Twitter Thread by AB

AB
@ABoni8

Thread on Indian Democracy and disconnect between elites and common masses by @teasri



Sri Thiruvadanthai @teasri · 4m

Thoughts on Indian democracy. At grassroots level, Indian society is far from the western notion of individual liberty that underpins the concept of liberal democracy. What has changed is the nature of political leaders and their equation with elites, especially intelligentsia.

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Sri Thiruvadanthai @teasri · 4m

Nehru wanted to "reform" the society to make it more in the image of the idealized west. Of course, he compromised by restricting it largely to Hindus. Bigger compromise was the structure of the Constitution itself which guaranteed group rights, antithetical to liberal democracy.

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Nehru's vision for social change of course ran up against the "strong society." What happened instead was an equilibrium where local elites garnered votes for thd Congress and were largely left alone. However, the local elites did not challenge the Delhi intelligentsia.

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Meanwhile, the zamindari abolition transferred power to the middle caste, dominant caste peasant, who were inherently conservative and vested in opposing subaltern empowerment or social reform in general. Green Revolution entrenched their power.

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Part2 #Teasri



Sri Thiruvadanthai @teasri · 1h

The terms of engagement between the political and intellectual elites are being renegotiated. That is painful for the latter who have enjoyed relative autonomy for 7 decades.

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Sri Thiruvadanthai @teasri · 56m

PS: you should read @davidshor even in the West, the liberal, cosmopolitan consensus was a fragile one, maintained by controlling the terms of discourse tightly. Ordinary people at large are not liberal cosmopolitan.

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Sri Thiruvadanthai @teasri · 50m

PPS: ask yourself if a coalition of SS, DMK, SP, LJP etc can usher in individual rights and liberal democracy? Even if you are a Nehruvian, today's Congress is antithetical to his vision. Negotiated settlement between communities is what Nehru bitterly opposed, from Cabinet

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...Mission Plan to linguistic states.