

Man is a social being. He cannot even think of having an independent existence. What Aristotle said centuries ago was the same: "Man lives in family, villages and cities. Not as an isolated being." We have studied about the social life of man.

All people are members of one or other group. Just think about the various groups which you belong to. The following may be some of these groups.

- Family
 - Society
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 - Peer group
 - Community
- Family is the smallest and the most basic group of man. Family protects us. It helps socialisation. It maintains emotional relationship among members.
 - We have seen that society means social relations. We are related to those who are around us directly and indirectly.
 - We usually use the terms like Hindu Community, Muslim Community, Christian Community etc. But what the 'community' means according to sociology is a group of people who inhabit a region by mingling with each other. There is no territorial limit in community. That is the major difference between society and community.

A village or town is formed by a number of families. Villages or towns have specific boundaries. Hence a village or town can be considered as a community (village community/ town community).

- Nation, State

A nation is said to be born when a group of people living in a particular territory develop a political form with a sense of unity and determine their political future. For example, in India there exists a political form based on democracy. The people of India decide their political fortune through elections. The concept of nation arises when national consciousness emerges among individuals. Nation state is a political association. It has certain features.

- Definite boundary
- Membership
- Set of rules
- Citizenship
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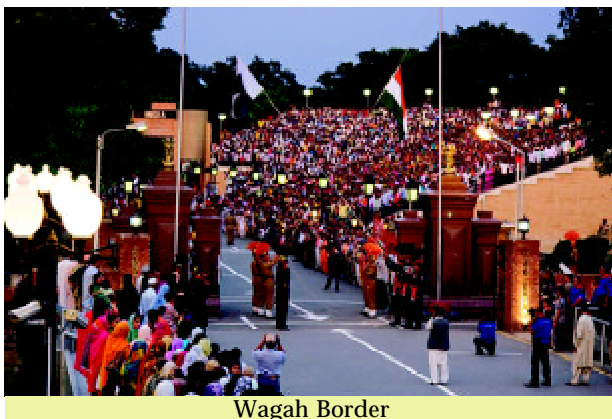
Nation includes people, territory and government.

- Nation as a community

Each nation has its own boundary and set of rules. Therefore, a nation can be treated as a community. Nation constitutes the largest community among all the groups of man.

India as a state

On 15th August 1947, India became a free state.

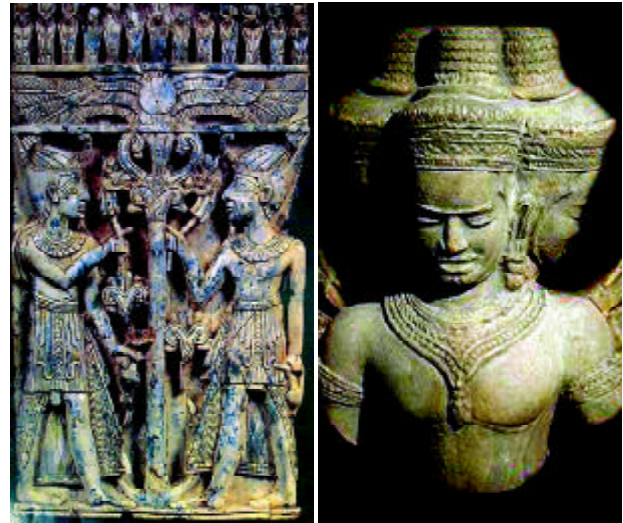


Wagah Border

India remains as a multicultural state consisting of different languages, religions, races and castes. This caused the rise of different cultures within India.

Culture

Each group of people follows its own culture. By culture is meant the sum total of what exists in a society with regard to dress,



language, customs, practices and beliefs. The culture which exists in India is multcentric. But, it is these elements of culture that unite India. That is the reason why the principle "unity in diversity" suits Indian society and culture.

In the words of Nehru the Indian state is based on the principle of unity in diversity.

Language

In the schedule of the Indian constitution twenty one approved languages are included. But there are several other languages and about two thousand dialects in India. The languages recognised by the Indian constitution, those which are not and the variety of dialects can be categorised as Indo Aryan, Dravidian and Munda languages.

Indo Aryan	Dravidian	Munda
Sanskrit	Malayalam	Chatisgarh
Assamese	Tamil	Santhali
Hindi
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Complete the chart by finding out more examples.



In the north Indian regions there existed Prakrit with local variations. In south India there exists regional languages belonging to the Dravidian family. India's continuous relations with west Asia brought Arabic and Persian languages. As a result of this relation there originated a new language called Urdu.

Castes

The distinct feature of Indian society is the existence of a variety of castes. We have

already studied about the origin of caste system. There are about three thousand castes and sub castes among the Hindus. Similar kinds of divisions can be seen within other religions also. The caste like divisions among the Muslims of Laccadives are the Koya, Melecheri and Malmi.

