Myth-shattering mandate

BJP’s victory in recent polls demolishes theories that its fortunes would decline after demonetisation

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THE BJP’s astounding performance in the elections to the municipal corporations and other local bodies in Maharashtra and Odisha shows that the party’s juggernaut is simply unstoppable. There is overwhelming support, throughout the country, for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his people-centric policies. The BJP’s electoral wave has remarkably cut across the urban-rural divide. The Maharashtra and Odisha results and other electoral successes in the recent past demolish the theory that the BJP’s electoral fortunes would dip in the wake of demonetisation.

The elections have shattered another myth that the BJP is a purely an urban party. The fact that the party secured majorities in zila parishads in nine backward and tribal-dominated districts in Odisha is a clear indication that people are with the BJP, irrespective of whether they hail from a city or village. It is unusual for a party to do so well after being in power and sweep elections after election, including the recent local body elections.

In Maharashtra, the BJP performed exceptionally well, capturing a majority of the seats in the Municipal Corporations and Zilla Parishads. The party’s victory in these elections not only indicates its resilience but also its ability to connect with the masses across different regions and socio-economic backgrounds.

In Odisha, the BJP’s impressive performance in the zila parishad elections across nine districts demonstrates its strength in rural areas, which are traditionally considered Congress strongholds.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is the young rising star in the country’s political firmament. In Maharashtra, the combination of Narendra Modi and Devendra Fadnavis proved to be the winning one. Moreover, the hard work put in by the party’s cadre, as in most other states, led to a three-fold rise in the party’s strength in the state’s richest municipal body — the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.

The series of electoral successes post-demonetisation clearly bears out that Narendra Modi not only continues to be the most popular Indian leader, but also the most credible political personality. Apart from endorsing the NDA government’s policies, the people have clearly rejected the Congress and its allies for pursuing opportunistic and decadent politics. Some of these opportunistic politicians have gone to the extent of politicising surgical strikes and also the recent warning by the army chief to those obstructing the anti-terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

With his unwavering commitment to development and transforming India into one of the global economies, Narendra Modi, the prime minister is determined to ensure that BJP’s mantra of “Sah ka saath sab ka vishwas” is achieved in letter and spirit, irrespective of the petty politics and obstructive policies by those opposed to the party.

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