



NATIONAL INTEGRATION AND AWARENESS





NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



Introduction

1. National integration means a feeling of togetherness and unity among the people of a country. It also means an atmosphere in which all citizens, irrespective of their caste, religion and region live together peacefully. It refers to integration in all respects, social political, economic and emotional. In an integrated country people share common goals. They all work together and co-operate with each other for the prosperity of the nation. ■



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Importance of National Integration

3. It means the preservation of diverse cultures and at the same time living in harmony with each other. No country can survive if its people do not remain united. The feeling of togetherness and a sense of belonging are absolutely necessary for a nation to survive. Such a feeling can only be generated through the process of integration. Thus, national integration is a positive concept which provides strength to the people to fight against all evil forces.



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4. The realisation of its importance in itself is a step in the desired direction. The Government having appreciated the urgency and seriousness of the subject is taking positive steps towards achieving the national integration. NCC, one of the prime organisations of the country training the youth, the future of this great nation, makes the ideal ground to start with. National integration has been made part and parcel of NCC training. Lot of emphasis is laid on national integration by conducting national level camps and number of other activities where cadets from all over the country participate.



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Essence of National Integration

5. National Integration is an emotional and spiritual bond which binds all of Indians irrespective of caste, creed, colour, race, religion and region. In reality, it is the common ideal whose intensity in the passions of the people, determines our “real strength”. Emotional integration of the country connotes a firm conviction on the part of the individual that there exists a stake for him or her in the well-being of the Nation. In short being a good citizen of the country in its true sense is what National Integration is all about. In fact, National Integration and Nation Building are synonymous. National Integration includes the following:-



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Essence of National Integration

a) Cultural Integration. Cultural integration is a form of cultural exchange in which one group assumes the beliefs, practices and rituals of another group without sacrificing the characteristics of its own culture. It is generally looked upon as positive because nothing is lost. Seen from this light, cultural integration is a healthy intermingling of the beliefs and rituals of two unique cultures.



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(b) Economic Integration. The perception of the common man in India is that generally, the poor are becoming poorer and the rich-richer. It is an open question whether equal social and economic justice is available to all segments of the society. However, the economic injustice gives rise to indifferent tendencies in the society. These people are always ripe for misguidance and to keep them in the mainstream, economic integration is essential. Various reasons for economic inequality are:-



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- (i) Unemployment / Underemployment of People. The main reason for low level of income of the majority of Indian people is unemployment and underemployment. Since sufficient employment could not be created through the process of planned economic development, it was not possible to increase the income levels of most people.
- (ii) Inflation. Another cause of inequality is inflation. During inflation, few profit earners gain and most wage earners lose. This is exactly what has happened in India. This has created more and more inequality and this leads to a fall in the standard of living of the poor people since their purchasing power falls. 19



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(iii) Farmer Distress. No doubt, India's new agricultural strategy led to the Green Revolution and raised agricultural productivity. But the benefits of higher productivity were enjoyed mainly by the rich farmers and landowners. At the same time, the economic conditions of landless workers and marginal farmers deteriorated over the years. Most farmers in India could not enjoy the benefits of higher agricultural productivity. As a result, inequality in the distribution of income in the rural areas has increased.



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(c) Political Integration. Politics needs to be separated from religion. Strict laws must be enforced against exploitation of the common man by the politicians and vested interests. This can be achieved only through correct understanding of different political ideologies being practiced by politicians from different backgrounds.



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(d) Religious Integration. Our Constitution permits practice of individual religion, without hurting or offending the religious sentiments and beliefs of others. The need is to understand the existing commonalities in the principles and teachings of all the religions to develop a positive attitude towards religion. The correct understanding and Interpretation of our own religion and faith will automatically help in developing mutual respect for each other's religion leading to religious harmony and tolerance in the country.



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(e) Social Integration. Social integration is movement of minority groups such as ethnic minorities and underprivileged sections of our society into the mainstream of societies. Social integration requires proficiency in an accepted common language of society, acceptance of laws of the society and adoption of common set of values of the society. Provision of equal rights and opportunities has been guaranteed through our Constitution.



