

National Integration – Unity in Diversity

Meaning

- The phrase 'national integration' was used by Pt. Nehru in 1961.
- Literally, 'integration' means to make up a whole out of different parts. It is synonymous with 'wholeness' or 'completeness'.
- The process of integration is the process of bringing culturally and socially discrete groups together into a single territorial unit and the inculcation of a sense of loyalty, belongingness and identity to that unit.
- The word 'integrity' was added to preamble in 1976.

Why National Integration ?

- Plural character of Indian Society – multi-religious, multi-caste, multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic and multi-cultural society.

- **India's Religious Spectrum : (2001 Census Report)**

1.	Hindus	827 Million	80.5 per cent
2.	Muslims	138 Million	13.4 per cent
3.	Sikhs	109 Million	1.9 per cent
4.	Christians	024 Million	2.3 per cent
5.	Buddhists	07.9 Million	0.8 per cent
6.	Jains	04.2 Million	0.4 per cent
7.	Others	06.6 Million	0.6 per cent

Facts

- Indian society which is filled with diversities is unified by certain emotional forces. This is the process of national integration. The main objective of national integration is to encounter all fissiparous forces.

National integration is a complex concept. It has social, political, religious, regional and economic dimensions.

- In a multi-caste, there are thousands of castes and sub-castes.
- Ethnic identity is found in Manipur, Nagaland and other regions.
- India is a polyglot country with thousands of languages and vernaculars.
- There is a divide between Aryan culture and Dravidian culture.
- Promotion and protection of vital national interests – Sovereignty, territorial integrity and economic progress.
- To build a new and United India – Integration leads to the development of nationhood, a feeling of patriotism & Indianness. Unity in diversity can be realised.

In the following words, the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh called for building a new India (2006) :

An India that is united in thought not divided by religion and language ;

An India that is united in our Indianness not divided by caste and religions ;

An India that is united in seeking new opportunities for growth not divided by disparities ;

An India that is caring and inclusive.

The three basic factors of national integration

- 1. Structural equality
- 2. Cultural unity
- 3. Ideological unity

Structural Equality

- Equal opportunity must be provided for all especially those who are socially and economically backward.

Cultural Unity

- Caste discriminations like untouchability and inapproachability should be eradicated.

Ideological Unity

- Awareness about 'national objectives' should be created among the people who hold divergent views on political and religious and similar other fields.

