

Editorial

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Return of Modi-Shah combo, The 2019 mandate

In democracy people's mandate should be respected. The BJP once more has been given the people's mandate to rule the country. Narendra Modi's personality is one factor for the massive victory of BJP. Saying so, the dedicated hard core grass root workers of the BJP cannot be ignored. The party is now the people's choice. The controversial demonetization, introduction of GST, issue of CAB which had flared up massive protest and the party's stand on it gives no impact when it comes in winning election. People like it or not, the choice doesn't really matter on issue of job crisis and the multiple issues that has been facing but it is the politics of religion and identity that the BJP rightly picked up and easily gets the mandate. The mandate is given for the love and belief to the promises that Modi had made by riding the Nationalism chariot. Riding the Nationalism chariot for the Hindu and of the Hindu makes the people convinced that for India, resided by majority Hindu, Modi - Shah combo ideology is perhaps considered the only option for the people who want to see India as a nation of Hindu only.

There may be many other reasons for the BJP to achieve such a landslide victory with number crossing 300, despite the fact that there were scores of criticisms to the programme and policy of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his tenure. It would not be wrong when one say that the position of the BJP was not very popular among the people across the country.

When hard attack were flooded to the Modi government against the controversial demonetisation, GST, farmers' suicide and unemployment, the Modi - Shah combo showed no worry and kept going with their policy and programme hitting back with different theory to justify their stand. Almost all neutral political analysts are of the view that there is a little chance of BJP returning to power. But all the issues were diverted with the Pulwama terror attack at which 42 CRPF jawans were killed by a suicide bomber. Modi Govt. was quick to response and even permitted the Indian armed forces to strike at terrorist camps inside Pakistani territory using Indian Airforce fighter planes. The Indian force claimed destruction of 3 terrorist camps located at Balakot which reinstated the position of the political party.

There are several other reasons noticed to the second coming of Modi government in the Hindu majority land. One among such is the failure of the Congress organisation as it still continues to be the dynastic politics.

Leaving aside others, Modi's return is perhaps a CHAMATKAR something good for the Hindu fanatics may be fulfilled.

As for Manipur, it is left with no choice but to perform *Ras Leela* at the palm of Modiji.

'The North Remembers', Smriti Irani after dethroning Rahul Gandhi

Agency
New Delhi May 24,

'The North Remembers' the victories and the defeats. It has been a month of wins and losses, be it the finale of HBO fantasy drama 'Game of Thrones' or the Lok Sabha Elections 2019.

From the triumph of the 'Starks' in the show to the landslide win for the BJP in the 17th general elections, the two have followed a close line. Smriti Irani, BJP candidate from Uttar Pradesh's Amethi constituency, after defeating her rival, Congress candidate Rahul Gandhi, has summed up her success in a quote from the ultra-popular series. She shared a silhouette picture of a

direwolf on the backdrop of the moon with a quote from the series 'The North Remembers'.

This also comes in the wake of BJP's triumph over most parts in North India.

Acknowledging Smriti's win in the North and adding that there is love from the South too, an Instagram user commented, "Dont worry mam there is love from south kerala too just that we need better speakers communicators and planning in kerala we tried our best but not enough follow up or action was there suresh ji kumanam ji and k surendran ji are awesome candidates who if there was proper planning and time with resources could have yielded results."

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A New India Has Emerged and Narendra Modi Is Its Voice

Courtesy The wire
By: Sidharth Bhatia

Among the many reactions on social media to the victory of the National Democratic Alliance were tweets and posts pointing out that while Atishi Marlena of the Aam Aadmi Party had lost her seat in Delhi, Pragya Singh Thakur of the Bharatiya Janata Party had won in Bhopal. The former is Oxford educated and had worked to improve government schools, the latter is an accused in a terrorism case and is currently out on bail-their respective electoral performances were contrasted with each other. Atishi lost to Gautam Gambhir, who in his short pre-poll political career has shown he can be as hyper-nationalistic and aggressive as anyone else in his party, while Thakur defeated veteran Congress politician and former chief minister of the state Digvijay Singh. What did these results suggest about India, asked these posts.

The comparison is a bit off the mark since the voters of Delhi and of Bhopal are not the same and other local factors may have played a role, but the point is well taken. Neither did Atishi's commitment to education impress voters nor did Thakur's controversial remarks about Gandhi's killer bother her constituents. While voters disregarded Thakur's hate-filled statement, and they showed no interest in Atishi's achievements, Atishi weakly tried to invoke her caste, thinking it would help her, but no one paid the slightest attention.

It is a sobering, even troubling thought that Thakur is going to be in the Indian parliament, the symbol of the country's democracy; she will swear allegiance to the constitution, which stands for a secular India which she and her fellow party leaders object to. What other views will she express as a representative of the people?

