

## **Indian Nationalism—A Study of its Correlation with Sanatan Culture**

**Prof. (Dr.) Tej Narayan Ojha**

Professor, Maharaja Agrasen College

University of Delhi

&

**Dr. Rashmi Pandey**

Guest Faculty, NCWEB,

University of Delhi

**Abstract:** The present research article evaluated the concept of nationalism and its associated parameters and factors in India. Indian nationalism is not just a word; it's a complete set of ideologies, philosophies, and determination. The research article has analyzed the various literature and modern manifestations, sentiments, and Sanatan cultural values to evaluate the essence of nationalism in Indian nationalism. The issue of nationalism in the present era is very significant, as the state must take steps to show the identity in terms of religio-social perspectives. India is a secular country, and nationalism in the Indian context has roots in a Ganga-Jamuni culture. As the new era approaches, it is very crucial to change the page and discourse on nationalism; therefore, Hindustani tahzeeb must be an addition to show the Hindustani identity, the same as the other countries in the world. The main aim of the article is to provide a detailed understanding of the complexity of nationalism and its relationship with Sanatan cultural factors. This paper also deals with the importance of Hinduism in Indian nationalism and its different dynamics to understand the importance of Hindi nationalism in the present era of changing global discourse. The methodology used in the paper is secondary in nature.

**Keywords:** Nationalism, Indianism, Sanatan cultural, Hindi-identity, diversity

### **Introduction**

In past decades, India has always observed the diverse point of views on nationalism, and such kinds of social discourse has fuelled the other related controversies under some political agendas and motivations. The idea of nationalism is always illuminated with the view of progressive ideology of Indian values and traditional perspective to maintain identity and to save its global worth (Guha;2005).

In the present digital sociocultural scenario, India is developing with great pace and momentum, and the influence of such development is well marked in the behaviour of common people and in their expression. The India and Indianness are always seen collectively in the character and representation of people. Considering all these associated factors, the present article focused on the deep root of culture and its portrayal in the society by contemporary stakeholders (Gadgil, Madhav, and Vartak; 1983). It is also remarkably also very much seen in the present youth as they are very much oriented towards the national issues and interest. In recent years, the Indian government has given more focus on the representation of Hindi nationalist politics and the development of Hindi society and supported the Hindi system of thoughts and aims to use the framework Sanantan to boost affection for motherland as a universal identity and shape people's perceptions (Bakhle; 2010).

It's very true that the development of Indian society and Hindi culture is very relevant in terms of nationalism (Nielsen; 1999). The belief of nationalism in the present scenario has changed, and the new generation or modern youth, have changed the way of socialisation. The nationalism in India is very much connected to the Sanatan Dharma and we need to accept the fact the Vedas and its significance for the achievements of science and scientists is also very much connected with Sanatan Ideology. The concept of nation is more

political in nature and the ways its getting a voice in the Indian subcontinent is making it more valuable. Conventionally, for any individual, a nationalist identity is a kind of sentiment which indicates the belongingness to the motherland which shares the same values and identity (Miller, David; 1995). People may live in different parts of the nation but have the same level of acceptance and respect for all.

### **Understanding of Nationalism**

Nationalism, in general, is a combination of many factors, such as civic nationalism, cultural nationalism, and postcolonial nationalism. The strength of Indianness is very much associated with the regional and ethnic-based identity, and of course the language is in the centre of it. Indian nationalism is not just limited to the regions and sentiment; the diversity of culture and religion also pointed out the value of attachment and loyalty to the mother soil (Grover & Mehta; 2008). As far as the Indian perspective is concern, the Indians from almost all the regions normally identify themselves with the Indian culture and follow this legacy. The value of nationalism is wide and full of diverse perspectives, but the point of interest is to evaluate at the level of nations and its respect on a global platform (Kymlika Will; 1995). The Indian society is always seen in the perception of socio-political and cultural touch, which gives a sense of deep-rooted social togetherness, and this actually shows the strength of nationalism in unity. Many scholars have given many perspectives in terms of nationalism, such as nationalism is a kind of ideology that covers the respect for one's nation and has some political angle to describe it as determination for political obligations to indicate the affection and attachment with the people of the country and its well-being to mobilize them immensely for growth and progress. In fact, nationalism is a genuineness of ownership, the ownership, citizens normally aspire to and accept with positive awareness of unity and faith towards the nation. In India particularly, it must be away from the extremism of regionalism and religious parameters and sense of separatism. Nationalism is a kind of aspiration to develop and provide equal rights to everyone in the country and maintain the unity of the nation (Miller, David; 1995).

Nationalism is a kind of glory for every Indian, and it is considered a rainbow when it comes to diversity in unity. India is a nation with different colors of culture and languages; sometimes it may be very difficult, but for the Indian context, it's very important to see the nationalism through the lens of Indianism, as seeing the difference in every religion, region, and culture tied up with the same degree of nationalism is a great experience, and it can only happen in a state like India. The political scenario of India has always had one corner, i.e., nationalism, as this is a very soft corner to hold people and give them a clear sense of oneness. Government, right from the beginning, i.e., 1947, tries their best to add modernization and development and science and technologies, but the main point of concern was always the nationalism to show the nativism (Hatcher; 1994). It's also very important to say that the government has created India as a large Hindi homeland but gives the same authority and power to the other religions and respect for everyone (Chaurasia; 2002). This is a great example of when, in almost every government and non-government office and agency, all religions have an equal chance of growth and priority. Apart from the religion concerns, which are always considered a kind of gap in the nationalism of the Indian subcontinent. In the political rhetoric, homeland, attachments with the mother soil, and modernity always show the glory of India, and in this era of globalization, India can restore glory and pride to strengthen the motherland (Gnaneshwari; 2017).

