



THE SHADOW OF FASCISM ON DEMOCRACY IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The present paper attempts to analyse the challenges posed by fascist forces threatening the very existence democratic polity and constitutional institutions in India. The study discusses the concept of fascism, The RSS ideology and its resemblance with fascist ideology and finally the attempts of Modi Government of subverting the democracy and constitution institutions

KEYWORDS : Democracy Fascism. Democratic institution and Rashtray swemsewak Sangh

19th Century German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel's philosophy is said to be responsible for the rise of totalitarian state which regards 'State as the march of God on Earth' meaning thereby that State is the divine manifestation on the earth. Inspired by the thought of Hegel, Benito Mussolini developed the concept of Fascism which implies that the conception of the State is all-embracing; outside of it no human or spiritual values can exist, much less have value. Thus Fascism is totalitarian, and the Fascist State—a synthesis and a unit inclusive of all values—interprets, develops, and potentiates the whole life of a people...everything in the State, nothing against the State, nothing outside the State.

Robert Paxton, a professor emeritus of social science at Columbia University in New York who is widely considered the father of fascism studies, defined fascism as "a form of political practice distinctive to the 20th century that arouses popular enthusiasm by sophisticated propaganda techniques for an anti-liberal, anti-socialist, violently exclusionary, expansionist nationalist agenda."¹ In his 2004 book *The Anatomy of Fascism*, Paxton refines his five-stage model and puts forward the following definition for fascism: Fascism may be defined as a form of political behaviour marked by obsessive preoccupation with community decline, humiliation, or victimhood and by compensatory cults of unity, energy, and purity, in which a mass-based party of committed nationalist militants, working in uneasy but effective collaboration with traditional elites, abandons democratic liberties and pursues with redemptive violence and without ethical or legal restraints goals of internal cleansing and external expansion²

The word "fascism" comes from the Italian word "fascismo". This, in turn, is derived from the word "fascio", which means "a bundle of rods" and refers to the fact that a bundle of rods is more difficult to break than a single rod. The term "fasci" is derived from this word and is used to refer to Italian political groups that lean toward the political left

Fascism has gained a negative connotation which refers to the philosophy of having a dictator rule the country, with the dictator having full power over the people and having the ability to suppress those who oppose and criticize him. It also refers to a government that follows the principles of the fascism philosophy. Fascists do not believe in liberal democracy; rather, they prioritize totalitarianism and military citizenship to help the country prepare for armed conflict and economic struggles.

Now let us examine the influence of fascism on the ideology of RSS (Rashtraya Swemsewak Sangh). In 1940, MS Golwalkar said, "The RSS inspired by one flag, one leader and one ideology is lighting the flame of Hindutva in each and every corner of this great land."³

"The first Hindu nationalist who came in contact with the fascist regime and its dictator was B.S. Moonje, a politician strictly related to the RSS... Between February and March 1931... Moonje made a tour of Europe, which included a long stop-over in Italy. There he visited some important military schools and educational institutions. The highlight of the visit was the meeting with Mussolini."⁴

"The idea of fascism vividly brings out the conception of unity amongst people...India and particularly Hindu India need some such institution for the military regeneration of the Hindus... Our institution of Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh of Nagpur under Dr Hedgewar is of this kind, though quite independently conceived", Moonje had written in his diary. It is well known that M S Golwalkar, the second supreme leader of RSS, idolised the Holocaust and thought that it to be an effective way to deal with the minorities of India. In *We Our Nationhood Defined*, he wrote, "To keep up the purity of the Race and its culture, Germany shocked the world by her purging the country of the Semitic Races — the Jews... Germany has also shown how well-nigh impossible it is for races and cultures, having differences going to the root, to be assimilated into one united whole... a good lesson for us in Hindustan to learn and profit by."⁵

