

THE ROLE OF OPPOSITION IN INDIAN DEMOCRACY

Susheel Kumar Baswal*

ABSTRACT

Throughout the world, democracy is under threat with the popularity of authoritarian regime all over the world and the role of opposition in a democracy is an under studied subject and has not received ample importance in Indian Democracy. A Democracy in the absence of opposition is dangerous for the society as a whole, therefore attributes a notable role to for effective and efficient work in any democracy. The quote "Freedom dies when criticism ends" is enough highlights the role of assessment in a democratic set up to sustain liberty in a democracy. The role of opposition increases more when it comes to world's largest democracy like India because India is a democratic Super Power. In this paper we will see what has been the role of opposition in Indian Democracy in different times and periods and how it has affected Indian Democracy. In any democratic country opposition is the very breath and sow of a democracy and thus the role and Importance of opposition in a Parliamentary democracy can neither be overemphasize nor down played.

Keywords: Democracy, Role of Opposition, Parliamentary, Government, Lok Sabha.

Introduction

In India the role of opposition party is as important as that of the ruling party. They make certain that the works of the ruling party are not harmful to the interest of general public or nation at large. The need for the oppositions has been admit in parliamentary democracy. If there are no oppositions, there is no democracy (Jennings). The opposition is an indispensable part of democracy. The political party voted to power, forms the government and remainder in office for the mandated term in a parliamentary system. The house is generally a two wings house. On the right side of the speaker, the governing party members are seated whereas the left side is the opposition's place. The opposition party is "an organized political group with the objects to leave the government in power and to replace in by one of its own choosing according to Schapiro. In an open democracy there is endless room for choice all the way up to the selection of the government. This means that dissimilar opinions are provided an option to be heard in the legislature. This also mentions to the views of those parliamentarians who are not part of the government and are adverse to the policies of the current government. In a Parliamentary democracy a lot of importance has been given to the political opposition in order to make the government accountable to balancing the interest of majority and minority. The opposition party role in a Parliamentary government should be not just to act as a 'government-in-waiting', but also check any despotic tendencies of the government in power. An effective opposition performs a preventing role in respect to the party in power, restraining it from misbehave its functional limits and simultaneously posing a constant challenge by promising a practical alternative. The role of opposition in democracy was emphasized by highlighting the fact that how single party regimes have failed without a proper opposition party. The structure and role is highly debatable of opposition in all types of democracies but the importance of opposition is unquestioned. There is no single pattern of opposition that can be view in democracies worldwide which leads to dissimilarity in opposition behavior all over the world. Without any doubt for a democracy to be victorious, multi-party system or at least two-party systems is obligatory. A country with single party system, there is full chance for the governing party to become autocratic and

* Assistant Professor in Political Science, Government College, Sikrai, Dausa, Rajasthan, India.

domineering. In any democratic country one party system is most of the chance susceptible to transform into dictatorship. Most of the times, the opposition is suffocated and trampled, where there is one party system and the dictatorship of the single party is established. Italy during Mussolini rule and Germany during Hitler's rule are the cases in point. Every state cannot imagine of a democratic set up without a healthy and watchful opposition. An effective opposition is must to carry out its functions courageously and fruitful for the success of any parliamentary Democracy. The political parties with less number of seats perch in the assembly as opposition and present their own view; give suggestions to the ruling party and sometime challenge the government policies if they are against the interest of the common people.

