- coalition government can't take authoritative decisions because there needs to be negotiations among the parties
- coalition governments can give rest to the ordinance culture because the ordinance needs to be approved not by one but multiple parties.
- coalition avoids hasty, impulsive decision.
- coalition governments help in propagation of culture of Parliamentary system & Standing committees for greater discussion.
- There is greater check and accountability despite the positives, certain theorists like Yogendra Yadav have criticised coalition governments.
- coalition has led to unstable government for ex 1989 National Front govt, United Front govt in 1996.
- Bargaining of seats and ministerial posts reduce ~~coalition~~ democracy of its value.
- The office of Prime Minister is weakened and that impacts efficiency of council of ministers.
- There is immense loss of resources, time to sustain a coalition government

thus we see coalitions have its own share of advantages and disadvantages which need to be studied carefully.

Coalition as a form of government is here to stay, even the 2014 mandate

BJP has been failed by few like T. Sridharan as a new coalition

discusses
with political
movements the
nature of new party
and goes to each govt's
constitutional set-up
importance

(B) According to various think tanks and organisations like Association for Democratic Reform, our parliament has been highly unrepresentative of in terms of gender. Since independence there have been less than 100 MPs to take oath.

This low representation of women in parliament is actually reflection of the condition of women in the society.

→ Women have been illiterate and thus political participation has been low. At the time of independence $\frac{1}{2}$, female literacy was a shocking $\frac{7}{100}$.

→ women have not controlled the access to economic resources property thus their chances of contesting elections, which is a costly affair has been low.

→ there is a deeply entrenched taboo regarding women controlling positions of power, decision making in the society that stinks of patriarchy.

→ Even though there were participation by women, they were proxy in nature as the decision making role is snatched by the male members for family.

As the data shows we see that there is general rise in women participation as voters in the 1990s across both rural

and urban settings since 1990s. This can be due to -

- rise in women's literacy
- With economic liberalisation, there is general rise of middle class; women have also taken up economic opportunities and are trying to be independent.
- the constitutional mandate to give $\frac{1}{3}$ rd seats to women in ~~top~~ local seats has also added to women's participation.
- better political education of masses.
- political parties realising the importance of women as half of population as electorate.

Thus overall we see rise in women's participation as voters but still there place in position making spaces are less.

The women's reservation bill has been contentious issue and hasn't been able to pass.

*Successive
with
Government's
calculus of
dissemination
parties / lack of
electoral
political
outreach*

Q3:

(A)

Governor is a constitutional office that plays a key role in the working of our federal apparatus. He acts as the link between the centre and state for their communication.

He ~~also~~ plays a key role as seen under various role of ~~top~~ governor -

Legislative → governor receives the bill for presidential consent if he is of the opinion that only state's opinion is insufficient. Through this mechanism it ~~controls~~ helps centre to control the functioning of state.

under Art 356

→ if emergency is at place, it becomes the central office in legislative process.

Executive → it ensures that executive direction of centre is followed by the state, if not it can suggest centre to impose emergency under Article 356.

→ it dissolves the state assembly if the majority is lost

Financial → ~~under financial emergency~~
Governor's role in the union-state relation has come under harsh criticism of being biased and tilted towards

This specially comes into picture when centre and state are ruled by different parties which has been infamously termed as 'skip motherly treatment'.

It is also seen that as governor has no fixed tenure, the ruling party of center often wants to appoint a friendly governor.

The dynamic of governor also came under scrutiny in the S. R. Bommai case of 1994 which

underlined that only the floor of the house can decide on the majority and not the governor's office. It also condemned the indiscriminate usage of A 356.

Thus there is need to relook the Bommai judgement and appoint non political, neutral people into the office of governor.

Success with greatest respect
to executive misuse of power
Sup with government
with Governor's self rule
and Commissions

(B)

Changing Socio Economic

At the time of independence, Sir Ivor Jennings had described the assembly parliament as 'lawyers' Paradise', This showed the dominance of educated, elite, urban legislators in our Parliament.

But such a composition of the Parliament has seen changes as described below -

- (1.) There has been rise in participation of people from SC, SC, ST categories as underlined by Y. Yadav in 'Democratic Upsurge'
- (2.) Rise in women legislators due to greater awareness.
- (3.) Lesser participation of younger people.
Most new legislators are from dynastic families. This shows apathy, disinterest of youth from the politics.
- (4.) Abhijit Banerjee in one of his essays wrote how deepening identity politics and change it identity of legislators has led to corrupt and incompetent leaders.
- (5.) Supreme Court has also raised concerns regarding criminalizing trend in our political space as more and more legislators are have cases pending against them.
- (6.) Role of money in politics has risen attracting wealthy legislators.

This change in socio-economic profile has also ~~from~~ impacts of parliaments' function → with more women legislators, issues like domestic violence, sexual crimes have been discussed and legislated upon.

- Push towards gender responsive budgeting
- democratic upsurge of lower caste has led to greater political awareness among the people. for ex - changes made to SC & ST Prevention of Atrocities Act was protested by legislators and people
- with rise in wealthy legislators coming from business class, policies are being ~~top~~ biased towards liberal capitalist tradition for ex - The 4 labour laws codes have been come under radar to hurt labour rights in name of 'ease of doing business'.

Here there is definite reflection of socio economic ~~legislators~~ profile of legislators on the functioning of parliament.

The diverse
but coherent
and
stable
functioning
of
parliament

Q5
(A)

SECTION-B

Political communication refers to the transfer of agenda, information, progress level to the people by the government or political parties to the citizens.

