

CITIZENS' OUTLINE OF VISION MP

POLITY

In Madhya Pradesh, till the time when tribals -who constitute a substantial chunk of the population- occupy their rightful place in the polity, any vision would be a skewed one. During the 2003 elections there were some signs of it when the tribal political outfits won a handful of seats but they frittered that away by infighting instead of building it up. It is clear that some sort of social engineering will have to be resorted to if this has to materialize. On the other hand, if the weaker, marginalized and younger sections of the society have to be brought in to the political process Panchayat & University elections have to be shielded from the involvement of political parties- emphasis has to be on the candidates.

Do's : Have an upper house of Legislature - Vidhan Parishad - perhaps even as a cooling chamber. Catering to identity concerns - culture, region etc.

Don'ts - Uptil now, MP has been relatively free of rabid caste and communal politics - this relative moderation must be maintained at all costs; big money and violence is still largely away from the state politics- it should be ensured to stay that way. (a Rajyaneeti /state policy involving all parties ought to be formulated esp. for issues transcending the 5 year period of any govt.)

ECONOMY

On the economic front too, Madhya Pradesh has to evolve its own model -which will have a lot in common with the national outlook- but more importantly, it'll have

its own unique elements. For instance, mega industrial projects will only come to the state wherever material (minerals/ land) resources are there. In any case, mega plants are mostly location neutral, involve the upper crust and impact the marginalised.

These merely help the promoters and a handful of people - at best this'll generate large revenues as also secondary employment. Thus the focus should be on promoting small and medium industries - esp. of the middle economy i.e. manufacturing. (The players of tertiary economy prefer to be near the metros /developed areas). In a sense it ought to be like Germany which has emerged as the SME manufacturing hub of the world - MP should become the manufacturing centre of India. (focus could be on manufacturing parts, ancillaries, assemblies etc.) This should continue simultaneously with skill development- it can yield quantum leaps in the middle term(5-10 yrs). Thus in the short term-protect, promote and develop the small scale industries in labour intensive areas; promote and protect the medium industries for high capital - modern technology employment generating areas simultaneously with skill development activity

As for the mega projects of middle economy - attract large corporates wherever the state has home advantage in resources; public sector wherever comparative advantage in resources & skilled manpower (Only capital is needed); public - private partnership (wherever part capital and some manpower is needed) or central-state units :wherever part



capital and some manpower from the central units will do).

In the case of primary economy (Agriculture, Handicrafts, small scale industries etc.)- they need to be protected, supported and promoted.

Like India wishes to be the food basket and granary of the world; MP should try to be the food basket and granary of India - given its land advantage. For instance the state could persist with organic farming in the tribal areas (since they do mostly that anyway)- this has a great world market (efforts have begun for growing rice organically in Chhindwara); biofuel could be grown in barren land (viz. in Chambal, Jabua) and horticulture etc. could be taken up in other areas; Besides, food processing (Including vineyards) units can be based on these in a big way. Leveraging its vast area and central location MP should become the warehousing and logistics hub of India.

Just as India is trying to grow on the basis of its soft strength, Madhya Pradesh can do so in the context of India i.e. be the centre of its soft skills - viz. it can be the epicentre for Television

production (in particular - Hindi Entertainment, regional Hindi News etc.), Centre of Hindi literature (It was the hub till recently but of late it has started losing its sheen); center of folk, tribal and popular culture etc. Its crafts should be patented, branded and aggressively promoted.

Tourism could be another pillar of MP's soft strength - in particular specialised / niche tourism viz. eco-tourism, spiritual tourism, wildlife tourism, tribal tourism, rural tourism etc.

Just as India is trying to combine the best of east and west - MP should combine the best of North (Dynamism & fighting spirit) & South(tech skills & cultural appreciation) India. As the tertiary economy grows - its top levels may stay in metros but the next levels can be attracted to MP viz. as the IT sector evolves from BPO to KPO in the metros; BPO's (esp. the national call centres) can come to MP.

Do's : Organize a Global Public sector investor's meet - give incentives to the Public sector companies investing abroad. The advantage of Public sector is that they do not quit easily nor do they treat the staff as

ruthlessly as private sector.

Don'ts : Foreign multinationals shouldn't be invited (they're best suited for the metros/ developed states); do not mindlessly ape the metros in having mega malls, multiplexes and the like.

HEALTH

Make MP the hub of integrated / holistic medicine. Since allopathic doctors are hard to come by for rural areas have more positions for practitioners of holistic / integrated medicine. Open more medical colleges. Use non- conventional means such as telemedicine (for

specialist doctors), mobile clinics (for routine stuff, holistic /integrated doctors) etc. Special emphasis to be laid on child nutrition and women's health.