Right and Contribution of Opposition in Democracy

In a parliamentary government democracy is as much about opposition as it is about government. Also suggest that rivalry of government by an effective opposition should be constitutional part of any serious definition of democracy. However, opposition is defining feature not only democratic governance but also of politics in general. The opposition in any democratic system enjoys the right to implement freely and promote democratic values. Such laws and acts which abstract or bind opposition are not only harmful for the opposition but also adversely affect the promotion of democracy. Below are some of the guidelines outlined in the council of Europe parliamentary assembly resolution 1601:

- Opposition members should have freedom of expression, freedom of opinion and freedom to express their views freely on the issues under discussion in the house.
- Opposition members have the right to inform citizens. They also have the right to access to various sources of inform action like television channels, internet sites etc.
- Opposition members will have the privilege of deliberating, discussing and scrutinizing the policies, decisions and actions of the government. It also has the right to ask Questions orally or in writing to the members of the government. In the same way, they have the right to get answers to questions orally or in writing to the members of the government. In the same way, they have the right to get answers to questions there. They have the right to open the question hour and the members of the opposition will have the privilege to ask more questions than the members to the government.
- The opposition can hold the incumbent government accountable by censure or motion of no confidence. The right to ask for discussion and debate in respect of an urgent and important issue and the required numbers should be given to him.
- The right to make request for the establishment of an inquiry committee, a fact-finding mission or a parliamentary mission of information.
- The opposition will be given ample time to speak. In certain circumstances, speaking time must also be ensured for the government and opposition members alike.
- Members of the opposition in parliament will have the right to information. They should have free and equal access to information like the members of the ruling party.
- Right to participate in the management of parliamentary business. Right to access to various positions such as vice-president and other position of responsibility. The composition of any governing body in the parliament shall respect the principal of proportional representation and the opposition shall be given its fair share.
- The right to ask for constitutional revival of adopted laws and to refer the matter to the constitutional count or other legal body before their adoption. Right to access the Audit court and seek its opinion or financial matters.
- The chairmanship of various standing and permanent committees inside the parliament will be allocated to the parliamentary parties on the basis of proportional repress notation. The opposition should be allowed to head at least one standing committees.
- With all the above rights, the opposition will participate in the political decisions. And along with this opposition parties also perform many important functions in parliamentary democracy like India. Which is the following?
- Political parties are an important organ for mobilizing the interests of the political community. Interest aggregation often culminates in the expression of certain preferences, values and ideals in the policy and law-making process and in the budgeting process.

- To maintain contact with the electorate citizen and to demonstrate the relevance of politics to the common people, who are the appraised, marginalized, deprived.
- Promotion responsible and reasoned debate. It promotes “national dialogue” and pushes democratic discussion to a higher level of political development and maturity.
- Parties work as a training ground for upcoming leaders. Shadow cabinet ministers, for example, usually conduct serious party business in their designated portfolios.
- The opposition parties' function with the electoral commission, civil society organizations and mass media to analyze and improve the quality of voter registration, civic education and electoral transparency.
- The opposition parties hold the government responsible for its commissions and lapses.
- The opposition parties reinforce a culture of democracy within the party and within the political community in general.
- The opposition parties present a viable alternative to the current government by designing alternative ideas, principles and policies to govern society. If the ruling party frustrates the electorate, then the waiting government seizes the regimes of power through free and fair elections.

Finally, the opposition parties are the unpaid but dedicated lead researchers for the government in power. In the middle ground characterized by post-cold war political party dynamics, current regimes have typically robbed the manifestos of opposition parties and adopted researched ideas, policies, and programmes without approval. After that ruling parties (such as the BJP in India) have typically accused the opposition party of having “No political agenda different from ours.”

History of Opposition

Although the concept of opposition party originated in England and democracy was actually born out of struggle. The concept of opposition became very strong after the revolution of 1688. Both the ruling party and those opposing it were considered loyal to the king. So, it was said that her Majesty the “Raja-Rani” needed a loyal government as much as a loyal opposition. Similar protests developed in other democratic institutions such as France, America and others.

History of Opposition Party in Indian Democracy

For a healthy parliamentary democracy, it has always been considered necessary that there should be a strong opposition party, which is always in a position to remain in power. But the situation in India has been quite different. It can be said that for some time it was believed that the role of the opposition was only negative, but with the passage of time it is appreciated that it has a positive role in national politics. Therefore, one of the greatest parliamentary achievements of our country has been that the role of the opposition has been formally recognized and given its due place in the parliamentary system.

