

Decoding Mandate of Lok-Sabha Elections 2024 and its Implications on Indian Democracy

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Abstract

Both 2014 and 2019 were wave elections. But 2024 is not only a waveless but also a lacklustre election. 2024 Lok-Sabha results are an eye opener for those who believes that democracy is ruled by the mobocracy. Governance has become focal agenda of electoral politics in India. This mandate is self-explanatory on many counts and a big lessons for the political parties. Modi has become PM again and it is historic due to many prevailing reasons. Modi is 1st non-Congress leader to become PM 3rd time in row after completing two full tenures. Political stability has also been underlined by this mandate. Results have taught a big lesson to the exit poll stars and other political pundits that vote behaviour could not be shaped by the might of the media. Poor people have outlined that whosoever will provide them basic amenities they will stood with them despite odds. Mandate has brought diverse positive messages for global democracies as well.

Keywords: Mandate, Lok-Sabha, Coalition, Religion, Regional Parties, Governance

Introduction

India's 18th general election held between April to June 2024 and on 4th of June 2024, much awaited results came in. This result is unique on many counts. Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and BJP (Bharathiya Janatha Party) was confident to cross 400 out of 543 seats of the lower house of parliament. As per the results BJP got 240 seats of its own and became single largest party but lacks 33 seats to touch magical number of 273. In 2014, under the leadership of PM Modi, BJP broke 30 years old records when it got 282 seats by its own with 31 percent popular votes. The party increased its tally to 303 in 2019 general election with

impressive 37 percent votes. In 2024 general election, BJP got 240 seats, 63 less than its 2019 number of 303 but at the same time received 36.6 percentage of votes polled . PM Modi came into power at the centre in 2014 and before that he was the chief minister of western Indian state of Gujarat for 13 long years. It means that since 2001, Modi has not lost any election. As stated earlier BJP remained unsuccessful to get magical 273 seats by their own 3rd time in row since 2014 and many political pundits opined that Modi has lost the mandate to rule. Let us see the matter in another way. Congress party (Grand Old Political Party of India which came into being in 1885) came into power after 8 years in 2004 with 146 seats in the house and also emerged largest political party in the 543 seats parliament and constituted a coalition government with the like-minded political parties. These parties later renamed as United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and sailed the boat of this government till 2014, although some parties left the UPA government in between but remain ideologically with the idea of this alliance. They went for poll in 2009 and in that election Congress emerged again as single largest party with the increased number of 206 seats with 28.55 percent popular votes.¹ Congress led UPA continued their government for next five years till 2014 election. When Congress could rule the country with 146 in 2004 and 206 in 2009 and it is ethical that BJP after getting 240 in 2024 ruling again, BJP led NDA (National democratic Alliance) got 293 and it was pre poll alliance and by methodologies of electoral politics, their arrival in power again in 2024 is ethical. Modi led BJP had its own majority in 2014 and 2019 but they kept NDA intact. Yes, bargaining power of NDA constituents reduced and for their fortune it has been accelerated with 2024 mandate.

The moot point to be emphasized is that 2024 Lok-Sabha election has strengthened Indian democratic system. Many political pundits who predicted the clear victory of Narendra Modi led BJP got disappointed with the result. One survey agency (Axis-India Today) director Pradeep Gupta wept on live TV show on the counting day because his prediction went wrong.² Even global media opined that Modi led BJP is all set to win 2024 election and only debate remains the quantum of their victory. According to the Guardian a leading British News Paper

“The general sense is that a BJP win is almost an inevitability at this stage,” said Neelanjan Sircar, a fellow at the Centre for Policy research. “The question is more: what factors will shape the scale of the victory?”³