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Necessity of National Integration

6. India has a rich cultural heritage characterized by tolerance, compassion and synthesis. After independence, our country opted for secularism and equal opportunity for all, but vested interests and divisive forces under the cover of communal organisations and political parties have been encouraging fissiparous tendencies to undermine the security, unity, and integrity of India. They exploit and spread casteism, communalism, regionalism, religious bigotry, intolerance, linguism and so on, for their narrow and immediate interests and sacrifice national interests. To fight this growing menace, it is the sacred duty of every Indian to work for National Integration



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7. National integration is necessary particularly in a country like India, where people with different languages, religions, races and culture are required to be weaved together. The unity in diversity of which we are proud of can only be maintained if, we have the understanding and respect for each other's religion, customs and traditions. If we have to survive as a nation and safeguard our sovereignty and national integrity, we have to remain united. National integration is a pre-requisite for the survival and prosperity of any nation and hence needs no emphasis. National integration is therefore a basic necessity for survival of any nation through the following means:-



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- (a) Maintenance of Peace and Harmony.** Peace and harmony between the people of a nation can be achieved only through the feeling of togetherness amongst the people.
- (b) Growth and Development of the Nation.** National integration is a process that must be equally understood by all citizens of a nation which will subsequently lead the nation achieve the growth and development.
- (c) Law and Order.** Provision of equal rights and opportunities can be ensured only through proper awareness of the prevailing laws. It will lead to proper maintenance of law and order situation.
- (d) Culture and Religious Development.** Our constitution permits practice of individual religion without hurting the beliefs of others. National integration is essential for developing mutual respect for each other's religion.



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(e) Dignity and Self-Respect. Every citizen must be dealt with equal dignity. Mutual respect and dignity will develop only if we believe in it and practice it.

(f) Welfare and well-being of the People. Welfare of the masses can be achieved only through proper understanding between the people and it can be achieved through the process of oneness.



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8. National integration is the awareness of a common identity amongst the citizens of a country. It means that though we belong to different castes, religions and regions and speak different languages we recognize the fact that we are all one. National festivals act as an important unifying force. Independence Day, Republic Day, Gandhi Jayanti etc are festivals that are celebrated by all Indians and in all parts of the country, regardless of language, religion or culture. They remind us of our common nationality. On Republic Day we stress on the importance of showing proper respect to the nation. Republic Day Camp of NCC provides ample opportunities to the youth of the country to meet and share their respective cultures and ultimately helps in the promotion of national integration.



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Conclusion

9. It is the duty of each and every citizen of our country to strive to achieve unity in spite of diversity and further maintain that. We must remember that there should be no divisions between different parts of the country. There is only one India of which we all Indians are inheritors. We are Indian first and Indians last. The unity in diversity of which we are proud of can only be maintained if, we have the understanding and respect for each other's religion, customs and traditions.



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FACTORS AFFECTING NATIONAL INTEGRATION

Introduction

1. India is a country with innumerable diversities; an entity composed of many communities, races classes, languages and sub cultures. In any such nation, there are many obstacles to the achievement of national integration. In India, various issues/ factors are obstructing the growth of national feeling, viz. casteism, communalism, linguistic fanaticism, social disparity, economic inequalities and immorality, regionalism etc. In spite of all these limitations. India has developed into one nation by the influence of common territory, common history and common fight for freedom against the foreign rule.



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Factors Affecting National Integration

2. The People of India are at cross roads today. A number of divisive forces are working overtime to divide the nation. The overzealous religious, linguistic and regional groups have by and large, adopted myopic policies. For their immediate gains, they sacrifice country's long-term interests. There are several forces of disintegration in the country which are jeopardising the National Unity. Some of the factors chiefly responsible for weakening the National Integration have been discussed in the succeeding paragraphs.



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3. Cultural Aspects. The Indian society is multi-racial and multi-religious with a diverse culture. Indian culture has given rise to various complications in the society. The mixed culture of today and the rich cultural heritage can prove to be the most effective tool for achieving National Integration. Unfortunately, the people are not being correctly taught and guided on these cultural aspects. It is often forgotten that we all belong to the same culture, whatever be its beginning.



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4. Political Motives. For the sake of maintaining their status, political parties indulge in exploitation of the people in one form or the other. Such actions misguide people to move away from the national mainstream, paving the way for insurgency and resurgence of religious fanaticism and fervour.



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5. Lack of Education. In spite of the political independence of the country in 1947, the people at large are yet to be liberated. Illiteracy is still rampant though being overcome slowly and gradually. Illiterates and unemployed are more easily misguided and exploited by the people with vested interests, due to their ignorance and lack of proper perspective.



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6. Communalism. Religious antagonism has posed a serious challenge to national integration in India. Political manipulation has projected one religion against the other which has resulted in communal riots, bloodbath, mutual distrust and disunity in the country. Large scale illiteracy and superstitions are responsible along with other causes for rise of communalism in the country. It is very difficult to promote national integration under these situations.



