

Chapter - 6

Nationality in India

Nation or a country is such a group of persons, who use are to live with freedom on a particular and certain area of land and that such group is being organised with the feelings of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity among the members of a Nation, the presence of the feelings of patriotism, love with the country, sacrifice for the nation, feelings of intimacy, and attachment with the nation are always found. And this is known as “Nationalism”. In the Western countries, the concept of a Nation was in the form of 'state' one caste or creed and its land was understood as Nation. In the Indian concept of 'Nationalism', culture has got a significant place. In India, the meaning of Nation, country and state can be understood by the following table:-

Essential Organs or Elements	Nation	Country	State
1	People	People	People
2	Culture	Land	Sovereignty

If there is a combination and presence of all the four elements i.e. people, land, culture and sovereignty, than such country is always categorised as an 'Ideal Nation'.

The Origin and Development of Nationalism :-

As per scholars- Sir John Strechy and Sir John Silley, the origin of Indian Nationalism, was the contribution of 19th century. They are of the opinion that Indian Nationalism took birth, as a result of Colonial Imperialism of Britain. But, in India, the

concept of Nationalism is very old. We can gather the clear cut knowledge about Nationalism, from the Literature of Veds.

In Yajur Ved and Arth Ved, the concept of Nationality is discussed at various places, and it has also been written in Yajur Ved, that what should be the duties of civilians for the Nation.

As such and in this way, it is not correct to say that the Indian Nationalism or National feelings took birth, due to Britishers or Western impact, because in the Veds of olden times, concept of Indian Nationalism is being discussed. Really speaking, among the Indians, the feelings of Nationality and respect for the country, always had been in the minds of Indians. This is a symbol of our 'Nationality'. Not only this, but in India the concept of cultural nationality was having a significant importance in our walk of life. In Ancient period, we find the mentioning of Larger India, which shows that there was a cultural effect of India, in the whole world.

The Reasons of National Renaissance:-

The rise of Renaissance in India of 19th century was a strong reaction, against the exploitation and Tremol of India in the field of economic, political and cultural, by Britishers. The Indian compelled Britain to quit India and go back to its home, on the strength of National feelings. The Britishers started occupying India, firstly from the Bengal. Till 1911 century, Calcutta, had been the capital of India, so they paid more attention towards Bengal. The main

reasons responsible for the National Renaissance, are as under:-

1. The effect of the glorious past of India :-

India, was called as 'World Guru' in Ancient period only because of limitless knowledge.

In Ancient period, our great persons and rulers tried to keep India united to the highest level. Due to this glorious feelings, the concept of National Unity and Emotions came into existence. The information and factual knowledge about glorious past and cultural splendours by the Western Scholars, in the translated literature from Sanskrit to English language. Such scholars are- William Jones, Princes, Max Muller, Fergusson and Indian Scholars as Rajendra Lal Mitra are some of the important scholars. In 1861 century under the leadership of Kanicham, the Archaeological Excavation and Investigations started in India. From the Ancient period itself, there had been a highly developed culture in India, this fact could be known by such excavations. In our country the self confidence evolved, due to the knowledge and ancient glory and the Inspiration of Nationalism was received in the minds of people of India. Not only Indian but European Scholars also recognised the Vedic knowledge to be of highly helpful for the welfare of the whole World.

2. The effect of British Rule:-

The policies of Britishers were highly opposed by Indian people because they exploited India economically as well as culturally. From 1837 to 1857, so many revolts took place against the Britishers. Among such revolts, some of them are Civil disobedience, Revolt by Tribals and Revolts of Farmers. The Indian people could understand this fact very easily that the Imperialistic government of Britishers cannot be at all beneficiary to Indian people. The unforsighted and Reactionary policy of Lord Litin developed a big Quantam of dissatisfaction in Indian's mind.

3. The Influence of English Education:-

Though, Lord Micalety wanted through English education and language, to make the Indian people mentally slaves. But fortunately the English language became a medium of internations and world by links and exchange of thoughts mutually. Indian youth started taking education through English medium, and as such the feelings of National awakening developed in India.

4. The effects of the contacts with Western Thinkers and Philosophers:-

The Indian youth came in touch with the views and Literature of Berk, Germany, Bentham, J.S. Mill, Jean Jack Rousso, Milton, Spencer etc., through the medium of English language. They were highly affected and influenced by the Revolutionary thoughts of the above thinkers and philosophers. Hence, the feelings of nationality got strengthened.

