**Rise of Nationalism in India**

The second half of the 19th century witnessed the full flowering of national political consciousness and the growth of an organised national movement in India.

The year 1885 marks the beginning of a new epoch in Indian History. Indian National Congress was founded in December 1885 by seventy-two political workers. It was the first organised expression of Indian Nationalism on an all-India scale.

The rise and growth of Indian nationalism has been traditionally explained in terms of Indian response to the stimulus generated by the British Raj through creation of new institutions, new opportunities, etc.

In other words, Indian Nationalism grew partly as a result of colonial policies and partly as a reaction to colonial policies in fact, it would be more correct to see Indian nationalism as a product of a mix of various factors.

**Causes of Indian Nationalism**

By the year 1885, the thought of Nationalism was increasing rapidly among the Indians. They had become aware of their right and were also ready to fight for their freedom but the seed of nationalism that grew in their minds was not just an instant incident but like a tree growing for a long time. There were many factors which raised the sense of nationalism among Indians, few of them are:

* Western Education and learning of English helped a lot in filling their spirit with Nationalism. The few people who had Western Education and knew English could talk to British and understand them. Also, they were effective among other Indians and they emerged as their leaders. They knew well the meaning of liberty, fraternity and were able to gather mass and unite them to fight together.
* Another big reason for the rise of Nationalism was the exploitation of Indians by the British. British destroyed the Industries of Indians and robbed their properties. Also, they grabbed the lands, houses and other assets of Indians which was not lawful.
* Lord Lytton was the viceroy of India that time and under his subjection, Indians were facing the racial discrimination. British given priority over Indians because of their fair colors and Indians were insulted almost everywhere. It created a deep sense of discontentment and raised nationalism among Indians and especially middle class and poor Indians. Also, a bill was passed against the discrimination but the bill itself was opposed by the British and was later modified.
* By that time, Telegraph, Railway and Postal Services had been introduced in India and they made it easier for Indians to meet, communicate each other. Now they could easily meet and plan to organize freedom movements and fight against the British. It helped a lot to fill them with nationalism.
* The Indian Press working in English and other vernaculars proved to be the most important tool to raise nationalism among Indians. These presses usually printed the works of literary writers like Ravindranath Tagore and others which devoted to the nation which helped in spreading a unity and nationalism among people.

Despite all these, there were many other reasons which led the rise of Nationalism in their minds as it was very important to awake, unite and fight for what belongs to them.