

CAN INDIAN STATE ENSURE SOCIAL COHESION?

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WHY THIS QUESTION?

The changes we are going through:

- ⦿ Rapid economic growth
- ⦿ Demographic revolution
- ⦿ Rapid educational revolution
- ⦿ Rapid urbanization
- ⦿ Rapid social change
- ⦿ Increasing inequality
- ⦿ Exploding economic expectations
- ⦿ Exploding expectations for social mobility
- ⦿ Exploding political expectations
- ⦿ Finally because of the nature of government: neo-liberal and conservative.

RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH

- ◉ Previously 7 - 8 percent
- ◉ Around 6 percent growth rate now.
- ◉ Increasing stress on the environment
- ◉ The resource rich areas have Maoist-armed struggle : Bihar, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh and Odisha

DEMOGRAPHIC REVOLUTION

- ◉ Roughly 50 percent of the population is youth
- ◉ About 600 million between 16 - 40 age group
- ◉ They have exploding expectations

RAPID EDUCATIONAL REVOLUTION

- ⦿ Rapid increase in literacy and rapid increase in school enrolment
- ⦿ Higher education is low
- ⦿ primary, secondary enrolment is higher
- ⦿ Leads to educational infrastructure bursting at the seams

RAPID URBANIZATION

- ◉ The metropolitan pull
- ◉ Rapid rise of small towns, Census towns
- ◉ Increasing problems of migration, urban housing, urban sanitation and all other urban issues including urban law and order

RAPID SOCIAL CHANGE

- ◉ Changing nature of the family
- ◉ Increasing economic impact on familial relationships
- ◉ Changing nature of caste relations
- ◉ Changing nature of gender relations
- ◉ Sexual revolution

EXPLODING ECONOMIC EXPECTATIONS

- ◉ Economic growth generates aspirations among all classes of the society
- ◉ All classes are looking for better standards of life
- ◉ Increasing discontents
- ◉ Employment growth not commensurate with economic growth
- ◉ Job - less growth

INCREASING INEQUALITY

- ◉ Increasing economic inequality
- ◉ Inequality is a relative concept
- ◉ Rapid economic growth leads to inequality among classes, communities and individuals
- ◉ Rapid rise of inequality between city and country-side
- ◉ Rapid rise of disparities between regions

EXPLODING EXPECTATIONS FOR SOCIAL MOBILITY

- ◉ Expectations of social mobility from lower castes
- ◉ Expectations of social mobility from women across the society
- ◉ Expectations of the social mobility from all other marginal communities and ethnic groups

EXPLODING POLITICAL EXPECTATIONS

- ◉ Indian states want more freedom from the centre
- ◉ Ethnic communities want more recognition and better accommodation
- ◉ Clamour for small states and restructuring federalism
- ◉ Proverbial Indian diversity poses renewed challenges

FINALLY BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT: NEO-LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE

- ◉ Majority government
- ◉ Weak opposition
- ◉ Hindu-conservatism
- ◉ Neo-liberal government
- ◉ Fading out of the social democrats from the polity

- ◉ These reasons make us pause, and ask: **CAN INDIAN STATE ENSURE SOCIAL COHESION FROM NOW ON ?**

...CONT.

- ◉ Understanding this India requires what De Tocqueville asked for:
A NEW SOCIOLOGY AND A NEW POLITICAL SCIENCE
- ◉ Nothing less.

THANK YOU

