
Patriotism – The Soul of the Nation

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Abstract

Indian politics is totally divided into religious, caste groups, region, fractions and high volume of corruption is taking place in every sphere, especially during elections and in running the government as the country has witnessed in various scams. The disunity among ourselves forced the entry of invaders and foreigners who established their colonies in India and ruled the nation for about one thousand long years continuously. India is an illustrious land that had produced noble persons like Swamy Vivekananda.

In the early 19th century, a number of thinkers including Robert Owen, D. Thompson, de Saint-Simon, C. Fourier, E. Cabet, and L. Blare put forward numerous proposals for social and economic reconstruction with political implications. Socialism means equality of income and nothing else (Bernard Shaw). But, Rich are becoming richer and poor are becoming poorer.

According to Faguet, democracy is a biological misfit or a biological monstrosity. The actual working of democracy which was deemed to be the best form of government had left people disappointed. Indian constitution was compiled with most suitable provisions to safe guard the people of the nation. Political parties though different in names are all contesting with mainly a common concept, i.e., sharing power and pelf relegating the poll manifestoes to the back seat. Our politicians should adhere to the well laid principles of political philosophy. Democracy is welcomed by most of the nations in the world. Indian democracy is praised by all nations. The court also could not properly define the Basic Structure of the Constitution as this structure is getting changed by different judges in different cases. Our country suffers at present not for want of religious institutions, but for want of people who are prepared to conform to its rules. Parliament is the citadel of democracy. Patriotism coupled with nationalism is a bedrock for potential foundation for a strong society, socialism and democracy.

Keywords: Democracy, Motherland, Patriotism, Politics, Socialism

Introduction

Our country suffers at present not for want of religious institutions, but for want of people who are prepared to conform to its rules, waste not your time in trying to create more spiritual institutions. Instead of trying to change the world, change yourself. If each individual reforms himself, society will automatically get reformed. We are concentrating to build more and more temples churches, mosques etc., and utterly failing to contemplate on unity in its diversified culture. Indian politics is totally divided into religious, caste groups,

region, fractions and high volume of corruption is taking place in every sphere, especially during elections and in running the government as the country has witnessed in various scams.

Many experts and intellectuals are opposing any kind of reservations to castes, religions and also in appointments and promotions resulting in bypassing of merit and seniority. Education and health should be brought under the fold of the Government. The disunity among ourselves forced the entry of invaders and foreigners who established their colonies in India and ruled the nation for about one thousand long years continuously. We have not learnt lessons despite thought provoking, erudite and eloquent addresses by Swamy Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi and other freedom fighters, our Constitution about non-violence, nationalism, socialism, sovereignty, unity and integrity among people and especially patriotism. The same tenets were also inscribed in our Vedic literature.

India, the Old Mother of All

India is an illustrious land that had produced noble persons like Swamy Vivekananda. He had delivered lectures in America and other countries. In one of his utterances about the Vedic and immortal land, he says about our Motherland - “ Shall India die? Then from the world all spirituality will be extinct, all moral perfection will be extinct, all sweet souled sympathy for religion will be extinct, all ideality will be extinct and in its place will reign the duality of lust and luxury as the male and female deities with money as its priest, fraud, force and competition its ceremonies and the human soul its sacrifice. Such a thing can never be...Will she die-this old Mother of all that is noble or moral or spiritual, the land which the sages trod, the land in which God-like men will live and breathe? I will borrow the lantern of the Athenian sage and follow on, my brother through the cities and villages, plains and forests, of this broad world – show me such men in other lands if you can”.

We, the Indians are very much indebted to our Motherland for having born here. In this connection, Vivekananda illuminates with his golden words in this way - “ The debt which the world owes to our Motherland is immense. Taking countries with country, there is not one race on this earth to which the world owes so much as to the patient Hindu, the Hindu...Here activity prevailed when even Greece did not exist, whom Rome was not thought of when the

very fathers of the modern European lived in the forests and painted themselves blue. Even earlier when history has no record and tradition dares not peer into the gloom of that intense past, even from them until new ideas after ideas have marched out from her, but every word has been spoken with a blessing behind it and peace before it. Can you adduce any reason why India should live in the ebb-tide of the Aryan Nations? Can you look at her art, at her mathematics, at her philosophy and answer 'Yes' All that is needed is that she should dehypnotize herself and wake up from her age long sleep to take her true rank in the hierarchy of nations. The national ideals of India are 'Renunciation' and 'Service'. Intensify her in those channels and the rest will take of itself. Vivekananda is very pellucid about our legal system. He says further – "Does man make laws or do laws make man? Does man make name and fame or name and fame make man? Be a man first my friend and you will see how all these things and the rest will follow of themselves after you. Give up that hateful malice that doglike bickering and barking at one another and take your stand on good purpose, right means, righteous courage and be brave. When you are born a man, leave some indelible mark behind you." Swamy's screed preaching to the nations, especially India counts in volumes, only a certain yearning and panegyric address related to the present topic have been highlighted.

