Enter caste-plus politics

Voters say growth is no 1 concern but will still filter candidates through caste

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Social Basis of Support for NDA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Upper Caste</th>
<th>OBC</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>ST</th>
<th>Muslim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activity to improve the lot of those poorer polarizes it useful to remind ourselves of the wider context of developments of the past decades under UPA rule. This period has on average been marked by exceptional economic growth. Noteworthy are the massive improvement in poverty, increase in literacy, substantial increase in literacy, education, and real wages and consumption in rural India. This improvement has been very significant. Since 2000, the proportion of rural telephones has increased from 1% to 64%, and thanks to massive investments in rural roads, the connectivity of villages to markets has created millions of non-farm jobs.

However, not all communities have benefitted. The Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes have remained sidelined. About 60% of the STs and 42% of SCs remain below the poverty line, while the OBCs seem to have made significant progress.

There has been an increase in the delivery of public services under UPA rule. This has been particularly the case for urban India. Whether it is in the form of per capita access to piped water and sanitation facilities, road repair, or access to public transport or low-cost housing, the quality of life for the growing urban population has improved significantly over the past ten years. Even in rural India, one in five households still does not have access to any of the three basic services, namely, electricity, drinking water, and drinking water. Per capita access to reliable and affordable healthcare has deteriorated, as have outcomes from public education across both urban and rural India. The evidence further suggests that subsidies and transfers from government that are important for the electorate, all these measures must be determined and considered.

Social insecures persist

First, while the survey confirms that economic issues, including inflation in particular, are the most important election concerns for a large majority of Indian households, the survey finds that a substantial majority of households care more about the caste and ethnicity of their elected representatives. A whopping 67% of households selected growth, inflation or personal income as their top concern for the next elections. Only 33% identified caste or religion as the most important electoral issue for them. However, when asked which party was more likely to help them gain access to the idea of someone from another caste or religious community moving from their community, close to half of respondents picked the party that they believed was more likely to help them gain access to the idea of someone from another caste or religious community. The party that they believed was more likely to help them gain access to the idea of someone from another caste or religious community was the party that they believed was more likely to help them gain access to the idea of someone from another caste or religious community. The party that they believed was more likely to help them gain access to the idea of someone from another caste or religious community was the party that they believed was more likely to help them.

Subsidies matter only to 7%

This is remarkable given that even though economic issues strongly dominate the electoral concerns of a vast majority of voters, only 7% of the respondents identified subsidies, transfers and transfers from government that are important for their economic well being material to determining their voting choice. It is remarkable that even though economic issues strongly dominate the electoral concerns of voters, 7% of the respondents identified subsidies, transfers and transfers from government that are important for their economic well being material to determining their voting choice. It is remarkable that even though.