Golwalkar's treatment of minorities and foreigners in the 'Hindu Rashtra' bears striking resemblance to Hitler's ways. The following paragraph from Golwalkar's book highlights this resemblance. He writes, "It is worth bearing well in mind how these old Nations solve their minorities [sic] problem. They do not undertake to recognize any separate element in their polity. Emigrants have to get themselves naturally assimilated in the principal mass of the population, the National Race, by adopting its culture and language and sharing in its aspirations, by losing all consciousness of their separate existence, forgetting their foreign origin. If they do not do so, they live merely as outsiders, bound by all the codes and conventions of the Nation, at the sufferance of the Nation and deserving no special protection, far less any privilege or rights. There are only two courses open to the foreign elements, either to merge themselves in the national race and adopt its culture, or to live at its mercy so long as the national race may allow them to do so and to quit the country at the sweet will of the national race. That is the only sound view on the minorities [sic] problem. That is the only logical and correct solution. That alone keeps the national life healthy and undisturbed. That alone keeps the nation safe from the danger of a cancer developing into its body politic of the creation of a state within a state."⁶

As Palash Ghosh observed in his noted article in *International Business Times*, apart from Golwalkar, "Perhaps there was no greater admirer of Hitler and Mussolini in India than Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, another leading member of RSS." In a speech delivered in 1940 in the meeting of Hindu Maha

Sabha , Savarkar had said, "There is no reason to suppose that Hitler must be a human monster because he passes off as a Nazi... Nazism proved undeniably the savior of Germany under the set of circumstances Germany was placed in."⁷

RSS ideologue Golwalkar in his writings like 'Bunch Of Thoughts' argues that territorial nationalism, which is the basis of Indian Constitution, is a barbarism, since according to him a nation is 'not a mere bundle of political and economic rights' but an embodiment of national culture—in India, 'ancient and sublime' Hinduism. It sneers at democracy, which Golwalkar sees as alien to Hindu culture, and lavishes praise on the Code of Manu, whom Golwalkar salutes as 'the first, the greatest, and the wisest lawgiver of mankind'.⁸

When the Constituent Assembly of India passed the Constitution of India on November 26, 1949, RSS was not happy. Its organ, *Organiser* in an editorial on November 30, 1949, complained: "But in our Constitution there is no mention of the unique constitutional development in ancient *Bharat*. Manu's Laws were written long before Lycurgus of Sparta or Solon of Persia. To this day his laws as enunciated in the *Manusmriti* excite the admiration of the world and elicit spontaneous obedience and conformity. But to our constitutional pundits that means nothing."⁹

In 1938, during the time of accelerating anti-Jewish legislation in Germany, Savarkar suggested a similar fate for India's Muslims. "A nation is formed by a majority living therein," he declared. "What did the Jews do in Germany? They being in minority were driven out from Germany." Palash Ghosh further states:

"Marzia Casolari, an Italian scholar who studied Indian politics, once wrote of RSS' connections with European fascism: The existence of direct contacts between the representatives of the [Italian] Fascist regime, including Mussolini, and Hindu nationalists demonstrates that Hindu nationalism had much more than an abstract interest in the ideology and practice of fascism. The interest of Indian Hindu nationalists in fascism and Mussolini must not be considered as dictated by an occasional curiosity, confined to a few individuals; rather, it should be considered as the culminating result of the attention that Hindu nationalists... focused on Italian dictatorship and its leader. To them, fascism appeared to be an example of conservative revolution."

How firmly is RSS committed to the goal of Hindu *Rashtra* is evident from the following words of Golwalkar's 1960 speech at Indore before a gathering of top RSS cadres; ".Hindu *Rashtra* is an irrefutable fact. It is beyond controversy. It is an established truth. This belief is treasured in the hearts of all *Swayam Sewaks* and must remain as such ... We will not rest till we have established this *Rashtra*. We will make it powerful and sovereign. Those who will come in our way will do so at their own risk. ... There can be no compromise on this issue, no bargaining."¹⁰