But the results remain shocking for both local and global media and it is the beauty of Indian democracy. Elections always came with some

sort of surprises and this was prominent surprises among others. As we have compared Congress led UPA and BJP led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) 2004-2014 period to 2014-2024 period, it is interesting to know that Congress got only 44 seats with reduced vote percentage of 19.31 percent in 2014 general election⁴ and it was 3rd election in row after assuming power by the Congress in 2004. In comparison with Congress 44 in 3rd election in row in power, BJP performed excellently well with 240 seats of its own with the vote percentage of 36.6 percent which was its earlier 2019 general election vote percentage but in actual terms BJP lost 0.7 percent votes because total number of votes increased in many millions. Congress increased its vote percentage roughly to 1.46 percent but almost doubled its seats from 52 to 99. Major reasons for better opposition performance were united fight of the opposition with the nomenclature of INDIA which has 25 constituents and ten years of anti-incumbency against the Modi led BJP government.

It is seen that opposition was so fearful about the expected victory of Modi led BJP that they declared that they will not concede their defeat and asked their supporters to come on the streets on 4th June against their expected defeat in the election. On 3rd June, one day before counting, opposition hurled many unsolicited allegations including alleged EVM tempering against the Election Commission of India which manage electoral procedure and a constitutional body.⁵ INDIA alliance leaders were not much hopeful that 2024 results will come as per their expectations of 295 seats out of total 543. INDIA alliance partners took huge time in seat sharing and gave little time to actual campaigning.⁶ All exit poll gave 185 seats to opposition INDIA block and 365 to BJP led NDA but when actual results poured in on 4th June later evening , INDIA alliance won 232 seats and NDA won 293 seats and gap between both remained only 50 . By all counts it was very nail-biting electoral results.

This mandate shows the kind of political maturity of the Indian voters. For an example, in the capital city of Delhi, out of 7 Lok-Sabha seats, BJP won all 7 and it is 3rd time in row since 2014 election. In 2024 election the Congress and Aam Admi Party forged an electoral alliance in Delhi against the BJP and they were hopeful to divide the cake but they remained upset. In Himachal Pradesh which has 4 Lok-Sabha seats, BJP won all 4 but lost 4 out of 6 Assembly seats to the Congress which was crucial for the sustainability of Congress ruled state.⁷ So has happened in Karnataka where Congress is in power and hoping huge number out of total 28 seats but got only 8. In BJP ruled Rajasthan, BJP was hoping clean sweep of all 25 seats as they had in 2014 and 2019 but Congress led INDIA won 12 out of 25. In Gujarat which is native

state of PM Modi, BJP failed to sweep 3rd time in row and Congress won one seat and broken the dream of BJP. In Uttar Pradesh where Modi inaugurated Lord Ram temple and hopeful for handsome victory, BJP lost badly and won 36 seats, rival INDIA block won 43 seats. BJP even lost Faizabad seat where Ram Temple was inaugurated in the eve of elections. In Maharashtra where BJP led alliance won 41 out of 48 in 2019, suffered a lot and BJP led alliance got 17 and INDIA together got 30. ⁸But BJP made surprising historic victory in Odisha where it has swept both parliamentary and Assembly polls. BJP won 20 out of 21 parliamentary seats and formed her own government in this lesser developed eastern state. ⁹ In Southern state of Andhra Pradesh, BJP forged an alliance with regional parties (Telugu Desam and Jansena) and won 21 out of 25 parliamentary seats and also got landslide victory in the assembly and formed their government.¹⁰

Modi-led NDA has swept 5 states Madhya Pradesh (29 seats), Himachal Pradesh (4 seats), Delhi (7 seats), Uttarakhand (5 seats) and Tripura (2 seats) in 2024 election. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, where the BJP won 303 seats, it got clean sweep in 9 states Delhi, Arunachal, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tripura and Uttarakhand.¹¹ For the first time in the electoral history BJP won a seat from the southern state of Kerala and that with thumping majority

