



The Dynamics of India under NDA – A brief analysis since 2014.”

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Abstract-

Over the past decade, India has experienced significant changes in various aspects, positioning itself as a major global player- Fifth largest economy of the world by nominal GDP and third largest by purchasing power parity.

Remarkable strides have been made in fields of Information Technology and software development with the rise of multinationals as Wipro, Tata consultancy services, Infosys etc. The NDA government has made reforms in the healthcare and education sector as well. Schemes as Ayushman Bharat, Swacch Bharat Abhiyan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao have left a nationwide impact. Legislative steps to decriminalize homosexuality and laws to protect women’s rights have promoted inclusivity and gender equality.

While every coin has two sides, unemployment and inflation are still a major concern. Income inequality, sustainable development regional disparities still remain priorities. Also a shift to the hard right wing and intolerance has become visible in India. The Bhartiya Janta Party led National Democratic alliance came to power in 2014 and the popularity of PM Narendra Modi facilitated a sweep win in the 2019 elections as well. This research paper is a brief overview of the “works done by the Modiji” and the areas the government failed us.

Keywords- *Modi government, NDA, Indian economy*

Indicators of economic growth – A comparative data of 2014 to 2022

GDP growth – The economy grew at a pace of approximately 5% to 7% when the BJP came to power. However, demonetization of 2016 and implementation of GST 2017 dampened the pace. Moreover, the COVID 19 brought recession with successive quarters of negative GDP. . 2020-21 recorded a -6.6% growth. At the time the economy has slowly recovered from these shock, the fuel war of Russia – Ukraine posed further challenges. The Growth rate of India was measured at 7.0% for the year 2022-23.

Inflation – Both CPI and WPI were at record high of 15.08% and 7.79% respectively in 2022. Prices of food and beverages, light and transport, edible oils and vegetables have risen noticeably.

Unemployment – The jobless rate rose from 5.4% in 2014 to 8.6% in 2016, came as low as 3.3% in July 2017 as per the data from Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy CMIE. The pandemic however effected the employment in service sector.

Foreign Trade – According to the numbers of Ministry of commerce and industry, exports breached the \$400billion mark for the first time in FY22 owing to the growing diplomatic international relations of India and the “emergence of new trade corridors through FTA,CEPA,ECTA and the government's Production link incentives.”

Foreign direct investment – In a sharp contrast to mere \$16.05 billion in 2014, the gross inward FDI was at \$83.6 billion in FY22.

Per capita income – The net per capita income was Rs. 86454 in 2014 which jumped to Rs 1.5 lakh in 2022.

Sensex- The BSE sensdex crossed the 25000 mark in 2014. A re-win of Modi government lifted the index past 40000 mark. The current Sensex has breached 66000 levels almost doubling in 8 years

Reforming India-

A move against corruption and Black money – *Demonetization* of currency notes of 500 and 1000 to curb hoarding of cash and evading accountability of income was indeed a much needed step. The demonetization for sure made the society face hardship especially the middle-class who ran from bank to bank to deposit the legal tender, but it for sure terrorised the evaders of tax who will surely think before keeping anacceptably huge amount of cash hidden from the government eye.

Goods and services tax GST regime – It was the biggest tax reform in India with the motive of simplifying the collection of tax revenue with easy understanding of the tax system and easy filing of tax. The motive of One nation one tax met initial hiccups but found its place.

Ujjwala Scheme – Addressing the concerns of women in the rural sector who faced health issues and other problems of igniting the chulha by blowing PM Narendra Modi and his troops won hearts of the entire country in 2016 by providing LPG connections to deprived households. As of 2023, there are 9.59 crore PMUJ beneficiaries.

IBC and RERA- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code for speedy settlement of disputes of corporates and lenders is a one stop solution for distressed businesses. The Real estate regulation authority act of 2016 was another welcome move by the centre for fraudsters in the property business.

The JAM Trinity – The linking of Jan dhan accounts/ bank accounts with aadhar number and mobile phones aims at last mile financial inclusion and financial literacy of backward sections. The main aim is to reduce leakages from the system, corruption and eliminate intermediaries in the transfer of subsidies and freebies to the public.

Legislations that made an impact – While the annulment of Triple Talak law in India, the Jammu and Kashmir reorganization bill, the constitution 124th amendment bill for EWS category and abolishing Article 377 swerved appraisal for the Modi government, Citizenship Amendment Act and the Farmers Bill evoked a strong reaction and widespread protests claiming the government to be discriminatory against religions.

Flagship programmes of the Modi led BJP govt –

Clean India Mission – A huge success, the Swacch Bharat Abhiyan 2014 was a restructured version of Nirmal Bharat mission of 2009. The country wide campaign aims to eliminate open defecation in rural areas, spread awareness regarding menstrual health management and bringing about a behavioral change in sanitation practices in the country. The second phase of the mission also targets solid and liquid waste management as a SDG 6.

Digital India Mission – The scheme launched in 2015 is both an enabler and beneficiary of other key initiatives of the government like Bharatnet, Sagarmala, Startup India, Stand-up India, Make in India, PM Jan dhan yojna, PM Suraksha Bima yojna, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi etc. The focus is to create universal digital literacy, increasing internet connectivity, improving electronic infrastructure, and delivering Government services online. As of 2018, India had a population of 1.3 billion, 1.3 billion aadhar biometric identification cards, 1.5 billion mobile phones, 446 million smartphones.

