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ABOUT US

WHITE BLACK LEGAL is an open access, peer-reviewed and refereed journal provided dedicated to express views on topical legal issues, thereby generating a cross current of ideas on emerging matters. This platform shall also ignite the initiative and desire of young law students to contribute in the field of law. The erudite response of legal luminaries shall be solicited to enable readers to explore challenges that lie before law makers, lawyers and the society at large, in the event of the ever changing social, economic and technological scenario.

With this thought, we hereby present to you

REVISITING NATIONAL IDENTITY: THE INDIA-BHARAT DISCOURSE

AUTHORED BY- AKSHATAGARWAL

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The Article 1 of India's constitution says "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States." It gives us a basic idea to use both the names India and Bharat interchangeably to address the nation. But the question arises that should the name India be completely replaced with the name Bharat. There are a series of debates taking place, both humorous and serious in the online platform, showcasing the conflict for both the names India and Bharat. My side of debate would be that India should be renamed as Bharat, with specified rules and procedures which will not have adverse implications on the nation. If we pledge to come out of the colonial mind set and move towards the Amrit kaal, renaming the country would be a wise option to be self-reliant. As some of the scholars argue on the fact that Both India and Bharat are same, then what is the problem in making Bharat the official name of the country, and also say that what's there in the name, but for a country like India which has a deep-rooted culture and historical glory with the name Bharat, it matters for many of the Bhartiya's. Now in the present time, this debate started When the president Draupadi Murmu's invitation for a dinner to the world's leaders during the G20 annual summit 2023, came out to the media and the social media platforms, which mentioned, "The president of Bharat" instead of The president of India. Some had also speculated that the agenda of the special session of the parliament from 18 September 2023 to 22 September 2023, called by the government would be that of renaming India as Bharat. This act of Bhartiya Janta Party is being strongly opposed by the opposition's, by claiming that the BJP fears the opposition's alliance party named INDIA -Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance and is trying to create a mess for the citizens. But this debate is going on from many years, to remove the colonial traces of British rule earlier also, there have been many pleas to rename India by Honourable Yogi Adityanath in 2014 in the form of private member bill, in 2020 a man named Namoh approached the apex court with the plea to rename India as Bharat or Hindustan, and many like this.

The supporting argument for my side of debate would be the speech of Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15 August 2022, in which he appealed to the citizens to take The Panch Pran, among which, one was Freedom from every trace of Slavery or to distort the colonial past. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kartavya Path, transforming Rajpath from a symbol of power to an example of public ownership and empowerment., Racecourse Road to Lok Kalyan Marg - the road serving as the official residency or workplace of the prime minister and the Dalhousie Road to Dara Shikoh Road, the finance minister transforming from Bahi Khata system of budget to online budget system, replacing the statue of King George V with the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose symbolises that there was a statue of the British Raj of the slavery era which is replaced with the statue of modern and strong India at the India Gate, The Prime Minister dedicated the Ensign of the Bhartiya Nausena to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, who built a strong navy to secure the maritime borders, thus symbolizing the indigenous might of India, The India Gate, built by the British to honour soldiers killed in World War is a symbol of India's colonial past and The National War Memorial inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019 houses the names of Indian martyrs from all wars including 1971 and Since its inauguration all homage and remembrance ceremonies are conducted at the NWM which is a tribute to all brave hearts, etc..., substantially gives the evidence that we will come out of the colonial traces of the British rule and move forward towards the Amrit kaal. So, these instances proved that if we can welcome all these changes in our country, then centre can also initiate to replace the name India given by the Greeks and used by the Britishers, with the name Bharat which has a significant traditional and emotional connect with our glorious past. The dual names of a nation often hold intriguing stories within their syllables. 'India' and 'Bharat' are the two names that define the world's largest democracy. But how did a land of such diversity come to be known by two distinct names, and what do these names signify? Let's delve into the origins, etymology, and historical twists that shaped the nomenclature of this incredible nation. The name 'Bharat' translates to 'India' in various Indian languages. It is derived from the Sanskrit tribe of the Bharatas mentioned in Rigveda, one of the main kingdoms of Aryavarta, as well as the name of Dushyant's son, Bharata, in the Sanskrit play 'Mahabharata'. Initially, the term Bharat was used to refer only to the west of the Hindu Kush Valley, but it was later used to refer to the Indian Subcontinent and its region, as well as to refer to the present-day Republic of India, also known as the 'Hindustan'. The term 'Hindu' was an Old Persian adaptation of 'Sindhu' (Indus) River, which has been used in Greek since the 5th century BCE by Herodotus, and in Old English since the early 9th century. It reappeared in Modern English at the turn of the 19th century. It was a popular name during the Mughal period. The