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7. Casteism. Casteism has always played a dirty role in matters of politics and reservation policy and has created a wide gulf between different segments of society. Unfortunately, the caste system has been recognized by the framers of the Constitution by providing a protective discrimination to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Unity and integrity have become a challenging dream in a caste ridden society. The socially neglected and scheduled castes under the suppression of upper castes have less sense of feeling of unity. It becomes a challenge for national integration.



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8. Regionalism. There are several regions in India having their unique traditions, food habits, dress and languages. Each region differs from the other in one or other ways which leads to divisive tendencies within the country. The unequal development of different regions of India has negatively affected the character of national integration. The unequal development has become the major cause of many social movements after independence. People of one region compete with the persons of other regions leading to conflicts and retards progress. Land disputes, language problem etc are some of the reasons which pose hurdle on the way of national integration.



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9. Linguistic Fanaticism. Multi-linguism is one of the important characters of India. Due to linguistic and regional loyalties the national feeling gradually erodes. Linguistic tensions are manifested in the borders which are bilingual. India has fifteen officially recognized languages. There are about 1652 dialects which are spoken in India which shows its diversity. People of one language try to establish supremacy of their language over others. When Hindi was declared as the national language, people of South India resented against this decision. Language issue has become a barrier on the way of national integration



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10. Social Disparity. In every society there is a system of social stratification. Social stratification refers to inequality in society based on unequal distribution of goods, services, wealth, power, prestige, duties, rights, obligations and privileges. Social disparity among the people of different communities, castes and sometime within the community and caste, causes tension and imbalance among the people. Social disparity poses great challenge to national integration.



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11. Economic Inequalities. Economic standard of people in a state depends on the fertility of land, resources available and manpower management. All the states are not equal in the above matter which leads to uneven economic progress of the people. Even in a state distribution of wealth is not properly done. Day by day poor are becoming poorer and rich becoming richer causing tension and conflicts. It is a problem for national integration.



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12. **Ethnic Conflicts.** Ethnic conflict has hindered national integration. Whereas the modern concept of nationalism is closely linked with the concept of nation-state, scholars have described another prevailing notion of nationalism such as religious nationalism, ethno nationalism etc. The concept of “ethno nationalism” best defines the self-understanding of the ethnic groups in Northeast India in the various forms of their struggle for identity.



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13. Tribal Identity. The term “tribal” carries a denotation of primitivity and inferiority of the people for whom the name is applied. The attitude of the national mainstream that looks down upon the tribals is in serious conflict with the proud self-understanding of the tribals in various parts of the country. Such a pride is exhibited in their ethno national feeling.



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14. Corruption and Lack of Character. Corruption in the country is on a scale that can be linked to the ants eating away the roots of the foundations. The lack of moral character and ethical values deprive us of the strength to overcome our own weaknesses. Combined together, corruption and lack of character have caused immense damage to the nation, whereby people at large have literally sold their souls (and the nation) for short-term personal and political gains.



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Measures to Achieve National Integration

15. Philosophy of Integration. Integration requires commitment in theory and practice, to work in a cooperative manner. It needs to be unequivocally understood that National Integration is a process, a growth and a development, in which every citizen has a common stake and has to equally strive for achieving it, continuously and vigorously. A sense of patriotism and nationalism alone is not sufficient for maintaining this high ideal; rather we have to keep working at it in a systematic manner all the time, always keeping in view the Nation before self.



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16. Culture as a Unifying Factor. The process for evolution of Indian composite culture of today needs to be understood by one and all through its systematic education at all levels. Oneness of the country since time immemorial has never been in doubt. The messages of unity by Indian Saints and Sufis need to reach the common people of the country. The rich cultural heritage of India, in terms of the variety of languages, dialects, literature, arts, architecture, secular thoughts, customs and traditions, food and eating habits, music, dances, ethics and spiritual/moral values and so on, developed by all for understanding as to what India is.



17. Promotion of Secularism. The spirit of secularism is highly necessary in our multi-religious society. Any sorts of activities creating communal reactions in the public mind should be prohibited. No discrimination among the people on the grounds of religion should be made.



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18. Role of Politics. The regional political parties play a dirty role in exploiting the regional feelings of the people. Regional political parties formed on the basis of linguism at times form the Government. Politics needs to be separated from religion and strict laws enacted and enforced against exploitation of the common man by the politicians and vested interests.



