



Evolution of Nationalism in India: A Multidimensional Analysis

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Abstract:

The research article focuses on the abstract identity of India from the Pre-Independence to the Post-Independence era to the present day, keeping in centre the notions like Indianness and Nationalism. Simultaneously, major historical and literary movements that were crucial in the formation of the collective national identity are taken the basis of the research. The research undergoes a rigorous review from literary, historical, socio-political, economic and multicultural standpoints. It also covers certain founding personalities and their contributions to what today is call Indianness. It seeks to provide an understanding of how various factors that are connected, contribute to the formation of nationalism in the country. It starts with the history revealing the issue of the Rebellion of 1857, which is one of the significant events in the rise of anti-colonial movements in India. The research article, while reflecting on these several features, tries to provide a comprehensive picture of how nationalism has evolved and adapted over time. It also strives to analyse the significance of nationalism in present-day India. Recent government initiatives like NEP 2020 (National Education Policy) focus on integrating Indian knowledge systems into mainstream education, promoting a sense of Indianness among the students. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) encompasses traditional wisdom from various fields such as philosophy, science, literature, arts, and medicine, contributing to shaping India's cultural and national identity. In this respect, this article promotes the existing discussions concerning the role of nationalism in the future of India and its accompanying sustainment of democracy. Therefore, there is the need to re-visit the Indian culture and history of India that representing Indianness in real world.

Key Words: Nationalism, Revisiting, IKS, NEP, Decolonisation, Identity, Rebellion of 1857, Satyagraha, Colonialism, Secularism

I. Introduction:

Bharat, formerly known as India, is a country with a multi-millennial history and is very culturally diverse. It has an evolution which extends beyond that of colonial, medieval empires and the ancient civilizations. Some important civilizations among which the Mughal empire, Mauryan and Gupta empires, Indus valley civilization are amongst the most significant and have shaped the cultural, social and political dimensions of the society Very Little is known about the Mughal Empire while most of the Indian history is largely about the Mughal Empire. To understand the country and its fight against foreign domination with the arrival of European powers. Which primarily includes British, a must medieval and colonial period in the history of India needs to be embody. There is no history which does not contain instances of cooperation, war and survival which were the foundations to put together the contemporary day state.

Introduction to Nationalism in India:

In India's broadest definition, nationalism is the sense of pride, loyalty, and commitment to one's homeland. It is the idea that a country should be allowed to run itself independently of outside interference and that its citizens have a shared identity thanks to their shared history, culture, language, or religion. Nationalism, which frequently results in movements for independence and self-determination, seeks to bring people together under a common national identity. Because of India's enormous religious, linguistic, ethnic, and cultural variety, nationalism there is especially complicated. A conglomeration of kingdoms, territories, and empires, India was not a single political entity before to British colonisation. British control, however, brought Indians together because they were all subjected to the same injustice and exploitation. While nationalism in India arose in reaction to colonial oppression, it also aimed to



create a national identity that transcended these boundaries. Small, regional uprisings, like the Rebellion of 1857, which was a significant rebellion against the British East India Company, characterised the early stages of Indian nationalism. Despite being put down, the uprising inspired resistance and a sense of patriotism among Indians. Nonetheless, the establishment of the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1885 marked the real beginning of Indian nationalism as an organised movement in the late 19th century. Originally composed of moderate leaders, the INC petitioned the British for increased participation in administration and political reforms. But as time went on, the movement grew more extreme and called for total independence from British domination. Another distinctive feature of Indian nationalism was its focus on secularism, or the notion that people of various faiths might come together to form a single Indian identity. Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi were among the leaders who espoused an inclusive vision of India that took into account all of its different communities. Because the British frequently employed a “divide and rule” tactic, setting Muslims and Hindus against one another in an effort to undermine the national movement, this was especially crucial. Bringing different communities together in the struggle for independence was the goal of secular nationalism.

Historic Milestones:

Sardar Patel’s work sought to explore the efforts made towards political integration, with special emphasis on their conservative national and territorial integrity. A thematic synthesis is made in the paper from a historical, cultural, sociopolitical, economic and contemporary perspective. It views this process as an ongoing construction of Bharat’s quantitative national identity whilst noting the interaction between present forces with the past forces in the evolving national identity of the nation.

The Rebellion of 1857: Referred to as the First War of Independence, was also the timeline of a notable battle for liberation from British rule. It had been triggered due to many reasons including the culture and religious sentiments of native armies i.e. the sepoys and led to a wide scale revolt against the East India Company. The Indians as a nation determined to support the reasoning and the struggle for freedom which focuses solely on the mutiny was a source of national consciousness and a way to fight against foreign control. As the uprising was suppressed by the armed forces, the beginning of

formal power to the British crown in 1858 was the key event in the Chronology of British rule. Some agitation nationalism was infused in the course of Rebellion of 1857 which brought about more revolts against colonialism.

