

BOOK REVIEWS

Development Failure And Identity Politics In Uttar Pradesh, Edited by: Roger Jeffery, Craig Jeffrey And Kens Lerche, ISBN: 978-81-321-1663-9 (HB), Published in 2014 by Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, Pages 270, Price: ₹ 995.

Politics and Democratisation are often hyphenated and spoken of in the same breath. One would, however, like to differentiate the two. Democratisation generally (though not always) derives and draws from the science of politics, and often manifests itself in the physical form of political hardware, influenced by various factors that include economic development, history and civil society. The outcome from the democratisation is to ensure that the people have the right to vote and have a voice in their political system.

It is an acceptable fact that India faces a severe setback of transition. While serious shortages persist towards subjects like education, electricity, water, health facilities, roads etc., these are known and recognised by the public. However, the role of politicians in solving these and/or other problems is but barely acknowledged, and the actual availability of their services in rural areas, at best, is meagre. While the so-called digital divide is widely spoken and written about, the disasters of communal divide is almost hidden or hardly mentioned, yet the democratisation is arguably more important, as it has far greater impact.

The processes of (caste/religion) identity politics and its selfish growth, irrespective of whether in rural or urban areas, among Indian States persist. This book

'Development Failure and Identity Politics in Uttar Pradesh' examines the existing variability of communalisation of politics and its path of transition and development, thereby identifying the factors responsible for transformations at the grassroots level politics. Keeping in view the vibrations and composite effects of identity politics, this book demonstrates how an understanding of political dynamics in Uttar Pradesh might provide new perspective on issues such as the state, the civil society, caste, democracy and social impact of economic reform – issues that are the subject of vigorous debate in India as a whole. Overall, the findings of analysis support the general perception and application of resourceful techniques for political and societal development across the nation.

The communalisation in Indian politics has become one of the most inexorable ingredient in the recent past. The present discourse of this book, a compilation of articles written by technocrats, academicians, researchers and practitioners in their respective field of expertise, elaborates the need for establishing the inclusive development process at the various considerations – social, economic, political and environmental etc. Particularly, the authors viewed that the caste system may not be encouraged but by and large, the community based organisations could be utilised for overall growth of the rural areas. Such effort will not only lead to optimum utilisation of demographic resources but also generate more avenues for uniform and sustainable development.

The contributors of articles in the book not only highlight the mismatch

between formal and substantive democratisation, but also probe the lived contradictions of life of the State such as corruption, police intimidation, an ineffective local and regional judiciary and elite capture of key government institutions are pressing problems – problems that do not end at the state border of course but which are specially pronounced in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Obviously, this book presents brilliant ideas for all sections of stakeholders, users and institutions involved in democratisation and transition techniques from lab to land. This also helps in focusing much better in tackling pertinent issues relating to reservation and management of human resources and presenting analysis of the various elements involved in integrated political development and resource systems that the subject specialist, researcher, planner and policymaker will find this book interesting and useful.

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Agri-input Marketing in India by Pingali Venugopal and Ram Kaundinya, 2014, Published by SAGE Publications, B1/I-1, Mohan Cooperative Industrial Area, Mathura Road, New Delhi – 110 044, India, pp. 246, ₹ 595.

The National Sample Survey report which states that 40 per cent of the farmers are not interested in agriculture and would quit agriculture if they have an alternative is an alarm bell not only for the government of India but also to the agricultural input industry. This book studies the agricultural development in India from 1950 to 2012 and develops an understanding of the present situation of agricultural input marketing and the current farmer behaviour. The two authors have brought their rich experiences to the readers in an elegant book with much

needed facts and innovative ideas. This volume has been divided into three parts, to build direction for agri-input marketing in India. Part – 1 build an understanding on the way agricultural input marketing evolved (the past), Part II describes the present situation of agri-input marketing and its consequences, and Part III develops the strategies for the future. The volume comprises 17 chapters, of which Part-I has eight chapters, Part-II with three chapters and finally Part-III has six chapters.

Part-I has discussed the current scenario and points out that agricultural input marketing in India is at the cross roads and there is a need to reorient the strategies of agri-input marketing to align them with the principles of sustaining agriculture and attaining food security. Agriculture growth was seen as a prerequisite for inclusive growth, reduction in poverty levels and enhancement of farm incomes. While there are several challenges, new agricultural opportunities are also emerging as important avenues for farmers and agri-input industry. The mind-set of the agri-input industry and their approach to marketing will have to undergo a major change if they have to take Indian agriculture to the next level. National Commission of Agriculture (NCA) (2006), Government of India, has mentioned in its report that the additional production must accrue through yield increases varying from 25 – 100 per cent. The average yield increase required is 30 per cent for rice, 33 per cent for wheat, 85 per cent for pulses, 85 per cent for vegetables, and 100 per cent for fruits by 2020 over the yield of 2010-11. This suggests there is a potential and that the increased yield is achievable through technological enhancement and efficient use of water, plant nutrition and other inputs. Agricultural inputs were critical for India's transition from