5. The contribution of Indian Writers:-

Indian writers and poets created such views & poems which were full of Nationalism. The staging of one act plays like 'Annand Math' and 'Neel Darpan' encouraged the feelings of Nationalism among the people of India. The One Act Play "Annand Math" of Bankim Chatterji became the synonyme of 'Patriotism'. The song- namely "Vande Matram" had been his contribution. The, then writers expressed specific respect to nationality and mother land. The song 'Vande Matram' became a specific and important factor of inspiration for the revolutionary people and agitators, against the British Rulers. Other writers, also through their articles, and other literature provided a special contribution for awakening the feelings of nationalism. Some of them are- Hem Chandra Banarjee, Naveen Chandra Sen, R.C. Dutt, Ravindra Nath Tagore, Badri Narayan Choudhary, Pratap Narayan Mishra, Bal Krishna Bhatt etc.

6. Contribution of Newspapers and Beginning of Printing Press:-

Newspapers and magazines were the easier

sources of communication of views and news. In the 18th century, near Calcutta, in Shri Rampur, the printing press was started and the publications of newspapers and magazines were speedily spread out. In the year 1774, the first newspaper namely 'India Gazette' and in 1780, the 'Bengal Gazette' were published. With the object to expand and to develop the concept of 'National feelings', Raja Ram Mohan Roy, got published two newspapers i.e. 'Sanwad Komudni' and 'Mirattun '. In the year 1826, first time in Hindi, the newspaper namely- 'Udant Martand'. The newspapers openly opposed the Imperialistic politics of East India company. The thoughts and views of scholars, started to reach the minds of people, by the medium of newspapers.

Ishwar Chandra Vidhya Sagar and Harish Chandra Mukherjee published the magazines- i.e. 'Som Prakash' and 'Hindu Patriot', respectively. In 1868, the magazine 'Amart Bazar Patrika' was published. Lok Manya Tilak published 'Punjab Kesari' in Marathi language and 'Maratha' in English. These newspapers prepared the environment of Nationalism and sacrifice in India.

7. The Adoption of Discriminatory Policy of Britishers with Indians:-

Indians were not provided any high placement in Military as well in administration also. They discriminated Indians in every walk of life. After the Revolution of 1857, Indians were usually insulted and exploited by Britishers. Inequality of Indians and Britishers in the eyes of law was common. Such activities of Britishers with Indian, developed more dissatisfaction among the Indian people.

8. The Impact of Religious and Protest for Social Reforms:-

In India, at the time of beginning of Freedom Movement, regarding evil conventions in society and for its eradication, the role of Brahma Samaj; Arya Samaj & Ram Krishna Mission, had been of high importance. Rajaram Mohan Roy and Swami Dayanand Saraswati tried to improve social evils

and developed the feelings of love and affections for the Nation. The founder of 'Brahma Samaj' Rajaram Mohan Roy was known as the maker of modern India. He insisted upon the expansion of modern education and stood and fought for the protection of civil liberty and independence of press.

Keshav Chandra Sen, of Brahma Samaj insisted on the use of Hindi in field of Social Equality and Individual freedom. He travelled the whole world and made attempts to unite all sects of religion. The founder of Arya Samaj, pressed hardly to use Indian goods (India Made) and to fight for self governance. He, the first time used the word "Swaraj" Swami Vivekanand gave the famous lecture on 'Vedant' in Chicago in the year 1893, and the glory and the proud of India was highly increased in the world, by such brilliant lecture. He preferred to fight for political freedom and to pay the honour to the glory of past of India, and he explained the meaning of religion, that to serve the mother land- India is the only religion of every Indian.

9. The Economic Exploitation of India:-

There was a big dissatisfaction among the Indians, against the economic exploitation of Indian people by Britishers. The small cottage industries of India were more or less closed. Britishers used to purchase raw material from India at a very low rate and after manufacturing, they used to sell it at a very high rate. India was exploited by investing foreign capital in India and through foreign import.

In England, all the expenses occurred regarding the home government of India, were to be borne by India. Indians opposed the disinvestment of capital from India, destruction of cottage industries and exploitation of farmer.

National Movement and Freedom of India:-

Being persuaded by the thoughts of Nationalism, Indian continued the National Movement for a long time, for Independence of India from British Rulers. India got freedom on 15th

August 1947, at midnight due to the efforts of sacrifice of revolutionaries, non violent agitation of Mahatma Gandhi and freedom fighters.