Some services provided under this are e-governance, e- health, e- education, e- shopping etc. Almost all activities from bill payments, PAN EPFO, tax, fees, job search, agriculture, travel, ticket booking, birth certificates, police clearance to passport have become online.

Atmanirbhar bharat- make in India is an initiative of Modi ji to transform India into global manufacturing and export hub. Companies should develop manufacture and assemble products indigenously made to promote self dependency. The World Banks Ease Of Doing Business Report acknowledges India remarkable jump from 100th position to gradual 10th position as per April 2023 report. For sure the NDA has carved a history.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao – Concerning the declining sex ratio of females the campaign ensures survival protection and education of girl children. Other steps as Women Helpline Scheme, Mahila E Haat, Ujjwala, Sukanya Samridhi Yojna, Mahila Bachat Samman, Mahila Shakti Kendra etc also boost economic and social empowerment of women.

Vision for the future –

Bharatmala Pariyojana is an umbrella project for infrastructure development by construction of economic corridors, feeder routes and coastal ports for convenience of connectivity apart from road construction. Reiterating to its commitment to Paris agreement, India plans a major shift to Electric vehicles through The National Electric Mobility Mission Plan NEMMP and Faster Adoption And Manufacturing Of Hybrid And Electric Vehicles FAME By 2030.

Petroleum revolution and E20 plan for 20% ethanol blending in fuel is a major step to increasing farmers income and encouraging cleaner fuel. A vision for Net Zero Carbin Emission By 2070, Gobardhan Scheme, Green Hydrogen Mission, Reservation Of Wetlands also ushers green growth initiative of the Indian government.

Clearly BJP has driven Bharat socially and invoked patriotism within the public owing to societal reformations much needed in a developing nation like us. The public are a Modi fan. However, if there are whites, there must be blacks too. Following are few affirmations that ‘may’ tone down the wave of popularity.

Shortfalls in the system –

Soaring Prices- Consumers have faced a harsh backlog with a spurt in prices of pulses. Though India is the largest producer of pulses, it still falls short of tur dal due to demand -supply gap. Hoarding and cartelisation along with unseasonal rains have been a reason of pushed up prices of **arhar dal** and other pulses. Data of Department of Consumer Affairs shows that the rate of arhar was Rs75.83/kg in 2014 whereas it is as much as Rs225/kg in 2023.

The question is not about the hike in incomes. Rather the fact that incomes of wage earners do not rise in the same proportion as the inflated prices of all consumer goods simultaneously. Also, the burden increases on the middle class due to increasing number of people to feed in the family, bearing education and health expenses and so on. Though the demographic dividend remains high in the country with more than half the population being of working age group the problem of unemployment persists. Inflation adds to the miseries of the middle class Indian.

LPG- According to Indian oil corporation iocl the subsidized price of 14.2 kg log cylinder was Rs 410. Contrary to it, the current price is as high as Rs 1053, which is almost a 157% hike.

Diesel and Petrol – The fluctuating prices of petrol is due to the demand surge. In addition, hefty taxation by the government takes a toll on buyers. The steady rise in prices had gone unnoticed until it reached Rs 100 in some places. As on March 2021, the excise duty on petrol was Rs32.9 and on diesel was Rs31.8 which is more than double levied in 2014. Depreciation of Indian rupee against Us dollar puts additional pressure on international prices.

A continuous inflation in petroleum rates effects the manufacturing costs and logistics costs triggering further inflation. Recently the supply side factor also played a part in this as OPEC followed a policy of production cut.

Biased Media – PM has been presented by the media as the god of the nation. Publishing houses have been forced to fire journalists who have criticised the party, berating editors, rape threats to women reporters, tax investigations, cutting off finances etc in several instances. The government controls the news that circulates highlighting the whites and curtaining the uglier side.

Excessive privatization – The government has raised over 4.04 lakh crore through disinvestment since 2014. Strategic sale of public enterprises including Air India, LIC IPO, Indian railways (Vande Bharat Trains, Tejas Express, Bharat Gaurav Trains). The critiques claim that over privatization creates monopolies in utility services and induces social inequality. The oppositions also argue that this is a step of political opportunism and corruption.

No accountability of public money – industrialists have flouted norms and scammed the people of thousands of crores. Big names as Vijay Mallya, Chanda Kochar, Nirav Modi included. The Adani Group has been a key to the Prime minister's vision for India. From 2014 to December 2022 their market capitalisation soar from \$6.5 billion to \$223 billion. However after the Hindenburg report, the collapse of its shares was a concern. It has cast a doubt on the favourism of NDA towards select economic giants. Unplanned and unproductive expenditure of the authority consume significant resources and commensurate little benefits. White elephant projects as Statue of unity had a 200 crore budget. Central Vista Redevelopment with a total cost of 20000 crore is a criminal wastage of resources amid floods, pandemic and such important priorities.

Inference

The question of credibility of the Modi government depends upon individual perspectives and political beliefs. Opinions about any government are often diverse and influenced by social economic and ideological factors. Some people view the Modi government positively, citing its achievements as Incredible India, Make in India, Digital India, space explorations of Chandrayan 3 and Aditya L1. Elevated international status of the republic of India, rise of tech industry, support to rural farmers, empowerment of women and combating corruption are praiseworthy. However concerns remain regarding religious tension, freedom of speech and particular dissent against the recent Manipur violence, inflation and population problem, environmental issues. India has come way ahead but the road forward is still a long one.

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