Do's : Promote integrated - cum- holistic health ; para-medical.

Don'ts : Do not get carried away by over specialisation (that is going in for specialisation in areas where simpler and more effective solutions exist); Keep an eye on multinational drug companies on turning the doctors into pharmacologists ; Using people of MP as guinea pigs.

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ENVIRONMENT

Demand cost of maintaining forests from more polluting states-sort of carbon credits. Tribals can be trained to become forest managers / artisans. Both pollution and Conservation aspects need to be addressed simultaneously.

Do's : Configure environment into every growth scheme.

Don'ts : It ought to be a regulator than a roadblock. Sustainable environment friendly growth ought to be actively promoted. Long term irreversible environmental hazards ought to be non-negotiable.

CITIZENS' VISION- MISSION INPUTS

Vision -Mission MP

1. To make Madhya Pradeshis competently multiskilled by imparting them interdisciplinary education & Versatile training (The need for future employers)
2. A state with sustainable and inclusive growth.
3. Mineral based mass production
4. Organic rooted /Agro based creation by the masses.
5. A centre of classic-popular art.
6. A centre of Ethno -folk culture.
7. An environment friendly equitable model of growth-dynamic equilibrium. A rights based approach
8. A harmonious participatory paradigm of development. An entitlement based approach.

Dark Vision-Mission

1. To eradicate malnutrition.
2. To convert landlock into advantage
3. To get rid of BIMARU Tag.
4. To annihilate /attack poverty.
5. To Abolish/reduce animosity
6. End Discrimination/Commission-middlemen Raj
7. Bridge income/ regional divide
8. Remove/Reduce hate.

BUREAUCRACY

Post All India service officers onto govt. of India schemes as also those of economy, law & order, S&T, sports etc; All India service officers hailing from the state onto joint central - state projects and corporations; state civil service officers onto state field positions as also on areas of culture, environment, tribal and forestry etc. (wherever the local " feel" is of paramount importance). Keep a special eye on Govt. of India schemes to be implemented by the state -for maximum leakages.

Do's : Just as high growth sectors are dominated by All India services, high service/ welfare sectors to be controlled by the state civil services.

Don'ts : Use transfer and posting as a harassment tool.(transfer of all India officers by CM, those of PCS/ HOD's by Ministers; others by the HOD's / transfer boards)

JOURNALISM/ MEDIA

No real regional journalism exists. At best the media is a poor copy of the national media. Regional journalism must focus more on policies and processes and should use dialects too. Besides, its perspective should be regional. Smaller newspapers should be supported. Transparency in providing govt. advertisements.

Do's : Have a Public broadcaster - own channel for the state / Vidhan Sabha Channel.

Don'ts : Co-opt the press via the government advertisement /gifts/ facilities carrot.

CULTURE

Evolve the feeling of MP : compose a state song incorporating various dialects ; design a state flag, mascot. MP should become the cultural hub of India - in particular w.r.t.- tribal, folk and popular culture. Besides, it should build upon its strengths as a centre for Indian classical music (esp. Dhrupad), Hindi Literature as also an ancient centre of Sanskrit literature.

Do's : Establish MP as the centre for popular culture - TV, theater, films.

Don'ts : Do not concentrate on classical aspects. Kitsch- street culture- ought not to be allowed to become mainstream.

EDUCATION

A multipronged strategy is needed -along with regular infrastructure the non - conventional methods such as E- education; mobile education; distance education etc. have to be utilized with particular emphasis on primary and girls' education. National institutions of repute should be invited to set up shop in the state; public - private partnership should be encouraged (esp. in vocational education); colleges must be opened in Delhi& other educational centres solely/primarily reserved for the students of MP; scholarships and loans should be provided for merit/ me r it - cum -means basis. Thus it may be possible to narrow the gap with developed states.

Do's : Para Medical; paralegal; polytechnics with corporate / Skill University; trained farmhands (for other states); TV artistes/ technicians.

Don'ts : Liberal education and pure sciences should not be a priority though due emphasis should be paid to them

SPORTS

Madhya Pradesh should focus on its traditional strength as a nursery of hockey. In particular women & Youth Hockey should be the focus. The state should promote those which require individual skills viz. Table tennis ; badminton, chess, diving (sports scholarship to academies). Besides, indigenous sports should be preserved and promoted (viz. Kabbaddi). Furthermore, a sporting culture should be developed - in particular through non-Olympic sports viz. cross country racing.) . As for organising events go in for those where the state has a fair chance of doing well ; else organise only if mandatory.

Do's : A sporting culture should be developed - in particular through non-Olympic sports viz. cross country racing.) ; reserve space for a playground in every village/ Panchayat.

Don'ts : Do not go in for power sports or those requiring expensive infrastructure.