Threat To National Integration

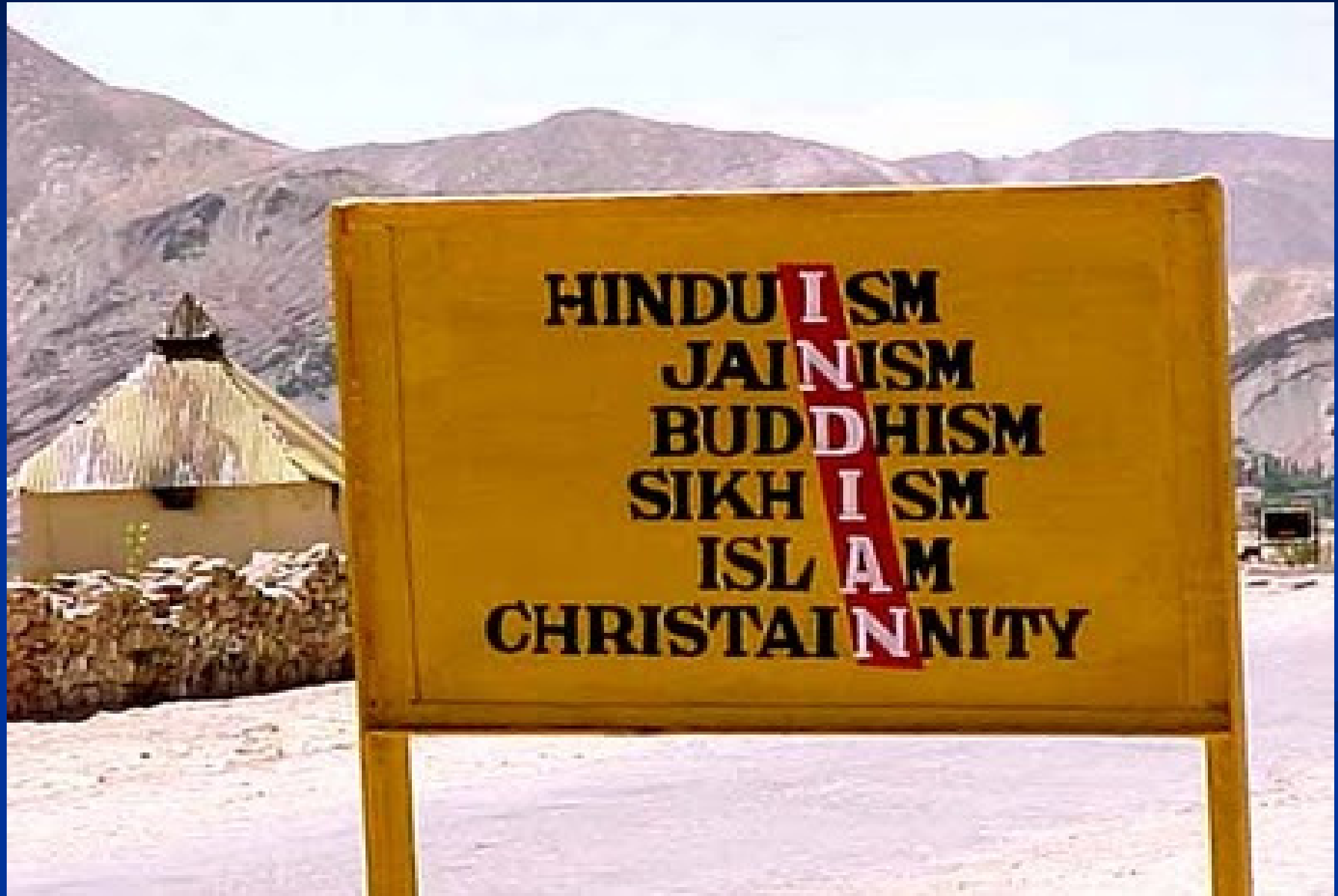
India is a nation. It is a land inhabited by people of different communities. They live in different regions and speak different languages. They practice different religions and follow different life styles. Although the slogan of 'Unity in Diversity' makes India proud and our constitution also guarantees India as a 'Sovereign, Socialist, Secular Democratic Republic' yet it poses a threat to national integration directly or indirectly.

Challenges-That Threat National Integration

- Communalism
- Casteism
- Regionalism
- Linguism
- Terrorism



Communalism



It is the most serious problem. There have been communal riots in the country before and even after the partition of India. It is raising its head again and again without any control. Communal riots take place in different parts of the country. People fight in the name of religion and God. Babari Masjid Demolition, Godhara Incident, Operation Blue Star are some of the examples which possess threat to country's integrity.