### **Digital Media as a catalyst of Nationalism**

The present study is never considered complete, as digital media and social media cannot be left out of the discussion of nationalism in the present era of digital revolution. The new media is also adding a kind of value in the awareness about nationalism by influencing different related factors. Public sphere like social media is a great example, where people are giving their arguments for the nationalism. Social media has given a diverse angle to nationalism as its asset (Hatcher; 1994). Social media has pointed out that nationalism is not just the involvement in national issues but also the happiness on sports victory and sharing national resources are also comes under nationalism, it can also be noted here that to accept and interact with the various national thoughts are also called as nationalism. In fact, such kinds of issue-based

nationalism are very prominent in the present era; an example is religion-based nationalism in the Middle East. Therefore, the people are using media platforms to add their inputs. The policymakers are using all these inputs and grievances to frame constructive norms for the country. However, the government is making policies by keeping all the inputs (Dubey, 2017). If we go to the historical context of nationalism, there are countless stories that state the level of nationalism and struggle for freedom, the national heroes, and foreign influence, especially the British Empire. The use of social media has become the new norm for all political parties and election strategists. Social media influencers have a great impact on users in general and young people in particular. Studies show that emotional messages related to nationalism and patriotism are the most popular posts on social media (Bandhopadhyay; 2009).

### **Indian Nationalism and Ganga-Jamuni culture**

Indian nationalism has emerged as a religious reaction to India's mixed culture. It is also said that India is a core Hindi state, and all the controversies came because of partition at the time of independence. The fundamental is the Sanatan Culture of 5000 years (Gnaneshwari, 2017), which gives a nature of acceptance and value of others; that's why India is a secular state, with the common base being Sanatan Dharam.

Actually, the Ganga-Jamuni Culture, or Hindustani Tehzeeb, is not just a culture, but it's a great identification of living and acceptance of people around the world (Dash, 1958). Here in India, Ganga-Jamuni culture is a core of our civilization and civic values. People in India have shown great acceptance and respect towards all religions and individualistic beliefs. India is secular and ready to accept people irrespective of culture and religion is a result of such culture. This is our nationalism, and India is known for this around the world.

In the last 1200 years. India always has seen and faced the outsider and invaders like Mohammed Ghoris (Mughals) and the British, who divided the nation and created gaps based on religious and cultural lines. Indian nationalism means the sanatan tradition and values, and it's all about the Hindustani civilization (Chaurasia, 2002). For 1200 years, there was always a kind of threat to Hindi identity. It was well marked that to maintain the single strong Hindustani culture and a very focused Hindi state with a deep feeling towards nationalism (Hatcher, 1994). It's very important to see and train our new generation to have a view and attachment to their Hindi sentiment and lifestyle, including the language, belief, and values for life. Considering all such associated factors, as far as the Hindi language is concerned, it's very remarkable here to add that language is a soul of any culture, and if the modern youth do not understand the value of the Hindi language, certainly the Hindustani culture is in the red line, and the condition is alarming. Modernization has given an idea for global acceptance and globalization, which is true and really a demand of the present hour, but leaving and forgetting our own culture and the dissolution of the Hindi language will lead to the danger mark for Hindustani culture and Indian nationalism. Presently, the people in India are more inclined towards heterogeneity, which is certainly at odds with the claim of nationalism and identity (Bandhopadhyay, 2009). Remarkably, the religious factor is prime and playing a decisive role.

The research paper also pointed out the value of Ganga-Jamuni culture as one of the prime factors of nationalism in India. Acceptance and respect for all certainly have a deep association with the cultural significance of nationalism and are tied up with fabrics of religious practice and Sanatan symbolism, and it really is not just culture; it's a great civilization. It's basically a symbolic presentation of values and beliefs of Hinduism. The point of concern here is that it's very important to see and anticipate every issue and concern of Bhartiya sentiment and promote actual Indianness in nationalism.

(Cawood & Oshokoya; 2013).

### **Conclusion**

The analysis of all the factors and associated parameters shows that Indian nationalism is very much influenced by the Ganga-Jamuni culture and sentiments along with the social issues. Indian nationalism is a kind of representation that indicates the legacy and rich heritage of Indian culture and lifestyle (Bakhle, 2010). In the present scenario of globalization and various factors of cultural assimilation, it gives a new

sense of mixed presentation and thus the chances of change in nationalism fundamentals. Therefore, the requirement to build a solid base for nationalism is very much required in an era of modernization. The research paper also pointed out that Indianism is fundamentally regional and shares common features with culture and civic participation. Indianism is partly social, as it draws its political legitimacy from the will of the people, which is expressed through their participation in electoral politics. Indian nationalism is guided by bourgeois principles of equality, freedom, and fraternity.

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