In the struggle of Freedom Movement, along with non violence leaders, the Revolutionary Freedom Fighters contributed to a great extent and to achieve freedom from British Rule. Some of the names of such freedom fighters are as follows :-

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Bhagat Singh | 2. Rajguru |
| 3. Sukh Deo | 4. Chandra Shekhar 'Azad' |
| 5. Chapekar Brothers | 6. Ashfaq Ullah Khan |
| 7. Ram Prasad Bismil | 8. Rajendra Lahiri |
| 9. Khudiram Bose | 10. Prafulla Chandra Bose |
| 11. Lala Lajpat Roy | 12. Bipin Chandra Pal |
| 13. Bal Gangadhar Tilak | 14. Gopal Krishna Gokhley |
| 15. Arvind Ghose | 16. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru |
| 17. Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel etc. | |

The Freedom Struggle of 1857- with Special Reference of Rajasthan :-

In India, the dissatisfaction was increasing speedily against the economic exploitation and imperialism based policy. The origin of first freedom struggle, was the result of such policies. British scholars have called it a 'Military Revolt' or 'Revolution' but it is not correct to call like this Veer Savarkar told that "It was the first freedom struggle" which was started from very date. The Britishers had to face united opposition of Indians first time.

The Reasons of Freedom Struggle

1. Administrative and Political :

Lord Vallegali, got merged the local states like Gernsi, Nagpur, Satara, and Avadh. The land of Indian landlords was taken away forcefully. They insulted the Mughal Emperor, Bahadur Shah and as such got annoyed the Muslim community also. Indians were not posted at higher posting in administration and they were not satisfied with their

way of doing justice.

2. Social Reasons :

The Britishers used to look at Indians with hatred attitude. They also tried to avoid Indian customs and conventions. Indians were restricted to travel in Ist class of trains. The different attitudes were adopted on the basis of colour- i.e. white and black persons. They wanted to impose Western Culture and Civilization on Indians forcefully. They always used to feel most superior from 'social angle'. The statement of a magistrate of Calcutta gives a picture of Britishers mentality, when he told that "every Indian, might be on a post, where he could have paid salute to very British man, walking on the road, and if any Indian is found sitting on horse or in any cart, than he should get down and keep standing on the road, till the British people do not cross the way."

In the year 1856, Britishers made the changes in Rules of Parental Property Law, that if any Hindu will adopt Christian religion, than such man will not be deprived from the Rights of Father's property. Before this Amendment, this was the position that if any Indian changes the religion then he could be deprived of from the Parental Property. Indians became much more dissatisfied due to such actions of Britishers. The Social Reforms work and Modernisation of India by Britishers in the field of Rail, Postal and Telegraph Department, were also condemned by Indians, because of the most bad behaviour and attitude of Britishers.

3. Religious Reasons:

Britishers were having one hidden object i.e. to advertise and expand their Christian Religion. The chairman of East India company Mr. Magells, delivered a lecture in House of Commons, where he clearly told that due to blessings of almighty power and incidently, Britishers got a very big imperialism of India, so that the flag of Christian Religion may be expanded from one corner to the last corner of India. In the year 1813, a charter Act was enacted

and by which the preachers got the Rights to Stay in India and to advertise the Christianity among Indian people.

Any Indian, who used to change religion and adopted Christian Religion, was provided with a lot of extra facilities and government service. In Military also, Priests were being posted. In India, the dissatisfaction against Britishers arose because of the Freedom Movement of 1857.

4. Military Religion :

The beginning of Freedom Movement of 1857, was due to dissatisfaction of Indian Army soldiers. Indian Military Personnel were discriminated in relation to salary, promotions, allowances, and behaviour. Indian Military men were given much less salary Rs. 9.00 per month, where as British Military man was paid salary worth Rs. 60.00-70.00 per month. They were being kicked and punished with the nut of the gun even for the smaller mistake. The Indian Military men were three times more in comparison to British Military. The British Rulers knew it well that in India, their rule is dependent on Military of Indians.

5. Economic Reasons :

Indians were having a bigger part of dissatisfaction against Britishers because of the policy of economic exploitation in India. The object of England (Britain) was to take away more and more capital from India to England. They destroyed the self dependent economic set up of villages and the economy of country side area was fully destroyed, consequently, the Britishers continued to become richer and Indians continued to become poorer and poorer, due to economic exploitation. Britishers imposed more lagan on farmers. The Farmers and landlords were being harassed. Even at the time of famine, the farmers and landlords were exploited instead of providing help to the farmers. As such all the economic circumstances increased the existing dissatisfaction among the Indian

people.

