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## Indian Nationalism: Redefined in Today's Time

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**Abstract:** *The Feeling of love and pride towards the nation one is born in is purely natural. It is ingrained in almost every human throughout the world. Nationalism has many definitions. To be truly patriotic, one must feel a sense of belonging to one's own country and its people. To comprehend nationalism, one must comprehend citizenship. Nationalism is rooted in patriotism. Nationalism is based on loyalty. This way of thinking has unquestionably existed since the dawn of time. The concept unites citizens throughout the country. Patriotism also refers to allegiance to one's country. Nationalism is almost certainly the most powerful force in global politics. Numerous factors contribute to nationalism's rise. All citizens of a country share these characteristics. All of these elements are shared: language, history, culture, traditions, mentality, and territorial boundaries. As a result, a sense of community would develop among the populace. It will occur regardless of your wishes. As a result, countrymen would feel more connected and affectionate toward one another. Thus, patriotism fortifies the nation's citizens. The present aim of the study is to analyse the Indian Nationalism: Redefined in Today's time.*

**Keywords:** *Nationalism, Democracy, Blends, Constitution, Redefinition etc.*

### **Research Objectives**

- ✓ To Unmask the meaning and nature of Indian Nationalism
- ✓ To shed a detailed light and analyse the Indian Nationalism: Redefined in Today's time.
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### **Methodology**

The article is both descriptive and analytical in nature, and it makes extensive use of secondary sources such as newspaper articles, magazine articles, and investigation reports to support its claims.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The term "nationalism" refers to a strong sense of loyalty to one's country. It fosters a psychological connection to the country. There is such a strong sense of belonging to a



particular country that its citizens are wary of strangers. 'Nationalism is a state of mind that permeates the vast majority of people,' says Hans Kohn." It is the highest form of patriotism a man can show to his country. Ancient India was the birthplace of nationalism. Loyalty to one's homeland was a common trait among the ancient Indians. In the Rig-Veda, India is referred to as "Bharata Varsha or Bharata Khanda." The era of the Mauryas and Guptas saw a rise in nationalist sentiment. When Maurya ruled, monarchy was the most popular form of government. It was considered a form of nationalism to be loyal to the king. Arthashastra served as the foundation for Mauryan administration. Governors ruled over provinces within the Maurayan Empire. The king had to be informed of the actions of these governors. The Muslim conquests in mediaeval India dominated the country's political landscape. The Mughal dynasty was one of the Muslim rulers who made a contribution to the concept of national identity. It was Akbar who was the most powerful Mughal emperor. The Mughals gained control over a greater portion of northern India. Autocratic monarchy was the mode of government. The king was the most powerful ruler in the land. All of administrative law could be traced back to him.

Emperor's authority was respected during Mughal rule, and loyalty to the king was regarded as nationalistic. Hatred of the emperor was met with retribution. British rule strengthened the concept of nationalism. To facilitate trade, the British landed in India and quickly expanded their dominion throughout the subcontinent. As a result of India's independence struggle, a distinct nationalist ideology arose. There were far-reaching effects from World War I (1919) on the entire world. After World War One, major Indian movements such as Satyagrah and Non-cooperation emerged. The seeds of Indian nationalism have been sown as a result of this. During this time, new social groups and new ways of fighting emerged. In the wake of the Jalianwala Bagh massacre and the Khilafat movement, Indians were profoundly affected. As a result, they have developed a strong sense of responsibility, accountability, love, and devotion to their country as a result of their shared struggle against colonialism. The birth of Indian nationalism was spurred on by this sense of belonging shared by the Indian people. India's first organised expression of nationalism took place in 1885 with the founding of the Indian National Congress.

Crime and nationalism are inversely related. In countries with a strong sense of nationalism, crime rates appear to be significantly lower. As a result of this, people tend to have a greater affinity for their fellow citizens. People tend to shy away from crimes against their fellow citizens. Corruption is also low in these countries, as is the case in other countries. Corruption is a big no-no for nationalists. Because they feel guilty for harming their country, this is why. A nation's resolve to defend itself is bolstered in no small part by its sense of national identity. Nationalistic people are likely to be strongly in favour of bolstering the military. The best way to protect one's country from foreign invaders is to have a well-equipped military. Investing heavily in the military may not be a priority for countries with a low sense of national identity. The reason for this is that those who have a low sense of national identity favour weak militaries. This means that countries that don't take nationalism seriously are at risk. Nationalism has a positive effect on the environment as well. People who have a strong sense of national identity would be ashamed to pollute their own country in any way. That is why such individuals will work to protect the environment even in the absence of rules.