Opposition Unity

In 2014 and 2019 general elections , opposition remained disgruntled and not aligned against their common adversary Modi led BJP. Electoral history tells us that whenever opposition get united against the powerful ruling party, ruling party loses the election. It was firstly demonstrated in 1967. In 1967 election, maiden time in Indian electoral history, Indira Gandhi led Congress got simple majority in the parliamentary election but lost assembly election to their umbrella of opposition parties.¹² For the first time in independent India's history, the Congress Party had been exposed as weak: And this set off a chain of reactions in Indian politics. It would be the event that triggered the end of simultaneous elections, and the start of coalition politics. Congress got 283 seats in the parliament but lost nine states to the opposition.¹³ It had many responsible factors but opposition unity played a catalyst role in the defeat of the Congress. Congress gets new lease of life under Indira Gandhi. Indira Gandhi was very popular PM but she imposed emergency in 1975. Opposition leaders were thrown behind the prison. A united opposition took Indira Gandhi led Congress and not only defeated Congress but Indira Gandhi also lost her own parliamentary seat from

Uttar Pradesh.¹⁴ The Janata Party which defeated Indira Gandhi led Congress was basically an amalgam of opposition parties. They get united because they were reduced to politically impotent.¹⁵ It was formed under the leadership of socialist leader, Jayprakash Naryan and tested its maiden and surprising victory in the Legislative Assembly of western state of Gujarat in June 1975.¹⁶

In 2024 Lok-Sabha election, although opposition was hopeless but they had forged an electoral alliance and got better results. This historical electoral history repeats itself that whenever there is opposition unity against a mighty incumbent regime, better chances of opposition success prevail. It is due to many prevailing realities of Indian politics. One among them which is extremely significant to mention remains the political pluralism. People of India have tested imposition of emergency on June 1975 and the atrocities meted out to the people during this period. Fundamental rights were infringed. Press was censored and even judiciary was unable to ensure justice. It was maiden infringement of Indian democratic order. Political opponents and activists were arrested indiscriminately, many of whom were subjected to brutal and inhumane torture, as meticulously documented in the book "Torture of Political Prisoners in India" The British colonial rule, notorious for its repression, had never witnessed such a complete blackout of information. The treatment of political prisoners during this period was harrowing.¹⁷

People of India gave befitting reply to Indira Gandhi led Congress in the next elections. Opposition unity preserves their votes to divide and that yields better electoral results for them and against the incumbent governments. It happened in 1967, 1977, 1989, 2004 and 2024. It happened in moderation in 2024 because Modi government has performed well on the governance front. Its performance on foreign policy front, defence, infrastructure creation has been remarkable. As per the Ministry of Transport, Govt of India the total length of national highways in India increased 60 per cent to 1,46,145 km till December 2023, from 91,287 km in 2014, since the Narendra Modi government came into power.¹⁸ Likewise poverty eradication and basic facilities have been improved massively during last ten years of Modi regime (2014-2024). According to Niti Ayog (New incarnation of former Planning Commission) 24.82 crore Indians escape Multidimensional Poverty in last 9 years (2014-2023). Steep decline in Poverty Headcount Ratio from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23.¹⁹ This unique performance has earned the faith of the lower class and they voted Modi led BJP. This mass support provided a shield to Modi led BJP to gain 240 seats even in this hostile political ambience.

Governance impacts Voting Behaviour

Two millennia ago, Indian philosopher Kautilya wrote Arthashastra. Beside many other aspects of the statecraft Kautilya stressed upon the governance as the duty of the king. He proposed the notion of 'Raj Dharma'. It simply means that governance is the biggest duty of the king among others. If a king is doing governance work better, there is little possibility of any rebellion against the king. Kautilya says that 'A king must nurture their subject (people) as a new born baby is nurtured by their parents.'²⁰ We should not forget that Kautilya was working under a king and in monarchy accountability of a king about the people was zero but Kautilya put all accountability of governance over a king. Roger Boesche who wrote book on Kautilya termed him the propounder of 'Socialist Monarchy'. In democracy, people are masters and political parties are their servant. People oriented policies remain bedrock of welfare state which is being guaranteed within the democratic framework. Under Indian constitution, directive principle of state policy instructs the rulers to implement the notion of welfare state. Crisis of governance remained a serious challenge for the rulers since independence. In last 75 years all, successive governments have tried their best. Eminent scholar, Atul Kohli has outlined the challenges of governance in India in his seminal book titled Democracy and Discontent: India's Growing Crisis of Governability.²¹