A strong Hindu *Rashtra* is the *summa bonum* for RSS and this is not possible as long as aliens like non-Hindus, such as Christians and Muslims, remain outside the national mainstream. They must be brought to their 'ancestral home'. How to bring this about? RSS recommends two methods. First is to organize all the Hindus of the country in a particular manner,..... second is the use of force by an organized section of Hindus. Golwalkar does not mince words while advocating use of 'force' for this purposes- "In this task of self-protection (of Hindu Dharma and culture, -Ed.), we might have to destroy evil persons. Conflicts will take place, today or tomorrow. Conflict might take time to arise, but it will take place. In a conflict situation, truth is always victorious and we will have to show that this happens. If

these *Asur* (evil) forces can be defeated through the use of force, force should be used; if good behavior works, it should be brought into play and if logic can succeed it should be used. Generally speaking, it is a matter of common experience that evil forces do not understand the language of logic and sweet nature. They can be controlled by force."¹¹

Now the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, a trained Pracharak (propagator) of RSS, deeply soaked in the ideology of Hindu nationalism, is working for the agenda of Hindu nation¹² He represents the aggressive form of *Hindutva* agenda. He openly says that they believe in Hindu nationalism.¹³ This is a subtle hint at the communal fascism which the RSS and Modi want to bring in. The major support base for RSS, more so with Modi at the helm is the corporate sector on the one hand and the middle level corporate employees, the Information Technology-MBA groups on the other. Modi has demonstrated in Gujarat that he can open all the state coffers for the industrialists, land, loans and necessary paraphernalia. This has impressed the corporate sector and they are pitching for him in a major way.¹⁴

Modi, is on the job of pushing the country towards Hindu nation and undermining Indian nationalism. Indian nationalism has liberal space and place for diversity built into it. The Modi years have witnessed an authoritarian imposition upon society by an increasingly centralised state, the setting up of one segment of society against another and the promotion of a cult of hatred, behind which the state acts directly in corporate interests. The attack on civil liberties, the restructuring of the state to effect an acute centralisation of power, and the pervasive pervyance of fear, the hallmarks of Narendra Modi years, resemble early phase of Hitler and Mussolini. The Modi tenure has been disastrous for minorities, environmentalists, labor rights activists, liberal media, progressive universities, socially, and economically vulnerable groups such as Dalits (oppressed castes) and farmers, to name a few. There has thus been a definite increase in political and economic violence and overt intimidation at all levels of society accompanied by plummeting levels of media freedom, a consolidation and centralization of power, and an openly hostile attitude to secularism and democratic principles¹⁵

In 2003 a historian named Laurence Britt wrote an article, "Fascism Anyone?" for the magazine "Free Inquiry" which listed 14 warning signs of early fascism.¹⁶ This list was converted into a poster and at one point sold by the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC. More recently historian Timothy Snyder wrote "On Tyranny, Twenty lessons from the twentieth century."¹⁷ Most of the points in the list and the book echo the current political and social climate in India. Some, are unique to Modi's rule. Mahua Moitra the TMC MP from West Bengal also mentioned the same poster on fascism which highlights seven signs of early fascism she spoke about issues like dissent, religious freedom, and media control. She said that the Constitution, which each member of the House has "sworn to protect", is "under threat today".¹⁸

Here are some sign of fascism:-

Nationalism searing into national fabric:

Mahua Moitra said that the first sign is the BJP's narrative of the "powerful and continuing nationalism" which is searing into "our national fabric". She said that the narrative was "superficial", "xenophobic" and "narrow". "It is the lust to divide, it is not a desire to unite," she said. Mahua Moitra spoke about the contentious issue of the anti-immigration laws like the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam. "Citizens are being thrown out of their homes and being called illegal immigrants. People who have lived in this country for 50 years have to show a piece of paper to prove that they are Indians."

Mahua Moitra also took a jibe at the leaders of the ruling party and said, "In a country where ministers cannot produce degrees to show that they have graduated from college, you expect dispossessed poor people to show papers, to show that they belong to this country." She also pointed out that there was no specific symbol or a test to prove allegiance to one's nation. "There is no one symbol or there is no one slogan that can show any Indian that he is a patriot," she said.

