

## **The dominance of heritage politics in India**

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The heritage politics is a synonym with different phases of Congress party right from the days of independent struggle. The Congress party leadership such as *Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel*, *Rajendra Prasad*, *C.Rajagopalachari*, *Purushottam Das Tandon*, *Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan* and *Maulana Azad* were the followers of the Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi had become the symbol of the Congress party and it was carried forward by the Gandhian family members right from the Jawaharlal Nehru to Indira Gandhi, Rajeev Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. This heritage was challenged by the leaders of the Congress party such as Subash Bose but it went in vain. Bose resigned the Congress presidency in the year 1939 as he lacked the consent of Gandhi that further lost the confidence of the national leaders. The heritage of the Gandhi family became stronger after the early death of the *Sardar Patel* in the year 1950's. The post independent India had seen the brutal dominance of the Gandhian heritage during the period of Mrs. Indira Gandhi. The slogan of the poverty alleviation, compulsory Vasectomy of the youth followed by the declaration of the national emergency is the result of the superiority of the heritage politics. Unfortunately, the dominated heritage polity of the Mrs. India Gandhi and Mr. Rajeev Gandhi was challenged by the international terrorism and India lost both these Prime Minister. This heritage politics ultimately provide a different shape to the Indian multi-party politics and needs critical analysis. Hence, this paper provides a comprehensive approach to explain the dominance of the heritage politics and its effects in the polity of India.

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