After many decades fortunately governance has become as focal point of politics in India. Today all political parties have to show case their model of governance and come out with a candid plan about it.²² Within this challenging backdrop PM Modi since his arrival into power in May 2014 made governance as the hallmark of his government. During his last ten years of tenures (2014-2024) 250 million Indian people have been uplifted from below the poverty line to the above the poverty line.²³ Likewise, Modi government has launched many schemes which is pro poor and uplifts their capacity. One can put Jan Dhan, Ujjwala, Drinking Water, Housing scheme for the poor class and Sanitation etc in this category. Millions of poor people got benefited from these schemes.²⁴ All these schemes are based on digital support system and thus reduced the prevailing corruption which was depriving the common man to avail these benefits. After 2019 electoral victory when BJP had secured 303 by its own, senior Congress leader, Shashi Tharoor accepted that Modi governments delivery at the doorstep of the poor has paid him back in the electoral outcome. According to Sasi Tharoor

"It is an argument for the Congress, for whom Jairam, Singhvi and I

*are all strong voices, to enhance its credibility with fair-minded voters who abandoned us for the BJP but can be won back again. Modi has done little worth praising. But he has been effective in raising his vote percentage across India from 31% in 2014 to 37% in 2019, and as a party which stayed at around 19% in both elections, we in the Congress need to make an effort to understand why. Clearly enough, voters thought he was delivering something for them — we need to acknowledge that, but point out its limitations: yes, he built toilets, but 60% of them don't have running water; yes, he gave poor rural women gas cylinders, but 92% of them can't afford refills. But if we act as if he has done nothing, however flawed, and people still voted for him, then we are saying that people are stupid, which is not a position that wins you votes,"*²⁵

According to the BBC

"Mr Modi says his government has spent more than 34 trillion rupees (\$400bn; £316bn) in the past decade, delivering direct cash benefits to low-income households and reaching over 900 million people. A yearly handout of 6,000 rupees to more than 110 million farmers constitute one of the world's largest cash transfer programmes. The transfers, officials claim, have cut corruption and slashed costs."²⁶

These welfare schemes have created a beneficiary class and that class has become strong vote bank for Modi led BJP. Besides these welfare measures, Modi government has also facilitated economic reforms. It has also invested a huge capital in basic infrastructures. Highways are being created in a high speed. Airports have been doubled since last ten years. India has become 3rd global aviation market with annual 150 million air travellers.²⁷ Almost all metro cities have metro train system to take care of working-class passengers. It has eased the people a lot in terms of time and comfort. All metro cities have been connected by chain of highways. Huge number of harbours have been upgraded and many new have been created. Digital economy has also mushroomed. Tax net has also been expanded in many folds.

Governance could not be effective till corruption is tamed. As former PM Rajiv Gandhi stated long back, only 15 paise reaches to the actual beneficiary out of 1 rupee allocated for the purpose due to the corruption. Modi government has implemented digital mechanism in all government transactions and it has reduced the corruption in governance at massive scale. Today needy people are getting the benefits of the services meant for them and digitalization has helped a lot in the process. Modi led BJP has lost 63 seats in comparison with 2019 election

303 seats but still they stand with 240. It is a big number particularly 3rd time in row. Modi led BJP has reached this number and it is good electoral outcome of the poor oriented schemes carried out by the Modi government in their two consecutive terms from 2014 to 2024. Modi led BJP stands at 240 seats and better governance than their political alternatives played a positive role. Needless to say, that in a country like India which has 1400 million population, a lot has to be done to make governance more people friendly and it will remain a serious challenge for the governments to come.

