



## National integration and unity of India-hindrances and measures

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### Abstract

India is a singularly plural and complex federal country, with federal characteristics seen in almost every facet of its collective life. India exemplifies unity in the midst of diversity, each of which is distinct in its own right. India, as a vast country with ever-increasing identities and populations, exhibits a wide range of physical qualities and cultural patterns. Despite India's many differences, there are common threads that run through the country. India's political unity is a by-product of the country's religious and cultural cohesion. Though entrenched interests operate on Indian soil, jeopardising the unity and integrity of India, we share the same political culture distinguished by norms of democracy, secularism, and respect for the motherland, among others. The political system is plagued by many problems as a result of its complicated nature and transitional period of growth, but the problems are inevitable for such a large country, and while their solutions are not simple, their severity can be reduced. To deal with the difficulties of threats to national unity and integration, the political system cannot be changed in a short amount of time, but something must be done rather than waiting to see what happens. The purpose of this paper is to shed light on many aspects of unity and integration in the context of India, as well as the obstacles that stand in the way of their implementation. To deal with the issue at hand, certain remedial steps are also advised.

**Keywords:** unity, diversity, national integration and social order

### Introduction

In recent years, biased ferrite material for microstrip antenna structures has attracted noticeable attention. Ferrite is one of the important magnetic materials which are used as in both types single and polycrystalline. Some novel characteristics of polycrystalline ferrite over normal dielectric material make it very useful in microwave antenna applications. Different types of polycrystalline ferrites have their specific advantages as Li substituted ferrites has high dielectric constant, low sintering temperature etc.

### Introduction: Understanding National Integration

National integration is a process that aids in the integration of disparate social and cultural groupings. It emphasises the importance of keeping divisive forces in check, prioritising national and public interests over all else, and placing a high value on national unity and integrity. National integration also aids in the development and evolution of some basic and essential beliefs and values that can assist build and maintain social order. National integration necessitates the maintenance of national authority over regional and sectoral authorities in order for national interests to take precedence over minor concerns<sup>[1]</sup>.

National interest is also defined as a psychological and educational process based on a sense of oneness and cohesion among the nation's minds and emotions. To put it another way, national integration strives to foster a sense of belonging, togetherness, and oneness. It will be a case of national integration if we exhibit a predisposition and feeling for the motherland and its overall welfare and security. National integration occurs when people experience a sense of oneness and unity on the one hand, and a desire to construct a strong and united country on the other, regardless of their cultural, social, or economic interests. It refers to the congruence of differences that leads

to a unity that preserves all of the diversity and idiosyncrasies. The mission of preservation must be carried out in the interests of the entire country.

### Indian plural society and the question of national unity and integration

Indian society is distinct because of its diversity. It is not just a traditional society, but it also has a lot of unique characteristics with a lot of different ingredients. India's plural and complex characteristics can be seen in practically every major and minor aspect of its collective life, including its social system, economic formations, cultural patterns, language- dialect groupings, religious communities, castes, sub-castes, folk dances, music, and numerous other aspects. No one can deny that there is a strong sense of Indian togetherness, but the existence of so many differences highlight the need to create a new viable federal national identity, which is the current political system's most pressing worry and task.

India gained independence from the British government in unusual circumstances. There were communal riots and hostility among different castes and communities as a result of British policy and peculiar socio-political conditions. To maintain their control over India, British policies purposefully created disintegrative factors. The British divide and rule approach ultimately resulted in the dissolution of the country and religious split. In such a scenario, the nation's primary objective was to foster a sense of national integration among Indians, allowing them to focus more on national interests rather than allowing them to identify with any particular religion, caste, or faith. It was hoped that by fostering national unity and integration, people would have a sense of belonging to India as a whole, and that communal hate and casteism would be a thing of the past, with no place in the new period for such divisive

attitudes and impulses.

The concept of forging unity and integrity was admirable, but the task and scope of the challenge were daunting. The reality was brought to light those prior memories and the style of psychology practised throughout the decades could not be readily forgotten. It was confirmed and proven that casteism, regionalism, religion, and language had very deep roots in Indian soil within a relatively short period of time after India's freedom. Not only was national integration endangered by these agents, but they were also said to be putting a strain on the entire Indian political system.

