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### **Communalism and Indian Democracy: A Cacophonous Reality**

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#### **Abstract:**

*India is a land of diversity and heterogeneous identity. So, there are different religious community, who has their own outlook. In a democratic discourse tolerance is the basic need for success of democratic system. Unfortunately in India democratic values are still very weak and fragile. The relation between democracy and communal identity is cacophonous and always anticipated that communal severance package is the only way to remain in political power. Unity is a sense of togetherness which could be achieved through democratic parlance without any communal taboos. Lets India be a land of multinationals, multicultural identities for a sustainable tomorrow.*

**Keywords: Communalism, democracy, religious dogma, heterogeneous identity, severance package.**

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**Introduction:** Communal identity is something very sacred and symbolic to every individual and it should be treated as a normal human behavior but unfortunately most of the people used to manifest this identity as their religious identity which caused communal tension among different community of a particular land. In India communal tension has a long history which is the biggest drawback because we are not secular in true sense rather we are enough tolerant against other religion. In fact, from early period our socio-cultural diversity helped us to remain modest against other community and show respect to every religion, but we never relate two different values – socio-cultural and political values in the context of democracy. Why Indian democracy is not able to restrict communal interference in domestic politics that question should be answered.

**Communalism and practice of democratic politics:** Communalism is a perception among the members of the society that some people belong to a particular group which is based on religious identity. So, it is very simple and natural phenomena, but using this identity to establish one's hegemony over others is very much unfair and unjust. In pre- British India the idea of Communalism was absent but there was religious harmony (we never labeled it authentic secularism). In fact before 1930s the term communalism did not surface in the politics of India. The land witnessed a violent bloodshed to achieve freedom. The statesmen of our nation very wisely choose secular and democratic system for statecraft. Our

Constitution ideologically secular but socially we are not rather we are tolerant against other religion due to our age long cultural diversity .We never go through the process of secularization as like Europe, but we follow the political system; like democracy. So, essentially our democracy is rootless and secularism is mere a phrase. In post independent India communal violence was the byproduct of political immaturity of our political leaders. It is mere impossible to change mind set overnight. Our nascent democracy pretend as a secular one but substantially it is more and more communal. The politics become communal in nature. Why we are so reluctant and passive about communal riots or violence? Any violence mostly affects common people who are vulnerable at any level. They do not make policy, do not exercise policies but they have to paid more.

**Dilemma between Indian democracy and Communalism:** Working Indian democracy more effectively with secular stance we have to focus on our past history. In Indian society communalism become a process under British rule, who deliberately indulged communalization of society for their vested interest. In post independent era, socio-political context of communalism has been changed and probably the most significant change is the change of role of the state. Colonial master himself supports communalization of society. After independence Indian state is basically secular and non-communal. Major political parties make some arrangement with few parties for political purpose but they did not seem as communal parties. The most interesting thing is that, the native bourgeois become the actual policy maker in independent India .Land lords, big businessman ,money lenders were the representatives of colonial ruler and after independence they converted themselves as indigenous bourgeois who are going to control social structure in the name of communalism, casteism for their own hegemony .<sup>1</sup> This new bourgeois class is the residues of feudal system who wants to keep all kind of discrimination for their own interest and our intellectuals are not so strong or vocal against them. Prof. Bipan Chandra clearly mentioned that, in post independent India development of capitalism is one of the causes of communalism<sup>1</sup>. Capitalist mode of economy could not able to minimize poverty, inequality, unemployment etc. which caused more and more frustration , disappointment among the people of the country .So, the growing differences between have and have not curving towards social insecurity ,distrust , It is the failure of democratic system which might be solved . Political unwillingness is a bigger cause for communal distrust and suspicion. Indian democracy is struggling to overcome from this unhealthy situation but history repeats and repeats, again again. Common, ordinary people want peace, harmony, development, minimum requisites for a decent life. In last few years the condition becomes graver. There are so many incidents took place in the socio-political sphere of the country which really means a lot .After 1992 the issue of communal politics became burning issue.

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Babri Masjid incident, Gujarat riot, Shah Bug unrest in Delhi and many incidents clearly point out that our largest democracy how much fragile. So, it must be sorted

How could we overcome the problem was. In 1993 a Bill was proposed, name was “Politics as Religion: Constitution (Eightieth) Amendment Bill “. In fact 6<sup>th</sup> December 1992 the country witnessed one of crude mob violence in the name of God and a deadly communal riot was happened. Was it inevitable? Nobody will say yes.

**The Unknown Destiny of Indian Democracy:** It’s really ridiculous for us that if we have to protect our secular democracy by arranging some two opposite point who will never meet. Basically India is a diverse country and its unity resides on heterogeneity, one of the causes of weak democracy is communalization of politics. Why India still elected in name of caste, religion etc. Prof. Ashis Nandy also point out that each political party consciously gives indulge or instigate communal identity to secure their own profit. In India, caste identity or religious identity is more vital than class identity in electoral politics which caused no doubt, communalization of politics. If we look at NCRB reports we see that some states has high rate of communal tension like, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan etc. In last year the total incidents of communal violence is 857 which is higher than previous year. In a secular democratic system caste or communal representation is mere a farce. It is true that Indian democracy become a game of number (Kothari).

Democracy not only belongs to electoral right but it is a parlance among the people of the country. Unfortunately our political ideology still not enough grown-up. Still we follow reservation policy which is anti-democratic. We are celebrating @ 75 years of Independence but still we are lagging in terms of hunger index, health facility, child mortality rate etc., because our political objectives are figurative, not genuine. Our democracy simply aberrant and engaged himself only with Mandir or Masjid issues. If someone dissent from other then he or she must be anti-Indian, or Naxals and shattering them into pieces. The Constitution of the land is for all, then why these discrimination? The trend is very dangerous. If democratically elected government intimidate their citizens by ghastly laws, like UAPA Act, then the future of Indian democracy is in verge of decay. Any discussion should not be ended with negative vibes. India will procure a congealed, fruitful democratic system on the basis of synergy. Veneration among the communities will enriched political communication, ideas, etc. which will help us to overcome the cacophonous version of democracy.

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