Date: 23rd April’2014

**WILL THE REAL GOP(CONGRESS PARTY) STAND UP.**

Will the real GOP standup. The campaigning in the present election seems to be clearly divided in it's approach and content. The UPA attack is being spearheaded by Gandhi family and the NDA is focussing on the strength of Mr. Narendra Modi's image. The BJP had a strategy in place right from beginning as it lacked a mass leader as they were out of power since ten years. But the most disappointing situation for NDA is it's failure to nurture and use other leaders who had held office since the last ten years. This probably is the biggest mistake of the Congress party. Their prime ministerial candidate never held any responsible position, nor his sister Priyanka. That leaves only Sonia Gandhi, who seems to be fighting a lone and loosing battle.

I am using the word loosing battle as the contents of her speeches indicate an element of desperation. Though she tries to stress that congress is civic in its approach, she is entering into unchartered territory of warning the country about "hindustaniyat". The desperation in congress seems to be so high that similarities are being drawn to British Raj. Such a nonsensical and negative propaganda by congress would lead to questions about the dearth of matured thought process. Periodic elections are the backbone of any democracy. A limited indulgence to attack the opposition is a norm, but invoking issues totally outside the realm of the existing situation is unwarranted. India has lived through many crises in the past several centuries and the GOP's leaders should refresh their memories on history. The great tactician, Winston Churchill had warned that India would break up into many parts and that there would be anarchy if India were granted independence. But the history proved him completely wrong and India continues to function as one country and one great democracy. There are many lessons here for the Congress and its leaders.

The congress along with it's allies has held office for two terms and the centrifugal force of anti-incumbency, complacency, non performance and lethargy is pushing it away from victory. Well, the issue that bothers my mind no end is the level sycophancy in GOP that prevents it form showcasing any credible, non-dynasty leader. Or, is the party hijacked by a coterie of psudo intellectuals who want to silence all sane opinions? It's a pity that the Prime Minister, Mr.Manmohan Singh who has held office for ten years is being completely ignored. The complex power equation of the Prime Minister with the dynasty and his performance during his tenure rises many questions. Mr. Sanjay`a Baru's new book, The Accidental Prime Minister, and the revelations, has probably, ruffled many political feathers.He was the PM's former media advisor who's written about his time in UPA 1. The prime minister performed reasonably well in the first term holding his ground on foreign policy issues like nuclear deal etc., Credit must also be given to him for bringing back UPA to power for the second term. But his reputation was systematically demolished by compromises dictated by the dynasty and insubordination by his colleagues during the second term, culminating in a likely uneventful exit. Its a different matter that he let the country down from the perspective of probity in public life. It proves that probable fear of redundancy has made the dynasty prevent any credible leader to flourish. This dangerous trend may ultimately take down the Congress party and we may be witnessing a beginning of the end.

The BJP is focussing on a positive approach. The strategy seems to be paying off. The election speeches are carefully crafted to talk about poverty and development, unemployment and growth, corruption and governance, except the occasional jibes at the dynasty and the coterie around it. Its prime minister candidate has risen from ranks and has passed rigorous test of performance in the party. His election speeches are more moderate, appealing, logical and hardly emotional, exhibiting great level of maturity.

The congress party will have a lot of time to introspect after the election. It has brilliant people in the party, but will they stand up and be counted. The congress party's performance in this election is likely to be the worst since independence, and should shake it's foundations. Will the dynasty and the party recognize and initiate a change ?