

Yogi's Governance Doctrine

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Abstract

When Yogi Adityanath became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in 2017, he suddenly confronted challenges to his governance on many fronts. The state treasury was almost empty, insecurity was writ-large and corruption was the accepted norms of the system. U.P. politics was ridden with money, power, drugs, dynastic rule, nexus between criminals and politicians etc. The state has gone down to all the parameters of development and governance. The paper is an attempt to study the governance doctrine created and developed by Yogi Adityanath. The governance-doctrine reflects largely the command polity but it displays other several unique features. Yogi acts like a commander who operates the government by transcending the established conventions. He is a tough democrat who is very soft towards common people but hard on governance. His governance arose out of a fast changing demography and anomalous condition that prevailed over the years in Uttar Pradesh. The doctrine touches all aspects of governance that includes law and order, rule of law, infrastructure development, revenue, health, education, woman empowerment, agriculture, public distribution system etc.

Keywords : Governance, doctrine, power, rule of law, development, infrastructure.

Introduction

In the last four and a half years, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken some important steps which knowingly or unknowingly establish a new Doctrine of Governance. Doctrine is an authoritative opinion which is implemented with firm determination and conviction. When we talk about Governance, naturally the word Good Governance arises. For good governance, the World Bank in 1991 advocated certain features like transparency, accountability, participation, consensus, accountability, efficient and effective leadership, inclusiveness and rule of law. These features later became the basic mantra of globalization. Making the impossible possible, doing what cannot be done otherwise, getting everyone to follow the rule of law, to move forward fearlessly on definite goals, change the mind set that often people say that it used to happen like this, follow the policy of zero tolerance towards crime and deceit, implement the norms of development, ensure that no one goes hungry in the state, employment generation, making policies with the aim of doing something exceptional, not taking uncertain decisions by looking at someone's face, etc. are some of the features of Yogi's Governance Doctrine.

A model of Good Governance in India was presented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, at the center of which he placed development. The Gujarat model was completely different from Amartya Sen's idea of welfare economics, social choice theory and development economics. It aimed at investing in human resources. This idea was adopted by Man Mohan Singh's UPA government. Gujarat model aimed at creating conducive condition through infrastructure development and liberalising economy. Later this model was used by Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra Pradesh and Nitish Kumar in Bihar. Where Chandrababu Naidu was rejected by the people there, Nitish Kumar stumbled on that model of governance and the pace of development in Bihar got derailed. The UPA model was adopted by Kejriwal government in Delhi, but his government failed in the governance of only 20 million people. The Kejriwal government failed to control the situation due to pandemic in Delhi, stop the exodus of laborers, resolve the disruptive movement of Shaheen Bagh and the Delhi riots.

To extrapolate Yogi's Governance Doctrine, one has to look at the model of American thinkers Rudolph and Rudolph. They talk about two types of polities i.e. **demand polity and command polity**.¹ Demand polity refers to the situation in which the government and its Head make policies keeping in mind the immediate benefit of the people, due to which popular or populist steps are taken. Leadership in this system is flexible and soft. The leader works for electoral gains and may be called a soft democrat. The second system is **command polity**, in which the government and its Head make policies keeping in mind the long-term interests of the people and take harsh and unpleasant steps. The leader is like a commander who operates the government

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by transcending the established conventions. Yogi's governance-doctrine reflects the command polity in which all the policies and steps of his government are taken keeping in mind the long-term interests of the people and the state. This is the reason why Yogi's leadership and governance are completely different from other politicians. Yogi is a tough democrat who is very soft towards the common people but hard on the governance.

Yogi's challenges and problems when he became the Chief Minister in 2017 were completely different and unlike other states. The prevailing negative circumstances necessitated a Doctrine of Governance to ensure good governance by better management of available resources and institutions. To deal with those challenges, Yogi took such steps which were accepted not only in Uttar Pradesh but other states also started adopting and imitating his governance style. The question arises why the model of good governance has faltered in Bihar, why was Chandrababu Naidu rejected by the people in Andhra Pradesh? Despite all the disruptions and deadlocks caused by Covid-19 in Uttar Pradesh, a massive victory of BJP in the local bodies elections, smooth running of works on more than 44 mega projects, the state figuring second in the **ease of doing business** and U.P attaining strong economic position in India. It reflects efficiency of Yogi's governance and leadership. Yogi's Doctrine of Governance arose out of a fast changing demography of the province and anomalous condition that prevailed over the years. This doctrine touches all aspects of governance and includes complete control on crime, crackdown on mafia, infrastructure development, employment in formal and informal sectors, qualitative changes in education and health, government cooperation in agriculture-horticulture, women empowerment, **one district one product**, environment management, effective public distribution system etc.