It has been carried by various means like door-to-door visits, newspapers, radio, rallies, television and gaining huge popularity - social media.

Social media is seen as -

- communicating agenda of parties to electoral people during elections
- use of audio-video medium to attract attention and thus votes
- Updates can be given to the audience which engagement of people.
- Instant feedback of people can be obtained through opinion poll like features that these platforms offer.

Though social media becomes an effective tool for political communication to reach to all, it has its own drawback.

- can be used to provoke hatred among groups, communities
- can mislead people through the fake information
- people voicing their opinions can be coerced through sections like 66A of IT Act

Thus social media through proper regulation, fact checking mechanisms can become effective in political communication.

(b) Caste becomes such a central concept to our politics that Louis Dummont has written that in India people don't caste their votes but vote their caste.

This association to the identity of caste has been since long but it becomes an issue of politics clearly since our independence. Since independence, the upper castes had taken up prominent positions of power. Congress was notorious for being 'party of Brahmins'. It was later in 1960s that Yadav cells First Democratic Uprising takes place where political participation of backward castes rose.

With the Mandal issue taking strength and reservations for SC, ST, OBCs secured constitutionally, in 1990s there was the 2nd Democratic Uprising as participation of lower castes rose in politics says Yadav. Christophe Jaffrelot has called this India's silent revolution.

Different views have emerged over impact of ^{caste} politics on Indian politics. Rajni Kothari and Jaffrelot have appreciated such consciousness regarding caste while thinkers like C.P. Bhambhani, P.B. Mehta, A. Varshney have said such identification of caste prominently has taken toll on developmental politics.

(c) Indian democracy being the indirect representative model, voting process is central to it. Voting Behaviour refers to this sum total of factors that shape how a person picks its candidate.

If we look at the determinants of voting behaviour, there are two broad categories

1) short term determinants :-

- charismatic leadership
- sympathy votes due to an accident, assassination.
- economic factors like - inflation, rise in essential prices
- Revelation about the malpractices, corrupt conduct of the incumbent.
- Electoral campaigning upon a pressing issue on - 'Garibi Hatao'

2) long term determinants

- Ideological position of party - whether the party is liberal or conservative in its outlook
- Religion - though certain experts have denied communal voting but data supports it
- Caste - becomes a key criteria for people to choose their leader due to the psychological impact connection
- impact of upbringing, familial contacts.

Thus we can say that no vote is cast by only single factors, rather a multitude factors play a part.

(D) Nehruvian consensus refers to the large agreement among various parties legislators regarding Nehruvian policies of strong public sector, mixed economy model, heavy industrialization to name a few.

This consensus was a mixture of principle and pragmatism. Principle because there was a large consensus in the parliament regarding the soviet style socialist model of development.

There were a few opposition to this principle but consensus was built due to pragmatism that Nehruvian principles ~~lack~~ down -

- (a) Push towards agriculture in the first plan was needed for food security
- (b) Focus on heavy industry was needed for self-reliance.
- (c) In a nascent democracy like India, state had to hold hands for development
- (d) Need for protection to infant industry led to inward looking foreign policy
- (e) Focus on western education to match development standards

Thus through balance of Principle & Pragmatism Nehruvian principles were unchallenged and treated sacrosanct.

Qb (A) Panchayati Raj institutions derive from Grandman thought of village based government. They were a part of our governance structure since independence but had irregularities regarding resources, jurisdiction, conduct of elections and lack of political will of the governments at the state level.

They gain prominence through 73rd constitutional amendment Act which regularised and codified PRIs in India.

PRIs have been highly successful in rural development and economic planning through local development plans and participation of people at grassroots, there are limitations —

- (1) Lack of institutional set up, no permanent offices, structures.
- (2) Apprehensions of state government is devolution of powers to PRIs.
- (3) Lack of funds as grants and transfer from state and centre. It has less avenue to raise revenues through limited taxation powers.
- (4) Participation of women, SC, ST are only in official books; decision making mostly by upper class males.
- (5) Lack of political awareness and education among rural masses.
- (6) Sometimes there is overlap with functions performed by state.

These issues add to make PRIs ineffective and thus all in need of remedy.

The solution of making Ministry of Panchayati Raj as a Department of Rural Development Ministry wouldn't be a step in the right direction because PRIs, which are an independent third tier of our federal structure would lose their autonomy.

It would lead to further centralization of the developmental process going against the principle of democratic decentralization.

Rather focus should be on making PRIs more effective, autonomous and transparent. This can be done through -

→ Regularising electoral process

→ Enhancing revenues through taxation avenues, statutory & discretionally grants, ~~finance commission~~ recommendations

*with discuss
comment & critice
how we have
without
official
failure of
facilities /
protection of
federations / move
making it dept of
Rural Development
Ministry*

B)

Coalition politics have become a reality today as most states and centre is ruled by coalition governments since the 1990s. Various issues have been raised regarding coalition politics as being unstable, causing delay etc.

As coalition politics are a reality today to make democracy work, we need solution to how coalition can be smooth -

- (1) Post poll alliance shouldn't be promoted and pre poll alliance should be given priority
- (2) anti defection law needs to be strengthened so that there is control over legislators' switching parties to remain in power.
- (3) Coalition partners should not engage only in arithmetic of majority rather also focus on ideological similarities to make the coalition work.
- (4) The ministerial position should be given on the basis of seats contributed to the coalition.
- (5) The role of PM should not be compromised because PM is the central actor to parliamentary responsible government