### **The case of unity and diversity in India**

In many ways, India's diversity is distinctive and distinct. With its enormous population and size, India exhibits a wide range of physical qualities and cultural patterns. People of many creeds, languages, religions, sects, customs, and colours make up India's large population. Political culture, economic growth, and educational attainment of people in various socioeconomic sectors varied by area. Despite the different diversity and disparities that exist in India, there are links of unity that are rooted in a certain underlying regularity of life as well as certain integration processes. In India, unity amidst diversity is manifested in the geopolitical sphere, the tradition of accommodation and cooperation, and emotional relationships, among other things.

The religious and cultural unity of India has resulted in political unity. The geopolitical integration of the country is the first sign of its unity. India is a sovereign state from a political standpoint. Every portion of it is regulated by the same set of rules and policies enshrined in the Indian constitution's spirit. We share the same political culture, which is characterised by democratic, secular, and socialist values.

In keeping with traditional bonds of unity, the Indian state has opted for and supported a composite culture model of national unity over a homogeneous culture model in the post-war era. In India's instance, the composite culture model is optimal since it allows for the preservation and multiplicity of cultures within the framework of a unified nation.

Even if there are many links and reasons that contribute to India's unity, no one can deny that divisive and separatist impulses have been completely absent. We occasionally come across disturbing anti-social and divisive events and agents, which leave us feeling depressed and disappointed, prompting us to consider the future of Indian society and nation.

### **Vested interests and unity & integrity in India**

Some vested interests always create issues for national unity and integrity in any society and state, and India is no exception. The scale and implications of vested interests in India, on the other hand, create a chasm in society. Occasionally, communal riots are sparked to fulfil the selfish needs of vested interest groups. Politics in India has produced policies and practises that have a negative impact on national life. Many political groups founded on minority interests foster social divisions and discord.

People's religious sentiments are abused and used to achieve political goals such as gaining power. When rumours spread that a religious sign is being attacked or that the faith is under danger, people become enraged and lose their ability to reason. Even the most literate persons are not immune to

such feelings. Many regular cleavages and gulfs occur in society when it comes to religion, and such instances are detrimental to the overall unity and integrity of India

### **The nature of Indian state and unity and integrity**

The Indian constitution does not designate any faith as the country's official religion. In truth, the state does not recognise any faith as the official religion. All religions are given equal weight, and none can claim to be more important than the others. As underlined in the constitution, India is a secular society in which religion does not enter the domain of politics. Religion has proven to be a decisive factor in the Indian political system as a result of the actions and efforts of vested interests.

The vested interest organisations utilise such tactics that the target audience among the people cannot remain immune to the propagation of rumours, and they quickly believe and create opinions that whatever is taught is true, and that there are actual risks to the community's identity and survival. When the issue of identity and survival arises, people want to be rescued and make plans to retaliate, and it is precisely here that the vested interest group shows them the way to achieve the immediate goal.

The so-called vested interest groups, which represent minority groups, keep minority groups' thoughts and emotions charged with constant propagation, and they are taught that they survive at the mercy of the majority groups, and their survival is dependent on the latter's will and wishes. The chasm that has been formed between India's majority and minority communities is a serious impediment to the country's unity and integrity.

**Hindrances to national integration and unity Caste:** It is a vital component of our social fabric. Caste was an offshoot of 'jati,'<sup>[2]</sup> the functional basis for the division of labour in society. Casteism, on the other hand, has not segregated society. Since independence, casteism has played a nasty role in politics and reservation policy in India. It has widened the chasm between different social groups. Unfortunately, the caste system was recognised by the constitution's authors, who protected scheduled castes and scheduled tribes against discrimination. The reservation was made for a specific amount of time; however, it is being extended from time to time<sup>[3]</sup>.

Reservation of seats in educational institutions and jobs on the basis of caste has exacerbated caste emotions and opened the door to new forms of inequity and caste strife. The function of caste in national politics is viewed as a necessary evil because casteism is considered a societal ill and caste ideology does not fit well with the egalitarian concept of a socialist society. It is regarded as an element that complicates the work of nation-building.

