

Modi-Wave Hits Kejri-Wall; AAPsolute Victory in Delhi

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World Cup Football 1954 was a spectacle; in the final favourite Hungary was defeated by the underdogs West Germany. Hungary was oozing with confidence with Puskas as their hero and had a fantastic run in the tournament till the final. In fact, it was the Germans who were short of confidence as they were hammered by Hungary in the first league of the tournament 8-3 in Basel. In the final, coming back from 2 goals behind and then going on to win the game 3-2 was something exceptional by Helmut Rahn and company. This event is known as the 'Miracle of Bern' in history of football and many consider that this match changed the face of post war-Germany. Similarly, in Delhi no one believed the mighty Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) could be defeated after their landslide victory of the General Elections in 2014. Post, the party's good form continued as they formed Governments in Haryana, Jharkhand and Maharashtra. If Hungary had Puskas and Kocsis in their lineup, BJP had Modi and Amit Shah, both leaders with great capabilities and huge support base. On the other hand, after the pullout of Government in February 2014 and the Lok Sabha Election drubbing, it was AAP which was down with morale and no one would predict such a trouncing victory even a month ago. It was clearly a story of an underdog scripting triumph. It was yet again in history when David got better than the powerful Goliath. Just as the joy of 1954 is regarded as the turning point in the German fate, many believe that the success of AAP over BJP can change the fortune of Delhi and the country for good in future.

Congress's Loss is AAP's Gain

The outcome of election clearly shows AAP gained as their vote share rocketed from 29.5% to a healthy 54.3 % with an upward swing of 24.8 %. BJP's vote share remained more or less constant with around 33% though there was a marginal down swing of 0.8%. It was actually Ajay Maken-led Congress which had to bite the dust as the faithful Congress voters shifted their loyalties. This change helped AAP a lot to pull off such an incredible victory. Congress always had a huge presence amidst the minorities and the underclass of the Delhi and it was this chunk of voters (a solid 14.9%) who voted for AAP this time. On the other hand, BJP's failure lies in the fact that it failed to woo the voters who got alienated by Congress. However, the downfall of the oldest party in India, which failed to win a single seat in the election, clearly signals how far the Gandhi dynasty has fallen since the days of Lok Sabha Elections 2014. The Elections Results clearly shows that the 130 year old party which was in power for 15 long years in Delhi is on its 'deathbed' and an immediate fix is the need of the hour. It is not only the absence of the top-guns but the Congress's non-participation in everyday lives of common people is costing the party dear.

BJP's Loss

BJP's defeat in the Delhi Election clearly means that the 'honeymoon' period of both Narendra Modi and Amit Shah is technically over. It is also important to note that Amit Shah's style of 'top down model' (which means importing leaders) has backfired miserably and perhaps he should concentrate on making the organization strong (bottom up model) for the elections to come. For sure, without sabotage from the party workers, Kiran Bedi, the Chief Ministerial candidate would not lose from a seat which is regarded

as very safe for the party. Also, since the BJP Government was elected to power last year there has been a noticeable amount of rise in social tension. Opposition including Congress has accused the BJP of an inbred bias against the country's minorities and of demanding to thrust a hardline Hindu schema. Last few months have witnessed steady rise in religious conversions and section of minorities seeking protection from police over attack on religious sights. In that light, the results of the Delhi elections clearly shows the minorities are far away from the Modi-led party. If the BJP top leadership fails to open up and take firm action against the religious fringe elements it may harm the social harmony and have serious impacts on the country's overall growth.

Promises to be Kept

Amidst the ecstasy over Arvind Kejriwal's triumph in Delhi Assembly Elections, we have to remember that it is he who has to deliver and transform the promises made to the voters into realities. The party has a long list of promises which includes 50% subsidized power, free water for all, Wifi in entire Delhi, 500 news schools, 20 new colleges and around 1.5 million CCTV cameras for surveillance. Critics opine that 5 years is too short a time to fulfill all these and the newly appointed party has a tall task in hand. Also, the success of AAP will largely depend on the relationship it will share with the Modi Government in the coming days; a healthy, constructive relationship with the centre will only facilitate the AAP's functioning and no one knows it than Narendra Modi. As a result, Government's equation with Kejriwal is a thing to watch out for in the future and the political pundits surely have an eye set on it.

Many consider that the victory of AAP may change the dynamics of national politics forever. The left parties are kind of missing from the action for a very long time and AAP in the coming days may well occupy the vacuum, should they deliver. The Modi-led Government has been huge supporters of the neo-liberal policies which a section of people in the country are not happy with. With AAP technically playing the role of 'Left –Socialists', it could receive backing from these section of voters in the days to come.

End words

In spite of Delhi being as one of the most polluted cities in the world, none of the political parties had so far made environment an integral issue in their manifesto. The Congress earlier had promised to transform 30% of Delhi in lush Greenland but it was never put into action in the last 15 years. AAP must take up this matter as a larger ecological cause and work towards making Delhi a better a place to breathe for the common people. Let the 'aam aadmi' inhale fresh air!
