

NATIONAL INTEGRATION



We learn about the following in this chapter,

- Meaning of Nationalism.
- The factors which enable unity in diversity in our country.
- The factors which enable National Integration.

NATIONALISM :

The word Nationalism is derived from the word Nation. The deciding factors of Nationalism are :

1. The people who think their living land is their motherland.
2. The feeling of brotherhood among the people and equal participation of people in nations Joy and Sorrows.

Such people are called Nationalists and the feeling is known as Nationalism.

We can see the feeling of Nationalism among Indians since olden days. The feeling of Nationalism motivated the people to fight against the foreign invaders particularly Britishers.

National Integration :

National integration refers to that situation where all the people of the country feel they are one although there are differences with regard to race, religion, culture and language. Such a feeling of unity among the people is necessary to build a strong nation.



India is a vast nation, ranking second in the world with regard to population. Nearly 1652 languages and dialects are spoken by the people of this country. Among these, 22 languages have been given official language status by our Constitution. There are many facilities provided to every citizen to learn his mother tongue in the area he

resides. One unique feature of our nation is the freedom citizens enjoy to practise the religion they desire (ex:Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism and Zoroastrianism). Similarly, citizens have the freedom to dress, eat and interact with each other in the way they want. Further, though there is geographical and natural diversity, politically we are all united and follow the same Constitution.

Unity in Diversity: In spite of all differences in various aspects, India stands on a foundation of unity. Beneath all geographical, social, linguistic, cultural, political, religious and racial variations are hidden certain common aspects of the Indian lifestyle. Uniform administrative system, efficient communication tools and modern education system have enabled Indians to nurture a feeling of oneness.

Factors which enable unity in diversity:

Geographical unity: The Himalayan Mountain Range, the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea have cut India off from the rest of the world and made us feel one naturally. Further, the chanting of the national anthems by all Indians enable us to achieve solidarity.

Political unity : We have a common Constitution, uniform law, similar educational system, uniform judicial system, and a strong Central Government. These factors have enabled us to enjoy a sense of unity.

Religious unity : People of different religions like Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Islam and Zoroastrianism practice their religion without any fear, and also respect one another's religion. This has also contributed to the feeling of oneness.

Linguistic unity : India is a land of many languages. Samskrit is the origin to many languages. Every State has its own language and literature. People of one language respect people speaking other languages. This factor too aid in fostering unity.

Cultural unity : Though there are different religions and people of different areas practise their own customs, traditions, have their own style of dressing, cooking and living, there is harmony among people of India.

Thus, amidst diversity there is unity among Indians. The feeling of 'We are all one' is deep-rooted in the mind of every Indian. Indians promoting national integration.

Factors promoting national integration

1. Secularism : India is a secular country. It is not against any religion. This means that every citizen enjoys the freedom to practice the religion he desires. India has not declared any religion as the national religion, but treats every religion as equal. This factor contributes to national integration.

2. Democracy : India is a democratic nation and all citizens are equal before the law. As has been explained before, the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy emphasise that all are equal. There can be no discrimination among people on the basis of religion, caste, language or culture. The fact that this rule has been enshrined in the Constitution makes our country an integrated one.

3. National Festivals : National festivals like Independence Day, Republic Day, Gandhi Jayanti etc. bring people together during their celebrations. All Indians celebrate these festivals regardless of their religion, language and culture.

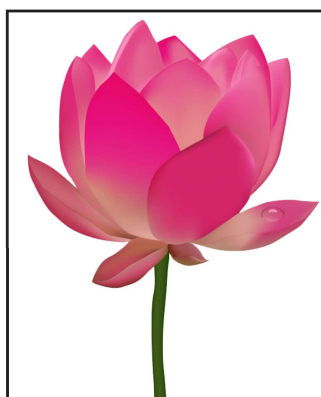
4. Our National Symbols : Our national symbols or emblems like the National Anthem, National Flag, National Animal National Bird. National flower etc. enable us to identify ourselves as belonging to one nation. During times of emergency or threat to the country, these symbols unite the people and build solidarity among them.



National Symbol



National Bird - Peacock



National Flower - Lotus



National Animal - Tiger

5. Interdependence : The Central and the State Governments work together to achieve common goals of the nation. Produce grown in one part of the country helps in its economic development when that produce is sold in another part of the country. Ex: The wheat grown in Punjab is sold in Tamil Nadu. Cotton grown in Gujarat is marketed in Bihar. This shows that no part of the country can find

development without depending on other parts of the country. This fact proves that all of us belong to one nation.

Apart from the above-mentioned factors, communication methods, mass media, natural features contribute to a feeling of oneness although there is a variety of cultures, regionalism, different religions and languages in our country.

Activity :

Write a note on improving the national integration in your school through different programmes.

EXERCISES

I. Fill in the blanks with suitable words.

1. India is a secular country and so does not oppose any _____.
2. Communalism is a major obstacle to _____.
3. Republic Day is a _____ festival.
4. India considered _____ languages as National languages.
5. Our National Animal is _____.

II. Answer the following questions after group discussion.

1. What is meant by 'Nationalism'?
2. What do you mean by 'National Integration'?
3. Which are the factors that lead to unity in diversity?
4. Which are the factors that promoting national integration?

III. Activities :

1. Draw pictures illustrating unity in diversity and display in your school.
2. Collect information about the manner in which festivals are celebrated among people of different religion in your area and write about them.

IV. Projects :

1. Collect photographs that promote national integration.
2. Collect religious texts which encourage national unity.