Races

The social scientists consider India as an ethnological museum. Several races like Negrito, Mongloid, Mediterranean etc had inhabited in our country. The western limit of the migration of the Mongloid race which inhabited the far East and South East Asia was India. Those who migrated from the west include the Aryan language speaking people and the Mediterranean races. Present-day Indians are the descendents of those who have migrated from different parts of the world and also the earliest inhabitants of India. It is very difficult to identify as to who descended from which race or group. In Kerala there are the *Irular*, *Kadar*, *Malappoularas* etc, who belong to the Proto-Astroloid race. The human groups have intermingled with each one another so much that it is difficult for any group to claim racial purity.



Religions

Demographic statistics based on religion

80.5%	- Hindus
13.4%	- Muslims
2.3%	- Christians
3.8%	- Others

(Census Report, 2001)



There are many people in India who cannot be included in the above category. Prepare a list of them.

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Thus independent India came into being as a country of diverse castes, races, languages, religions etc. In spite of this, how does India exist as a state with unity?

Let us see what are the factors which contribute to this unity.

Nationalism

Is nationalism an emotional attachment to the nation? Many definitions can be given to describe nationalism. Let us examine some of them.



- Nationalism is the membership in a state and its identification.
- Nationalism is the unity of the people constituted by certain factors like class, language, religion and culture.
- Nationalism is an ideological feeling among people based on certain common identities.

You have learnt that nationalism can be classified as aggressive nationalism and defensive nationalism. Aggressive nationalism existed in imperialist nations. Indian nationalism developed as defensive nationalism.

Indian nationalism is different from that of other countries.

Indian nationalism developed not on the basis of religion, caste, regionalism or race. It came into being as a result of the peculiar circumstances of the 19th century. Several factors have contributed to it. Let us examine them.

Historical Factors

India consisted of several princely states, both big and small, before the advent of Europeans. Though there were some cultural similarities, the advent of Europeans, especially the British, had helped India to become a nation state. Indian nationalism emerged out of opposition to the British in the 19th century. According to A.R. Desai, the eminent sociologist, two factors had contributed to the emergence of Indian nationalism.



Struggle for Independence

- (1) British administration
- (2) Cultural unity

Geographical Factors

The role of geographical features is great in the emergence of Indian nationalism. Bharat is the territory which lies within the limits of the Himalayas in the north, the Bay of Bengal in the east, the Arabian Sea in the west and the Indian ocean in the south.

The geographical factors of India have helped to save the country from unrestrained foreign aggressions and at the same time enabled interaction with other cultures.

Nature has provided the country enough resources to lead a contented life. The divergent natural features and climate have created a feeling among the people to respect and recognise the cultural diversities.

Cultural Factors

Though there were diversities, the people learnt to co-exist for the necessities of life. Idealism and materialism developed as part of Indian philosophy. India was able to assimilate the religions which originated in India and those which came from abroad owing to these features. The various cultures which reached India have contributed much to Indian society. Indian culture is the sum total of the essence of the different cultures of the world.

Social Factors

Indian society has grown out of the mutual dependence of various groups. Caste originated out of division of labour. Division of labour helped the growth of society. The Jajmani system is an example of this. Jajmani is the system of co-operation among the various castes.

In this system the service provider is called 'Kameen' and the recipient is called 'Jajman'.

Vassalage

Vassalage is the practice of servility to a land lord family and supervision of the agricultural activities of the lord. Vassalage is not slavery. But the people serve their master like a slave. Vassalage was practised as a tradition.



Prepare a note of the vassalage system which prevailed in Kerala.

Secularism

India is a secular state. India has no state religion as in the case of many other countries. Each religion has the freedom to follow its rites and propagate them. All religions are considered equal and are respected.

Secularism

- Gives primary importance to humanism
- Secularism is not against values or ethics.
- It is an ingredient of modernism.



What are the things that can be done to foster secularism?

Indian Constitution

The ideological base of Indian constitution is secularism. All citizens are equal before law. Privileges based on birth have been abolished. No consideration is given to religion, language, caste, race or religion. The constitution recognised that the diversities in India are to be maintained and for that decentralisation is necessary.

Indian nationalism is rooted in the principle of unity in diversity which is beyond the considerations of caste, religion and language.



Discuss how days of national significance can be observed by maintaining secularism.



Expression of Nationalism

We express our patriotism and nationalism by commemorating the heroic deeds of the freedom fighters and other martyrs who worked hard for the sake of our country.

In which other occasions do we express our nationalism? Think it over. Find out the situations.

National Symbols

The national symbols of India invoke national consciousness and the sense of

unity. The national symbols are to be respected and protected. Disrespect to them is punishable!

