



## EMERGING TRENDS IN INDIAN POLITICS



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### Abstract

The dawn of 21<sup>st</sup> has witnessed some new features of Indian politics that seem not to be truly democratic. These features are neither of dictatorship nor of totalitarianism rather do they depict declining capacity of welfare state. The effects of globalization on Indian politics has created an imbalance between interests of social classes and corporate interests which compelled the political regimes to adopt certain measures that can be called post democracy. There has been a sea of changes in nature of party politics, agenda setting, policy priorities, and role of media and aspirations of people. The present paper intends to underline the features of Indian politics in context of party politics, growing corporate interventions and role of media in the changed scenario.

**Keywords:** Democratic Consolidation, Post Democracy, Party Politics, Corporate World, and Media

### Introduction

In last two-three decades, some new trends have appeared in Indian politics. These changes have gone against the features of true democracy. The major factor leading to these changes have been the growing significance of corporate world in governing process for two reasons - ensuring prospects of fast economic growth in the country and accruing financial support by the political actors. This has brought a striking paradigmatic shift in Indian politics that has come on surface in recent past. These changes and paradigmatic shifts in democratic functioning need to be underlined and analyzed in order to understand the changed complexions of Indian politics. The theoretical frame work of 'post - democracy' seems to be a relevant parameter to trace the emerging features of working of Indian democracy in last few decades particularly since dawn of 21st century. As such the present paper is a modest attempt to trace the 'post democracy' features in Indian politics.

### Post Democracy: The Nomenclature of Emerging Trends

Owing to growing interventions of market forces, there has been shift in governance process that ignore the interest of the people. Some western social & political scientists like Colin Crouch and Robert Rorty termed these inevitable changes and paradigmatic shifts in democracy as 'post democracy'. The emerging features of working of democracy in developing countries are queer in nature that neither can be called truly democratic nor undemocratic. The basic framework of democracy remains the same but the operation of new has come into existence to reduce the importance of democracy, however, democracy has still have left its mark and strong traces around, hence 'post democracy'. It calls attention to recognized democracies that are losing some of their foundations and evolving towards an aristocratic regime.

- In order to mark the 'running evolution', it becomes pertinent to have an idea on the ideals of operative part of democracy.
- Which have witnessed changes owing to globalization? A number of scholars have attempted to articulate the parameters of democracy in order to measure its level of

Banerjee of TMC observed 'Sonia Gandhi' as major agenda of Modi while asked by a journalist to tell her about Modi's agenda. Lalu Yadav of RJD heavily burst on Modi and Amit Shah. He termed Modi as killer of Godhra and Amit Shah as demon ("Rakas andpisach" in terms of Lalu). Rahul branded Modi as 'suited booted' man and criticised his '56inches wide chest' claims. Not only this, in UP where Assembly elections is due shortly, Mayawati has been abused with vulgar and morally repulsive words (not to be quoted) by a BJP politician. Besides, there are host of examples of abusive languages used during election campaigns by the politicians. All these are not only un-parliamentary rather un-democratic too, because people have nothing to do with these comments.

### Conclusion

The mentioned emerging trends in Indian politics can be matched with features of post-democracy. No doubt, these trends are inevitable in the post - globalisation period but these are not truly democratic. The nexus of politician-corporate-media has forced the policy preferences of the political parties ignore the democratic norms and people's choices. In the wake of these effects, the role of media has also tilted towards market forces by ignoring the democratic responsibilities. As such, there emerged trends like authoritative decision making by political elites but under democratic framework, dominance of electoral prospects over ideologies/ ethics of parties, undemocratic trends in party politics, growing roles of media in manufacturing political dissent and support, thereby ignoring people and keeping them aloof from democratic processes and political participation.

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