Opposition in India originates during the British rule when India was government through British Acts. Then small organizations used to play the role of opposition by raising the voice of the people. Like British Indian Association, Bombay Association, Madras Mahajan Sabha etc. In which Dada Bhai Narouji, Surendra Nath Banerji and Taiyabji etc, were prominent personalities. Who used to discuss India's problems from time to time and attracted the attention of the government by giving loud speeches towards the problems of the people. After this the Congress was formed, after which the role of other institutions was reduced and the Congress became a party in which every section of the society was represented. He opposed every wrong policies of the British government.

As the strength of the congress organization increased, it restored to strike. Congress played the role of good opposition till the Act of 1919 came, in the Act of 1919, parliament was developed as an institution in India, which had Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, at that time the congress was the strongest party which was paying the role of opposition, although other parties also existed in which Muslim league, Hindu Mahasabha, socialist there were teams etc.

Congress did not participate in the first election held in 1920-21. The moderate leaders of the Nationalist Liberal union who reached the assembly after winning the elections continued to pay the role of opposition in the elections for the second assembly of 1932. In the assembly elections held in 1935, the congress came back with full force and played the role of a good opposition and the government had to resort to powers from the Governor- General many times.

Post Independence

After the independence of India in 1947, Indian National Congress enjoyed great respect and confidence of the people. It was difficult to remove him from power. When the first general election in the country was held under the leadership of Pt. Nehru (In 1952) swept both at the center and in the state elections. However, by this time, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee established the Bhartiya Jana Sangh as an opposition party. Socialist and communists also started opposing the policies and programmes of the Congress party under the leadership Ashok Mehta. Till the 1962 elections, the Communists, Socialists, Swatantra party and Bhartiya Jana Sangh had made their mark.

The Opposition Party after 1967

But after that the monolithic character of the party came under heavy stress and the opposition party more powerful. In 1962, the congress ruling party faced nationwide criticism for India's defeat in the war against China. The people brought back several opposition leaders to the Lok Sabha, who vehemently criticized the policies and programs of the government. Due to the death of Nehru in 1964, elections were held in the country in 1967, the strength of the opposition increased greatly. The monolithic character of the congress party was completely shattered in many states. The opposition parties in the form of united front and united Legislature party formed governments in various states. The opposition became so powerful that it moved a no confidence motion against the government not once but several times, although no such motion could be passed successfully. Regional opposition parties also took root during this period. Their representatives in the Lok Sabha vehemently opposed the ruling congress at the centre.

In 1969 the congress party split between Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi and the president of congress party

K. Kamraj. This division made the opposition really strong. Along this, the opposition in India was first recognized in the Lok Sabha in 1969 and Ram Subhag Singh was recognized as the leader of the opposition who was the leader of the congress organization. In 1975, during the tenure of Indira Gandhi, a national emergency was imposed in the country and the leaders of all the opposition parties were imprisoned. In 1977, after the 19-month emergency, the elections to the sixth Lok Sabha were held in the country. This time five national parties, Bhartiya Jana Sangh, congress (O), congress for democracy formed by Jagjivan Ram after splitting from congress, socialist group lead by Charan Singh and Bhartiya Lok Dal joined together and formed a new party, which was called Janta party. During the emergency, due to some policies of the congress government and press censorship, the ruling congress was badly defeated and the newly formed Janta party, the national alternative to the congress, emerged victorious. The position of the opposition in the fifth Lok Sabha was weak but the role of the opposition increased after the imposition of emergency by Indira Gandhi.

