

Bid Adieu 2008

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Events surrounded India some due to good reasons and some due to bad reasons. India sarcastically galloped all the episodes right from Bomb explosions all over India to Mumbai Terror Attack to historic Nuclear Deal as a mute spectator.

Raj Thackeray' s own people campaign created more foes than friends for him. Yes, his life got panicked after a series of cases standing against him, again creating a mockery of Indian democracy where he got bails in all the cases despite the non-bail able offense. He rightly followed his uncle and Shiv Sena supremo Bala Saheb Thackeray' s footsteps and gained popularity and emotions of Marathis' over the outsiders issue. It is now to see in the coming election how much legislators he would be able to add in his party favor out of people' emotions.

Nuclear deal was the biggest achievement for India on the domestic and international front. The turban man Dr Manmohan Singh risked his government on nuclear deal and finally managed to arrange the majority in the parliament. But critics followed the deal where some of the verities remained unanswered.

States' elections added another chapter to world largest democracy where we saw a change in hand in Rajasthan while other states showed their faiths in their old leaders giving them an another chance. The people of Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh, strong Hindi belt of central India gave good marks to their leaders' performance in their state respectively. Delhi bewildered everyone showing faith again in their charismatic leader Smt Sheila Dikshit. While Rajasthan paid a hefty price over the fuming crisis of gujjars and Smt Vasundhra Raje had to move out for two long civil struggles by gujjars. Manipur put their faith in common man hand i.e. Congress. While the J & K election surprised everyone in the political circles giving a hung legislative assembly. BJP improved their number from 1 to 11 and encashed the Amarnath Crisis, happened five months ago.

Financial tsunami which originated in US due to sub-prime crisis cut swathe through India too and sent thrills through the domestic bourses which plunged to a dismal low. The index bellwethers Sensex and Nifty saw their steepest fall in 2008 and the liquidity crisis resulted in loss of confidence among investors which forced the government and central bank to announce major fiscal and monetary measures to boost up the economy. A series of rate cuts, special economic stimulus package, special home loans rate et al boosted up the economy to some extent but it didn' t seem sufficient to fuse the recovery. And 2008 bid adieu to Sensex which settled below 10,000 where once it crossed 21,000 in early January.

Cricket, the heartbeat of every Indian proved to be a good year for India beating the so called world champion Australia and England. Dhoni and its team performed exceptionally well and hope the win wheel would keep on rolling. The little master blaster Sachin R Tendulkar added some more laurels to his book.

And the horror of the year "Mumbai Terror Attack" along with other bomb attacks in other parts of the country such as Jaipur, Assam, Varanasi, New Delhi et al added a black mark in the history of India. Mumbai attacks where terrorists took the city under their control for 60 hours ended in one of the bloodiest bath claiming 183 lives. And the incident escalated the furor along the border with the neighboring state, both entering into war-of-words. Hope it would remain up to war-of-words only unlike Israel who attacked Palestine giving a befitting reply to their extremism.

India is now a revived and emerging economy where all have put faith in its governance and performance but the days to come would decide where India is heading.