Instead, someone who lacks a strong sense of patriotism would toss trash without much thought.

## **2. DISCUSSION**

British rule bolstered nationalist sentiments in India. Nationalism has been redefined in the aftermath of a recent incident on a university campus. Democracy and nationalism complement one another well. Certain socio-political sects reinterpreted nationalism and nationalism in relation to the Constitution and democracy.

Nationalism, according to the dictionary, is the belief that one's country is superior to others and that one should be loyal to and proud of it. As a result of nationalism, citizens develop a sense of awe and affection for their homeland. Loyalty to the king was regarded as a form of nationalist sentiment in India dating back to ancient times. Ancient and mediaeval Indians were more focused on their own regionalism, which was reflected in their language and culture. Regionalism was overshadowed by nationalism because of the small provinces' presence. As a result of British rule, India developed a stronger sense of national identity.

Sepoy mutiny and the formation of the Indian National Congress are examples of nationalist movements during the pre-independence era that were characterised by civil disobedience, the Quit India Movement, and the Dandi Satyagraha. They included Subhash Chandra Bose and Bal Gangadhar Tilak as well as the Swami Vivekananda movement and Gandhi. Their efforts helped to strengthen 'nationalism.' In the post-independence era, nationalism took on a more concrete form. Many patriotic songs, patriotic songs, patriotic emblems, and national festivals were used to instil a sense of patriotism and nationalism in the Indians. Religious, cultural, ethnic, and social conflicts have splintered nationalist identity since then. As a result, democracy's core values have faded into the background, and individualism has risen to take their place. People in this country are searching for a new and distinct sense of self as a result of their ethnicity, class, and religion. In recent years, a tremendous amount of pressure has suffocated Indian nationalism. Some leaders are attempting to redefine or rewrite it with strings and attachments that deviate from the constitutional definition of extreme loyalty without regard for religious, ethnic, linguistic, or cultural discrimination. This can be seen in recent violence and uprisings on university campuses, which were sparked by ideological differences between political party student wings. It's no secret that these recent events have enraged people from all walks of life. Such events serve as a stark reminder that Indian nationalism needs to be reconsidered and reimagined.

People's minds and souls cannot be forced to embrace nationalism; rather, once a civilised human being encounters the real nation and its people, it develops organically within him. If we define and interpret national identity based on lines and patterns of religion, caste, colour, and creed, we are not defining and interpreting national identity, but rather sectarian nationality, with true nationalism pushed to the back burner. In a democracy, "majority is always authority," but if some establishments try to hijack the concept of majority to impose their own agenda, the entire concept of democracy and nationalism becomes irrelevant and farcical, and nationalism and democracy become irrelevant and farcical.



Nationalism is not so fragile that it requires sloganeering in a specific language or dialect, or something that will deteriorate as the dietary habits of its adherents in India or elsewhere in the world change. When socio-political groups try to rewrite nationalism to fit their own agenda, they only create more hatred, which is the polar opposite of true nationalism. With our forward-thinking and peace-loving population, we in India cannot afford for such divisive hatred to stifle our country's rapid development. As a result, it is the responsibility of the entire country to unite and ensure that all parties involved understand the Constitution correctly.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

Nationalism versus anti-nationalism is a hot topic in India right now. However, misinformation and half-truths are being used to further political agendas in the majority of cases. Even though we must show our love and respect for our country, it does not follow that we must use violence to do so. The country does not wish for its citizens to be subjected to acts of violence, hatred, or fear. This calls for a nationalist stance in favour of national unity. It is imperative that the Indian people and their leaders define what it means to be truly national in light of the Constitution and democracy. If a disgruntled segment of the population is satisfied by an attempt to redefine or rewrite nationalist ideology, it will have a negative impact on the country's overall democratic image. It is widely regarded as one of the world's most vibrant democracies, particularly on the subcontinent, where it occupies a unique position. People in India and their leaders must remain committed to transforming India into a glorious democracy with no discrimination and different nationalist benchmarks for different groups.

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