Disdain for human rights in government:

Listing the second sign of fascism in the country, Mahua Moitra hit out at the ruling government for its alleged contempt for human rights, saying that a "resounding disdain" has permeated every level of government. "There is a ten-fold increase in the number of hate crime from 2014 to 2019. It is like a valuation of an e-commerce start up. There are forces in this country who are sitting there, just pushing these numbers up," Mahua Moitra said. Mahua Moitra said that the lynching of citizens in broad daylight is being condoned and gave examples of Pehlu Khan who was lynched in Rajasthan in 2017 and Tabrez Ansari who was lynched in Jharkhand last week. "The list is not stopping," Mahua Moitra said. Since Modi came to power the hitherto uncoined word 'gau-vigilante' or 'gau-rakshak' entered the lexicon. These gau (cow) vigilantes are self styled, lawless gangs of brutal, violent thugs, who belong to extreme offshoots of the right wing Rashtriya Sevak Sangh (RSS), who've been beating up people, in most cases savagely and specifically to break legs, disable them for at least a year, Muslims and Dalits, purportedly for killing cows or eating beef.

It started on July 11, 2016 with the flogging of 4 Dalits by a gang of these thugs in Una, Gujarat for skinning the carcass of a cow. The fact is these 4 Dalit youths belong to a community whose traditional occupation for centuries has been to collect and skin cattle carcass. The vigilantes flogged these young men for hours; videotaped it and disseminated it on social media! Since July 2016 until end 2017, there've been at least 37 Known cases of lynchings by gau-vigilantes in which some victims have been killed too. Modi's rhetorical comments are never followed by any action, leave alone jail sentences against these killers, since no laws have been passed specifically against these lynch mobs and the attacks continue.

Subjugation and control of mass media:

The third warning sign Mahua Moitra referred to was the "unimaginable subjugation and controlling" of mass media today. Taking a jibe at PM Narendra Modi, Mahua Moitra said that five of the largest news media organisations in India today are either "indirectly controlled or indirectly indebted to one man in this country". Mahua Moitra claimed that TV channels were broadcasting propaganda of the ruling party, as "coverage of every opposition party is cut out." Mahua Moitra asked the government to come out with the numbers and the names of the media houses they are blocking out. She said the Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry "employs over 120 people" just to monitor and control anti-government stories in media. Mahua Moitra also addressed the issue of fake news being spread in the country and said that the last Lok Sabha election was "fought not on farmer distress...or unemployment... but on Whatsapp, on fake news and on manipulating minds." The Modi gov't. directly or indirectly managed to have controlled most of the mainstream publications, TV channels, through overt rewards with millions worth of government advertisements. The few who opposed or still do, are intimidated, mocked, marginalised and attacked and through the lakhs of trolls recruited on social media regularly abused. Gauri Lankesh was killed apparently by right wing Hindus. The BJP MLA D.N Jeevaraj from Karnataka suggested that Gauri Lankesh might be alive if she hadn't criticized the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh

(RSS).¹⁹ Other journalists have been forced to resign, harassed with multi-million dollar lawsuits. The newspapers not subscribing to the Hindutva point of view are denied government advertisements. Most of the 'big media', the celebrity journalists, the popular TV channels seem to have succumbed—self censorship has become norm of the day. Stories which show Modi and BJP in a critical light are ignored, movies and trivial issues are blown up to dominate the discourse and to distract.