Situation of Opposition after 1977

After the formation of the Janta party government in 1977 (First Morarji Desai than Charan Singh's government) within two and half years, the government fell due to mutual disagreements. After a few months the house was dissolved. The Seventh Lok Sabha elections were held again at the end of 1979 and the congress got a massive majority in this election. In the Eighth Lok Sabha election of 1984, when the congress got a big mandate, the opposition party was the TDP which got 30 seats. Taking a departure from the past, the Rajiv Gandhi government accorded the status of leader of opposition (LOP) to TDP's leaders in the Lok Sabha. In this way, no recognized opposition could be formed in the Seventh Lok Sabha but qualitatively the opposition was very good and the same was the case in the Eighteenth Lok Sabha, but the role played by the opposition, despite being rare in numbers, was commendable. Government bills were fiercely opposed in both the houses. In the Nineteenth Lok Sabha (1989), the congress despite being the single largest party, became the opposition and the National front became a minority government. Rajiv Gandhi became the leader of the opposition and he played the role of a good opposition. In the Tenth Lok Sabha (1991) the congress formed a coalition government, in this government, first Lal Krishna Advani became the leader of opposition, and later Atal Bihari Vajpayee took over this responsibility. This happened for the first time in the Eleventh Lok Sabha (1996) when an opposition member P. Sangama was elected to the post of speaker.

In Twelve Lok Sabha (1998) BJP was in alliance and congress was in opposition. Sharad Pawar became the leader of opposition. The working "Liberhan commission" of CBI, Temple-Mosque dispute, Pokhran blast etc, was the weapons of the opposition. The BJP government was formed in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha (1999) and Sonia Gandhi became the leader of the opposition. Due to the Tahika

incident in this Lok Sabha, the ruling party was badly surrounded and the proceedings of the house were not allowed. The role of the opposition in this tenure was mostly boycott, noisy and sloganeering. The period 1989 to 2004 sure a weak government when minority parties/opposition parties played a key role in forming and toppling government.

While the opposition was claiming to provide an alternative policy vision, after coming to power they failed to provide any major alternative policy, for example the BJP criticized the liberation policy introduced by the congress in 1991 but baked it after coming to power. A major development that followed the 2004 elections was that the left political parties, the leading critics of the Indian government's economic policies, became part of the ruling coalition. This development in a way supported the opposition in the ruling party. This development, in a sense, supported the opposition within the ruling system. Left political parties played the role of a watchdog for the policy measures of the ruling government. Big scandals like Bofors and the problems associated with the government that was in power from 2004-2014 (fourteenth and fifteenth Lok Sabha) were strongly criticized by the BJP as the main opposition party. However, the BJP, which had spent its energy criticizing the UPA first and second governments, is following almost the same both in policy formulation and implementation.

Status of Opposition from 2014 to till now (2023)

Due to Modi wave in the Sixteenth Lok Sabha elections, 2014 BJP got 283 seats out of 533 on its own. 'The result of this election was much unexpected at it was the highest majority any party got after 30 year. Whereas Congress could only get 44 seats in this election. A similar situation happened in the election of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha (2019) where BJP got 303 seats going ahead and Congress was reduced to 52 seats this time too. In this way, in both these elections, the opposition face was completely cleared and no party could come forward to claim a strong opposition. The growing popularity of the BJP brought together all the minority parties in parliament with a united opposition against their policies and actions. As aptly pointed out by Duverger (1989), it is easier to compromise against a policy than to support a policy, it is possible for individuals to gather closely in opposition without any real consensus, as is the case with extremist meetings.

The crisis in the existence of not only the opposition parties but the leader of the opposition has deepened under the Modi rule. Now the question is, where will Indian democracy take a run? Because in such a situation it makes a difference because the voice which can be of a person sitting in a constitutional post, cannot be of the status given by grace or government. Now parliament needs Leader of opposition more than before because the phase of first, second and third Lok Sabha was in Nehru's time and the foundation of democracy was being laid at that time, the form which was made by the constitution makes was strictly followed. Nehru had great respect for the leader of the opposition and he used to invite criticism, many times they had said in the parliamentary speech that here should be no hesitation in criticizing me in front of me.

