

CONTRIBUTION OF CONGRESS PARTY IN INDIAN POLITICS (1967-1991)

¹Mandeep Singh, ²Dr. Sukjit Kaur Bhullar

¹M.PHIL Research scholar, Guru Kashi University, Talwandi Sabo, Bathinda (Punjab)

²Assistant Professor, Head Department of History, Guru Kashi University, Talwandi Sabo, Bathinda (Punjab)

ABSTRACT

The contribution of the Congress party in India's politics. It has been mentioned that during the British Empire, the main party was Congress Party which grew in India. There was a system of political arrangements in India that was based on the principles of democracy, socialism and secularism. In this chapter the program and ideology of the Congress Party is described. Before Independence, the aim of congress party was to free India from the bonds of slavery and thus its main program was to fight against English army and to establish a state in independent India based on the principles of socialism and secularism.

Keywords: Congress party, Indian politics, Indian leaders

In the 19th century, the spread of a new national feeling in the country was growing very fast. They laid the foundation of some organizations to resolve their political and other difficulties. But the greater effect of these institutions was limited to their region. No institutions have yet been formed to show all India's views Indian National Congress was formed in 1885. Mr. A.O. Ehome the contributed the most to its establishment. He was a liberal English. He felt that the British Government had to know the thoughts of the people of India what is being done by them in India. By taking advantage of these ideas, the Government could make necessary changes in its policies That way he could save himself from serious dangers. He felt that if the people of India were not allowed to express their views then the English Government might have to suffer a dangerous intelligent movement. In this regard, he met Viceroy Lord Dufferin and several prominent Indian leaders of that era. Consequently on 28th December, 1885 AD the Indian National Congress was formed at Bombay. The first president was Vomesa Chandra Banerjee that meeting was attended by 72 members. In this regard, the then Viceroy Lord Dufferin, and several other popular persons met Indian leaders.

Before Independence, the aim of congress party was to free India from the bonds of slavery and thus its main program was to fight against English army and to establish a state in independent India based on the principles of socialism and secularism. Gopal Krishan Gokhale, grandfather Bhai Narozi, Sarinder Nath Banerjee, Mehta and Madan Mohan Malviya, were famous leaders of the Congress. From 1885 to 1905, they did a commendable job. Dr. S.C. Bartariya says that Congress work had become very valuable in those 20 years and it had achieved tremendous achievements in many areas of the national life.²

Congress party after independence from India was committed to the establishment of a new political and social order. J.L. Nehru emphasized to assert continually that the achievement of independence was only the first task and the most important task before India was to achieve economic independence. With the idea of bringing a new regime based on political, economic and social justice, the party prepared a plan which was based on self-determination, secularism and socialism.³ The policies and programmes of the Congress party were not only limited to the principles, but also to make them practically applicable. Congress party had not only its one program in place what also in performance. It was the only party that had political stability. Maintaining political structures and resources, which are not possible by any kind of perimeter, it is the only party for peaceful changes and retain them for the betterment of the common people.⁴

It was a great time for the Congress when it succeeded in the socialist system of society in 1955. And it was given the highest place in the second five year plan period. After this, the Congress became a socialist organization under Nehru.⁵ From the beginning, it was responsible for the establishment of the socialist state in which reducing the difference between rich and poor group, the quality of life of the poor and creating employment for all citizens. The party's main motive was that citizens should get the opportunity to raise their level of discrimination without any difference. But the Congress party is not in favour of a revolution to bring socialism, but it wants to bring about a progressive change in India.⁶ In the same way in Russia, the Congress is primarily a centralist party, Commitment of the human power or a privilege The program was more focused on the development of larger responses from capital to its seams.⁷ After Nehru Indra Gandhi also gave the country on these lines of socialism. She made a lot of efforts to relieve her father and forefather. Socialism created several programs to achieve this, which proved to be very effective. In a very vivacious voice about the form of the party, Mrs. Gandhi had said at the meeting of the All-India Congress Committee in New Delhi in November 1969 that the Congress Party's Indian Revolution and the Promotional Influence should be economic policy would expect immediate action. It was very important for each person and child People believe in this party and its socialist schedule. They would take necessary steps to make them live In doing so, they would keep an eye on our revolution, secularism, tolerance and inner race.⁸

The Congress party, in a proper sense, established socialism in such a way that the social harmony and the development of economic growth is very important. In fact, these two are perfect for each other. During its auspicious event in 1961, it encouraged economic and social development to fulfill its commitment as a tool for democratic socialism. In Nagpur session of January 1969, Congress unanimously provided an agricultural program which emphasized the immediate change in the farming structure. It added ground reforms to the Co-operative Farm Construction and recommended, that in the place of the additional landlords, the village panchayat should have this land.⁹