Political Arrogance Adversely Reacts

Political arrogance and hegemony are the law of nature particularly for those who wields power and willing to transcend it as their own. Unchallenged authority serves at the heart of democracy, authoritarianism and its ideals are often criticised but even democratic rulers remain tempted to become authoritarian.²⁸ Hannah Arendt outlined that form of government didn't matter, all sheds of government and their masters seeks hegemony. If it remains unchecked the ruler becomes authoritarian.

Idea of India has helped democracy to strengthen its roots. Idea of India believes in accommodation and simplicity and people of India expects to behave in this philosophical context. Sunil Khilnani seminal book 'The Idea of India' elaborates this philosophy.²⁹ Arrogancy of the rulers have no space within the framework of Idea of India. PM Indira Gandhi became arrogant due to long suitability of power. People of India have given her a jolt through 1967 election. She didn't take any lessons from it and imposed emergency in June 1975. In 1977 general election, people of India not only defeated her Congress party but she also lost her seat. Janata party came into power. It was an amalgam of many opposition parties. They started doing the same things for which they were criticizing Indira Gandhi. For an example, article 356 of the Indian constitution gave right to the central government to dismiss state government in the case of emergency. Indira Gandhi and her Congress dismissed roughly 90 state governments on flimsy grounds which were ruled by the opposition parties. Rudolphs has summed up political arrogance of Indira Gandhi in following words.

"Unlike her father, Mrs. Gandhi depleted India's political capital by eroding the autonomy, professional standards, and procedural norms of political institutions and state agencies. She tried to make those responsible for Parliament, the courts, the civil services, and the federal

system answerable to her. The effort succeeded, to varying degrees, in orienting their conduct to her personal will. A paradoxical consequence was to diminish the legitimacy and effectiveness of the state. Centralization based on personal loyalty and obedience to a monocratic executive lessened the state's capacity to amplify itself through multiple agencies extending beyond the limited control and attention of one person. Jawaharlal Nehru was the schoolmaster of parliamentary government, Indira Gandhi its truant."³⁰

Janata party did the same misuse of power once they came into power in 1977. They also started fighting among themselves and this maiden non-Congress government fall in the mid-term. In 1980 general election took place and people of India brought Indira Gandhi in power again. people of India believe that better governance could be ensured only when there is stability. Within span of two and half years, people of India defeated the political parties in favour of Indira Gandhi led Congress because they failed utterly to provide better governance and stability.

21st century is very competitive. Congress under PM Nehru came into power 3rd time in row in 1962. It was the time when opposition was weak and legacy of the freedom struggle was still prevailing in Favor of the Congress party. The arrival of Modi for the 3rd term in row in 2024 therefore is significant given the prevailing political situation of the country. Opposition INDIA block could stress that Modi led BJP has lost the moral ground to rule and people of India have rejected them. But the reality is that 25 INDIA constituents together got 232 seats and BJP got 240 by their own. In that way, it is massive mandate for the BJP. People of India although appreciates the good work done by the Modi government and gave them sizeable 240 seats out of 543 Lok-Sabha seats but at the same time the party was forced to pay for its certain weakness.

PM Modi has stressed since last ten years of his rule that he not only believes in democracy but humble also to accept this. When he was chosen PM 3rd time in row, in that meeting of parliamentarians, he showed his utmost respect to the constitution . However the opposition charged that some incidents executed by the Modi regime which smells authoritarianism. In the winter session of 2023, over 150 opposition MP,s were expelled from the parliament due to their demand of discussion over the security lapses in t parliament which occurred during the session.³² There were also frequent allegations by the opposition that the Modi regime has misused the CBI and ED, both central agencies

deliberately against them. Opposition alleged that CBI, ED and other central agencies are only targeting them and even not taking procedural cognizance of the BJP leaders who have also been alleged for corruption and other law-breaking acts.³³ 2024 electoral mandate is interpreted by many analysts in this aspect also.³⁴