Simultaneously, given the absence of another basis on which people might unite, caste continues to play a significant role in Indian national and state politics. In a caste-ridden society, unity and integrity have become a pipe dream. The suppression of upper castes undermined the sense of 'we' feeling and togetherness among socially deprived scheduled castes. It becomes a stumbling block to national unity.

### **Communalism**

In its broadest sense, communalism refers to any socio-religious group's desire to maximise its economic, political,

and social power at the expense of other groups. This inclination goes opposed to India's secular nation-state concept. India is a religiously diverse country. Political manipulation has pitted one religion against another, resulting in communal rioting, mutual suspicion, and the disintegration of Indian culture and country. Large-scale illiteracy, ignorance, and superstition, among other factors, are contributing to the rise of communalism in the country. In India, communal animosity has posed a severe threat to national integration.

### **Linguistic fanaticism**

Multilingualism is one of the most distinguishing characteristics of India's heterogeneous society and state. India's constitution recognises twenty-two official languages, in addition to several more languages and dialects spoken throughout the country. The national feeling is increasingly eroding due to linguistic and regional loyalties. Linguistic difficulties have existed in most Indian states, and this was the basic foundation of state formation and organisation in India. Language has become a strong source of political articulation, particularly since independence <sup>[4]</sup>.

### **Regionalism**

Another major danger to national cohesion and unity is regionalism. Some socio-economic sectors with distinct cultural identities desire to preserve them, even at the governmental level, and further reorganisation of Indian states is required to achieve this goal. The rise of regional nations continues to be a feature of national politics in our country. This is particularly visible in the linguistic creation of states. In truth, national politics has acknowledged the existence of regional and cultural identities, and the central government has even issued legal punishments on several occasions <sup>[5]</sup>. The issue of people from other states living on Assam's soil caused an atmosphere of chaos, communal violence, and bloodshed in the state. Each region differs from the others in one way or another, resulting in the country's disintegration. People from one region compete with those from another, resulting in reciprocal conflicts, rioting, and animosity.

### **Social disparity**

Members are tense and unbalanced because of social disparities between people of different communities, castes, and occasionally even within the same community and caste. Social inequity is a significant barrier to national integration. Social imbalances have a destabilising effect on the nation-building process.

### **Economic inequalities**

People's economic standards vary greatly across India's states and regions. It is determined by soil fertility, available resources, and manpower management. In the following ways, all states are not equal, and this causes people to be economically behind.

Even within a state, wealth and resources are not distributed in an equitable manner. Day by day, the poor become poorer and the wealthy become wealthier. The gap between people continues to increase, resulting in tensions, disputes, and wars.

This component of national life's economic nature jeopardises national integration.

### **Regional disparities**

The uneven development and progress of India's many regions has harmed the country's national integration character. After independence, unequal development became a key cause of numerous social movements. The Jharkhand movement, for example, which included tribal communities from Bihar, M.P., Bengal, and Orissa, highlighted the region's backwardness, among other difficulties. People involved in this movement contended that the area's abundant natural resources had been plundered to benefit neighbouring regions, while also wanting an independent state <sup>[6]</sup>.

People's displeasure with the perceived and/or actual threat of material deprivation has led them to believe that their region's socio-economic growth will be impossible if they remain a member of a certain political and geographical entity. As a result, regional disparities in socioeconomic development have occasionally posed a danger to the concept of a united nation state.

### **Ethnic conflicts**

National integration has been hampered by ethno-nationalism and ethnic strife. Several tribal communities started initiatives to protect their particular tribal identities from perceived outsider intrusion. Some tribal communities desired separate geographical zones both inside and outside India's borders. Such ethnic conflicts not only disrupt law and order, but also jeopardise the nation's unity and integrity. The emergence of ethnic conflicts has hampered the nation-building process.

### **Insurgency**

The phenomenon of insurgency has put the country's unity and integrity at jeopardy. Anti-Indian attitudes and power have motivated some aggrieved Indian communities to declare war against the Indian nation. These insurgencies are founded on a gap that already exists between communities and agents, posing a threat to national unity and obstructing national integration.

