

country. It is sometimes wrongly assumed that patriotism is love for one's country at the cost of others. Actually, such a line of thinking stems from a crude understanding of the idea of National Identity and Patriotism. India has a guiding philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' i.e., whole world is my family. Only such an understanding of patriotism can bring peace and prosperity to the country as well as the world.

Apart from that, excessive pride in a national identity and display of Patriotism may acquire the form of 'ultra-nationalism' and jingoism. Ultra-nationalism inevitably turns exclusionary in nature and hence leads not to the assertion but disintegration of national unity and ultimately identity. Similarly, jingoism, by constantly falling back upon the idea of ultra-nationalism when faced with any issue or problem of past/present, vitiates the community atmosphere and starts imposing restrictions upon any free speech or dissent. Such extremism leads only to great destruction as exemplified several times in history by various totalitarian regimes such as those of Hitler and Mussolini. One should always keep in mind what Edward R. Murrow, an American journalist said in context of USA during one of the most volatile phases of Cold War. He said 'We must not confuse dissent with disloyalty. When the loyal opposition dies, I think the soul of the nation dies with it.'

The turn of 20th century was seen as a challenge to the age of Nations, as it has been popularly referred to in the parlance of social sciences, due to unhindered rise of globalization, emergence of multinational companies with their revenues several times the GDP of several countries, and the age of internet which connected the world more than ever before. There was also a faction of scholars that saw it as approaching 'clash of civilizations' where multiple national or other identities are bound to engage in a clash, in order to emerge as the superior-most among all.

However, both prophecies can be seen to be missing the mark. Globalization has not only brought the world closer than ever, but it has also sensitized people towards their own identities. It has taught the world to be more appreciative of the diversity of cultures, thoughts and nationalities. The demands for more apt representation from different parts of the world at United Nations and the recent reforms at International Monetary Fund (IMF) aimed at better representation of emerging nations at the international platform are two examples of the

above phenomenon. Similarly, the increased contact between the various identities is not leading to any clash of civilizations but, in fact, has resulted in globally coordinated efforts to contain such clashes. Foundation of various international forums and signing of various trans-national treaties to engage with issues of security, energy and environmental concerns are cases in point. The visionary project of Inter-national Solar Alliance (ISA) launched by our Prime minister is an example of how multiple nations are coordinating in the contemporary globalised world to strike a balance between the global concerns of climate change and pressing national energy security concerns.

Towards conclusion, it can be said that National identity and patriotism are deeply humane terminologies. They represent the urge of humankind to be a part of the collective and contribute meaningfully and loyally to it. Krishna says in Gita, that **there are multiple paths to the same truth**. Similarly, there may be more than one way of not only subscribing to a national identity but also of displaying patriotism towards one's country. One must always be ready and vigilant to defend one's national prestige but must not enforce one's own ideas and ideals of national identity and patriotism upon everyone else. The essence of National identity and patriotism, in a country like India, can be best summed up in the lines of the Ancient Philosopher Sun Tzu, who said

"There are not more than five musical notes, yet the combinations of these five give rise to more melodies than can ever be heard.

There are not more than five primary colours, yet in combination they produce more hues than can ever been seen.

There are not more than five cardinal tastes, yet combinations of them yield more flavours than can ever be tasted."

Multinational Corporations: Savior or Saboteur

In last week of February 2016, news of hepatitis C patients protesting outside India's patent office in New Delhi was splashed across all major national newspapers in India. The patients were protesting against the American