"India's big media conglomerates are either owned by the fans of the BJP, or else reliant on the government's favour. There are few legal limits and little oversight of government spending on advertising. Mr Modi's image is everywhere: on giant billboards trumpeting new roads and bridges, in full-page newspaper spreads for BJP election campaigns, in television spots touting myriad government programmes. During the first week of June, state-sponsored projects accounted for three of the top five brands advertised on television, amounting to some 30,000 "insertions". The risk of losing such revenue hangs heavily over editorial decisions."²⁰

Obsession with national security:

In her speech, Mahua Moitra said that the fourth sign of fascism was the ruling government's alleged "obsession" with national security. Referring to the practice of parents scaring their children with the idea of a kala bhoot (black ghost) to keep them in line, Mahua Moitra declared, "It is as though all of us in this country are today in fear of nameless, shameless kala bhoot", while adding that there is fear pervading everywhere. Mahua Moitra alleged the achievements of the Army were being "usurped in the name of one man". She also said, "New enemies are being created every day", while pointing out the irony that the number of killings of soldiers and terror attacks had increased since 2014. "There has been a 106 per cent increase in the death of Jawans in Kashmir," Mahua Moitra added.

Religion and Government intertwined in the country:

Mahua Moitra then listed her fifth sign of fascism and said that the religion and government have become intertwined which is unheard of in the history of India. She said that "we have redefined what it means to be a citizen". Mahua Moitra again brought to the fore the NRC and the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, and said, "We are making sure that it is only one community that is the target of anti-immigration laws." Taking a jibe at the ruling government focussing on the Ram Mandir issue instead of so many other issues that plague our country, Mahua Moitra said, "Members of the Parliament are concerned mostly with 2.77 acres of Ram Janmabhoomi while (they seem to be unconcerned) by the 80 crore acre that makes India."

Disdain for intellectuals and the arts:

Mahua Moitra said that the sixth sign of fascism was the "complete disdain for intellectuals and the arts" which she pointed out as the most dangerous one. Adding that there is a suppression of all dissent, Mahua Moitra said that funding was being cut for liberal education. She also said that scientific temperament is enshrined in Article 51 of the Constitution. "Everything we are doing is pushing India back to the dark ages. Secondary school textbooks are being manipulated and distorted in order to indoctrinate," she said. She also accused the ruling government of not tolerating questions and suppressing the dissenting voices. "You do not even tolerate questioning let alone dissent. The spirit of dissent is integral to India. You cannot shackle us," Mahua Moitra said. At least 5 well known writers, intellectuals and rationalists have been murdered and their killers never apprehended. Others have been beaten up, threatened, jailed. Centre's budgeted Spending on education has been falling for the past three years. Compared to 2013-14, the last

year of UPA, when education got 4.57% of the total expenditure, there has been a steady decline — 3.65% in 2016-2017.²¹ India spends less than 1% of its total budget on art, compared to say 19% on defense.²² Bollywood movies have become frequent objects of controversy, intimidation and irrational censorship based on 'hurt feelings', hurt sentiments of a particular community or alleged distortion of history

Erosion of independence in electoral system:

In her final point, Mahua Moitra said there is an "erosion of independence in electoral system", noting how the Election Commission was used in the recent Lok Sabha polls. Mahua Moitra said that she did not question the mandate, but added that the Election Commission of India was being used to transfer key officials. Mahua Moitra also questioned why the Election Commission of India did not taken action against the amount of money spent during the Lok Sabha elections. "Rs 60,000 crores were spent during the Indian elections (this time) - 50% (of this amount) or Rs 27,000 crores by one party," she said. If a government can manipulate and control voting machines, in a democracy, it can potentially perpetuate its rule forever. In the last year, several cases have emerged of Electronic Voting Machines tampering in a way that no matter who the voters chose, which button they pressed, the votes went to the BJP candidate.

The Election Commission of India, an independent body, or used to be, seems to have been brought to heel with the appointment of commissioners who had earlier worked with Modi, and now despite evidence of EVM rigging come up with no clear directives on abandoning these EVMs for ballot boxes. There've been instances as in the recent civic polls in UP, that BJP did well in constituencies which used EVMs, but fared very poorly where ballot boxes were used.