name Bharat is also still used by Urdu scholars today. Diving into the history of both the names, we can find that before the invasion of the Persians and the Britishers, the nation's name was Bharat, but as the Persians were not able to pronounce *Sindhu* and called it *Hind*, and the Greek historians called the *Sindhu Ghati Sabhyata as Indus Valley Civilisation*. Britishers took the name India from the name Indus and decided to address this piece of land as India during their colonial rule. The main reason was that they were not able to pronounce the name Hind or Bharat, the names which has ancient origins and finds mention in various Hindus Scriptures, such as, The Mahabharata and the Manusmriti. Proponents of using Bharat argue that it reflects the deep rooted cultural and historical heritage of the land. Bharat was also seen as referring to a socio- cultural entity rather than a physical landmass. Mohan Bhagwat, the leader of the right-wing paramilitary group RSS (Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh), which is the ideological parent of the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP), strongly advocated for the term "Bharat" to be used instead of "India" a few days before the G20 invitation was sent out. He stated, "We don't have to think about whether anyone outside will understand this or not." They can do so if they so choose, but that is not a problem for us. We don't need the world; the world needs us now. Now, as we have completed the golden 75 years of independence, we should not continue the name given by the foreign invaders but rather we should unite and accept Bharat as our official name of the country.

“The current youth population is tomorrow’s power.” To strengthen this argument, the youth should be provided with the correct knowledge and information about the past, present and the future of the name of the country. The new education policy of 2020 clearly aims to provide the same. Replacing the old rote learning-based curriculum to a new curriculum which would provide the students with a clear idea about the history and culture of the Indian society would surely help them to gain insight about the culture and the reforms which prevail in the society. Earlier the students had to read the history and some facts about the Genres or the topics which were not at all related to the Indian culture, but now this will change and they will be able to learn about the divers and historical context of Bharat. The same time when the debate of renaming the countries name arose, some people started recommending that India’s name should be replaced with Bharat in all the text books as the new curriculum was going to be printed and Appointed from the next session. There are no clear-cut announcements for replacing the word India with Bharat in all the textbooks but a high-level committee constituted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to revise the school curriculum has recommended that “India” should be replaced by “Bharat” in all textbooks,

panel chairperson CI Issac announced on Wednesday, stoking a political controversy. Committees tasked with creating textbooks for the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and several state boards, which will be used by tens of millions of students throughout India, will now address the proposals that have been presented to NCERT regarding replacement of the name India with the name Bharat. As the new curriculum system will provide the students with the text with the historical context of Bharat the students will be able to relate more if the word India would be replaced with the word Bharat. Whenever there is a buzz of controversies, the two most liked entertainment sources, that is the Indian Bollywood and the cricket fraternity comes forward to support such thoughts. As the controversy is started prevailing in the social media, there were a series of tweets and social media posts from the different celebrities from different fraternities. The big B of Bollywood Amitabh Bachchan tweeted with the slogan that Bharat Mata ki Jai and supported that India's name should be replaced with Bharat, there was a social media post by Akshay Kumar, which mentioned that he has changed the word India with Bharat in the posters of his film Mission Raniganj, film actor, Jackie Shroff also mentioned in an interview that "Naam Badlega, Hum Thodina Badlenge" and supported the statement that if the countries name is only one name that is Bharat, there shall not be any problem to call it as Bharat, and the famous Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut, the controversy queen, also posted that "i feel better saying Bharat" which can be interpreted that she is able to connect better with the word Bharat but has no shame in saying it, and there are many like this who posted about the controversy. From the cricket fraternity, Sunil Gavaskar, a reputed cricketer gave a statement that Bharat remains the original name but if a change has to come, then it should come in everywhere. he also stated that That is the original name, Bharat. So, it has a nice ring to it. But it has to be done at the official level, the government level and the BCCI level for the team to be called Bharat cricket team. But changes have occurred. Burma is now called Myanmar. So, the original name can come in and I do not see much of a problem. But basically, it needs to come in everything." One of the all-time greats in terms of explosion and popularity, Virender Sehwag, earlier this year took to Twitter to urge BCCI secretary Jay Shah to have the word "Bharat" printed on Indian players' jerseys for the ODI World Cup. He says that, "I've always thought a name ought to make us feel proud of ourselves. India is a name given to us by the British, and it is long past for us to formally reclaim our original name, "Bharat." We are Bhartiya's." Sehwag wrote on Twitter platform, "I implore the BCCI (secretary) Jay Shah to ensure that in this World Cup our players have Bharat on our chest." In the field of cricket, we can take the example of the team Netherlands, earlier which was Holland in the World Cup of 1996. They came up as Holland and now in the ODI men's cricket World Cup 2023 they are playing under