In today's era, due to the weakening of the opposition, a little apprehension increases in the governance. During the previous BJP government, there were many occasions when there were allegations of tampering with constitutional institutions and something happened for the first time. For example, the judges of the Supreme Court had to hold a press conference and it was alleged that attempts were being made to influence the functioning of the judiciary. There was turmoil during the appointment of the Director of CBI as well.

Apart from this, on 8 August 2016 the announcement of demonetization was made by the BJP government suddenly. As a result, Modi sucked up 86 percent of the currency in circulation in the Indian economy on the basis of value. This decision was taken alone by the ruling party without informing anyone and without discussed in parliament neither with the opposition party nor with other parties, the decision was taken against the advice of RBI governors, Raghuram Rajan and Urjit Patel. This was done on the erroneous assumption that there is too much cash in the economy (12% of GDP) that the Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes were of very high denominations, a move that would also remove all black money in the system and counterfeiting will also be easily eliminated, we know what exactly happened 99.7% of the currency in the system went to the 'banks and dividend' Demonetization should stand as one of the most arbitrary decisions ever taken by an elected leader in a democracy.

The Modi government claims that there has been no corruption during his tenure, but official documents on the Rafale purchase have revealed that the purchase of 126 UPA-era fighter jets for the IAF was converted into only 36 fighters without the necessary approvals was given. The benchmark price of the aircraft was arbitrarily raised to around & 3 billion by the Pm-led cabinet committee on security. The opposition was demanding on inquiry into the matter and a joint parliamentary

committee. So, the government made many more changes in the rules so that no investigation could take place. The Modi government had a majority in the Lok Sabha but not in the Rajya Sabha and democratic spirit required that the government allows debate on every bill in both the houses, but the government resorted to deceit to pass some bills. One such bill was the Aadhaar Bill, which was passed by the government through the Lok Sabha by calling it a money bill, which did not give the Rajya Sabha a chance to debate these provisions in this bill which were not part of the money bill similarly amending four laws to enable the secret electoral bond scheme, which allows anonymous and unlimited donations to political parties, was hidden in the Finance Bill 2017 and did not allow any debate on the matter in the Lok Sabha.

In all the cases mentioned above the weak presence of opposition is revealed and the lack of strong opposition is felt. It seems that the opposition has indirectly surrendered to the ruling party and has not been able to stop the controversial decision of the ruling party.

The first session of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha began on 4 June 2014 and its last session ended on 13 February 2019 and the country witnessed turmoil between these two sessions, inside and outside the parliament. This Lok Sabha passed a total of 133 bills and 45 ordinances and worked for a total of 1615 hours, which is the second shortest tenure completed by a house. An analysis by RRS Legislative Research, a non-government organization has revealed. This Lok Sabha spent 40% less time than the average hours completed by the previous lower houses and lost 16% of its scheduled time due to interference which is 37% better than Fifteenth Lok Sabha but Fourteenth Lok Sabha by 13% is worse. In this Lok Sabha, the question hour was reduced and 83% of the budget was passed without discussion, and all the resolutions (100%) made in the union Budget 2018-2019 were passed without any debate. In this Lok Sabha most of the bills sent to the Parliament survived the investigation, even on the demand of the opposition parties, these bills were not sent to the inquiry committee. Of these bills, only 25% were referred to committees, which was much less than the Fourteenth Lok Sabha (60%) and the Fifteenth Lok Sabha (71%). However, the house claimed more time for discussion than the previous Lok Sabha. This not only erodes the democratic values and functioning of parliament but has also damaged the quality of bills, for example, surrogacy bill and transgender bill was widely criticized as a reflection of the die-hard social outlook suffering from castes and patriarchal outlook and oppressive understanding sensationalism and emotional play are not essential to the democratic process of parliament as it lies in the way it proceeds. All these things indicate the undemocratic functioning of parliament session under the Modi regime. It is believed that if the opposition is strong, then the government has to pull back its steps many times and it is not autocratic. It is an established principle that an overwhelming majority leads to autocracy and history has proved this time and again.