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19. Economic Unity. Earlier we have already hinted at the economic inequality existing in our country. For the sake of national integration, we have to see that no part of the country is particularly backward from the economic viewpoint. For this the backward classes and the minority people should be accorded special assistance for their general uplift. In government services and in distributing economic assistance these people should be given special preferences. Happily, our central government and state governments have started suitable measures in this sphere.



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20. Dignity of Individuals. Every citizen must be dealt with equal dignity, irrespective of religion, region, language, caste, creed and socio-economic status. Mutual respect will develop only if we believe in it and practise it, rather than paying only lip service to it.



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21. Socio-Economic Reforms. Provision of equal rights and opportunities has been guaranteed through our Constitution. However, its practice leaves much to be desired. The justice needs to be meted out equally and swiftly to ensure against frustrations and the forces of disintegration in the society. Eradication of the social injustices and the evils will automatically take care of the economic backwardness of the downtrodden and provide succour to all, particularly the backward classes.



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22. Education. Education is a very powerful weapon for national integration. Through education we may give the necessary motivations to children, i.e., the future citizens of the nation. In the organisation of curriculum, in admission in various educational centres and in appointment of teachers our general policy should be such as to encourage the propagation of national elements and not to give any place to caste, religion, class and community. In the organisations of our schools, colleges and universities preference should be given to national ideas whenever possible only then we shall be able to promote national integration in the students, teachers and the people as a whole.



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23. Emotional Unity. For national integration, the people of the land must come together into one emotional thread. There can be no national integration unless all the people consider themselves as one. Through emotional integration we get the power and implicit sanction of the people for national integration. Therefore, for national integration, the most urgent need is for effecting emotional unity of the people. For fulfilling this objective, we have to impress on all concerned that India has always been one and it will always remain one. We have to infuse in them the spirit that culture of India is such that everyone should be proud of it. In fact, this is exactly so.



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24. National Language. It needs to be ensured that the language should not become a barrier instead of a medium. The people should not be deprived of equal opportunity, because of any language or the lack of it, particularly in securing Central Government jobs. The tri-lingual formula of National, State and Link language is quite adequate for the time being. It is important that no language be enforced on any particular region, rather people be encouraged to learn additional languages as a matter of habit for better understanding of the literature and culture of other regions.



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25. Nationalism and Patriotism. We have had a glorious past, but regrettably our “today” is rather hollow. We have a rich cultural heritage, but we have to keep building it up through dedication and hard work. There is a definite need to inculcate the spirit of nationalism. The ethical, moral and spiritual values need to be built up to act as deterrence against the fissiparous tendencies in the society. “Society and Country before Self” has to be the common motto for all to be followed in letter and spirit and it is in this regard that the National and State Leadership at all levels has to set personal example.



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26. Proper Use of Media. The services of the Radio and TV must be intelligently used. People of different states must be introduced to each other's cultures and ways of life and common elements should be stressed upon. These will create an atmosphere of goodwill and mutual understanding. Media cut through all language barriers and reach the masses in no time whose potential is tremendous.



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27. Political and Administrative Measures. Since India is a federal-democratic country, its integration in all respects should also be done in a democratic manner. Each ethnic, caste, tribal, religious and linguistic group should have freedom for protecting and promoting their own cultures and traditions. Analysing the process of national integration in India, Prof. Rasheed-ud-din Khan has 24



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Conclusion

28. We need national integration on permanent footing and this can be achieved by enlightening our children. All the children, during their formative years, must be taught that we all are Indians belonging to the one Motherland. We must not give too much importance to separate identities. Achieving national integration is a slow moving, continuous and long-term work in progress which needs to be understood, encouraged and practiced by every citizen of the country especially the youth.



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UNITY IN DIVERSITY .



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Introduction

1. India is a vast country with different regions, religions, cultures and traditions and presents endless varieties of physical features and cultural patterns. It is the land of many languages. It is only in India people professes all the major religions of the world. In short, India is “the epitome of the world”. The vast population is composed of people having diverse creeds, customs and colours.

2. India is probably the only country in the world where people belonging to different religions, castes and creeds, speaking different languages, having different cultures, different modes of living, different clothing, different food habits, worshiping different gods and deity live together in harmony and believe to be the children of one mother- Mother India. We are one nation governed by one central authority. This is why we say we have unity in diversity. .