6. Instantaneous Reasons :

The Soldiers of Military were provided new rifles, instead of old one, hence the cartridges were to be cut with mouth before using it. In the year 1857, this news spread out in the air, that in the cartridges, the fat of cows and pigs is being used. This action of Britishers was regarded as anti religious by Indian Army. On 29th March 1857, in the military camp of Berakpur, Mangal Pandey, refused to break such cartridge with the mouth and he was killed by British Army Officer also. So ultimately, on 08th April 1857. Mangal Pandey was hanged till death. Due to this incident the Army persons got highly annoyed. They revolted and declared not to obey the orders of British Army. The revolution spread out from Meeruth to Delhi, Kanpur, Bihar, Rajasthan and South India.

7. The Prominent Leaders of Freedom Movement :

The organised opposition among the Indians, weakend the roots of the foundation of British rule in India. The Queen of Jhansi Laxmi Bai, Nana Shahb from Kanpur, Tantiya Toppe and Ajimulla, Kunwar Singh of Bihar, Rangaji Bapu from South India, Guptey and Feduals of Mewar co-operated with the revolutionaries fighting for the freedom of India. The Thakur Sahib Khushal Singh of Aahuwa gave the assistance of Army. The Rao of Salumber Shri Keshav Singh also provided shelter to Thakur Khushal Singh. The Thakur of Kothariya Sh. Jodh Singh looted the property and valuable goods of the British officer and also provided shelter to Neemji Charan.

The Freedom Movement of 1857, in Rajasthan :-

The Thakur of Aahuwa Khushal Singh was deadly against the Britishers. He defeated the British Army and State of Jodhpur in the course of

struggle against Britishers. Thakur of Aahuwa Khushal Singh killed and separated the head from the body while killing the British President Meemesan and hanged the head on the wall of the Fort of Aahuwa. He was getting the full support of Feduals of Mewar for this struggle but on the next year the British Army and Jodhpur Army attacked Thakur Khushal Singh bribed the watch man of the fort and got the doors opened in the fort and entered into the fort.

On 28th May in the year 1857, the Army of Nasirabad occupied the artillery (Topkhana) of Britishers. One British officer was killed and his body was cut into small pieces, consequently the British officers ran away, so that they may protect their lives. The British Army soldiers left for Delhi. The news of Nasirabad Revolution, reached Neemuch.

After this the Indian Army looted the godowns of weapons. The British officers ran away towards Udaipur. Maharana of Mewar (Udaipur) provided shelter to them in the palace. In Kota also the public men and government Army also fought with British Army. The Rao of Kota became the victim of the revolutionaries, due to his sympathy and policy of co-operation with British Army. In the field of freedom movement and in spreading out it with courage, the important role was also played by Jai Dayal, Mehrab Khan, Ratan Lal and Jiya Lal. The revolutionaries took over the whole administration of Kota. In the course of time, about more than 5 months the government of public remained in force.

In Kota, the political agent was major Bertan. The revolutionaries of Kota murdered major Bertan, along with his two sons. At this place, public gave full support to revolutionaries. The administrator of Kota was arrested in the palace by people of Kota. About 6 months, Kota had been under the control of revolutionaries. In Tonk and Shahpura the doors were closed for British Army, but due to lack of unanimous leaders, Britishers, again occupied these places, on the strength of its Army and as such the



Tantiya Toppe

revolution was suppressed.

Tantiya Toppe entered in Jhalawar of Rajasthan and took the rule and powers in his hands. On the godowns of Arms & Ammunations the revolutionaries took the possession.

Due to entrance of Tantiya Toppe in Rajasthan, new passion and courage developed in the Hearts of Revolutionaries of Rajasthan.

The Rao of Salumber Kesari Singh and Fedual Ruler of Kothariya Jodh Singh fully supported and gave co-operation to Tantiya Toppe. The ruler of Narvar Man Singh, by conspiracy of Narvar Tantiya Toppe was arrested by British Rulers and in 1859, he was hanged. But it is not correct to say that he was hanged, but he went to some unknown and undeclared place, due to the weak situations of the revolution. With this event, the freedom movement, in Rajasthan got ended.

Main Reasons of the failure of Freedom Movement:-

The Britishers were puzzled and got worried, due to such organised and collective opposition of Indians. In the beginning, Britishers were defeated at so many places by revolutionaries. But due to the strength of Military Power and sympathy of the Feduals of Provinces, the Freedom Movement got failed and as such the First Freedom Movement got unsucess. There were other reasons also, which became the thorns in the way of success of this Movement, just as:

1. The Revolutionaries could not prepare powerful network among themselves for remaining in touch with each other, due to lack of workable planning.

2. Revolutionaries were having less arms and armed force, in comparison to Britishers and their sources were also very limited.
3. The local provinces did not provide co-operation to revolutionaries, for fighting against British Rulers.
4. The Revolution was due to be started on 31st May 1857, as per planning, but due to some incidents, the Revolution began on 10th May 1857. As such full planning failed in the beginning itself.
5. The Diplomacy of Lord Kening, their Britishers got support of local provinces and got the success in controlling revolutionaries.

