The present study has its genesis in an e-mail correspondence of Amitav Ghosh with Dipesh Chakraborty where Ghosh emphatically mentions ‘family’ as his focus in his novels. “... in other words, I’d like to suggest that writing about families is one way of not writing about the nation,” he writes in the e-mail. As I started pondering on the remark, my attention was drawn to the intricate relationship between the family and the nation that has been documented not only in Ghosh, but in Indian Fiction in English in general. I found that while much has been said on the relation between the individual and the nation, the family-nation interface has remained a relatively unexplored area. This initiated my research in this field. I have been singularly fortunate to talk on the issue more than once with Amitav Ghosh personally when he came to Kolkata and through e-mail. I also interviewed him formally in 2009, which helped me with immensely rich insight.

To trace the history and the nature of the family-nation interface over the years is an ongoing process, for new possibilities are opening up daily in the recent times. While I never claim to have made an exhaustive study in the field, I have surely tried to identify some of the major facets of this interface as documented by the major authors of Indian English Fiction. Further research in this area will surely be taken up by future scholars.

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I have followed the norms of citation and documentation as prescribed by *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (Seventh Edition). I have subdivided the Bibliography into different genres as per the entry 5.3.3 “Arrangement of Entries” (131-133) of the *Handbook*.

Sajalkumar Bhatnagar
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(SAJALKUMAR BHATTACHARYA)