Distorting, erasing historical facts from textbooks

In some BJP ruled states, like Rajasthan, history books have been saffronised and distorted to erase all reference to Mughal victories against Hindu rulers, or the role of the secular Gandhi and Nehru in more recent history.²³ Public libraries have been ordered to include books written by several BJP and RSS leaders including those written by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP general secretary Ram Madhav, Rakesh Sinha, V D Savarkar, Dinanath Batra and others.²⁵ School children in government schools are being indoctrinated and 'saffronised' with undisguised hate mongering and lies about Muslims and other minorities.²⁴

Corporate power protected and Rampant cronyism

Modi is visibly close to people like the Ambani brothers—the richest men in south Asia, Gautam Adani is a family friend; Ramdev who funds his elections by 100s of millions, in return gets the best government deals—as in the case of Rafale which went to Anil Ambani. As an example, Adani Group's revenue increased 20 times in a span of 12 years from Rs.3741 crore in 2002-03 to Rs.75659 crore in 2014-15 during the time when Narendra Modi was the chief minister of Gujarat. In 2016 Adani's assets were worth approximately Rs 80,000Crore. A millionaire Vijay Shekhar Sharma joined the Forbes top 100 list this year, with a total worth of about Rs 10,000 crores. When Modi launched Demonitisation on Nov 8, 2016, full page advertisements appeared of him promoting the digital payment gateway, PayTM owned by Vijay Shekhar—and overnight made him a billionaire. There's a long list of the biggest business men and corporations who have taken loans worth lakhs of crores, at a minimum Rs1.2 lakh crore from public sector units which have been either been 'restructured' written or waived off. These PSUs thus bankrupted and gouged out were apparently recapitalised by the cash collected by the RBI during Demonitisation.

Vijay Mallya, an ex BJP member of Parliament who owed

about Rs 9000 crores to PSUs was allowed to escape the country. The government has had a list of Indians who have offshore accounts in Panama and the Paradise Islands, but despite regular promises of retribution, threats of legal action against money launderers, not a single of these account holders, ex politicians or CEOs has ever been arrested or even had enquiries against them.

Modi's closest ally and BJP President Amit Shah's son Jay Shah turned a small unit and business into a multi crore one within a year—posting a turnover of 16000 times that of the previous year—and then shut it down! Yet when an online magazine the Wire reported this staggeringly successful business, they were slapped with a Rs100 crore lawsuit and despite Jay Shah claiming he was a private citizen, several senior ministers were immediately deployed to defend him. Dozens of BJP MPs caught with crores in unaccounted for cash during Demonetization were never held accountable; there were NO investigations that went anywhere.

The status of women and children

Over the past few years, BJP ruled states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand have had the highest and ever increasing rate of rapes, gangrapes, crimes against women and children.

Projected rapes in India - Highest incidence							
Rank	State	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
1	Madhya Pradesh	4730.44	4832.02	4933.6	5035.18	5136.76	5238.34
2	Uttar Pradesh	3382.26	3529.39	3676.52	3823.65	3970.78	4117.9
3	Maharashtra	2511.76	2570	2628.25	2686.49	2744.74	2802.98
4	West Bengal	2309.88	2386.16	2462.43	2538.71	2614.98	2691.26
5	Assam	1753.44	1813.52	1873.6	1933.68	1993.76	2053.84
6	Andhra Pradesh	1777.17	1825.17	1873.17	1921.17	1969.17	2017.17
7	Rajasthan	1662.24	1728.31	1794.37	1860.43	1926.49	1992.56
8	Odisha	1461.95	1523.37	1584.79	1646.2	1707.62	1769.03
9	Kerala	1022.76	1070.12	1117.48	1164.84	1212.2	1259.56
10	Chattisgarh	1210.64	1218.93	1227.22	1235.51	1243.8	1252.09

STATES WITH THE WORST RATES, NUMBERS OF INCIDENTS

State	Incidents	Per 1 lakh female population
Delhi	2,899	23.7
Chhattisgarh	1,560	12.2
Madhya Pradesh	4,391	11.9
Odisha	2,251	10.8
Rajasthan	3,644	10.5
Maharashtra	4,144	7.3
UTTAR PRADESH*	3,025	3.0

