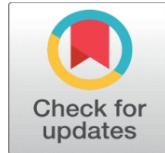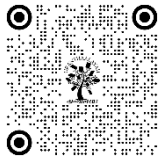# CONTEMPORARY DIFFICULTIES IN INDIAN POLITICS

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ABSTRACT

Indian politics today is embroiled in a multidimensional crisis that is testing its democratic fortitude. At the heart of these challenges is a rising political polarization driven by more majoritarian nationalism and ideological extremism that further builds communal divisions and chokes pluralist voices. Then there are the centralising impulses which are already straining federalism, like many other controversial measures, such as the eventual repeal of the associated farm laws, and the occasional tussles between the states and the union over the distribution of Goods and Service tax and revenue, with state Governments flexing against the imposition of national economic policies and opening the issue of fiscal federalism. Admittedly, an economy that is growing once again has failed to make lopsided socioeconomic inequity disappear with unemployment, agrarian distress and informal sector vulnerability triggering an all-time high of agitation and disenchantment with gatekeeping governments. Courts, media, investigative agencies and other institutions necessary for democracy have their credibility in free fall when they are accused of executive interference and cheating themselves of independence, obviating accountability. So, there is no social justice — caste discrimination, gender violence, and minority marginalisation serve as stimuli for identity-based mobilisations. All of which democratically define electoral integrity: populist rhetoric, opaque campaign financing and the alleged weaponization of the state's agencies. At the same time, environmental destruction and geopolitical tensions detract from sustainable development. These challenges also make a case for structural reform, collaborative federalism, and responsible policymaking — and, these challenges also provide opportunities to deepen the roots of democracy. But India will only risk cementing governance deficits and social fragmentation and undermining its constitutional ideals of justice, liberty and equality without bipartisan conversation and inclusive reforms. While working primarily within the ambit of ideology with the aid of fact-checking, social media literacy, and other personal-education tools, in an ever-more-polarized polity we must craft rapid structural and civic interventions to buttress the intersection of governance and democracy.

Keywords: Politics, Issues, Physical Strength, Indian Political System, Democratic Countries, Rajyasabha, Lok Sabha, Indian Constitution

1. INTRODUCTION

The Meaning of Politics

The phrase "politics" comes from the Greek word's polis, meaning "community," and poli, meaning "several," signifying that it's developed as one of collective decision making. In broad strokes, politics is the activity people undertake to make, uphold and change the rules by which they live. This deals with the exercise of power and the distribution of limited resources, as well as conflicting interests of different people, groups, or states. Politically, who and what is chosen to represent which other components defines "who gets what, when, and how," controlling laws, methods, and practices of the decision-making groups. It is intimately connected with the dynamics of obtaining and exercising power within a nation or a society.

Power and Resource Allocation

Politics is, at its core, about how power and resources are distributed. It is how societies choose to distribute scarce values like resources, wealth, opportunity or rights—between competing interests. It is the mechanisms through which decisions are made, be it through (legal) rules, policies or negotiations often, it is the contest among people or groups in order to get their fair share of power and resources.

Conflict and cooperation as fundamental dynamics

Politics functions on two basic dimensions: conflict and collaboration. The conflict comes from the fight of opposing forces that have different views and/or tastes or needs. On the contrary, cooperation can be defined as working together to achieve common goals, in which groups collaborate to meet mutual challenges or help their interest, offsetting individual aspirations with the good of society.

David Easton:

"A political system is that system of communication through which values are effectively transmitted for a given society."

Max Weber:

"The essence of a political involvement is the order of that involvement which is executed permanently on the basis of territory and based on the use and threat of physical force."

Robert Dahl:

"A political system is any set of human relationships that involves power, authority, or influence."

Indian Political System: An Overview

India: The second largest colonized nation after China having the weight of the 2nd largest democracy on its shoulders Parliamentary institutions in accordance with the Constitution of 1950 govern the politics of India. It has now been developed with the passage of time and is the basic political structure of the country. Constitution: The supreme law governing the country, which was prepared by the Constituent Assembly. India being the world's largest democracy, the Indian Parliament, i.e., the most powerful legislative organ in the country forms the basis of law-making and policy formulation.

