Abstract

Compared with the immediate post-Cold War period, in the first decade of the 21st century many African states made positive strides in the direction of democratisation. During this period, a number of states in Africa enjoyed open and competitive political processes characterized by free and fair elections accentuated by smooth transitions from one government to another in line with modern constitutions. This was the case with Ghana, Senegal, South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Rwanda, Namibia, Malawi and most notably, the Sudan Referendum that saw the birth of the youngest African State- Republic of South Sudan in June 2011. In the same direction, several African governments instituted legal, administrative and managerial reforms especially in the public sector in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of public policies and distribution of public goods and services. This was the case in countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Angola, Rwanda, Mozambique, Nigeria and Namibia just to mention but a few. If the degree to which a country’s democratisation process can be judged is by the ability of popularly elected governments to set forth policies and to implement them effectively for the public good; then, on the whole, very few African political systems can be said to have managed to do this effectively. The end-objective of this paper is to assess the role of India in spurring democratic transformation in Africa. In other words what can Africa learn from India, a seasoned but relatively young democracy and an emergent world power? What can India on its part offer as far as democratic transformation in Africa is concerned? In other words, how can Indo-African cooperation provide fertile grounds for democratic transformation for Africa? That is crux of this paper.