

A Comment on Election Results

Elections were held in five states in March, 2022. Elections were also held in five states last year, 2021. Born out of anti-corruption movement, the Aam Aadmi party came to power in Punjab and the Congress lost its power. The BJP competed only to increase its dominance. Support for the peasant movement on the borders of Delhi, squabbles in Congress and the actions of the previous Congress government led by ex-Royal member turned to opposition vis-a-vis the Punjab peasant agitation might have contributed to the victory of the Aam Aadmi party. Even during the run of elections in-fighting within the Congress made people feel it to be undependable and unstable option. But the Punjab state government is not like a Delhi metropolitan government with a dual power where the responsibility for any failure could and can be shifted to the Centre with ease. So there will be a definite real test for the Aam Aadmi party's policies. Moreover so far the Aam Aadmi Party has not taken any anti-imperialist and anti-Hindutvawadi stand. Even during Delhi pogroms the AAP leadership remained onlookers. That tactics cannot be successful in the Punjab.

In Uttar Pradesh, BJP came back to power despite the reduction in seats than in the past. The BJP faced stiff competition from the Samajwadi Party, which tried to fight BJP's Hindutva raising slogans against fascistic assaults against the Dalits and Minorities, attacks on peasant movement. The BJP consistently played the Hindutva Card. Moreover, BJP had been continually trying to divide the toiling masses on communal lines.

After so many years the Babri Masjid controversy at Ayodhya was resolved by the Supreme Court through a one sided judgment going against all basics of jurisprudence. This became an advantage to BJP to propagate itself as the guardian of Hindus. With the propaganda about Rama Mandir in Ayodhya, Krishna Mandir in Mathura and Viswanatha Corridor in Kashi, a large section of the common people belonging to the Dalits, Backward caste, other backward caste and upper castes could be mobilised behind the BJP putting aside all oppressions and brutal suppressions of the people.

The peasant movement in Western Uttar Pradesh also did not represent anti-BJP politics. The peasant leaders decided that they had nothing to do with the elections created a void which the BJP in grabbed by both hands. That alone can explain BJP's victory in Unnao and Lakhimpur where the pyres of the peasant activists were still burning.

The BSP and AIMIM which have nothing to do with anti-feudal culture of exploitation and anti-capitalist culture failed to win the confidence of the oppressed minorities. Rather the divisions of dalit and minority votes helped the BJP. It remains to be seen how long BJP will continue to maintain Uttar Pradesh as the epicenter of Hindutva ideology in India the home to cultural traditions and beliefs of both Hindu as well as Muslims, the tradition of peaceful co-existence of different faiths side by side.

It remains to be seen how long Uttar Pradesh will be instrumentally getting AIMIM to become an all-India party. Uttar Pradesh, on the other hand, is home to the worst feudal exploitation and cultures and the vile unjust exploitative surrender to corporate powers. The rural poor living in squalor as migrant laborers awaiting government schemes. Untouchability, caste and religious discriminations continue. Can either the Congress representing the feudal forces and the bourgeoisie, the liberal socialists, the liberal bahujana socialists, the parties that just pay lip service to Marxism can stand as an alternative force to the BJP.

That is the question that arises. Today the question is not to explain the situation, but take up the task of changing it. That is the challenge to be taken up by the communists today. The ways and means must be found out. Then the day will come when oppressed masses of Uttar Pradesh will certainly find themselves what to do, how to change and where that change will lead to.