India has a bicameral parliament consisting of the following two houses:

Rajya Sabha (Council of States)

Lok Sabha (House of the People)

The Upper house (Rajya Sabha) represent the states and union territories of India, thus functioning as a forum to discuss national issues and the needs of various regions. The Lok Sabha consists of the people, as its members are directly elected in general elections. Both these houses together make laws, debates policies and oversee the functioning of the executive forming the main body structure of India's legislative process. Constitutions are the fundamental principles by which an organization or entity is governed, and in the case of India, they strive to include each and every citizen in the decision-making process, and Democracy is not only a system of governance but a living framework within it. India has an elaborate set of checks and balances, which makes India one of the most complex democracies in the world. These pillars are the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. These institutions function together to uphold democratic values and maintain checks and balances so that no branch grows too powerful[1].

The Evolution of the Indian Political System

India became an independent country in 1947, and it instituted its political system. From secularism to integrity, India has come a long way since those days of darkness and has risen to be the largest democracy in the world. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the other framers of the Indian Constitution developed an elaborate framework as an operating manual for the nation. But they did not foresee all the complexities that decades later they would have to grapple with; while they paved the way for a stable political system, they also set off a chain of consequences.

In order to understand this, we will have to read a little about Indian politics.

[1] Rosenberg, M. (1951). The Meaning of Politics in Mass Society. *The Public Opinion Quarterly*, *15*(1), 5–15.

Regionalism and Secessionist Movements:

India: Regionalism and secessionist movements: The issue of Regionalism and secessionist movements has always been prominent in India's political landscape. These political movements emerge when political regional parties are more focused on regional issues at the cost of national interests which are nurturing on the basis of identity, culture, and economic disparity. As regional parties become stronger, they sometimes demand more autonomy for their states, claiming their people are underserved or underrepresented at the national level. In a few instances, they have blossomed into calls for complete independence or secession such as in certain sections of the Northeast and Kashmir. These movements tend to initially represent a struggle for justice, fairness, or vision to improve governance, their side effects can pose substantial threat to national unity. Regional autonomy can breed tension between state leaders and the central government, seeking to complicate the governance process. The central government probably perceives that the pan-India demands of these struggles threaten to unravel India, not just because they are fatal challenges to the idea of India but also because they challenge the very foundation of India's federal structure.

Insufficient Attention-Getting Tactics

During elections, not only do parties clash with each other, but there is also internal conflict within parties. For instance, during the Gujarat election, Congress veteran Mani Shankar Aiyar criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling him "a cultureless low." This is not the first time politicians have used negative language against their rivals. Unfortunately, this problem exists across all political parties, and little action is taken to address irresponsible behavior among politicians.

Unskilled Ministers

One of the biggest issues with Indian politics is that a lot of politicians are semi-educated, under-informed, or do not have the relevant degrees. That becomes a diversion for the more educated politicians, and the less educated ones remain in executive positions which usually tells adversely on the government of the country.

Entitlement to Success

He demands a universal baseline protocol for public life, inside and outside Parliament, for all political parties. The public expects all parties to ensure that there is no space for violence in any form. Both parties have their own systems of checks and balances to keep leaders and members on the public path. But political parties often do not live up to those expectations. Communal Strife Issues of communalism continue to be matters of grave concern within the Indian polity. Politicians have frequently pitted different communities against one another Hindus vs. Muslims, for example, and Marathas vs. Dalits[2]. They take advantage of these divisions to secure votes and remain relevant on the national stage, treating communal politics as a tool to gain electoral success a strategy that undermines any hope for a unified nation.

The Challenges Facing a Coalition Government

Coalition governments have come to power in India in the last few years. This means they now must depend on regional parties to form a government if challenges arise. The politics of coalition government requires the ruling party to accommodate the demands of coalition partners claused by a series of compromises that do not always facilitate sound governance. The Rajya Sabha, for example, failed to pass the Triple Talaq Bill under the coalition regime. Coalition politics slow decision-making and make progress harder.