On the basis of the above, Yogi pledged to make one trillion dollar contribution on the call of Prime Minister Modi's five trillion dollar economy. To know the Governance-Doctrine of Yogi, it is imperative to examine his life and methodology in detail. Yogi Adityanath, detached from the modern lifestyle and power pleasure, is working on his authoritative doctrine with his strong will power and without any attachment, illusion and greed. Previously, the state politics has been running by the hypnotism and lust of Kanchan (wealth) and Kamini (woman), but Yogi is following Raj-dharma (political righteousness) with impunity and non-attachment. In Yogi, people see an attitude and threat but for a better understanding, one has to know the tradition of Adiguru Machendranath and Gorakhnath in which he has been trained. Gorakhnath, who was associated with the Nath tradition, popularized Hatha Yoga, whose roots have spread not only in India but in other corners of the world. A yogi advances in the path of self discipline (practice) and **aspires to spiritually realize truth**. A Yogi or Yogini lives by other voluntary ethical precepts called Yamas and Niyamas.²

Kautaliya in Arthashastra called an ideal ruler as **Rajarshi or Raj-Rishi**³ (sage of statecraft), who conquers his 6 enemies respectively sex, anger, greed, arrogance, ego and stupidity. He works for development together with intelligent people for public good, safety and security. The Rajarshi (sage-king), following his Raj-Dharma (duties toward governance), keeps away from other's wife, does not covet wealth, practiced non-violence towards living beings, stayed away from day-dreaming, frugality, lies and extravagance. Yogi Adityanath fully embodies the ideas of Kautilya's Ideal King. Traditional politics has been dominated by money, power, drugs, nepotism, dynastic rule, unholy alliances with criminals, non-moral attitudes to grab power by any means.

Yogi Adityanath was a member of the Lok Sabha (The Parliament) from 1998 to 2017 and the BJP was in power at the centre four times, but Yogi never appeared in the race for the post in the Cabinet. There is a confluence of tradition and modernity inside Yogi. On the one hand, he has deep understanding of Indian ancient traditions and epistemology, but he has understanding of modern technology too. He has a unique combination of spirituality and technology. He has profound sense of antiquity along with a clear outline of future India. Adityanath's daily routine starts at three in the morning and continues till late at night. He eats less, takes no rest during day time and sleeps only for two three hours. He lives an ascetic life at the helm of power. Politics for him is a mission whose goal is to make India prosperous, developed, healthy, knowledgeable and powerful.

Two leadership models are discussed i.e. **the transactional leader** and the other is the **transformational leader**.⁴ The transactional leader operates with immediate benefits and adopts keeping electoral gains into mind. He adopts clientelistic politics, implements populist policies and treats voters as

customers. The leader makes all efforts to please them. He stays in power through number game by creating a nexus of castes and religions and constantly works to appease his target groups. The transformational leader follows long policies that bring about a fundamental change in the status quo. He is not very populist and does not transact in his governance and distribute small benefits (freebies) to please his clients-customers. He drives governance to the zenith of efficiency and excellence. For him both the end and the means are important. He happens to be a tough leader. If the behavior and actions of Yogi Adityanath are evaluated, then he comes in the category of transformational leader. He has a vast experience of central and state politics which makes his vision broad and global.

Uttar Pradesh as a state has been a victim of neglect in the field of development since independence. The state continued to be used only for political squabbles and cocktails of power. It was an open ground for the state leaders to earn and display money and muscle power. Power lust has been the driving force in the state drives. And for the leaders of Lutyens Delhi, Uttar Pradesh would have become a pasture of votes. They cultivate the crop of politics in Uttar Pradesh like an absentee landlord. They divide the state into caste, sect, religion-mazhab and converted the corridor of power into an open wrestling ground. Where Modi changed the grammar of Indian politics and rejuvenated the city by making Banaras his workplace, Yogi merged his identity in Gorakhpur and became inseparable part of it. This is the reason that in his four and a half years as the Chief Minister, Yogi did an impossible task of transforming the state into a model of development by working on more than 44 mega projects simultaneously. There is a motto of Gita '**Yogah Karmasu Kaushalam**'⁵, means skill, excellence and perfection in action is yoga. Yogi Adityanath embodies the above sutra (a formula) and the practical form of yoga is reflected in all his actions.

