

Role of Youth in the Formation of Yogi Government 2.0

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Abstract

It is often said that the road to Delhi goes through Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, this election was declared as semi-final to the race for General election 2024. Declaration of result on 10th March 2022 was in tandem with the trend of exit polls which had predicted a thumping victory and comfortable majority for the ruling BJP. This paves the way for another term of incumbent CM Yogi Adityanath. There were many factors for this historic win but the role of youth and the beneficiaries of government schemes were deciding factor which successfully took BJP to sail through the vicious tide of caste combinations and various manufactured movements like Hathras incident and farmers agitation. In this paper, we will discuss the role of youths and their aspirations in the formation of Yogi government 2.0.

Key Words-*Uttar Pradesh, Role of youth, Yogi Adityanath*

Introduction

The Uttar Pradesh legislative assembly election 2022 was a watershed moment in Indian political history for multiple reasons. First and foremost, incumbent Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath became only the third CM after Sampurnanand and Akhilesh Yadav, who completed his five years tenure¹. Secondly, he was the only Chief Minister who could return back to power after completing his full term of five years². Being the most populous state which sends highest number of MPs to the Parliament, it is often said that the road to Delhi goes through Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, this election was declared as semi-final to the race for General election 2024. It is also remindful of the fact that this election was being held against the backdrop of COVID-19 pandemic which engulfed the whole world and the agitation against the three farm laws which were later withdrawn by the central government. Declaration of result on 10th March 2022 was in tandem with the trend of exit polls which had predicted a thumping victory and comfortable majority for

the ruling BJP. This paves the way for another term of incumbent CM Yogi Adityanath. There were many factors for this historic win but the role of youth and the beneficiaries of government schemes were deciding factor which successfully took BJP to sail through the vicious tide of caste combinations and various manufactured movements like Hathras incident and farmers agitation. In this paper, we will discuss the role of youths and their aspirations in the formation of Yogi government 2.0.

Unlike the previous generations which used to be entangled in their caste and religious affiliations sans any loyalty to the growth and development of the nation, current generation is determined to take India on the path of progress. They want to make this country “developed and strongest”, a Vishwaguru. Therefore, instead of believing the idea of conventional politics, they have started posing their trust in the idea of politics of performance. Their conviction towards the cause got strengthened after arrival of PM Modi at national political landscape. His campaign in the run up to the 2014 General Election was centralised around the issue of development. After big win, it percolated down even at the level of policy making and reflected in the action thereafter. Strong policy decisions started showing the desired result. FDI and foreign reserve reached to a new height. Skill India to enhance the capability of youth, Start Up India to utilize the talent of young entrepreneur, Mudra Yojna to finance the defunded young population without any collateral, fueled the business environment in the country. Ujjwala Scheme to connect every household with LPG Connection, Jan Dhan Account to bring everyone to banking system, DBT to transfer the subsidy directly in the account of beneficiary and eradicate the chain of middle men, Neem Coated Urea to prevent misuse of Urea and prevent its black-marketing, were the people centric steps taken by the government which brought it closer to the common masses and catches the imagination of youth which started seeing the BJP and its leadership very close to their aspirations³.

In 2017 assembly election, BJP showed a similar stellar perforce and snatched the power from Samajwadi Party which was accused of promoting the interest of only one caste and seen as the government of only minority religion. There was complete misrule, chaos, law and order problem, hooliganism, anti-Indian sentiments and decision paralysis due to immature chief minister who continued to work under the shadow of his father, uncle and leaders of minority community. There was so much of hatred towards the Hindu community that seers were lathicharged in the mid-night in full public view in Varanasi⁴. One of the ministers who belonged to minority community Azam Khan was given the charge of biggest Hindu conglomeration i.e. Kumbh Mela

and mismanagement was so apparent that more than 36 devotees died in the stampede at Prayagraj⁵. All these sins costed dearly to the Samajwadi Party and they lost the election badly. Their number came down to 47 from 224 while Bhartiya Janta Party rose from 47 to 312. After many permutation and combination, BJP decided to declare the erstwhile Gorakhpur MP Yogi Adityanath, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh⁶.

Meeting the challenges

After his swearing-in ceremony, the first challenge for Yogi Government was to check the hooligans, criminals, gangsters and rioters. Unfortunately, due to the evil nexus of politicians and criminals, the largest state of the country became synonyms to anarchy and goondaraj. Rowdies and loonies were on free run. Women and law abiding citizens were not feeling safe and security of their life and property was uncertain. In such environment, the coronation of Yogi Adityanath was nothing less than the crown of thorns. Yogi Government led by the Chief Minister himself from the front, started strict implementation of law and order. Government first few decisions⁷ were strict implementation of ban on illegal slaughterhouse to check unhygienic conditions in the dense market place, formation of Anti-Romeo Squad to stop eve-teasing and harassment of girls and women and give them a sense of security at public places. Directions were issued to ensure officials and ministers reach office by 10 am and to implement it with all sincerity, installation of biometric attendance at government offices was ordered. This brought sigh of relief to the public visiting these places for work. Deviating from the established work culture of red-tapism and babudom, and unhygienic government offices, government banned the use of paan masala and polythene in government offices and advised the ministers vis-a-vis directed officials not to take files home and rather clear them during office hours. To give a push to the growth and development of Uttar Pradesh and hassle free travelling, Yogi government directed the officials to ensure all state roads were pothole-free by June 15. To bring more fairness in the system of government contract and to ensure the work of good quality, government ordered to replace the contractors of criminal background with those who have a clean record. To make the police and police stations women friendly so that womenfolks who share half of the population can get convenient and easy access to justice, the Chief Minister directed one female and one male police personnel to be present at the reception of each police station. He also stressed to increase the strength of women police personnel in the state. To make

