

# Review of: "MODI 'Wave'-Leadership Legitimation and Institutionalization in Indian Politics"

Henry Ani Kifordu

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper entitled "MODI 'Wave'-Leadership Legitimation and Institutionalization in Indian Politics" no doubt deals with a thought-provoking, fact-finding, and recurrent issue in the study of politics. Generally, the form political leaders or elites legitimate (adequately or inadequately) leadership longevity, otherwise known as *sit tightism*, continues to bother the minds of social and political theorists and analysts. More specifically, the paper is very timely, not only in terms of knowledge built up from Indian experiences vis-à-vis leadership demeanour but also its regime trend, with particular attention to the extent democratic values are currently being maintained in the polity. However, the paper, as it stands presently, requires a befitting systematic structure.

- Neither the abstract nor the introduction contains a clear-cut and well-stated question, objective, argument, or hypothesis for guiding the study, making it necessary to minimal scientific organization that facilitates readers' understanding.
- Despite attempting to frame a type of "hypothesis" cum "contestation" in the introduction or so, it is not instructive enough, especially regarding the input of essential variables or elements with their relational levels for analytical purposes. Still, the hypothesis cum contestation so proposed, or, better still, the issue addressed, that is, if Modi's political behaviour is in practice tending towards authoritarian democracy, lacked a clear avowal, expressly in the conclusion. There is a need to boldly state and elucidate, not only in the paper's main body but mostly at the end, the extent to which such behaviour is building up (or not) to authoritarian democracy.
- Additional observation about data distribution: the Table containing data about periodic popular opinion polls shown by the author can also be interpreted relatively. That is, despite Modi's periodic higher popular preference, Raul Ghandi's scores are no less evolutionary. Put differently, Raul's performance is not at all stagnant, and, if continued, may eventually pose a serious threat to Modi's hegemony. After all, while the former is on the rise, the latter registered a slight fall in the 2023 most recent poll.
- There are many conjugated, discrete, or combined words, terms, or concepts used in the paper whose theoretical and contextual significance or meanings appear obscure. For example: worthiness-recognition, legitimacy-normatively, longevity-ability, perfection-imperfection, cultural-economic, reification, religious majoritarianism, geometric amplification, democratic digress theorization, impartiality-reflexivity-proximity, 'etc. It is important for clarity purposes that the author tries to avert too high-sounding, impressionist, or overloaded idiom, not quite free from ambiguities.
- Also, many acronyms were used recurrently without first showing what they actually stand for. Examples: BPJ, RSS, OBC, SC, and ST.

In all, the paper is rich in content with instructive potentials but requires adjustments to render it more robust and intelligible as it is moved towards publication.