Socialism, A Political Doctrine

Socialism is a doctrine largely of economic import, but as politics is also economics, it has also got political implication. As a theory of economic reorganization, socialism is quite old but as a political doctrine, it is quite recent – the produce of the industrial era. In the early 19th century, a number of thinkers including Robert Owen, D. Thompson, de Saint-Simon, C. Fourier, E. Cabet, and L. Blare put forward numerous proposals for social and economic reconstruction with political implications. But their socialism was utopian in character. Their proposals were visionary. Robert Owen wanted to replace the present competitive system by a co-operative one where justice and harmony will prevail. Saint Simon sought it to remove the old feudal and clergy class and denied to have an industrial state. He wanted to substitute feudal Aristocracy by a working autocracy of merit. But the socialism preached by the above thinkers was of a visionary and utopian type. They could not mark out any distinction between anarchism,

communism and socialism. There are quite number of definitions on socialism. A few relevant ones are mentioned here:

- Socialism is that policy or theory which aims at securing by the action of central democratic authority, a better distribution and in sub-ordination thereto, a better production of wealth than now prevails (Encyclopaedia Britannica)
- Socialism is a democratic movement whose purpose is securing of an economic organization of society which will give the maximum possible at any one time of justice and liberty (Sellars)
- Socialism means equality of income and nothing else (Bernard Shaw)

Is there socialism today in real terms? Rich are becoming richer and poor are becoming poorer. There is no equal distribution of wealth due to excessive nihilism prevails in our society. It is lugubrious to state India's socialism is at glitz. This forlornness is due to inept political system.

Democracy and Change of Politics

By democracy, we generally mean a parliamentary form of government. This form of government works through parliament that is elected on the basis of universal adult suffrage. The Executive taken from the Parliament is responsible to it for its policies and work. Elections are conducted periodically. Though democracy is stated as an excellent form of Government, it is criticized by some political experts/politicians. According to Faguet, democracy is a biological misfit or a biological monstrosity. The actual working of democracy which was deemed to be the best form of government had left people disappointed. In view of Graham Wallas, the failure of democracy was not due to defective political institutions, but to failure to understand human nature properly. India achieved independence in 1947 after a great struggle right from Sepoy Mutiny in 1857. But, as politics has become a gainful profession, extravagance in administration and the abuse of the doctrine of equality and failure appreciate the value of administrative skill. Only rich persons are getting elected and the poor and highly distinguished are not allowed shining in politics. The great majority of elected representatives are mediocre, incapable of understanding the complexities and problems of the people and the government. Politics is defined as providing welfare measures to people through self-governance, stable-governance and good-governance by making policies and programmes and get them

implemented in toto through its administrative machinery. What is happening since independence - scams, corruption, nepotism, and favoritism is ruling the roost. Lakhs of crores of black money is deposited in Swiss and other foreign banks according to surveys. Is it not a doleful event in our democracy? The world war was fought to make the world 'Safe for Democracy', but the problem which confronted us now is how to make 'Democracy Safe' for the world. Indian constitution was compiled with most suitable provisions to safe guard the people of the nation. But it is apparent on the face of the present situation the failure of the most comprehensive and bulkiest constitution. The Ex. President of India Dr. K.R. Narayanan left a question for debate: "We have failed the constitution or the constitution has failed us?" Political, Academic and Legal professionals did not take this issue at all seriously since then though this question was brought in various forums. Like any other subject, democracy has a vast area with number of characteristics, functions, definitions, techniques or tactics old and new diplomacy, democratic diplomacy, etc., which is very broad even to explain in a nut-shell.

Lok Satta Chief N. Jayaprakashnarayan gave a clarion call to people to reject political parties which overlook politico-economic issues (The Hindu, April 24). The question is how to reject and who to? Political parties though different in names are all contesting with mainly a common concept, i.e., sharing power and pelf relegating the poll manifestoes to the back seat. Under this vulnerable situation, voting to any person or party will produce the same result. Abstaining from voting is stated to be misusing and invalidating the constitutional right. Unless mind-set of politicians is tuned towards righteous angle adopting new definitions will not set right things. Our politicians should adhere to the well laid principles of political philosophy. But it is often characterized as 'dishonest practices'. Therefore politicians are to be reformed but the politics which is dynamic, guiding and influencing the governmental policies. (N.S.R. Murthy in The Hindu, dated May 1, 2006)