### **Activities of political parties**

Many regional and local political groups, by their activities, endanger national cohesion and unity. Regional political parties thrive on the marginalisation and disadvantage of some locales and areas in comparison to other parts of the country. These political parties poison people's minds and take advantage of the circumstance in order to gain votes. Vote bank politics, whether indirectly or directly, obstructs the development of national unity and cohesion <sup>[7]</sup>.

### **Measures for promoting national unity and integration**

Promoting national unity and integration necessitates concerted efforts by law enforcement, security, and the state's espionage system. Among people of many religious groups, communal enmity is the leading source of divisiveness and violence. The need of the hour is for regular bodies of anti-communal and secular organisations to maintain a close eye on anti-social and violence-inducing elements' actions.

The election commission should prohibit regional and national parties from exploiting religious and communal feelings in order to gain votes. The Indian penal code should be strengthened to make it more difficult to promote communal violence. No one should be allowed to bring the

issue of religion up in a political debate.

The central government's goal is to eliminate regional inequities by enacting fair policies. To avoid being identified with anti-national and anti-social forces, special attention should be paid to the development of marginalised and minority communities. The country's intelligence and surveillance network should be enhanced so that the government is alerted of disintegrating forces' wicked plans in a timely manner.

### **The following steps that should be taken to enhance national integration**

1. Relationships between states and between the centre and the states should not be permitted to deteriorate. As soon as these issues develop, action should be made to resolve them.
2. Regional imbalances should be addressed, and industrial expansion should be employed as a tool for doing so.
3. The educational system should be reorganised in such a way that it strengthens rather than weakens national integration.
4. Organizations should be established with the goal of propagating India's composite culture.
5. Different cultural streams should be able to meaningfully connect with one another.
6. The mass media should be employed to promote the national integration process.
7. Religious rituals and practises that cause harm to a community's sensibilities should not be practised.
8. All efforts should be made to facilitate the mixing of cultures.
9. Economic imbalances between different parts of society should be addressed as soon as possible.
10. Youth and students from various locations should be given opportunities to interact with one another on a regular basis.
11. Regional language literatures should be examined, and resources that promote national integration should be used judiciously and ineffectively.
12. Efforts should be made to alleviate minority' feelings of insecurity. No one's culture should be imposed on another. Those who engage in forceful religious conversions should be held accountable right away.
13. Powers should be centralised to the greatest extent practicable, taking into account the requirement for national unity and integrity.

### **Conclusion**

Due to India's multifarious traits, multi-culturalism, multi-linguism, regional disparities, social inequalities, and regular requests from ethnic communities, disputes and conflicts are bound to arise at some point. We cannot imagine a world in which all social schisms, anti-social groups, risks to national integration, and threats to India are fully eradicated. Rather, being pragmatic is the order of the day, and one should strive to comprehend the complicated and particular structure of the Indian state and society.

National unity and integration are not tangible items that can be purchased or sold at a specific location and time; they cannot be achieved only on our wishes and efforts. Only the government can be held accountable for creating the conditions necessary for proper national integration and unity to be realised. Because we live in a democracy,

citizens and the general public have a significant role and responsibility. We may help shape the path to national unity and integration by taking an oath to promote national brotherhood, create an atmosphere of mutual trust and peace, sympathy for our fellow humans, and erase religious, cultural, and linguistic divisions from our national life.

In the wider interest of our homeland, we must set aside our cultural, regional, and group identities in favour of national interest and build a unified agenda. Only then would India's unity and integrity be realised, if all Indians swear in the name of the motherland India to erase all inconsistencies, social ills, and threats to the nation, and live happily, forgetting all differences and hurdles.

India is a land of endless contrasts. It is a complex entity made up of different groups, ethnicities, classes, languages, castes, subcastes, cultures, and languages, making maintaining unity among people extremely challenging. Though there are several difficulties to national integration, some variables pose particularly serious obstacles to achieving national integrity and unity. Casteism, communalism, linguistic fanaticism, social inequity, economic inequity, immorality, and regionalism are all major roadblocks.

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