The Role of Mahatma Gandhi and Nonviolent Protests: Mahatma Gandhi’s Role in Non-Violent Protests, one of the most significant revolutionaries of India, was very much in favour of non-violent integration of rebellion in response to oppression. Gandhi proved to the masses that it is possible to oppose British rule effectively through movements like ‘Quit India Movement’ and ‘Salt March’ without any violence whatsoever. His philosophy of non-violence or “Satyagraha” although achieved its primary aims also resonated with the collective conscience of the country. The nature of Gandhi’s participation and devotion to inclusive nonviolent direct action helped greatly to formulate the moral backbone of India’s struggle. His campaign for humanitarian causes resonated across the borders even after independence had been achieved.

Impact of Partition and Independence in 1947: How this Independence Day was celebrated in the country migrants and then bloodbath of the extremities which even resulted in the killing of a number of people. The Indian history, of her many tragic events especially one of partition, which slaughtered millions of innocence, restructuring the mental framework of a nation was expected to endure. Such violence and dislocation during partition stresses the need of forging and propagating an inclusive and secular culture among the people for the new India. The American War of Independence was this time sparse, because it was universal, emancipation this new idea of the Indians beyond limiting non discrimination through Saffron and White as the ideas of equal purity which are propounded in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution of 1950. It was the desire to be free from British oppression and to establish a democratic republic with socialism that embraced all regardless of caste and religion.

Cultural Evaluation:

Artistic Contribution of Rabindranath Tagore and National Anthem: The national identity of Bharat is grossly determined by the artistic endeavours of Rabindranath Tagore as well. Among such contributions is the matches written *Jana Gana Mana* the meaning of which is – the national anthem. Whatever he wrote always matched up with



the music he had composed so this poetry incited sentiments of love for the motherland and unity. In orthodox American society it was decided that the national anthem would be more substantial than just a spin. Lyrical exposition of Tagore's creative management, that is music, novels, and discussions, emphasises about intimate knowledge of the vastness of Bharat's culture. We adopt National Anthem without even thinking about the fact that it is the most apposite, thunder forever in the hearts of Indians people unifying them ever since with the history and visions, keeping in its diverse weave of the tremendous Indian nationality.

Subhas Chandra Bose's Appeal to Fight Colonialism:

Striking Indian nationalism leader, Subhas Chandra Bose, appeared to call for solidarity to fight against colonialism. Subhas Chandra Bose's slogan 'Jai Hind' became the battle cry of Indian National Army. Bose's concept of uniting various groups of people under the banner of freedom possessed a certain cultural and political appeal. He was a strong supporter of a single national identity among the Indian populace, irrespective of belligerent sects, stressing on the need for such an identity in battling British Colonization. This narrative survives in the manner that Bose embodies what can be described as the collective will of the Indian people towards self determination irrespective of race or culture and is a unifier of new forces in Bharat which seeks to unite the people of diverse backgrounds for political and social activities.

Socio-Political Developments:

Secularism: Miss-inclusivism is another term which is most appropriate for secularism. Due to this reason secularism is and will always remain one of the essential principles of the Constitution of India. This means that every belief is equally accepted by government and none gets avoided. It affirms citizens-rights to freely profess and propagate any religion of their choice without any discrimination. For peaceful social coexistence of people with different faiths within a country secularism has to be resorted to.

Democracy: Among all the other principles that the Indian Constitution advocates the most important of all tops the pyramid which is democracy whereby the government is the choice of the citizen. Elections at different levels are held from time to time so that the residents can make decisions and even vote and be part of the decision-making

process. The democratic set up assures that various opinions are provided a hearing and representation when it comes to national matters for the purpose of enhancing normal governance structures of accountability, transparency and inclusivity.

Social Justice: Implementation of social justice, as is directed in the constitution, is provided for in certain provisions that are aimed at correcting past wrongs. Provision for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes are some of the examples of affirmative action policies that are meant to uplift the disadvantaged groups of the society. The intention is to create his/her society more just and equal to all individuals who had previously suffered relative disadvantage and provide the chance to everyone.

Sardar Patel's Political Integration Efforts: After the partition of India in 1947 and Independence, a situation has arisen in which the princely states who were first asked to join either Bharat or Pakistan or remain sovereign states faced the dilemma of joining United Bharat. Sardar Patel, who was Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, played a key role in attracting those princely republics to Bharat. For the simplicity of administration, amicable agreements to contain integrative tendency of the country among states were enhanced through compelling negotiation and persuasion by able leaders. An inspiration to Sardar Patel for his initiatives towards the political unification of the country was the vision of an integrated and unified Bharat. It was under his leadership that the variety of the princely states of the nation was efficiently absorbed. By curtailing separatist tendencies and fostering a national ethos, Sardar Patel also played a key role in strengthening the Post Independence India. Further, the constitutional framework of India, it is easy to see how these principles of social justice, democratic freedoms, and secularism work together to build an equitable and pluralistic society. The other side of the coin, in the case of Sardar Patel, his approach towards political unification shows the need to ensure internal coherence and territorial unity for the functioning of a sane society. The factors that install and shape the contemporary political and social scenario of India has got roots in both of the aspects.