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Fundamentals of Unity in Diversity

3. India is a nation having great diversities. The people who inhabit this nation belong to different races, communities and castes. They reside in different geographical regions and speak different languages. They believe in and practice different religions and have varied life styles. But with certain shared fundamentals for national unity, the people of India can develop the feeling of oneness in spite of all these diversities. The main binding factor remains the constitution of India. There are several other institutions which are pillars of unity in the country. NCC, the premier youth organisation of the country is true example of National Unity.



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Fundamentals of Unity in Diversity

4. Geographical Unity. Undoubtedly, down through the ages India has maintained geographical unity. Even, the seers of the past had visualized it. After independence, India maintained and still maintains that uninterrupted geographical entity. Thus, goes the popular saying – ‘from Kashmir to Kanyakumari India is one’. The concept of ‘Bharatmata’ our national song ‘Vande Mataram’ and national anthem ‘Jana-gana-mana’ clearly project India as one geographical unit. The poets, philosophers, prophets, reformers had conceived this geographical unit of this land and today the Indians are preserving that ideal with all its sanctity. .



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Fundamentals of Unity in Diversity

5. Spirit of Religious Unity. Apart from Hinduism we have the followers of Buddhism, Jainism, Islam, Sikhism, Christianity and Zoroastrianism. But Hindus form the greater majority. There are, no doubt, different factions, sections and sub-sections but basically all Hindus believe in the theory of Dharma and Karma. The theory of rebirth, purification of soul, salvation, heaven and hell holds good for each and every one. We celebrate the festivals like Holi, Diwali, Christmas, Id, Buddha Jayanti, Mahavir Jayanti etc unitedly. This provides unity in diversity.



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Fundamentals of Unity in Diversity

6. Indian Philosophy. Indian philosophy was developed on Indian soil and not borrowed from anywhere. This has blended the various cultures together. There are differences in overall conception of Gods and modes of worship. These changes have been gradual due to interaction of different groups. But the ultimate aim of achieving salvation and the fear of hell keeps them all bound together.



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Fundamentals of Unity in Diversity

7. Ethnic Coexistence. A very important characteristic of Indian society is the coexistence of different ethnic groups. These groups formulated inter-group behaviour. Hence there is no mutual interference as also no merging of their identity. There might be some drawback in our constitution such as separate provision for different castes; particularly the backward and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes but industrialization policy and agrarian reforms have generated a new inclusive culture. Members of different castes and communities and followers of different religions have come together in farms, factories and educational institutions. As a result, different cultures have been blended together thereby bringing unity among them.



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Fundamentals of Unity in Diversity

8. Cultural Unity. Cultural unity amidst various diversities is found in India. In spite of differences in language, religion, dress and manners, Indian culture is homogeneous. Many festivals like Holi, Diwali, Dusshera, Rakshabandhan, Eid and Christmas are observed throughout the country with their colourful lustre. Further, the Kumbh Mela at Allahabad, Hardwar and Ujjain are attended by people from different parts of the country. The caste system, family sanctity, modes of offerings, several social ceremonies are celebrated almost in a similar manner in different parts of the country. Thus, the cultural unity in India amidst several diversities is a unique phenomenon. We have a cultural unity in India in as much as our philosophy of life; our customs, creeds and traditions are more or less, the same. The institution of marriage, the very foundation of a society, exists all over the country and most of the rituals and sanskars are similar everywhere.



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Fundamentals of Unity in Diversity

9. Social Unity. It is a well-known fact that Indian society is diversified. In dress, food-habit and customs, the northern Indians are quite different from the southern Indian people. However, there are certain common factors that guide all the societies of India. Treatment of guests, offering alms to beggars, to help others at the times of need, to show mercy to the poor, destitute and needy etc. are certain common practices found in every Indian society. The magnanimity of Indian society is well recognized by all the people of the world. For this greatness, the Indian society has received commendation from the tourists who came to visit India from abroad.



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Fundamentals of Unity in Diversity

10. Political Unity. Article 1 of the Indian constitution speaks, “India that is Bharat shall be a union of states”. This political unity is not recent It had its origin in the long past. For the first time India was united under one umbrella by the redoubtable leadership of Chandragupta Maurya. Right from him, the concept of ‘Rajachkravartin or the Paramount Sovereign’ began to evolve and Chandragupta, Ashoka, Samudragupta, Harsavardhan, Akbar and many others maintained it.