*Surprisingly low rate suggests widespread non-registration of rape cases

OVERALL CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Delhi tops rate chart, UP has biggest national share

State	Cases	Per 1 lakh female population	%age contribution to all-India total
1 Delhi	17,104	184.3	52
2 Assam	23,258	148.2	71
3 Telangana	15,135	83.1	4.6
4 Odisha	17,144	81.9	5.2
5 Rajasthan	28,165	81.5	8.6
6 Haryana	9,446	75.7	2.9
7 West Bengal	33,218	73.4	10.1
8 Tripura*	1,267	68.2	0.4
9 Madhya Pradesh	24,135	65.5	7.4
10 Chandigarh*	463	64.8	0.1

*Fewer cases, but small populations raise the rate

As per the latest data from National Crime Records Bureau, the crime rate against women rose from 41.7% to 53.9%, between 2011 and 2015.²⁵

In one of the most distressing cases of neglect of children, 1,250 have died of Japanese Encephalitis in just one year, since January 2017 in just one hospital—the BRD Medical College in Uttar Pradesh. Of these, 290 died in August alone and the reaction of one of the BJP legislators was 'but children always die in August.' (of encephalitis).²⁶

What shocked the nation was most of these deaths were preventable—the ones in August, it emerged, was due to oxygen supply being cut off because the suppliers, despite 40 notices to the hospital administration, had not received their payment for two years. Modi government has not only stonewalled most questions or debate on any of these issues but any criticism of Modi now falls within the purview of 'anti-nationalism'.

Treatment of Farmers and Tribals

Farmer suicides have gone up by 42% in one year, between 2014-2015. 1000s of farmers, 13,000 in 2015 alone, have committed suicide every year over agrarian distress for one reason or another.²⁷ Crimes against tribals and lower castes has gone up. In 2014, most crimes against Scheduled Castes

were registered in Uttar Pradesh (8,075) followed by Rajasthan (8,028) and Bihar (7,893), and most crimes against STs were registered in Rajasthan (3,952), Madhya Pradesh (2,279) and Odisha (1,259).²⁸

CONCLUSION

The RSS runs the government by proxy. The Sangh philosophy influences the government policy making, says one senior cabinet minister. He defines this as "bringing Indic values in culture, commerce, economy, agriculture, education and health". Many policies now directly take from RSS ideologue Deendayal Upadhyay's 'antyodaya' and 'integral humanism' concepts. These include energy access to the poorest, affordable healthcare, improving access to education, "or the governance models of state moving out of welfare to development mode," says Gopal Krishna Agarwal, the BJP's national spokesperson on economic affairs.³⁰ "The RSS is running the government," fumed Congress president Rahul Gandhi at an election speech in Karnataka this February. "It has planted its people everywhere. Even secretaries in ministries are appointed by the RSS." NITI Aayog's Rajiv Kumar, who has had fingers pointed at him, says, "I don't have any hesitation in engaging with the SJM or any other affiliates, but they will not have veto power in policy making."³¹ Besides saffronizing the university campus there is a consistent move to pack the judiciary with RSS ideology oriented judges "The manner in which the Central Government trying to scuttle the autonomy the judiciary by trying to replace the collegium system is not in consonance with the spirit of our democratic polity. The legislature, the executive and the judiciary have to go together for a healthy democracy and that is the cardinal principle of our Constitution," said Gogoi former Assam Chief Minister.³² The autonomy of election commission of India, the CBI, the Enforcement Directorate are already under question. . If we Indians continued to be trapped in RSS led illusion, our democracy and constitutional instructions are bound to degenerate into mobocracy leading to disintegration of our great nation. Since most of the symptoms are clearly visible today indicating the dawn of fascism, it must be taken as a reality. It is tragic that the people of the nation, the majority of them, are oblivious of the dangers of fascism and are swayed away by emotional issues raised by the agents of disintegration. The majority of the intellectuals too seem to be indifferent or siding with the fascists posing as nationalists and questioning all those who plead for the unity of the people in the interest of the cultural diversity of the country.

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