The ideology of the Congress is socialist, on the occasion of all the general elections, the party has promised to bring socialism to a large extent. In the Congress manifesto for the 1967 elections, it was said that relations with the political authority and its economic resources have made it necessary that the topperity of the economy should not be in the personal choice. The economic power is constrained, it is the last word that politicians play. During the parliamentary elections of 1971 and the assembly elections of 1972, the Congress has further enhanced its image of socialism.¹⁰ The creation of secularism in independent India was the main motive of Congress party and therefore, according to Bhati Constitution, India was made a secular state. In December, 1948, during the intervening period of Jodhpur in the Congress, the state's secular form was emphasized. A resolution was passed by Pandit Gobind Ballabh Patt, Mr. Parsotam Das Tandon verified it, in which a concept was taken to develop a big country as a secular country. It is which does not favour and this crimination of any particular religion.¹¹

By strengthening the secular forces of the Congress party, strictly against the communal propaganda and creating a conspiracy against the communists. In favour of action from the very beginning, the Congress policy has been that it will spread the publicity and lead a different movement against the separatist forces.

From the very beginning, the Congress party was in favour of establishing democracy in India in the right sense. For the achievement and establishment of democracy this party has created its programs and policies and tried to implement them. This Dal keep the unity of country and independence of press and the independence of judiciary. In that election manifesto, the party also declared about securing the rights of the weak and protected people. The capacity of the democratic institutions would be increased and the governance of the law would be strengthened. No doubt, the Congress party believes in socialism, but despite this, this party is a supporter of the mixed economy in the economic sphere. This party is in favour of developing public as well as private sector. The Congress party is confident that the country unless economically developed, in a true sense, democracy can not come because it is a very old concept that political independence is absurd without economic freedom. The Congress Party has repeated its program

of strengthening the economy in the state. In November 1947, by All India Program the Congress Party was conducted to develop such a political system.

It is motive in which there is a combination of individual freedom of expression, and an economic structure that gives more production than the concentration of wealth which establishes appropriate balance between the urban and the rural economy. Such social structure will present an alternative to the greedy economy of capitalism and an alternative to the organization of the omnipotent state. Congress party has also emphasized the need for land reforms. This party is committed to give land ownership to the farmers. It is also committed to provide easy farming loans to the small farmers. To make the most of their land, this party is also committed to protect the educational, religious and cultural interests of minorities and the country. They are in favour of getting their proper representation in Government jobs and security personnel. They are in favour of providing full employment opportunities and against the interference of their private laws.

Congress party is committed to world peace, friendship and support. This team is fully confident in the quality of detachment. The party has said in its manifesto that the team will be fully serious in reducing the fear, stress and biennial losses and a serious threat of nuclear war, and to create friendly and peaceful relations with the neighboring countries, and will give priority to it.¹² This group combined with the Soviet Union and other countries and is committed to further support and take steps against imperialism, colonialism and racism. From time to time, Congress leaders have taken steps for global peace and world peace. Pandit J.L. Nehru described the principle of '*Panchsheel*'. Mrs. Gandhi had played very important role in the development of peace as the President of the Non-Aligned Movement. Congress has played a very honorable part in the freedom struggle. Thousands of people under this party's flag scarified their lives for the sake of this country. They made great sacrifices for the freedom of the people, and millions of people got inspired in the freedom struggle.¹³

Thus, in the year 1947, with the help of the Congress, India become a free country. To emanate from the empire of British, it mobilized people of every section, caste, religion, region and sex with their thoughts.¹⁴ By the achievement of independence, Congress party fell on the politics of India and the country. The boss of the council came into its hands. Thus Congress, who had taken part in the national agitation on a big basis before independence, became the main political party of roster. Although many opposition parties have come into existence, it is to be believed that Congress was the main party representing historic unification and it is continuously supported by the mass.¹⁵

After taking over the reins, the Congress party struggled to make the theory practical. Whose demand was sought by the Congress party for the betterment of the people during the British rule

a proposal from Congress party had struggle to fulfill these principles. There were records, which aims Congress party should for the welfare of the Indian public. The Constitution of India was established, on the basis of these the birth of Indian National Congress was an unusual event in Indian history. It was the first permanent form of organization of the India level and by its birth a new era of political activity began. Within 20 years of its inception, it began to flood the political life of the people and shaped it as a constitutional reforms, which were the main points of the political program of India.¹⁶ In India's struggle for freedom, all the people in India because of the communal caste, territories, language and classes under the Congress leadership made a great contribution for the freedom of India. They were more influenced by the views of secularism. At the time of independence, the great leaders of the Congress, Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru, Sardar Patel, Molana Azad and others did not embody a strong form for religious fundamentalism.¹⁷ In this way, Congress Party has already established itself in such an independent India. The Congress party had taken the dream of freedom India.