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11. Even after the British conquest of India, this political unity was maintained like today with uniform pattern of law, penal code, administrative works etc. everywhere inside the country. The concepts of 'Danda Samata' (uniformity of penal code) and 'Vyavahara Samata' (uniformity in judicial procedure) invoked by Ashoka became the ideal for all the rulers of India. No Mughal rule, British rule or the present democratic set up of India could escape it. Thus, politically India remained one, remains one and will remain one in future.



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12. Emotional Unity. Emotional unity plays its own part. The name of “Bharat Mata” brings us closer and closer together. In spite of different languages and dialects, Sanskrit, the language of Vedas, brings us all together because Sanskrit is the mother of all languages.



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13. The outstanding features of Indian culture responsible for bringing unity in diversity may be summarized as follows:

- (a) We Indians lay emphasis on spirituality, not on material wealth.
- (b) Religion has the most important place in India. We believe in Karma and Sanskar. Performance of duty is our religion.
- (c) Religious tolerance is the unique feature of religions in India. Hence there is less difficulty in coexistence of followers of different religions.
- (d) Hinduism which is practiced by majority of the population has the capacity to absorb all good cultures. It has either absorbed the immigrant cultures or has largely influenced them.
- (e) We have a very broad outlook. We preach and follow religion and spiritualism without ignoring married life and worldly things.
- (f) We firmly believe in freedom of thought and freedom of expression because such freedom enriches the culture which then becomes dynamic.



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Role of NCC In Nation Building

14. The nation is proud of National Cadet Corps and its activities in facilitating and moulding the character of the youth and contribution towards nation building. NCC has nurtured millions of young boys and girls as responsible, disciplined and motivated citizens of our country. NCC is an image of secularism and national integration and also espouses the ethos of nationalism thus strengthening the basic fibre of a strong India. NCC moulds the youth of today into worthy future citizens of the country. It has excellent credentials in transforming our youth, in building their character and inculcating in them a sense of duty, discipline and service to the nation.



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Role of NCC In Nation Building

15. The National Cadet Corps (NCC) holds a golden key for all-round growth and transformation of our youth. What began in the year 1917, as the University Corps, after many changes and overhauls through the years, has come to be known as the National Cadet Corps since November 1948. Today, with over 13.8 lac cadets, both boys and girls, from over 15700 colleges and schools, inclusive of those in remote and far flung areas, on its roll, the NCC is projected as the largest disciplined, uniformed youth organisation in the world. From a modest beginning, the NCC has blossomed into a truly All India Corps, covering almost all the districts in our country, including the Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep groups of islands. Its motto is 'unity and discipline'.



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Role of NCC In Nation Building

16. The NCC has been instrumental in imparting quality training to millions of boys and girls and developing the personality of our youth, many of whom have marched ahead in life and excelled in their chosen fields thereby, contributing immensely towards nation building and national integrity. Imbibed with the spirit of patriotism and selfless service, NCC cadets have been contributing towards strengthening forces of national unity, equality and secularism. This is an ever-ongoing process and the organisation remains committed to strive for its very best in this noble endeavour.



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Cadet's Role

17. Every NCC Cadet as an individual can contribute substantially in the process of nation building by adopting the following measures: -

(a) Contributing to Adult Education. The cadets are trained on various subjects of national importance. This exposure helps the nation to have a trained pool of resources in imparting adult education in a country where illiteracy is widespread.



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(b) Social Service Activities. One of the major roles of NCC is to provide social service towards the citizens of the country. NCC has adopted community development activities with the aim of absorbing amongst cadets' selfless service toward the society, importance of self help, need to protect the environment and to assist weaker sections of the society towards their upliftment. This is done through various programmes aimed at helping out society and in the mean time building a zeal among the cadets towards helping out their society, community and country. The activities of the NCC towards social service may include:

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- (i) Tree plantation drives to ensure climatic balance.
- (ii) Blood donation camps aimed at collecting blood to help out those in urgent need.
- (iii) Campaigning against the Dowry in the form of different Rallies.
- (iv) Pledge against Female Foeticide.
- (v) Anti Leprosy Drive to educate people about the disease and also giving information about cure
- (vi) AIDS Awareness Rally to spread information about this disease and also giving information about some prevention tips.
- (vii) Visits to Old Age Homes and spending some quality time there with senior citizens providing help in slum clearance.
- (vii) Disaster Management & Relief at the time of occurrence



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



(c) Promoting the National language. As per the directive principles of Indian constitution Hindi as a national language must be promoted throughout the country without affecting other languages. It is effectively possible through the NCC Cadets because they are trained by Armed Forces personnel coming from different parts of the country.