Leader of the Opposition

- Under the current rules, an opposition party can claim to have the leader of the opposition in either house, provided the party wins 10% of the seats. This number is 55 in the Lok Sabha, which is a 543-member house.
- The 10% rule was first explained by Lok Sabha speaker G.V. Mavalankar. Mavalankar had ruled in the Lok Sabha that the strength of the main opposition party, which should be officially recognized, should be equal to the quorum of the house. Quorum is equal to 10% of the members.
- The statutory definition of Leader of the opposition, however, came with the 1977 Salary and Allowances of the Leader of the opposition. It stated that the leader of the opposition would be from the opposition party with the largest numerical strength and it would be recognized by the Lok Sabha. Speaker or Rajya Sabha chairperson in the respective Houses.
- The act of 1977 did not contain the condition of 10%, but it was the decision of Mavalankar speaker and was enforceable as law. The Mavalankar regime was eventually incorporated in the parliament (facilitation) Act 1998 in Direction 121 (1). This rule remained unchanged.
- The Leader of the opposition gets the same salary and allowances as the cabinet minister paid by the government.

Since there is no constitutional provision of 10% rule and it all depends on the directions and discretion of the speaker. Therefore, the simple way is to substitute "Pre-poll alliance". Along with this, the speaker can give the status of Leader of the opposition jointly to the leader of the single largest party or to the leader of the coalition of different parties, if he so desired.

Significance of Opposition in Indian Democracy

The opposition in India plays a vital role in providing practical critique of the ruling party. It is important for the opposition party to have a leader who can represent the interests of non-major parties in these roles. The absence of an opposition leader will undermine parliamentary democracy as the opposition will not be able to put up a unified front against the incumbent government. The leader of the opposition has a major role in the appointments of constitutional institutions such as the Director of the CBI, Chief Vigilance Commissioner, the Information Commissioner, and the Chairperson of the NHRC and the appointment of judges of the Supreme Court.

In a democracy, the post of the leader of the opposition is considered to be at the level of the Prime Minister and Chief Justice. Indian democracy has been a witness to the fact that whenever leaders of opposition like Atal Bihari Bajpai, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, L. K. Advani spoke in parliament, the ruling party listened to their words very seriously. And not only listened, but the policies and plans of the ruling party were given edge by the debate of the opposition and it was considered better for the uplift of the people. The importance of opposition in democracy can be understood very well from these lines of the Tamil poet 'Thirukkural' that, "a king who has no one to criticize, who is devoid of protection, yet no one is destroyed, he is surely destroyed".

Conclusion

The opposition in democracy is essential to ensure that the government performs "with minimum government and maximum governance" is transparent, responsive and accountable. Playing the role of opposition party in India has been very challenging from the beginning; its situation has been subjected to many ups and downs from time to time. At present, a divided and weak opposition is more dangerous for the Indian democracy than the powerful ruling party. There are many dimensions of opposition in India, some of which are as follows:

- Despite the importance of opposition, the tradition of healthy opposition never existed in India because the congress party had dominated Indian politics since independence from the very beginning. Congress was not only a political party, but as an organization it had a great contribution in the freedom movement of India. Therefore, it had a very deep impact on the hearts and minds of the common people of India. Due to the representation of the whole Indian political culture of the congress party at that time, it also represented the entire Indian public. Due to the popularity of the congress party in the general public no strong opposition party has ever emerged, although resistance voices were raised on the basis of caste and religion from time to time but they did not last very long. Even if the opposition party like Jana Sangh and Bhartiya Samajwadi party were formed, they failed to attract the attention of public.
- As we all know that India is a country full of diversity, here there is a sense of unity in diversity. India is a multilingual, multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural country. Due to these variations, here two party systems like America and Britain could not develop so that a strong and sharp opposition could not be formed here. India is also a very large country in terms of population, so many political parties have been formed here due to the representation of all the people on different grounds. Due to the presence of many political parties, the development of the opposition here also always happened in fragments.
- Political corruption is a very big problem in Indian politics and it has been there for a long time. Here the leaders do vote bank politics, they ask the public for votes on the basis of caste and religion. They are engaged in straightening their oar, their only aim is to win the election. Here the main issues due to the politics of caste and religion never come to the center and the general public just gets entangled in the battle of caste and religion. However, as people become aware and educated the notion that it is happening is decreasing.
- Here there was always the influence of power politics and power was always the center of competition. Here every political party is only looking at getting power and no party wants to be in opposition and the only objective of the opposition parties is to defame the government in any way and occupy power themselves. That is why opposition parties oppose the government just for the sake of opposition, due to which the spirit of constructive opposition can never develop in them.
- India never has enlightened public opinion emerge because at the time of independence the literacy rate was very low here. Therefore, the ethnic elements like caste, religion and language remained at the center of the elections of Indian politics from the very beginning and never had

