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या संस्थेचे त्रैमासिक

॥ संशोधक ॥

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\* प्रकाशक \*

श्री. संजय मुंदडा

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Email ID : rajwademandaldhule1@gmail.com

rajwademandaldhule2@gmail.com

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## Exploring Indian Cultural Heritage: Insights from Sarojini Naidu's Folk Poetry

i) Mrs. Rupali Datta Pokharkar

Research Scholar

Research Centre for PhD in English, Prof. Ramkrishna More College, Akurdi, Pune.

ii) Prof. Dr. Shilpagauri Prasad Ganpule

Professor and Research Supervisor

### Abstract:

Sarojini Naidu popularly known as the Nightingale of India, was not only a prominent politician but also a prolific poet whose works beautifully depicted the richness of Indian culture. Naidu's poetry often reflected Indian traditions, culture, and nature, while also addressing issues like gender inequality and colonialism. Her enduring legacy as a key figure in Indian history continues to inspire future generations. Indian folk poetry, on the other hand, is a reflection of the diverse cultural heritage of the country, passed down through generations orally. Indian folk poetry, such as ballads, epics, and couplets, reflects the daily lives and social dynamics of various communities. It preserves ancient wisdom and traditions, offering insights into the ethos and values of different regions in India. This study examines the representations of Indian culture, traditions, and rituals in Naidu's folk poetry. This paper also explores the role of her folk poetry in preserving and transmitting cultural knowledge across generations,

**Keywords:** Sarojini Naidu, Indian culture, folk poems, customs, traditions

Sarojini Naidu, born in Hyderabad, India on February 13, 1879, was a versatile person. She is not only a respected poet but also a notable political leader. She was the first Indian woman to lead the Indian National Congress and was instrumental in the independence movement with figures like Mahatma Gandhi. Her poetic works, known for their beauty and vivid imagery, received praise both at home and abroad. She published four volumes of

poetry, *The Golden Threshold* (1905), *The Bird of Time* (1912), *The Broken Wing* (1917) and *The Feather of Dawn* (1961, posthumously) Her works empower marginalized voices and foster a sense of belonging among diverse populations through social cohesion and resistance. Her poetic style is heavily influenced by folk tradition, enriching her works with a distinct cultural resonance. Indian folk poetry represents the collective expression of India's diverse cultural heritage, passed down through generations via oral tradition. It covers a wide area of forms, including ballads, epics, folksongs, and couplets, often reflecting the daily lives, beliefs, rituals, and social dynamics of various communities across the country. It holds great significance not only as a literary art form but also as a cultural repository, offering insights into the ethos, values, and worldview of different regions and communities within India.

Some scholars have extensively analysed Naidu's poetry, emphasizing its significance in preserving and promoting Indian cultural identity. However, there remains a need for further research to fully examine its multifaceted dimensions. Future studies could delve deeper into the regional variations present in Naidu's folk poetry, as well as examine its reception and impact on contemporary cultural discourse. The influence of folk tradition on Naidu's poetic style is significant throughout her works, enriching her verses with a distinct cultural vibrancy. From the oral traditions and storytelling techniques of Indian folk poetry, Naidu infuses her writing with colourful imagery, rhythmic cadences, and expressive language. Her poems often encompass elements such