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



(d) Treating All Human Beings as Equal. The motto of NCC is **Unity and Discipline**. The main part of its training focuses on building a better character for the individual. It will help the cadets to treat all human beings as equals irrespective of their caste, creed or colour.

(e) Respecting All Religious Institutes. India is a multi-religious country. It respects every religion. To keep the secularism moving, consistent effort is needed from the side of the youth. It is effectively done by NCC Cadets.



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



Conclusion

18. Youth is that spark which needs ignition and NCC is an ideal platform for its blossoming. Ever since its inception, the NCC has made immense contributions towards nation-building and promotion of social harmony in our country. NCC as an organisation has unified the youth, not only of our country, but has made significant efforts to interact with the youth of other countries through YEP.



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



Introduction

1. While Indian economy has registered phenomenal growth of 9.4%, spectre of internal and external threats is haunting the nation. The entire growth process will come to a screeching halt if security concerns are not timely and adequately addressed. Manifestations of threat range from communal/sectarian violence to jihadi terrorism, separatist insurgencies in northeast and Naxalite extremist militancy



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



National Security

2. National security is the security of a country within its borders. This basically implies maintenance of peace and law and order, and upholding sovereignty of the country within its territory.



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



3. National security is different from external security to the extent that external security is security against aggression by a foreign country. External security is solely the responsibility of the armed forces of the country, while National security comes under the purview of the police, which can be supported by the Central Armed Police Forces, if required.



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



4. In India, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) takes care of internal security, while external security comes under the Ministry of Defence. In many countries, MHA is also called the Ministry of Internal Affairs or Ministry of Homeland Security.



Classification of Threat

5. India's national security threat perceptions are a mix of all two shades of threats given below:-

- (a) Internal.
- (b) External.



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



Internal Threats

6. There are various reasons, both historical and non-historical, which cause problems for our internal security. However, a few root causes are mentioned below:



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



- (a) Poverty
- (b) Unemployment
- (c) Inequitable growth
- (d) Widening gap between haves and have nots
- (e) Failure on administrative front or Governance deficit
- (f) Increasing communal divide
- (g) Increasing caste awareness and caste tensions
- (h) Rise of contentious politics based on sectarian, ethnic, linguistic or other divisive criteria
- (j) Porous borders
- (k) Poor criminal justice system and large-scale corruption leading to nexus between criminals, police and politicians with the result that organised crime goes on unabated.



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



External Threats

Cross-border threats

7. Most external threats emanate from an unsettled boundary dispute with China and ongoing cross-border jihadi terrorism in J&K sponsored and supported by ISI and Pakistan-based Islamist fundamentalist organizations like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad who, in turn, are inextricably linked with international jihadi groups like Taliban and Al Qaida. 30

8. Threat from Bangladesh assumes serious dimensions since it became a base for northeast insurgent groups like ULFA and Naga factions. Of late, it has also been serving as a conduit for ISI sponsored infiltration of terrorists along India and Bangladesh's porous border.



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



External Threats

9. To cap it, nuclear threat from neighbouring states and from jihadi groups have the potential of using nuclear weapons in the foreseeable future, significant being China-Pakistan nuclear nexus.



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



Jihadi Terrorism

10. However, what concerns India most is their nexus with Pak-based jihadi organizations and the ISI. Some security analysts suspect the hand of HUIJI behind the recent bomb blast at Hyderabad's Mecca Masjid.

11. Terrorism is not confined to state boundaries alone and has spread to Southeast Asia where Buddhist societies in Thailand and Myanmar have turned soft targets. Even in Muslim dominated countries like Malaysia and Indonesia, fundamentalist jihadi terrorists have struck deep roots. China too is facing threat from jihadi terrorism in its autonomous region of Xinjiang which has a strong Muslim population.



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



Jihadi Terrorism

12. In India, jihadi movement which created Pakistan in 1947 is yet to finish its agenda. This is manifested in the three Indo-Pak wars and the current low intensity war being conducted by ISI with support of Pak-based jihadi outfits. War against Islamist jihadi terrorism cannot be won, unless we purge vote bank politics from our polity.



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



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NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



13. The China-Pakistan nuclear nexus has come to stay and is a source of constant threat to Indian security. The real problem lies in the intention of a nuclear-capable nation, in that whether it seeks to use nuclear fuel in its reactors to produce clean environment-friendly nuclear energy for economic development or it has designs to reprocess spent fuel for use of nuclear weapons of mass destruction.