Regional Parties remain Relevant

Regional political parties remain important in Indian politics since independence. Due to the legacy of independence movement and its propriety with the Congress party, regional parties were not getting aspired electoral success in early decades after independence. Even before 1967 general election, regional parties were enjoying good public support but they were divided on state centric policies and many cases socialist parties parted their ways from each other because of clash of their personality cult but together they were getting handsome votes. In 1967 majority of them get united under one political umbrella against the hegemonic Congress.³⁵

1967 elections became watershed moment in Indian politics when although Congress secured 283 seats and her own majority in the parliament but lost many key states to the opposition parties. Many political untouchability were erased in the aftermath of 1967 election. In Uttar Pradesh Congress won 199 out of 425 total seats. Jan Sangh, previous avatar of the BJP got 98 seats, Communist parties got 14 seats, Socialists parties together got 67 seats, Independents 33 and together with 21 Congress defectors, Charan Singh became non-Congress Chief Minister. It did happen in eight more states. Today BJP and the Communists are untouchable for each other but in one instance they formed state governments in Uttar Pradesh and eight other states together because Congress was their common enemy.³⁶

Few regional parties emerged as national parties in due course of time but many remain regional only. In 1977 election Indira Gandhi led Congress was defeated by the opposition led by Janata party. Janata party was in fact a loose coalition of regional parties. Although they fought on the same symbol but maintained their own identity. This contradiction became a major factor for immature fall of Janata party regime necessitated into mid-term election in 1980. In 1989 election, regional parties came into king maker role at the centre. They lost their momentum in 1991 election due to the sympathy wave in the backdrop of Rajiv Gandhi assassination. Regional parties resurfaced in 1996 election and till 2014 when Modi led BJP got 282 seats they remain king makers at the centre. They again emerged important in the

backdrop of 2024 election.

PM Modi remained CM of Gujarat state for 13 long years and understood well that without bringing states into the mainstreaming process of development, country could not achieve desired goals of sustainable development. Since his arrival as PM in 2014, Modi is working for constitutional justice with the states. In the middle of 2017, India implemented perhaps the boldest tax reform in history which was long due. It replaced dozens of state and federal taxes with a national one, called the Goods and Services Tax or GST. The idea is to create a more unified national market and, despite its early teething troubles, India expect the new tax to lead to greater efficiencies and a more attractive business environment.³⁷ Now GST collection has gained momentum. Gross GST revenue collection in May 2024 stands at ¹ 1.73 lakh crore; Records 10% y-o-y growth. ¹ 3.83 lakh crore gross GST revenue collection in FY2024-25 (till May 2024) records 11.3% y-o-y growth.³⁸ In FY 2024-25 it was \$ 46 billion dollar. There is a set mechanism and states are getting their due share from GST collection. It has facilitated trade and commerce at the massive scale. States are getting due share in fiscal division which was rare during Congress hegemonic era (1952 to 1989). The more share to the states helps Modi to win the faith of regional parties.

Role of Religion

Religion remain relevant for voting behaviour in all democracies. It remains important in Indian politics too. But one has to be careful that religious factor alone is unable to ensure electoral victory for any political parties. It has precisely happened in 2024 election also. It is self-explanatory that despite all efforts by political parties, religious appeal has its own electoral limitations. If religion could have played a crucial role then 80 percent Hindus could have voted BJP . But BJP got only 37 percent it simply means that all Hindus have not voting for the BJP. Rather polarisation efforts are not been positively perceived by majority of Indian voters in 2024 election. One has to understand Indian indigenous narratives of secularism which believes in actual diversity and accommodation of all beliefs.

