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BJP's Ekta Yatra

Sir:

In her article on "BJP's Ekta Yatra" (IE Jan 10) Ms Geeta Puri seems to have been somewhat unfair to the country's largest opposition party. She appears to have tried to underplay the BJP's nationalism by branding it as Hinduised nationalism. One wonders what she exactly means by the term Hinduised nationalism. With 80 per cent or so of our population being Hindus any type of nationalism (if there are many types of it), is bound to look Hinduised.

The emergence of secessionist movements in post-Independence India is not due to factors ethnic, economic, regional imbalances or denial of democratic rights, but a direct result of some dirty political manipulations, the onus for which must lie mainly on the Congress (I). None of the states under the grip of secessionist movements has suffered on account of other factors any more than other states of the union. Such movements took birth in spite of the Congress practising non-Hinduised nationalism to accommodate cultural pluralism. What greater harm could Hindu nationalism now do to the country than what non-Hindu nationalism has already done?

The Hindutva concept as advocated by the BJP is not totally without a basis. Undoubtedly there runs through the various cultures of the different communities of India a dominant common strand of ancient Hindu culture. The fact if highlighted correctly could be effectively used as one of the means for uniting the Indian nation.

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