The key to the success of Yogi's governance is the implementation of the PICU model (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit) in Uttar Pradesh. A provision of 10 to 15 beds for a child of 0 to 21 years in the District hospital of each district and 20 to 25 beds in each medical college and 100 beds in each commissionerate was started. This system has been very successful in Uttar Pradesh in dealing with the third wave of Covid-19. Surprisingly, the system was implemented by Yogi as the Chief Minister in 35 districts in Purvanchal including Gorakhpur to save innumerable children who died of Japanese encephalitis. Due to pandemic, this facility was extended to the remaining 75 districts in. Due to this vision of Yogi, the state has almost escaped from the third wave of the global epidemic. Yogi has also been praised by WHO for this.

One of the biggest features of Yogi's Governance Doctrine is to break the backbone of the Mafia Raj (a type of organized crime syndicate) established in the state over the years. In the state, an unholy alliance of mafia, criminals with influential leaders and officers was formed, which Yogi broke and seized property worth 15 billion and broke the economic back of this flourishing crime. Due to Yogi's warning, many mafia fled to Nepal and other countries. Other unprecedented steps include ordinance on love jihad, construction of cow shelters, cow protection law, population policy, banning illegal butchereries, fining rioters, demolition of illegal constructions on government lands, managing farmers protest etc.

The biggest impact of the above mentioned policies and steps has been that a better investment climate was created and investment of Rs 66 thousand crores was made from 10 big countries. Single window system through **Nivesh Mitra Portal** has got rid of the nepotism running in the state. Due to the quick investment promotion policy, many companies are migrating from China and other countries to Uttar Pradesh. Fifty thousand crores were invested in Bundelkhand Defence Corridor which will also provide employment to more than 5 lakh people. The remarkable feature of Yogi's governance is the laying of a network of expressway in the state. The web of roads added value to farmers' land in far flung areas. Many schemes like Jewar Airport, Film City, Defense Corridor, High Speed Train, Smart City, Solar Parks, Krishi Samman Yojana etc. have brought the image of the state to the global level.

The story of Yogi's governance-doctrine is endless. Comparisons between Lee Kuan Yew, the first Prime Minister of Singapore, and Park Chung-hee, the then president of South Korea is made with Yogi. These two leaders took their respective countries to a high level of development and the economic status of those countries became world class. But it would not be fair to compare Yogi with the above two leaders because the leadership and political system of Singapore and South Korea was authoritarian. Opposition was nonexistent. Yogi is working under a democratic system and the opposition of the state is very strong and effective. The

leader also has to face the people every five years. In such a situation, Yogi did so much work by managing the global epidemic effectively besides other governance challenges. He further surprised everyone by passing a budget of five and a half thousand crores in 2021 amid the pandemic. Today Uttar Pradesh has turned into a **developmental state** out of **BIMARU**⁶ state. The story of development all around in Uttar Pradesh is changing day by day and the positive results are emerging under Yogi's leadership and governance. Not only India but the countries of the world are looking towards Yogi's Governance-Doctrine and countries like France are making very realistic changes in their policies. Yogi Adityanath often says that **there is an opposition to every good deed and opposition indicates that the work is being done well**. Living in a democratic system and successfully carrying out work in all adverse circumstances is the biggest lesson of Yogi Governance-Doctrine, in which the bright future of the state and India can be seen.

1. Lloyd I. Rudolph and Susanne Hoeber Rudolph, Demand Polity and Command Polity pp. 153-93 in Neeraj Jayal (ed), Democracy in India
2. The Yamas (Sanskrit: यम), and their complement, the Niyamas, represent a series of "right living" or ethical rules within Hinduism and Yoga. It means "reining in" or "control". These are restraints for Proper Conduct as given in the Veda. They are a form of moral imperatives, commandments, rules or goals. They are the first two limbs of the eight-limbed path, which is a step-by-step path towards the realization of yoga, as described in the 'Yoga Sutras of Patanjali'. They are the most concrete places to start, as they relate directly to how you behave outwardly in the world and inwardly toward yourself.
3. Kautilya Arthshastra, book I, pp.5-6
4. Referred in Kapil Chibbar and Rahul Verma, Ideology and Identity: The Changing Party Systems of India, VI chapter, Transformational Leaders and Ideological Shifts
5. Bhagwat Gita, Chapter 2, verse 50 :
The complete verse says- buddhi-yukto jahātīha ubhe sukṛita-duḥkṛite tasmād yogāya yuiyasva yogaḥ karmasu kauśhalam
(One who prudently practices the science of work without attachment can get rid of both good and bad reactions in this life itself. Therefore, strive for Yog, which is the art of working skillfully (in proper consciousness).
6. BIMARU (Hindi: बीमारु Bīmārū) is an acronym formed from the first letters of the names of the Indian states of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. It was coined by Ashish Bose in the mid-1980s. BIMARU has a resemblance to a Hindi word bīmār (बीमार) meaning "sick".