The Importance and Results of Freedom Movement of 1857 :-

Though in the Freedom Movement of 1857, they could not get full success yet the British Rulers were compelled to reorganise the Army and to make changes in the policy of administration. Some of them are as under:-

1. The administration of East India company was put to end and the administration was taken directly under the control of British Government.
2. The inspiration for future to start National Movement for Freedom, was received from the Movement of 1857 for liberty.
3. The Local Provinces which were under British government, policies were changed to administrator them and consequently, the Queen of England, in her Announcement told about providing the rights, honour and glory of the Kings of Local Provinces in near future. But they were given the rights to adopt son in the family.
4. The British government could understand the fact that if the Hindus & Muslims will live together peacefully and with Fraternity, than their government will have to quit India soon.

So they applied the policy of 'Divide & Rule' for both the communities and developed mutual tension and enmity.

5. After this revolution, Britishers reorganised their Military. The numbers of Britishers in Army was increased and the Artilleries were not kept under the control of Indian Military.

Though, the Britishers on the strength of their Military and Diplomatic Powers, suppressed the above first National Movement for freedom, but this movement proved this fact also, that if Indians get organised and become one and well plan for starting the Freedom Movement, than Britishers can be shunted out from India. The Britishers also realised this fact, that if Indians will get united, they may become danger to them, so they followed to apply the policy of "Divide and Rule" in India, for the safety of their government.

Important Points

1. The full devotion of citizens for the country or Nation is "Nationalism"
2. The concept of "Nationalism" is prevailing among the Indians from "Vedic Period".
3. In the people of the Nation, instead of the feeling "I", the feeling of "we", only gives birth to "Nationalism".
4. The Indian Nationalism of 19th century, was the reaction against the policies of Britishers, executed in reference to Economic, Political and Cultural exploitation and suppression.
5. In India, for the awakening of National feeling and freedom, the Newspapers and Indian literature played very important role.
6. In the attempts of providing Freedom to India from Britishers, Mahatma Gandhi and other famous Revolutionaries, played remarkable and important role.
7. The "Revolution of 1857" has been named, as "First National Movement for freedom", by the Savarkar.

8. The instantaneous reason for starting of freedom movement, was use of cartridge in English guns being levelled with the fat meat of cows and pigs which were to be used by Indian Army by opening from mouth.
9. The main leaders of Freedom Movement can be described as: Rani Laxmibai, Nana Saheb, Tantiya Tope, Kunwar Singh, Bahadur Shah etc.
10. The National Movement was spread out towards South India also, specially in Maharashtra, Hyderabad, Madras etc.
11. In Rajasthan also, it got spread out in the area of Nasirabad, Neemuch, Devli, Kota, Tonk, Arinpura and till Kota, the influence of the movement was there.

Objective Type Questions :-

1. In India, the printing press was started in the year?
(a) 800 A.C. (b) 1700 A.C.
(c) 1830 A.C. (d) 1805 A.C.
2. The Book “The First Freedom Movement of India” was written by which writer?
(a) R.C. Majumdar (b) Ashok Mehta
(c) Savarkar (d) Dada Bhai Narogi
3. Major Berton was political agent of-
(a) Neemuch (b) Kota
(c) Arinpura (d) Ajmer
4. Thakur Khushal Singh was resident of which place?
(a) Arinpura (b) Salumber
(c) Auwa (d) Nasirabad

Very Short Answer Type Questions :-

1. When was 'Bengal Gazette' published?
2. Who was the writer of the song “Vande Mataram”?
3. Who lead the first Freedom Movement of 1857?
4. As per predecided schedule, the revolution was to be begin on which date?
5. Major Berton was assassinated at which place?

Short Answer Type Questions :-

1. Define the word “Nationalism”
2. How the Britishers exploited economically, the Indian Business and Economy?
3. Write the names of main revolutionaries of national movement.
4. How did the Revolution of 1857, spread out in Rajasthan? Write about such events.
5. How many important leaders contributed in the freedom fight of 1857?

Essay Type Questions:-

1. Write about the Rise of “Nationalism” in India and explain its main reasons.
2. Write about the main reasons of the Revolution of 1857.
3. In the Revolution of 1857, the Revolutionaries failed in their object. What were the major reasons for their failure?
4. Write about the importance of Freedom Movement.
5. “The spreading out the Revolution of 1857 in Rajasthan”, write an essay on this subject.

Answers of objective questions:-

1. A 2. C 3. B 4. C