Casteism

- Brahmin
- Khastriya
- vaishya
- Shudra
- Yadav
- Gujjar
- Jaat



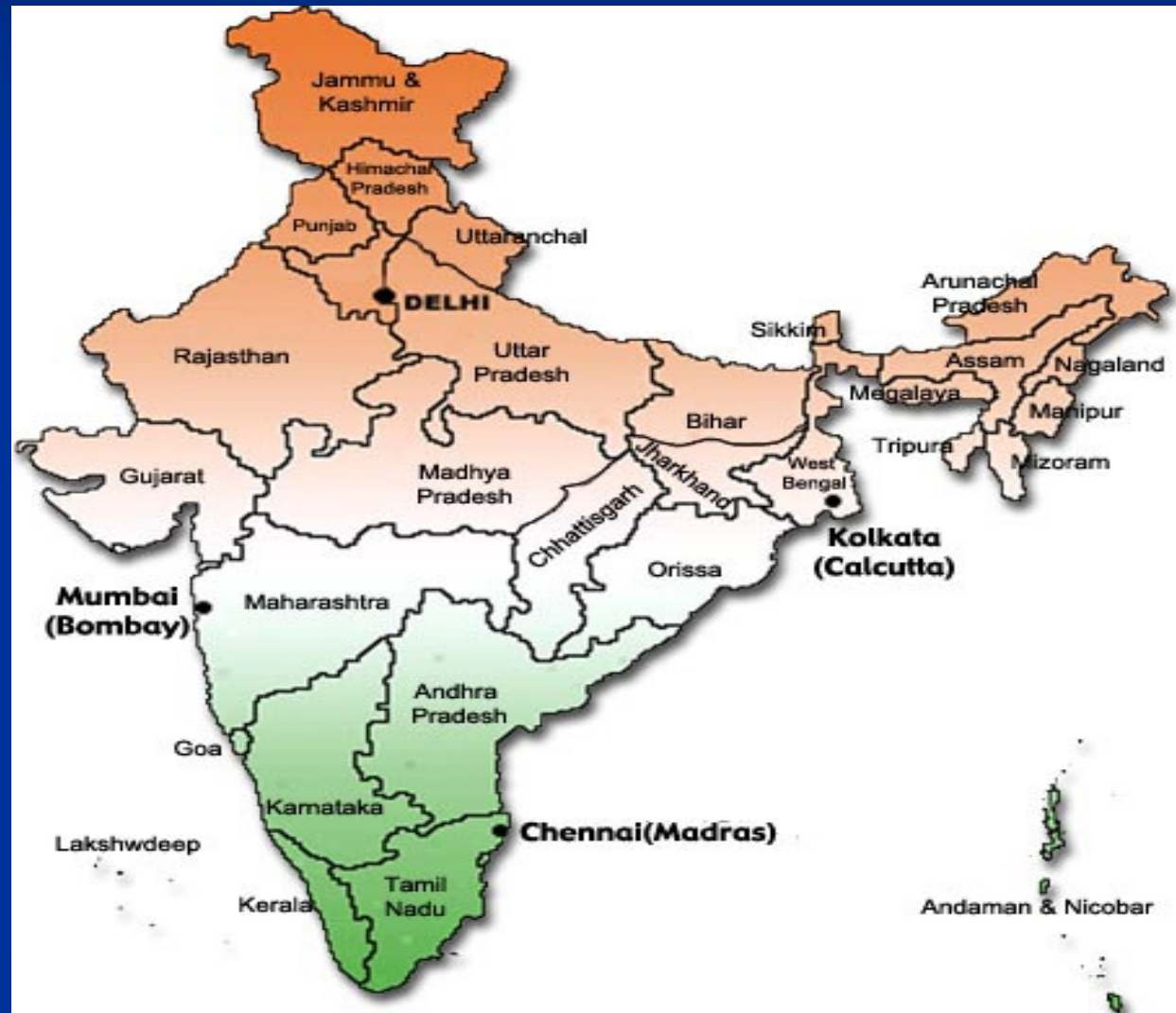
Gujjar Agitation

Casteism

Although India's national constitution of 1950 sought to abolish caste discrimination and the practice of untouchability yet it remains widespread throughout India. It is called India's "hidden apartheid", entire villages in many Indian states remain completely segregated by caste. Social contact, marriage relationship is not acceptable in these groups. No day passes without any news of riots between upper caste and lower caste. People vote on the basis of caste and not on basis of merit.

Regionalism

India consist of 28 states and 7 Union territories



- Regionalism is another threat to the national integration. The demand for *Khalistan* is an example of such regionalism. The states fight among themselves over areas, over distribution of river water and over territory.
- When we ask a person who he is, his reply is either a 'Maharastrian' or 'South Indian' or 'Gujarati'; but never an 'Indian'. This is a worn out yet the best example of how people consider regionalism to be superior to nationalism.