On a broader level, this contrast parallels with the battle between the BJP and the opposition, mainly the Congress. The BJP has made no secret of where it stands on the question of minority rights, on Hindu dominance, on patriotism; the Congress, with its allegations about corruption and crony capitalism, its constant attacks on Narendra Modi, found no takers. Nor did its well-thought-out manifesto with a plan for the future inspire anyone or indeed the 'soft Hindutva' that the party's brains trust came up with as a strategy to take on the BJP on its own

turf. Modi's success shows that he had the measure of the voter's pulse, whether he asked for a vote in the name of Indian soldiers or talked loosely about the nuclear weapons. Growth, development and jobs were nowhere mentioned. Yet voters gave him a thumping majority. What indeed does it say about India?

More than the systemic problems in the Congress and in the regional parties — lack of money, poor candidate selection, weak messaging, lack of alliances — the key learning from these election results is that the emergent Indian voter is looking for something that no other party but the BJP has to offer. The BJP not just articulates this new Indian's thoughts — often in ways that must alarm anyone concerned with the values that have been central to India so far — but is part of that new narrative. It emerges from the very social order it speaks for — the BJP is emblematic but also a product of that mindset that has taken root in modern India.

The Congress during its heyday wanted to mould the nation in a particular way; the BJP is a product moulded by the nation. Those who have voted for the BJP — and mainly for Narendra Modi — don't merely think he will bring them whatever he promised, but also because they see themselves in him. He is not just their representative, he is one of them because he has risen from among them. The *chavivallah* story, true or not, is a compelling one, because it not just inspires, it exemplifies the feeling that a humble man has shown the privileged their place.

Modi, over the last few years, has not let go of any opportunity to talk about how he has broken through the ranks of those who have controlled power — political, social but also cultural — in India and how he has breached those elitist citadels. Phrases like Lutyens Delhi, Harvard educated or even Khan Market gang, all signal the same thing — what do these insular, refined and deracinated big shots think of themselves? I will show them. And he has shown them. In this image, the elite is Left-liberal, secular (i.e. pandering to the minorities) and remote from the masses, i.e. the 'real' Indian. To this real Indian, the Muslim, the Dalit and the poor in general are needlessly asking for too much instead of

working hard and making a good life for themselves. They need to be kept in their place, even if this means occasionally lynching or killing a few. The real Indian craves for order, not chaos; a powerful Centre, not noisy regionalists and structured caste hierarchies where each one knows their place. Merit is the way to rise up in life, which these Indians think they have in large measure.

It is no surprise that Modi enjoys such support even among educated professionals, especially in the cities and overseas — they all see themselves as people who have achieved everything on their own without help from anyone, by sheer talent and diligence, and not through well entrenched family networks. The possibility that they may have class and caste privilege simply does not strike them.

The successful businessman will boast about how he came from a humble background and worked day or night, ignoring how community networks may have played a role in his success; the IIT graduate who made it big in the US has no time for homilies about subsidised education in institutions of higher learning set up by Jawaharlal Nehru or the fact that he may be from the upper caste where education and access were taken for granted. Modi strikes a chord with him when he talks about his own journey from being a tea seller to becoming the prime minister — they see themselves in his image. In contrast, Rahul Gandhi looks to be a man who has done little in his life except being born into a powerful family.

Resentment is a powerful emotion and Modi not just channels it but also owns it. He speaks for the resentful because he is one of them; he — like many in the BJP and the larger Sangh *parivar* — has always harboured a grudge against the Nehru-Gandhis not merely because of their policies but because of their privileges. The patrician Nehru is contrasted with the earthy Sardar Patel — it is not merely their political differences but their socio-cultural ones that matter — the first went to school and university in England and mingled with the high and mighty, the second was a trade unionist who wore Indian clothes and remained in touch with his modest but 'Indian' roots. This sense of alienation from the old order and the feelings of inferiority is

garbed in religion. Simply being against something or someone cannot unite people; the binding factor has to be a higher cause which can provide direction and sense of purpose. The Sangh's Hindutva project fits the bill, because it evokes something that is familiar to everyone in India. To be Hindu is the natural order of things — those who are not, are not real Indians. Decades of hammering home this point has finally borne fruit, as newer generations have grown up with no sense of history or the country.

Modi has cleverly exploited this, because he understands this sentiment. His own upbringing in the Sangh environment means he heard such propaganda from an early age. Add to that his communication skills and the crafty shaping of his persona. The optics of his meditation in a cave in Kedarnath was carefully crafted — Modi portrays the ascetic who does not want anything for himself, who is ready to live an austere life without craving from material goods and who goes back to India's great religious traditions; At the same time he can bomb the troubling neighbour Pakistan and take on the Gandhi family. It is all fake, of course, but for his followers, blinded by devotion, it is real. There is nothing, but nothing, that Rahul Gandhi, with all his talk of Rafale or his promise of a universal basic income, can offer as a counter to this level of symbolism.

