

## Challenges to Indian democracy

### \* Gender discrimination

Discrimination against men and women is still prevalent among society as well as polity. It is challenged as gender equality is the bedrock of democracy. The constitution of India prohibits such discriminated based upon gender and sex. Our freedom fighters fought and sought parity among genders.

But, it is part of life. It could be seen when sex ratio data, maternal mortality rate are provided by the agencies.

The child sex ratio is matter of great concern. But some heartening steps like providing sanitation to women in the Panchayat Raj, municipalised municipal corporations has increased the visibility and role in decision making.

### \* Casteism - Earlier division of labour force based upon profession has assured the diverse force for the people. Now, it is based upon birth. It is the most detrimental and pernicious aspect. Its worst aspect is the practice of untouchability which lowers the dignity of humanity.

This has led to the devaluation and segregation of lower caste. It is affected by democratic political process which advocates the equality among citizens. The ugly face of casteism is to be become force to deprive the most vulnerable section of the society.

The democratic fight for the fundamental rights relates to equality, freedom of speech expression and association.

It is negatively beneficial to the few at the cost of larger section of the people.

Now the democratic set up has led to the new consolidation and combenation based upon this new identity called Caste. Politicization of the Caste in contemporary India has emerged as new challenge to the Indian democracy.

\* Communalism: - Communalism and religious fundamentalism have acquired a very critical to the democracy. It has assumed a ~~classical~~ ~~religious~~ a monolithic form which is eroding the edifice of the democracy itself. They disrupt the pattern of coexistence in our multi religious society.

It is an affront to India's national identity and a tragic set back to its evolving secular culture. It is subversive of our democratic political stability and despoils our glorious heritage of harmony and composite culture.

Following a particular religion is not a threat but wiping out or not ~~accepting~~ accepting the coexistence of other faith is a challenge. Communalism is an ideology of political support for a religious community. It uses one community against another community. One of the manifestations of communalism is communal riots. In recent past also. It has led to the polarisation and uses key vested interest to widen the fissure between faiths.

\* Regionalism - It is primarily result of distrust, disenchantment between centre and its unit due to perceived discrimination.

- - - to be continued