the name of Netherlands. The name Bharat on the jersey of the players of Bharat would encourage them more to relate with the history of sports and empower them to beat all the other teams.

If a person would think logically, He might argue that we should have changed our Country's name at the time of independence when our Constitution was being drafted, but as of, that time the members of constituent assembly decided to continue with the name India because at that time India had a brand value which helped us to maintain the international relations, but now in the present time as the world is looking towards India as a ray of hope ,to be the world leader and the 140 crores of Indians decide to showcase their talent and potential, It is a great time for us to show that we will not take the colonial British legacies and we can be known by our own accepted name for the country. It is not just us who are thinking to change our country's name but there are many countries who have also changed their names due to their own reasons like- Turkey to Türkiye because "The word 'Türkiye' represents and expresses the culture, civilisation, and values of the Turkish nation in the best way," the president said; Czech Republic to Czechia Although the Czech Republic is still an official name for the central European nation, the government prefers the simpler title **Czechia**, Authorities say it makes it easier for the nation to be recognised in international events like sporting competitions and in tourism marketing campaigns; , Ceylon to Sri Lanka, Burma to Myanmar, Holland to The Netherlands as The government said **the Netherlands** better represents the country as open, modern and inclusive; Macedonia to Republic of North Macedonia, The name change occurred during political disputes with **Greece** and was used to distinguish the country from the Greek region of Macedonia. Within India also, there are many cities and places whose Names which depicted the Mughals, and the colonial era were changed, like- Bombay to Mumbai, Calcutta to Kolkata, Bangalore to Bengaluru, Madras to Chennai, etc. On December 30, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also renamed Ross Island, Neil Island, and Havelock Island after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Shaheed, and Swaraj Dweep, marking the 75th anniversary of hoisting Tricolour on Indian soil. All the aircrafts of the governments representatives also have Bharat mentioned on their body. Both the names India and Bharat have a great divide among the various societies in the country, that is, it is generally thought that the name India is for the upper or the rich section of the society and the name Bharat is used by the lower class, or the rural population of the country, so making only one official name would stop this division among the citizens of the country. As the majority population of the country, that is 64 % of the total population lives in rural area and most of them are comfortable in connecting their thoughts and ideas with the name Bharat, Replacing India with Bharat will create a better place for them to take their stand. India

and Bharat are political constructs with certain goals in mind. In 2013, Mohan Bhagwat, the president of the Rastriya Swayam Samiti, gave a statement, "Rapes happen in India, not in Bharat." For citizens in need of life and livelihood security, a renamed Bharat is a hollow promise trading on manipulated narratives of past glory.

Now, we should aim towards forming Viksit Bharat Instead of Developed India. Replacing the word India with Bharat will instil a sense of pride in our own nationality. The RSS, which was established in 1925 and serves as the backbone of the right-wing in the nation, has long held a vision for India as a Hindu nation that goes well beyond electoral politics. The concept of "othering" non-Hindus has played a vital role in the evolution of Indian culture and politics. It has at different points targeted groups such as Muslims, Christians, non-Brahmins, secularists, atheists, dissenters, and so forth. Thus, the suggested renaming of India as Bharat is not a fight against colonialism. Instead, it is the establishment of a binary classification in which individuals who persist in promoting an "Indian" identity will eventually be politically classified as an "other" in relation to the real and genuine "Bhartiya" (Bharat inhabitant), who is the "ideal" Hindu or Hinduized citizen. According to me as Bharat plays a significant role in the past of the country and India depicts the symbol of slavery of the colonial era, we must come out of the colonial slavery ideas. Hence, replacing India with the word Bharat will have positive consequences for the nation. When our nation is heading towards its glorious destination, we need to preserve the image of Bharat in developing Nation.

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