The Impact of Indian Knowledge System on National Identity and Culture:

Indian Knowledge System is an expansive sphere of traditional knowledge that has been part of



India's culture for centuries. It includes knowledge from various domains such as philosophy, physics, literature, art, medicine, and governance. Such ancient knowledge contributed greatly to India's national and cultural identity. Various steps taken by the government in recent times have spearheaded the cause of integrating IKS into modern education, economy, and society.

The NEP 2020 offers C-Tied various contributions towards the assertion of the IKS. It seeks the ultimate advancement of the teaching in the schools and universities. It seeks to connect students with Indian traditions and ideals. The proposal of the NEP 2020 introduces ancient Indian languages like Sanskrit, Pali, and Prakrit in the schools. It includes instruction about India's contribution to Mathematics, Physics, Astronomy, and building construction in particular. It includes concepts such as India's invention of the concept of zero and astronomical advancement, and it further explains the Ayurvedic contribution to medicines. Yoga and Indian philosophical traditions are further included in the educational systems. This would enable children to know their ancestry better and feel proud of the accomplishments of their country, thus invoking an indomitable sense of national pride and unity. Thus, Indian knowledge systems are closely tied to India's identity. The Vedas, the Upanishads, and the Bhagavad Gita such ancient texts convey the moral and ethical values prevalent among Indians, while the Mahabharata and Ramayana hold a mirror to Indian customs and beliefs. The scientific achievements of past geniuses such as Aryabhata and Sushruta accentuate the superiority of knowledge in ancient India. Meanwhile, art styles stemming from classical music and dance forms like Bharatanatyam help protect the richness of India's cultural diversity. These traditions enable the people to connect back to their roots and gain a sense.

The Make in India initiative is further evidence of IKS being employed to establish a national identity. The Make in India Initiative started in 2014 to promote domestic manufacturing and innovation. It is mainly based on the Swadeshi model, which advocates the use of domestic goods. Mahatma Gandhi urged the use of Swadeshi products during the freedom struggle to revive Indian industries and handicrafts. The Make in India campaign proceeds on the premise of this idea by promoting small businesses and artisans. Examples of traditional crafts like handloom, ceramics and textiles are brought on a modern platform. This has

pushed India towards self-reliance, AtmanirbharBharat-a newfound cultural pride leading towards greater economic prosperity.

In recent times, a set of initiatives has been started by the government to sharpen cultural and national identity for the people. For instance, regional languages are encouraged in schools as part of government efforts to sustain linguistic diversity. Projects like 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' foster cultural interactions between Indian states to showcase the unity alongside diversity of India. The government is also digitalising ancient texts and manuscripts to give modern students a foothold into the treasure of traditional knowledge.

IKS forms the core identity of an Indian history, Indian culture. It has influenced how individuals act, think, and contribute to society. The integration of IKS into modern times via initiatives such as the NEP 2020 and the Make in India movement has given pride to India's heritage. IKS ingrains a sense of belonging and hope for a very bright future through a connection between one's own being and traditions.

II. Conclusion:

The definition of India is not static, it is rather a movable piece of artwork that has parts of cultural pluralism, economic vigour, socio-political integration and historical fortitude. The constant process of moving towards a clearer idea of one's as described above is best characterised as seeking a middle ground of honouring the value of the past and addressing the challenges of living in a new world. The national identity of India is such a complicated fusion comprising of border wars, colonization, tradition, democracy and development. It is a picture of a nation that seeks to develop and become inclusive while at the same time harnessing the power of its distinct history. As it comes out in the study, Indian nationalism is an undifferentiated and evolving concept which draws its content from social movements, political ideologies and historical events. Its complexity if viewed with its aspects of politics, culture, religion and economy is a strong but paradoxical force which is destined to redefine Indian identity and its future. It does not only raise questions about identity and representation in a diverse society, but it also has the potential to unite people for common causes. In the end, Indian nationalism embodies the struggle of the nation in reconciling unity in diversity, tradition and



modernity, as well as individualism and collectivism.

Every identity building process is dynamic and is influenced by the chances and challenges of the present. For instance, "Digital India", educational programs and such other measures illustrate a willingness to remain true to the present where a more interconnected and technologically advanced society has rearranged the order of how people wish to define themselves and their roles in the society. The national identity in question is not static, on the other hand, it is dynamic. Such political and social cohesion depends on the fact that people are willing to promote their own national unity without losing their regional identity and culture in the context of influences from the outside. Put quite simply, Indian nationalism looks set to remain, as it had always in the past, a powerful force in the future politics, culture and society of the country. It is not there as some kind of static notion but as situated/embedded idea. Nationalism in India will remain important in the future but the challenge will be building a nationalism that does justice to the myriad forms of Indian identity. The significance of Indian nationalism in the future will be determined by its ability to harmonize the politics of religious patronage, caste, and regional aspirations with the need for a cohesive national identity.

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