

FIGHT FOR DEMOCRATISATION OF SOCIETY

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Opposition parties and democrats in India came forward with strong criticism and protest against the cancellation of Lok Sabha membership of Rahul Gandhi following his conviction in the defamation case, which is a good sign for secular and democratic forces.

After the Modi government came to power, the democratic rights are not allowed to the people of India. Rahul Gandhi's remark at Cambridge University that Indian democracy is in danger was depicted as an act of treason for the state. But Rahul Gandhi was not the first to announce this fact to the world. There are scales in the world that measure how much freedom the people of a country have in issues such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of expression, freedom of worship, freedom of religion, right to equality, civil rights, human rights, and women's freedom.

An "Index" is given to each country in the report prepared by analyzing each issue in the country. All such analysis indicates that Indian democracy is transforming into an authoritarian and religious state. Indian media has been reduced to Modi media. Critics of government policies were routinely hunted down by national investigative agencies, ED, Income Tax, and CBI. Other agencies were also used for this.

There are three options before the opposition and critics i.e. keep quiet, join BJP and get ready to go to jail. Many corrupt and criminals joined BJP and became safe. The rest were silent. As the visual, audio and print media indulged in praise of Modi and the opposition was silent, the democratic rights, generated to citizens by Constitution are being denied one by one.

Democratic activists, cultural activists, NGOs and revolutionary forces raised popular resistance against it. The government has charged sedition against those who raised criticism and agitation. They were arrested and imprisoned using black laws like UAPA. Even criticizing Modi and the Modi government was considered as a crime of sedition. Amnesty International stopped working in India as a result of raiding the office and constantly threatening its officials. They exposed the constant human rights violations in India to the world. Media offices that raised even the slightest criticism were regularly raided. Judiciary today has the final word in the punishment of crimes. But according to the unofficial reports, there are ongoing moves to shift the final word to the legislators from judiciary like in the Israeli model. It must be assumed that the recent intervention by the government to neutralize even the collegiums, the body for appointment of judges is part of this move. If that happens, the limited democracy which exists in India will give way to a Brahminical Hindutva regime based on Manu Smriti laws. After the adoption of the constitution by the Constituent Assembly, its Architect Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's comments are memorable on this occasion. This constitution is only a democratic garment to

the social system where social and economic inequalities based on caste, superstitions and customs are rampant. If this governance structure is to become real and workable, this social system must be transformed. But there is no changes in the social system.

After BJP coming to power, the social inequalities pointed out by Ambedkar reached their climax. Today anyone can see the Brahminical social order full of inequalities through the big holes in the fabric of democracy. India's professed democracy is not in jeopardy, it has become a life form that is kept alive only by breathing through an artificial oxygen valve. There needs to be a united struggle to rebuild the democratic system from this dead state. In Emil Martin Niemoller poem, he wrote that when they finally came for me, there was no one left to speak for me. We can no longer wait for a time when there will be no one left to advocate for us as in the above mentioned lyric.