it more people friendly and people centric, order to ensure proper drinking water facility at every police station along with slew of directions for creating a citizen's charter in each and every department were passed. To bring accountability and transparency in bureaucratic system and dissuade them from delinquency and lackadaisical approach, the CM ordered the installation of CCTV cameras at all government offices. To focus more on the public security and to maintain law and order in the state, a thorough review of security given to political leaders and officials was ordered so that the scarce police resources can be utilised optimally. To make system transparent and corruption free, ministers were asked to give details of their property within 15 days. To bring the lights in the life of common public, the CM directed the officials to make plans for electricity to be made available in every village. All such first of its kind moves drew public attention towards the government. Expectations from the Chief Minister became more intense and government started working under the 24 hours scrutiny of opposition and media.

Facing Pandemic

Within three years of its formation, government faced the biggest challenge in the form of COVID-19 pandemic, a formidable enemy for the human civilisation. Governments after governments, states after states started faltering and were completely helpless in tackling the situation. During such mammoth danger, Yogi government having the responsibility of 24 Crore population performed exceptionally well and won accolades from all quarters⁸⁹. When every single person was under the imminent threat of death, the Chief Minister himself was in the action and among the common citizen. Government provided free ration to all for around two years which is unimaginable. Mafias were checked in such a manner that they started surrendering before the police due to the fear of encounters¹⁰ and crime rate came down to abysmally low level. The property of such anti social elements started getting bulldozed¹¹ and in real sense, the people for the first time got a feeling of Ram Rajya, wherein a monk who does not have his own family and starts treating his 240 million fellow citizen as his own family member.

The actions of bringing back the old civilisational glory like changing the name of cities which were the reminiscences of invaders like Allahabad to Prayagraj, Mughal Sarai to Deen Dayal Upadhyay¹²; development of Ayodhya, birth place of Lord Ram, into a global city¹³; construction of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor¹⁴; development of Mathura Janmbhoomi etc., made him the king of crores of Hindus and BJP as a

natural choice for the formation of next government.

In an era when scientific temper is the guiding light to walk on the path of development, Uttar Pradesh was engulfed in the dogmas, jinx and superstitions. Despite Art 51 enshrined in the Indian Constitution says that it is a fundamental duty of the people of India to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform, the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh avoided visiting Noida in an attempt to secure and preserve their power even at the cost of complete disconnect with the people of the district. A saffron clad Yogi who was earlier portrayed as parochial and narrow minded, showed the courage, defied all such superstitions and went to Noida on multiple occasions¹⁵. All these exceptional works made him the dearest to the public especially the youth who wanted safety, security and development with progressive mind set.

Another issue which Yogi Adityanath as the CM successfully tackled was the issue of protest against CAA, three farm laws and Nupur Sharma remarks. Despite their malafide and nefarious design to throw Uttar Pradesh in the state of complete lawlessness and anarchy, the loonies could not become successful in stalling the development work of Yogi Government. When almost all the states were burning and the normal life came to a halt due to road blockade, the situation in UP was as usual. Despite having sizeable presence of such law breakers who were the participants in such illegal acts, UP remained peaceful and this happened only due to the presence of a government led by Yogi Adityanath. His stern warning to deal with such anti-social elements with iron hands¹⁶ and later putting up posters of such criminals at public places and seizure of their properties to recover damages of the loss caused to public property when they tried it for the first time, sent a spine chilling message to the law breakers¹⁷. This was a perfect reflection of his able leadership and administrative qualities and lessons for the other chief ministers and administrators.

Finally, the bell for legislative assembly election 2022 rang on 8th January 2022 when Election of India announced the schedule of the election. Despite all the odds, misinformation and false narrative, the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) sailed through under the leadership of Yogi Adityanath. He with the help of herculean effort of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ensured a thumping victory for the party. Bhartiya Janta Party despite running for the second consecutive term won 41.29% of vote share which was 1.62% more than the previous term. This was an exceptional feat achieved by any party. The BJP crossed the 40% benchmark in the state of Uttar Pradesh for the first time. This

achievement becomes more crucial after noting that before 2017, the BJP was on the decline. It is also pertinent to mention here that the BJP retained 232 of its seats which it had won in 2017 legislative assembly election. Such huge retention of seats clearly affirms the consolidation of faith posed by the voter of Uttar Pradesh in 2017¹⁸. A large credit of this consolidation goes to the support of youth, male and female both, and beneficiaries.

Conclusion

Uttar Pradesh has progressed on the path of development. The dream project of film city in Noida¹⁹, Jewar International Airport²⁰, several expressways²¹, growth in terms of GDP²², all cumulatively have given a glimpse of new rising Uttar Pradesh. It has already shrugged its image of corrupt and lawlessness state where nepotism and favouritism decides the fate of the work. Now, a new system of corruption free and accountable government is at place. It is certain that Uttar Pradesh will reach to a new height under the dynamic leadership of CM Yogi Adityanath.

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