Implication on Foreign Policy

Since his arrival in power in May 2014, Modi government has adopted proactive foreign policy. PM Modi has visited over 100 countries since his last ten years of tenure and foreign policy plank is considered as one of the most successful domains for the Modi government. One can

recall that PM Modi call all SAARC head of states including then PM Nawaz Sharif when he took power in May 2014.³⁹ He invited many regional countries head of states in 2019 and 2024 swearing in but avoided Pakistan. It is not due to the popular notion that Modi led BJP has negative thought about Pakistan. In December 2015, PM Modi made a surprise visit of Lahore and it was maiden visit of any Indian PM since Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Pakistan. Even before Modi, relations with Pakistan were not good. It is suggested that a stronger Pakistan is in the larger interest of India. But Pakistan also has to take a call to ensure it. Only BJP can deal with Pakistan and other parties are politically not powerful enough to do so due to the prevailing political architecture.

After the successful conclusion of G-20 New Delhi summit in September 2023, India has already marked its presence on all global table of governance.⁴⁰ PM Modi has made foreign policy a different game and here national interests lies at the core. Today India is very close to the United States but not accepting sanctions imposed against the Russia in the backdrop of Ukraine war and importing millions of barrels of crude oil daily from Russia in cheaper rates.

Another major churning in the realm of foreign policy is that China has become India's obsession and Pakistan has no important space for Indian foreign policy makers. Overall, under Modi-3, the sustainability in the realm of foreign policy will be the order of the day. PM Modi has expanded the contours of India's foreign policy on larger Indo-Pacific plank and it is bound to accelerate during Modi-3 as well.

Impact on Economic Policies

India has adopted LPG process in 1991 under PM Narasimha Rao. Till date it is continue. All successive governments have accelerated the process. Modi is known for his commitment for economic reforms. In 2007 India was the 12th largest economy in the world in nominal terms. Today in 2024, India has already become 5th global economy and bound to become 3rd global economy soon as Germany and Japan are not far away.⁴¹ Despite many obstacles India's GDP grows 8.2 percent in FY 2023-2024.

According to Moody's prediction "We expect India's economy to expand 6.6 per cent in the year ended March 2025 (FY25) and 6.2 per cent the following year, and this will lead to robust loan growth at NBFCs, mitigating the impact of rising funding costs on their profitability,"⁴² India's global trade has mushroomed in recent years. India exported

worth of volume \$ 778.2 billion in the FY of 2023-24.⁴³ Overall import during FY 2023-24 remains \$ 854.8 billion and together both export and import in the FY 2023-24 remain \$ 1633 billion.⁴⁴ For 2030 Modi's agenda is to double the trade volume and Modi's goal is to raise per capita income to \$4,418 by 2030 from around \$2,500 in 2024.⁴⁵ As share market maintain their sustainability of good growth in the aftermath of Modi-3 inauguration, continuity of Modi government will ensure further economic reforms. Due to coalition compulsion, Modi has to adjust his economic reforms to inclusive policies at the same time.

Takeaway for Global Democracy

India is the youngest but largest democracy of the globe. Almost 645 million people voted in 2024 election which is almost double than entire western European voters. 2024 mandate has many important takeaways for global democratic order. How election took place peacefully other democracies could learn from this experience. 2024 electoral mandate has stressed the resilience of Indian democracy. This mandate has although given enough number to Modi led BJP to rule for another tenure of five years. It also gave lesson to 25 political parties coalition opposition INDIA alliance that merely for the sake of opposition, opposition is not enough, you should come out with an adequate alternative plan for better governance.

Conclusion

Decoding of 2024 electoral mandate has many important lessons for the students of political system. Governance is the hallmark of the democratic order. Modi government has taken many transformative steps for the governance but some areas remain unattended. Results vindicates people's real responses to the issues at grassroots. The basic issues of the people should be more closely attended. The developmental initiatives of the governments should also to reach the rural poor who are supposed to be the best judges of governance in the final lap. In India every elections attest the power of the people and the strength of democracy against all the odds.

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