Impact of Third and Fourth Parties

Today in India, there are two major political parties: Congress and BJP. Using power is a delicate balance and a political party can use power keeping in mind the welfare of public. But, ignoring the regional sentiments have promoted regional parties. These parties tend to shun alliances with national parties as well, which saps the strength of the national parties. Over the past few years, the political structure of India has become increasingly dependent on regional and sub-regional parties, causing the state-level party system to become fragmented.

Family Politics

In India, there is a common cause of family politics that is when politicians' family members come and rule the political system. Politicians' family members usually mirror their victories when it comes to politics as well. So, the

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[2] Rajarajan, R. (2007). SECULARISM IN INDIAN POLITICS: THEORY AND PRACTICE. *The Indian Journal of Political Science*, *68*(2), 403–412.

balance of power tends to come to reside with a few families only, meaning political influence is concentrated. Such a practice impedes merit-based representation and tends to choke the emergence of new leaders. But India has historically been the dominion of a handful of political families, and party rule is relatively recent including its own, the BJP.

Tradition in Politics

Politics based on heritage is akin to family politics, but it most often settles in after the death of a leader. And most political parties hand out seats to the dead leader's family, so there's little room for regular citizens to ascend to power. Politically connected family members fill our Parliament instead of the wider population thus excluding the youth from politics as a whole.

Community-Based Politics

In rural areas, caste politics is one of the most problematic issues in India. Political parties in villages are usually caste based, with people of the same caste supporting the same party. As a result, it results in declining the caste of which are marginalized, discriminated and are not given any government benefit and welfare scheme. Caste-based voting continues as a linchpin for influencing high poverty levels in rural areas, despite attempts at curbing poverty through specialized initiatives areas[3].

Businessmen in Politics, Politicians in Business

Indian business is increasingly entangled in political incidents, with politicians turning businessmen and businessmen becoming politicians. Parliament and the Legislative Assembly are full of filthy rich and people with commercial interest. The government has increasingly contracted out services to the private sector as traditional government services were poorly managed. Politicians regularly enact laws and policies beneficial to their businesses. It is a confluence of business and politics that is exposed to vices such as corruption and inefficiency, which adds to the political process the face of a maze.

2. CONCLUSION

But at a time and place where the most populous democracy on earth, India, is standing at a crossroads confronting many complex challenges threatening the resilience of its politics. However, while we believe that this progress could be possible due to its democratic underpinnings, there are systemic challenges that threaten social advancement such as polarization, corruption and inequality, which can erode inclusive governance. The glaring power imbalance in the hands of elites, coupled with the inefficiencies of bureaucracy in the face of identity-driven politics, threatens to alienate the voices of the marginalized through majoritarianism, thereby cancelling the constitutional pledge of justice and equality. Data till October 2023. Through systems of proportional representation and transparent funding: I mean full transparency and openness in how money is used in politics, these can democratize representation and curtail monopolies. Rebuilding faith and accountability in institutions: Institutions like Election Commission, judiciary should be empowered. What to do about it: Responding to social turmoil also needs something more: perhaps need-based, even proactive, action: bridging urban-rural divides, solving caste and gender justice questions, talking to mend communal splits. One call to action like this could have made a difference Grassroots governance (Panchayati Raj) is one of the ways to decentralize, trees can enter the reality if local bodies have agency, anti-corruption surely has to cross over the page. Harnessed for pluralistic policymaking, we can use it as energy to go through India's diversity often seen as divisiveand into its strength. Make it by ensuring collaborative federalism; ethical leadership and civic engagement for equitable development. As similar challenges engulf democracies worldwide, India's legacy will be its ability to harmonise growth with inclusion. The path is to take back the democratic spaces bring youth, women and minorities into decision-makingand that politics be a service not a power. India can transform challenges into opportunities and ensure democracy delivers for all its citizens by adopting measures of transparency, accountability, and social justice. Only then can it emerge as the world's beacon on participatory governance and sustainable equity.

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[3] GILLESPIE, M. D. (2014). THE FAMILY AS AN ECONOMIC INSTITUTION: HISTORICAL CONTINGENCIES AND THE GREAT RECESSION. *International Journal of Sociology of the Family*, *40*(1), 1–26.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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None.

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