



## KEY MANIFESTATIONS ON INDIAN NATIONAL SYMBOLS AS A TOOL OF UNITY

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### ABSTRACT

*National symbols of any country portray a country's Unity, Integrity commonality & nationalism. Every country tries to attach its own ideologies in choosing its National symbols. Even in India these represent our Country's vision about fostering integrity among Indians. India has a very long & extensive history & its uniqueness lies in its selection & choice. The Nationality of Indian nation is evidently represented in these symbols. The Symbols are a unifying force since years fostering the richness of Indian heritage. Great meticulous planning has gone into the choosing of these items for National symbols. This paper addresses the key principles behind choosing National symbols.*

*Key words : National symbols, Integrity, solidarity, unity, patriotism.*

### Introduction

National symbols of India depict the country's image in entirety. The national symbols of Indian Union has a very long & extensive history & its uniqueness lies in its selection & choice. The Nationality of Indian nation is evidently represented in these symbols. The Symbols are a unifying force since years fostering the richness of Indian heritage.

**National Bird of India:** The peacock was declared the National bird of India in 1963, because it was entirely a part of Indian custom and culture. A peacock is a symbol of grace and beauty. Another reason why the peacock was chosen as the National bird was because of its presence across the country, so much so that even common people are familiar with the bird. Moreover, no other country

has the peacock as its national bird. The peacock fulfilled all these and hence became the national bird of India (The State Emblem of India Prohibition of Its Improper Use Act 2005)

**National Animal of India:** The tiger is known as the Lord of the Jungle and displays India's wildlife wealth. Also strength, agility and power are the basic aspect of the tiger. The Bengal Tiger was declared as the National Animal of India in April 1973, with the initiation of Project Tiger, to protect the tigers in India. Prior to this, the lion was the National animal of India. The State Emblem of India (Prohibition of its Improper Use Act 2005)

**National Anthem of India:** The National Anthem of India is the Hindi version of an anthem which was



originally composed in Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore. It was adopted as the National Anthem of India on 24 January 1950. Since the Bengali song 'Vande Mataram' faced opposition from non-Hindu segments of society, the Jana Gana Mana was adopted as the National Anthem of India.

**National Flower of India:** The lotus flower has a very significant position in Indian mythology. It is the flower of goddess Lashmi and symbolizes wealth, prosperity, and fertility. Also, it grows very uniquely in dirty water with its long stalk far above the water, bearing the flower on the top. The lotus flower remains untouched from impurity. It symbolizes purity, achievement, long life, and good fate. (The Report on the Emblems Of India)

**The National Fruit of India:** Mangoes are native to India and thus truly Indian. Since time immemorial, mangoes have been cultivated in India. In ancient times as well, deliciousness of mangoes have been defined by many renowned poets. The great Moghul emperor Akabar had planted about 100,000 mango trees in Lakhi Bagh in Darbhanga. (The Report On The Emblems Of India)

**The National Song of India:** India's national song was composed in Sanskrit by Bankimchandra Chatterji. It has inspired many freedom fighters during the freedom struggle. Initially Vande Mantaram was the National Anthem of India, but after independence Jana Gana Mana was adopted as the National Anthem. This was done because non-Hindu communities in India had

considered Vande Mataram as biased. These communities felt that the nation was represented by 'Ma Durga' in the song. So that is why it was made the National song of India and not the National Anthem. (The Report on The Emblems Of India)

**The National Game of India:** In spite of cricket's huge popularity in India, hockey is still the National game of India. Hockey when declared as the National game was very popular. The game has seen a golden era during 1928-1956, when India won 6 consecutive medals in the Olympics. Hockey was considered as the National game because of its unmatched distinction and incomparable talent at the time. At that time India had played 24 Olympic matches and won all of them.

**The National Tree of India:** The Banyan tree represents is the National tree of India, because of its eternal life & ever-expanding branches. The country's unity is symbolized by the trees huge structure and its deep roots. The tree is also known as Kalpavriksha, which means 'wish fulfilling tree', because the Banyan tree has immense medicinal properties and is associated with longevity. The Banyan tree also provides asylum to numerous kinds of animals and birds, which represent India and its people from different races, religions and castes. (The Report on the Emblems of India)

**The National Emblem of India:** The Lion capital of Ashoka at Sarnath is the National Emblem of India as it consists of four Asiatic Lions standing back to back



on a circular abacus. The abacus has sculptures of an elephant, a horse, a bull and a lion. These are separated by wheels in between. The National Emblem stands on a full bloomed inverted lotus flower.

**The National river ganga-** The Ganga or Ganges is the longest river of India. The River Ganga is flowing over 2,510 kms of mountains, valleys & plains. The Ganga originates in the snowfields of the Gangotri Glacier in the Himalayas as the Bhagirathi River. The Ganga River is later joined by other rivers such as the Alaknanda, Yamuna, Son, Gumti, Kosi & Ghagra. There are two dams on the river. The one dam is at Haridwar & the other dam at Farakka. For Hindus , the river Ganga is the most sacred river on Earth. Many religious ceremonial occasions are held on the banks of the Ganga river at the cities like Varanasi, Haridwara & Allahabad.

**The national calendar** - The national calendar of India is based on the Saka Era. The Indian Calendar is with Chaitra as its first month. In Indian Calendar, a normal year of 365 days was adopted from 22th March 1957 along with the Gregorian calendar for the following official purposes. Dates of the national calendar have a lasting balanced with dates of the Gregorian calendar,

**Conclusion:** Thus the national symbols of Indian Union has a very long & extensive history & its uniqueness lies in its selection & choice . The Nationality of Indian nation is evidently represented in these symbols. The Symbols are a unifying force since years fostering the richness of Indian heritage. These symbols should not be misused, misrepresented, distorted, debased or dishonored. Indian history, culture, heritage is always indebted to the country for providing Indian nationals with elegance , eternity , authority , purity, austerity & immortality of ideals replete with Indian classical thoughts. The posterity has to appreciate the ethical significance of these symbols & motivate themselves with patriotism & solidarity.

#### References-

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