The new Indian has spoken. In the coming months and years, he — and in many instances, she — will demand more and more. Their own man is the prime minister; he instinctively knows what they want and he will deliver. The minorities, already crushed, will be completely sidelined and their citizenship and loyalty will be questioned; dissenters will be punished and every institution will be suborned for the higher good — the greater glory of Mother India. They have a dream for India, and Modi, one of them, is the implementer of that dream.

The old order is vanishing. It had a lot of weaknesses and had become distorted, but it held true and at least held out a promise of a just and equitable society. The new India wants to discard it in toto — and from among these new Indians, Modi has arisen to take them to their true destiny.

How Slavery is Taught in Our Schools

Courtesy Kashmir Observer
By: Meer Abbas

Thinkers change systems and shift paradigms, and so modern education is as careful as it can be to avoid producing too many people who are capable of sustained critical thinking. How a particular stuff of education is an accumulation of slaves and we are pleased to have such sheep - sheds in the form of colleges at every nook and crook of the state, students who shine with highest class of numbers are the most possible victims of this system. No doubt, we call it the most competitive survival but we entirely forget to address it as the race of the donkeys.

Every college in Jammu and Kashmir produces almost nursery of students with the high ranks in the academics and they are bound to face capital slavery. After three decades of rapid expansion, stakeholders are in a state of deep soul searching as the practices of a runaway higher education system become manifest. From poor governance and funding gaps to outright fraud and capacity constraints.

One of the most wasted time of my life has been during my phase of education. Probably thirty years of my life. And thankfully, I did not learn a lot of things which saved me later. I won't blame my school or college. They were doing their job, probably coming down from the same education system; we can't expect them to break out of it. The idea to post about this came when I was thinking about a couple of friends

who are passing out of their Masters & PhDs, struggling to find a job. I wonder how much time and money is wasted in the quest of a piece of paper that ultimately no one cares about in today's world. Countless of my talented friends are doing nothing that they love. And that thought makes me angry. If we keep producing average people at such a great speed & scale, we are creating a whole underworld of desperate pass-outs without direction.

BEWARE! A few of you who might have already done your higher or probably highest studies would get offended, and that's understood. But when a major chunk of our workforce comes out of these colleges and universities without any skills and when companies have to spend more money to train them to be ready for work, it makes amply clear that something is seriously wrong with this educational system.

The immediate consequences of an education system that allows those practices is that it undermines confidence in the credentials of high education. More insidious however, is the fact that the bearers of such undeserved academic credentials get to be trusted with critical roles in society. Looked at from that context, the high levels of graft in the private and public sectors, the seeming lack of any form of consciousness in the management of public resources by those to

whom the responsibility has been delegated and the inability of our bureaucrats to anticipate and solve the most basic problems, should actually not be surprising. The big challenge now is how to break the cycle and undo the damage. A simple mechanical response is unlikely to achieve much. Besides plugging the gaps, there is a need to rethink the entire philosophy informing higher education in the region and how its goals can best be achieved.

Poor governance in the sector is a reflection of the general failure of governance and lack of accountability at the societal level. A good starting point would be to institute a culture of accountability among our elite, depoliticise key appointments, shift the focus from paper credentials to practical skills and broaden the choices for education beyond a degree certificate. Reform should also not be rushed either because part of the maladies the sector is suffering today are the result of politically opportunistic policies in the past.

Faced with shrinking economies and ballooning populations of young people, governments from the mid-1980s resorted to rapid expansion of lower education while not making adequate investment in higher education. This created a degree of discordance in the system that would later yield barely regulated participation in provision of higher education by the private sector and the commercialisation of public universities.

Education is the soul of success

which means a worth living, dignified life and most eminent thing is freedom and independent life. The power of education extends beyond the development of skills we need for economic success. It can contribute to nation-building and reconciliation but the education provided to the students of the colleges today is the gateway to the slavery and dependence. Appreciating individual existence, encouraging self determination and to give open spaces for innovations and creativity is far away from the system. Our sole purpose is to maximise the level of compromise for the smooth slavery in our students. Any kind of schooling where children are not allowed to question their teachers or explore and understand their external and internal influence/environment begets only uneducated slaves with a piece of paper called degree.

When you are truly educated you will be broad minded and open to arguments and discussions without prejudice or violence (in spite of your beliefs and morality). Very rarely do we find a truly educated man/woman. Education is the key to eliminate gender bias, casteism, regionalism, inequality, poor and rich divide, to prevent needless and illogical approaches and mental sickness and create an ideal society. And in a knowledge economy, education is the only currency by which nations maintain economic competitiveness and can free themselves from the predatory aggressors.