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



Attributes of National Security

14. The main attributes of National security are:

- (a) Secure territorial integrity and protect internal sovereignty
- (b) Maintain domestic peace
- (c) Prevalence of law and order
- (d) Rule of law and equality before law—law of the land should protect everyone irrespective of status
- (e) Absence of fear from the feared implying individual freedom for people as guaranteed by the Constitution
- (f) Peaceful co-existence and communal harmony



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



Doctrine

15. National security doctrine includes the following key elements:

- (a) Political
- (b) Socio-economic
- (c) Governance
- (d) Police & Security Forces
- (e) Centre-State Coordination
- (f) Intelligence
- (g) Border Management
- (h) Cyber Security



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



Political

16. First, we need to know the nature of the challenge to our internal security. It could be secessionist, separatist or even regional in nature. We have to analyse the causative factors of various types of movements and see whether the demands are within the constitutional framework or not. 3

17. As a matter of principle, we have to deal the secessionist movements with a heavy hand. Separatist elements have to be kept at a distance. We need a clear policy with stringent laws to deal with such elements. On the other hand, regional aspirations and ethnic demands require reasonably softer and sympathetic approach.



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NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



Socio Economic

18. Socio-economic factors are also at the back of many movements which are big threats to the internal security of the country. Many a time, there are genuine socio-economic grievances of a section of the society arising from acute poverty, unemployment and displacement. In such cases, our approach has to be different.

19. We need to analyse the factors causing the socio-economic grievances and address all the connected issues. Equitable growth and development are the spirit of our Constitution. Therefore, we have to ensure that development reaches all sections of the society and there are no regional disparities.



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



Governance

20. Lack of good governance also provides a tool in the hands of anti-establishment elements, who pose a challenge to the internal security of the country. Such elements take advantage of mismanagement and corruption in government schemes, poor implementation of laws and absence of government machinery in the remote areas.

21. Governance on all fronts becomes an issue whether it is civil administration or policing of the area or the whole of criminal justice system. It is the duty of the state to control all the malaise in governance and provide good governance to the remotest of the areas and control corruption. Otherwise, development of remote areas will be nearly impossible.



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Police and Security Forces

22. It has been seen that, at times allegations of police atrocities and police indifference towards people's problems, aggravate internal security problems. We have seen many a time that agitations are directed against the police or the security forces. Demand for removal of AFSPA is one such example. Police needs to be sensitized so that it becomes people friendly.

23. We need to carry out police reforms so that the police are seen as a neutral, transparent and professional body. Other security forces aiding state police also need to increase their understanding of the local situation and maintain highest order of efficiency. They need to coordinate with the state police and help achieve overall goal of maintaining the internal security.



Centre-State Coordination

24. Lack of center-state coordination also leads to many problems related to internal security. This coordination problem exists in all areas from intelligence to operations. We need to develop an institutional framework which resolves all these center-state coordination problems and ensures synergy at all levels.



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



Intelligence

25. Intelligence is a major component of Internal Security. We need to be alert against external as well as internal enemies posing a threat to the internal security of the country. Most of the big operations have the back up support of intelligence.

26. We need to have defensive as well as offensive intelligence to forewarn, neutralize the impending threats and take proactive steps wherever required. We also need to have regular institutional framework to compile, collate and act on intelligence received from various agencies. Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) has made a good beginning in this direction.



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Border Management

27. The country has land borders with seven countries (practically six due to PoK issue) stretching nearly 15,000 km. We have had wars on three sides of our land borders with China, Pakistan and East Pakistan (presently Bangladesh). We also had infiltration problems through Punjab and Kashmir borders, illegal immigration problems through Bangladesh and smuggling of weapons through Indo-Myanmar border.

28. Kashmiri militants have been taking shelter in PoK while North-East extremists are taking shelter in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar. Therefore, we need to guard our land borders effectively to prevent infiltration by terrorists, illegal immigration, smuggling of weapons and drugs etc. Coastal security also needs special attention and we need to ensure that the roles of Navy, Coast Guard and Coastal Police are clearly defined and all of them work in harmony with each other.



NATIONAL INTEGRATION: IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY



Cyber Security

29. The Snowden revelations (WikiLeaks) of 2013 have made it evident that future wars will not be traditional wars which are fought on land, water and air. In fact, it appears that cyber space will be the theatre of warfare in the 21st Century. Therefore, any solid doctrine on internal security needs to cover this front also. India has just made a beginning in this direction. We need to cover a lot of distance before we could say that we have a safe cyber space.