the primacy of issues like education health, development inflation, corruption and employment and even if they were, they did not rise very fast. It is a matter of regret that today, when we are developing very fast in every field, even after so many years of independence; elections are being fought on the issue of caste and religion in our politics. One of the main reasons for this is that the people here are never aware of the electoral issues and yet there is a lack of public awareness about what is right and what is wrong for them. The people here are very naive and get caught up in the emotional and sentimental rhetoric used by political parties at the time of elections, due to which they are unable to use this discretion properly. Like if the public had been aware, it could have been that Modi would have lost the general election on 2019 only because of the decision of demonetization. Therefore, if there is an enlightened public opinion in a democracy, then both the ruling party and the opposition remain alert.

- India is the world's largest democratic superpower and the population here is also very high. The democratic politics here is also full of diversity that's why there was never much need for opposition here. In Indian politics there is a feeling that on any issue of governance and country interest, ultimately the ruling party and the opposition should stand together and is showing no signs of recovery.
- With the BJP overwhelming majority in 2019 parliamentary election, providing the party with muscle power at the center the threat of "tyranny of the majority" is looming large over the heads of all of India. There is a frightful need of united, strong, meaningful, committed, credible and responsible opposition at this juncture, where BJP can strive with more vigor to try to unite the nation to secure a "Hindu Nation". The current electoral scenario in India paints a grim picture in this regard as the opposition party has suffered its worst defeat in the 2019 Lok Sabha election and is showing no signs of recovery. Therefore, the opposition must rise up against weak alliances and dynasty politics throwing out the settlements and Macbeths in the larger interest of the nation. Other than this the opposition needs a charismatic leader to regain its lost creditability and charm to gain its rightful place in nation building, the opposition should use this opportunity to increase its representation in the Rajya Sabha to ensure elections to the state assemblies.
- If public opinion is strong in a democracy, then the government also has to take their side, similar to what happened during the Mumbai Anti-Terrorist attack, Anna Hazare's movement and the Nirbhaya incident, when the people of the whole country came together in unison. This too becomes like a role of the opposition, but the people here are always entangled in the dispute of the temple-Mosque, earlier there was the Ram temple issue, recently the Gyanvapi mosque issue remains in the discussion. Along with this, the role of opposition could not be effective due to nepotism in Indian politics.

Against the backdrop of historical evidence that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely (Lord Acton). The opposition is indispensable to prevent any attempt to act against the will and interests of the party people in power. Therefore, in any parliamentary democracy, both the government and the opposition are two wheels of the same vehicle. India needs a strong and constructive opposition right now because democracy does not seem like a democracy due to lack of leadership in the opposition. In any democracy, if the opposition is sharp, effective and honest, then the government tramples because of its fear, the country is benefited, the arrogance of the government Leaders their autocracy and arbitrariness are controlled. In the words of the great thinker J.S. Mill, "Democracy is a way of life" which means that in any democratic country every person should be democratic and every individual's opinion should be respected, no matter how adversarial and no matter what this type of dispute should be resolved through dialogue only. This is the real democracy and its aim is to produce moral persons.

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