All the religions have equal respect. The Congress party was a secular party, in which the people of different religions are not discriminated. And no discrimination was felt by anyone. Thus, a secular democratic country during the national agitation, which had named Ram Raja as 'Gandhi' after Independence, according to the Indian Constitution, India is a secular country. The Congress party has made significant contribution in this regard Nehru set a perfect balance when he insisted on maintaining a spot-on in politics and religion.¹⁸ According to the Constitution, all religions are respected in India and they are officially held to raise a particular religion and had not given the education and religion Government-aided institution. According to the Indian constitution, all arrangements have been made, as per the India could become a secular state. The Constitution of India and the Congress party also claim to have committed without discrimination.¹⁹

But Indian politics, seeing some of the few incidents in recent times, can be said that secular forces in India have suffered a lot and the influence of religion is increasing in politics and the Congress party is responsible for it. Actually religion, in the name of neutrality, the Congress (J) Government is still engaged in political gains. Raising political gains is the result of every party. It is but, in times of serious crisis, it is expected to give preference to national interest rather than party interests.²⁰ In India, the Central Government and the secular forces are facing a huge challenge today. For the unity and integrity of the society, it has to come on a platform unchanged for the protection of old values.²¹ Congress party struggled so much for the restoration of democracy in independent India. It organized wreaths and laid the foundation of an organized and prosperous state where every citizen can get equal opportunities to raise his / her life and he could develop himself. The democratic process that developed on the basis of the constitution created after Independence, has provided political stability Although there were

many flaws in it, it remained for the last 30 years. It was not a minor achievement, with the help of this arrangement, we overcame the turmoil that arose after partition, to various types of princely states and established a parliamentary Government.²²

The Congress party has also contributed significantly in maintaining the rich character of Indian people and raising their views. Knowingly and unknowingly, tried to keep the Congress party at a very good time during the nationalist movement for independence of character and ideology.²³ The Congress party has not only influenced the political life of India but also contributed significantly to social reconstruction. It made a lot of efforts to raise the living standards of the oppressed and poor people in the society and created many plans for achieving these goals. Controlling the Congress platform, the rich capitalist class has demonstrated the Congress's path of affairs. The Indian National Movement was not only a political movement but it was also a social and economic agitation. The resolution passed by the Congress on eliminating poverty and raising the standard of living of the society's weak and vulnerable people. It is the people of India who have been a part of the ignorance of British rulers and a war for social autonomy.²⁴

It is a matter of fact that Congress party has made great contribution to politics. This party played an important role in liberating India before independence and after India attained independence. In the true sense, its contribution to create a socialistic, secular and democratic state can not be hidden but the other side of the picture also needs to be analysed. While the Congress party has played a positive role in Indian politics, there have also been many negative aspects. During the tenure of Pandit Nehru, there was no specific objectionable propaganda about Congress and no such special event could be done for this party's performance. But during the tenure of Mrs. Gandhi and her son, Rajiv Gandhi, there have been many such incidents in Indian politics which had hurt the prestige of the Congress party. It was conceived to make socialist, secular and democratic, but later this same concept was broken by the same party. As far as socialism is concerned, it was confined to slogans and papers. In the true sense, even after so many years of independence, basic principles of socialism have not been fulfilled. The gap between wealth and poverty is increasing. The rich becomes richer and the poor becomes poorer. In 1991, Congress Party adopted such a policy. It was a liberal policy against socialism. In this policy, such public sector units were going to settle in the private sector, which were continuously running in deficit. Dispute arouse among public sector workers with this policy and the Congress party had to face a lot of criticism on this basis.

Similarly, if we take the principle of secularism then the question arises as to whether there is a right secularism in India? Disputes among religious minorities in India today and the feeling of unrest is increasing, particularly in Punjab Sikhs and in Jammu & Kashmir, Muslims have been convinced against the Congress that they are treated with step-motherly behaviour. During Indira