Parliament, the Citadel of Democracy

On January 12, 2019, our Nation celebrated 156th birth day of Swamy Vivekananda and many political leaders, Vice President of India and others exhorted the importance of adherence of Swamy's advices to the people. But such kind of rituals is being celebrated on the birth day of

great personalities as rituals only but none adheres. Some professors of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi opposed for installation of Vivekananda's statue in the varsity premises. This is the cruelest attitude and disrespect shown to a great personality who stood for establishing law of righteousness and Hinduism. This is the pity that our people do. Then what is the necessity to remember such intellectuals when we disobey them in letter and spirit? These great men practiced what they taught and stood as role models. Democracy is welcomed by most of the nations in the world. Indian democracy is praised by all nations. Anybody can be elected to power irrespective of qualification, experience, age (lower age limit is there but no upper age limit). Corruption is rampant in every field in India and checks and balances are very meagre. Criminals are also getting elected and there is no ban on them for contesting. Democracy and diplomacy are the vital pillars in our parliamentary system of government. The fault lies with the voters who are lured for bribes offered by the contestants and the elected representatives earn multiple times of what they spent in elections through illegal means. This is our present pattern of democracy. Socialism is another important pillar in our constitution. The preamble consists of Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, and Democratic Republic and to secure to all its citizens – Justice, Social, Economic and Political freedom and Equality of status and opportunity and promote among them all and also other provisions for the benefit of the people. Even after seventy years of independence, India is still labelled as Developing Country. By this time, India would have been highly developed nation. The reason for this large lapse is lack of patriotism. Selfishness, Castism, Groupism, Regionalism are also the contributing factors. Japan was totally grounded during Second World War and it raised quickly to dizzy heights because of its disciplined and work oriented people. Work is worship for them. Here in India, we leave offices to worship in temples. It was well said in olden days that India is a rich country with poor people and Japan is a poor country with rich people. Here poor and rich can be understood as 'commitment and dedication'.

Vandemataram song written by Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay created tentacles of patriotism during freedom movement. Now this value based song is prohibited from playing in schools by certain state governments as this play is affecting the secularism. Similarly, the esoteric song 'Janaganamana' penned by Rabindranath Tagore declared as National Anthem is played only

during Independence Day and Republic Day. The instruction for its play before commencement of cinema in theatres is neglected. Parliament sessions are facing rumpus. Prime Minister Narendra Modi instructed all the educational institutions in 2014 to celebrate ‘Constitution Day’ on every November 26, the day of its approval by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949 to enlighten the students to know about its importance. How many institutions are conducting such meetings?

Supreme Court judgements have also become odious in certain cases against our established Hindu tradition and culture – such as – legalizing co-habitation by unmarried youth, decriminalising the adultery, entry of banned women of certain age group in Sabarimala Ayyappa Sanctum Sanctorum dishonouring the two hundred year old tradition. Can the courts interfere with other religious traditions / conventions? The court also could not properly define the Basic Structure of the Constitution as this structure is getting changed by different judges in different cases. Our country suffers at present not for want of religious institutions, but for want of people who are prepared to conform to its rules. If each individual reforms himself, society will automatically get reformed. Similarly a government is responsible not only for the secular and material interests of its citizens but also for their spiritual welfare. It would be failing in its duty if it confines its attention only to the former and neglects the latter altogether. The security of a State lies with those citizens who desire to lead a life of peace and contentment and perfect freedom in matters of religion and not with those who are after worldly and sensual pleasures and seek unbridled licence in the name of freedom. Parliament is the citadel of democracy. Patriotism coupled with nationalism is a bedrock for potential foundation for a strong society, socialism and democracy.

Conclusion

It was written in our Constitution about non-violence, nationalism, socialism, sovereignty, unity and integrity among people and especially patriotism. The same tenets were also inscribed in our Vedic literature. Politics is defined as providing welfare measures to people through self-governance, stable-governance and good-governance by making policies and programmes and get them implemented in toto through its administrative machinery. Socialism means equality of

income and nothing else (Bernard Shaw). But, Rich are becoming richer and poor are becoming poorer.

It is to conclude that a society can remain strong and healthy only if the weak, unhealthy and poisonous elements are weeded out of it. Arise, awake and stop not till you reach the goal is the quintessence of Vivekananda's axiology. This travel towards achieving the goal is endless but with an aim, objective and with content. This is not an impossible task if the nation provides good-governance, self-governance and stable-governance. Parliament is the citadel of democracy. Patriotism coupled with nationalism is a bedrock for potential foundation for a strong society, socialism and democracy.

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