Excessive Nationalism

Human history teaches us that no nation and no people can exist in isolation. Excessive nationalism will lead to hatred towards other countries and to conflicts. We have seen in history that Hitler and Mussolini exploited used this feeling. Money which is to be spent for development is misused by waging war. One cannot ignore the horrors thrust upon posterity by the world wars.

National Integration

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.

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.

Towards National Integration

National integration is the creation of a feeling of oneness where the diversities are recognised and respected by imbibing a sense of nationhood.

Certain questions may come up when we think of national integration.

Can we achieve national integration by attaining economic equality? Aren't there antinational feelings among economically well off people?

Can socio-economic changes and national integration be achieved through right planning alone?

Can it be achieved only by propagating the ideas of religious cooperation and harmony? When these factors are taken into consideration, it can be seen that national integration is a complex problem and political integration is only one part of it. At the same time socio-economic and cultural differences are to be avoided also.

Challenges of Indian National Integration

Certain factors stand against the all round integration of our nation.

Regionalism

Regionalism gives more importance to one's own region than to one's nation. When regionalism is linked with language and religion it creates regional interests rather than national interests. This creates parochialism among the people.


Casteism

Casteism is a divisive force. One section considers another section as inferior. They are exploited. Positions and opportunities are monopolised by a particular section. It creates enmity among the other castes. Caste organisations interfere in politics. They function as pressure groups and obtain benefits undeservedly. These factors prevent national integration.

Communalism

Communalism is not believing in any particular religion or observing its rites. Excessive affinity to one's own religion transforms into hatred towards other religions. Thus religious fanaticism arises. When religion, caste and race are used to make social and political gains, it is called communalism.

The real cause of communalism lies in political and economic factors. The partition of India is an instance for the intervention of religion in politics.



Let us discuss the various means to face communalism which hinders social progress.

- Secularism
- Progressive education
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വിഭജനകാലത്തെ പലായനം

Another problem faced by India was the linguistic reorganisation of the states. In 1956 the states were reorganised on linguistic basis. Agitations are going on in many parts of India demanding state reorganisation. Linguistic jingoism has become an important factor which hinders national integration.

Linguistic claims

We have seen that the Indian constitution recognises 22 languages. Hindi is the official language and English is the link language. About 2000 languages are spoken by the various sections of the Indian people. When India became free the decision to make Hindi the national language was opposed by people of many other languages. There was an anti- Hindi agitation in Tamil Nadu.

Three Language Formula

The three language formula was put forward for promoting national integration and exchange among states. The formula was that in Hindi speaking areas Hindi, English and any one of the mother tongues shall be included in the school curriculum. In non Hindi speaking areas the mother tongue, Hindi and English shall be used.

Extremism

Extremism is the act of spreading fear by threatening the people through illegal means to obtain selfish interests. It ignores human values. The feeling that they do not get what they deserved, unemployment, lack of proper education and inadequate means of livelihood lead to extremism.

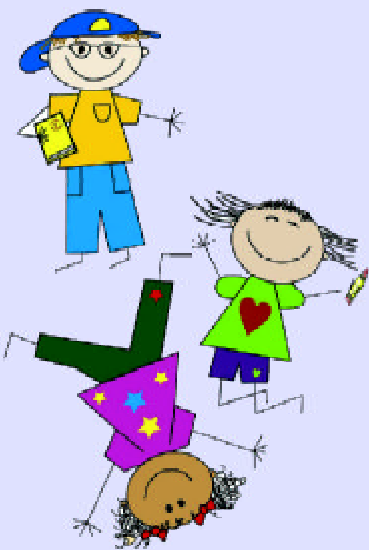
National integration fosters nationalism. It is opposed to communalism, linguistic jingoism, regionalism and similar fissiparous forces.

National Integration Day



India observes 19th November, the birthday of former Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, as National Integration Day. Its main aim is to promote among the peoples unity, peace, affection and brotherhood. On 31st October 1984, Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her own body guards. She was the victim of the demand for the separation of Khalistan.

Activities



- What are your suggestions for improving Indian secularism?
 - Find out the factors in our daily life which hinder national integration. Eg: Dress, language etc.
 - Organise a seminar on the factors which hamper national integration.
 - Design and organise programmes which promote national integration.
 - National flag, Asoka Chakra etc are our important national symbols. Prepare an album of national symbols.
- On the basis of Jawaharlal Nehru remark that “Communalism in the Indian edition of fascism,” Compare communalism and fascism.
 - Several literary works have been produced on the theme of nationalism. Prepare an edition of such works.
 - Find out some of the instances of extremism faced by our nation. Discuss how to solve them.
- Eg:
- Kashmir problems
 - Bodo problems
 - Khalistan demand
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