Linguism

India is a multi lingual country. The language controversy started with "Hindi" being given the status of the official language of the Indian union. The people of the south revolted against it and threatened to go out of the Union if Hindi was imposed upon them. The constitution of India was amended to meet their demand and English was accepted as the official language along with Hindi.



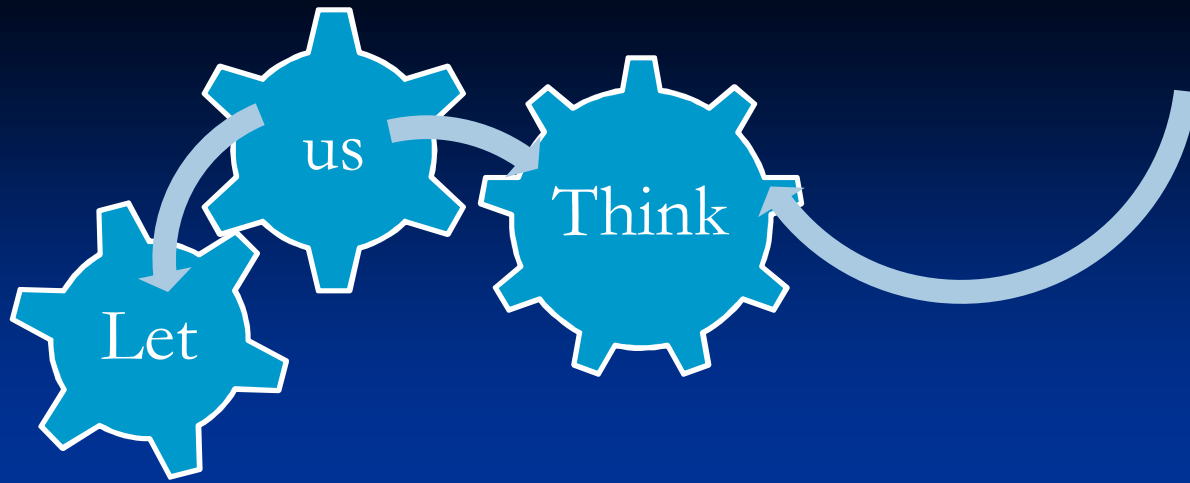


Terrorism



Terrorism has been an ugly scene in India and it has posed the latest threat to India's Integrity. It is primarily attributable to religious communities and Naxalite radical movements. The regions with long term terrorist activities today are Jammu and Kashmir, Mumbai, Central India (Naxalism) and the Seven Sister States (independence and autonomy movements).

- In August 2008, National Security Advisor M K Narayanan has said that there are as many as 800 terrorist cells operating in the country.
- As per data of 2007 at an average 2 people die due to terrorism in a day.
- There has been 16 major terrorist attack since 2001, the worst was 26/11 Mumbai attack killing at least 173 people and 308 people were wounded.



- *The* need of the day is to keep communal harmony in India.
- Educational institutions must infuse the spirit of national integration among the students.
- Newspaper, television, cinema and radio can also play a useful role in developing the feeling of oneness among the people.



- The government should make all efforts to meet the situation strictly.
- Those who are found involved in anti-national and anti-social activities should be dealt with a heavy hand.
- We should try our best to unite India into one nation.

POEM ON NATIONAL INTEGRATION

- For too long a time, This has been going on,
People are fighting each other, With daggers drawn
A Hindu is a Hindu, A Christian a Christian,
So too the Muslims, but Nobody is an Indian.

Today patriots are rare, Men there are more,
Who are willing to die, For reasons not to adore.

Therefore, my dear friends, 'Tis the only solution,
That we heartily adopt, Nothing but national integration,
Just think of the day, When caste won't matter,
Merit would reign, not Religion, creed or color.
When God is one, And we children,
Why should it be that Anybody is different.
So, let us all live, In peace and harmony,



Conclusion :

National Integration cannot be built by brick and mortar, by chisel and hammer. It has to grow silently in the minds and heads of men (National Integration Council). People should love and respect their country.

Remember Friends.....

- UNITED WE STAND
DIVIDED WE FALL

