EDITOR’S SPEAK

He came to Mumbai, leaving his family behind to make it big in life. Mumbai taught him to survive through thick and thin and after a decade of struggle, life is getting stable - he owns a taxi and a room in a chawl. He has completely adapted to the culture of Mumbai and has explored every nook and corner of this city. But today he was beaten profusely and asked to leave Mumbai because ‘somebody’ has opened a school in UP and some political party feels he is a threat to the culture of the state that he has accepted as his own!

From the days of the British to the India today, ‘divide and rule’ has been a common strategy used by the ‘people in power’. Communities are no longer mere social segregations but potential vote banks, used as a launchpad for realizing individual political ambitions. Political parties conveniently blend their social and communal interests with their political ideologies and at the end of the day it is the commoner who has to pay the price!

And to think that all this happens in a country which has the distinction of being the world’s largest democracy! Of what use is our democracy if we cannot even choose the right leaders to represent us? For years, the lower sections of society continue to be the major influence on the vote bank. The formula for keeping this class happy is simple - promises of ‘bijli, pani aur sadak’… and our politicians have taken these naive people for granted!

It is here that WE have an integral role to play. We, the educated youth can think, analyze and can read between the lines about the strategies and the power play of our political leaders. We have an eye to recognize the better leader for the country, but unfortunately, we choose to shirk our duty. An election day is a day off for us. ‘What difference will my vote make?’ is the alibi we always give.

It’s time to take on the role. This is not a movement, but just understanding our duty and about exercising our fundamental right to choose our representative. So this election make it a point to cast your valuable vote - it could probably make a significant difference and pave the path for a new generation of responsible and truly elected representatives of the people!

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