Gandhi's tenure, there were many things that were contrary to democratic principles. To put an emergency in 1975 and to the old congressmen and even to put Pandit Nehru's sister and his other accomplices in jail are against democratic traditions. Emergency segregation was compulsory to the extent that even the elderly and minors were not spared. Sanctioned by Sanjay Gandhi and his Comrades, all these things were not democratic but they only agree to behave. The Congress Party's vision to eradicate socialism, secularism and the restoration of democracy in India. Justice Ajit Singh Bains has stated that the country. The politics of this country has become communal and dirty has happened more than 50 percent of the people living below the poverty line food, clothes and accommodation were thinking just what to do. Thousands of villagers are still piteous for drinking water. Five star alien hotels are being built for a handful of people. But in front of these five star hotels, the hundreds of educated, unemployed young people live in slums Overall politics has become corrupted. Boppara, Chauri Chauri Scandal and other seem like these had become common. The elections held in India are not free and fair. Uncertainly money is used for bullying. Massive manipulation is done. Historical buildings like *Babri Masjid* are being demolished. An assault at the Golden Temple, the most sacred shrine of Sikhs, Darbar Sahib in June, 1984. The dreams of freedom fighters have been shattered by seeing the present condition, their souls will tear themselves. India never dreamt of that existence. People were divided of social, economic and political justice. Now it is not secular, socialist and democratic state.²⁵

In 1984, there were riots in which many people had to die for the sake of their freedom. It was a great loss and people started fighting among themselves because of religion and hence the Congress was called bad on all sides. The Sikhs had been treated badly and their religion was greatly damaged and the religious place of the Sikhs, Darbar Sahib was attacked in Amritsar and a lot of torture was done to the Sikhs. Because of which the Sikhs were unhappy with the Congress and they opposed a lot in this regard.

All such incidents which led to the misery of the people and their rule were overwhelming from the Congress. The 1984 riots took place in Delhi.

REFERENCES

1. Dr. K.C. Choudhari, *History of Modern India*, Orient longman Calcutta, 1983, p- 368.
2. K. R., *Government and Politics in India*, Modern Publications , Ambala Kant. 1981, p- 339.
3. N. M., *Politics Indian*, Pragati Prakashan, Delhi, 1977, p- 1.
4. Dr. S.C. Bartarya, *The Indian National Movement*, Allahabad, 1985, p- 87.

5. J.C. Johri, *India, Politics*, Vishal Publications, Jalandhar, 1981, p- 345.
6. B.K. Gokhale, *A Theory Political Study*, Himalaya Publications House, Bombay, 1971, p- 407.
7. A.S. Narang, *Indian Government and Political*, Gitaljali Publishing House, New Delhi, 1995, p- 217.
8. J.S. Johri, *Indian Politics*, Vimal Publication, Jalandhar, 1981, p 650.
9. A. S. Narang, *Indian Government and Political*, Gitaljali Publishing House, New Delhi, 1985, p- 314.
10. P. Tharyan, *India The Critical Decade After Nehru*, Streaming Publishing. New Delhi, 1978, p- 11.
11. Prof. Satish Chandra, *Congress and The Concept of Secularism, Politics Committee*, Gitanjali Publishing House, New Delhi, 1985, p- 44.
12. *Based on an election manifesto issued in the May, 1991, elections.*
13. Darbara Singh Kahlo, *Exam for Secular Powers*, Punjabi Tribune, 24th January, 1983, p- 4.
14. Darbara Singh Kahlo, *Congress Political Culture Poses A Threat to The Country*, Ajit on 13 March, 1983, p- 4.
15. A. S. Narang, *Indian Government and Political*, Gitaljali Publishing House, New Delhi 1985, p- 201.
16. M.L. Madan, *Indian Political System*, Ajanta Publications India, Delhi, 1989, p- 26.
17. Darbara Singh Kahlo, *Exam for Secular Powers*, Punjabi Tribune, 24th January, 1983, p- 4.
18. Poonam I Kaushik, *Where will Kosse Take The Country*, Punjabi Tribune, 4th January, 1983, p- 4.
19. Pala Singh Bhogal, *Today's Mughal Emperor, His Subedar and Darbar*, Punjabi Tribune, 4th January, 1983, p- 4.
20. Norman D Palmer, *Indian Political System*, George Allen & Unwin London, 1961, p- 192.

21. Darbara Singh Kahlo, *Exam for Secular Powers*, Punjabi Tribune, 26th January, 1993, p-4.
22. Nikhil Chakravarti, *Social and Economic Non-Equality Led to Turmoil in the Country*, Ajit 11th March, 1993, p- 4.
23. Norman D Palmer, *Indian Political System*, George Allen & Unwin, London, 1961, p-191.
24. Justice Ajit Singh Bains, *The Dreams of The Freedom Fighters Were Taken Away*, Ajit Jalandhar, 18th August, 1984, p- 4.
25. K.K. Bardwaj, *An Open Government*, A.B.C. Publishing House, New Delhi, 1990, p- 30.