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NATIONAL INTEGRATION: CONCEPT AND CHALLENGE

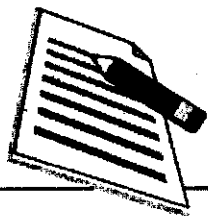
When you fill up a form for admission or apply for a job, there is a word nationality or nation. In front of that column don't we write 'Indian'. That means we know that India is our nation and our nationality is Indian. Our nation is not only a geographical entity, it is a body of people sharing the sentiments of belongingness. Whenever our nation faces threat or, some major calamity happens, don't we all stand together with a sense of emotional oneness to fight against evil forces and unnatural situation?. We try our best to help our nation in our own way, irrespective of region, language, religion and creed etc. Thus we all play a vital role in national integration. National integration is a positive belief, which helps in progress, development and social. Even our Constitution, our flag and national anthem make the whole country one. But at present our national integrity is facing challenges in the form of left extremism and terrorism. Besides these, regionalism, communalism, religious fanaticism and linguism are challenging national integration. In this lesson, we are going to study about what we mean by nation and what is national integration and what challenges does it face in our country.



OBJECTIVES

After reading this lesson, you will be able to:

- define nation and national integration;
- recognise the concept of communalism;
- understand the concept of regionalism;
- explain the concept of linguism; and
- state the challenges before National Integration.



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25.1 CONCEPT OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION

Before coming to the concept of nation and national integration, let us define both the terms.

A Nation is a country with a unified social and political structure. A Nation denotes a body of people who have a feeling of oneness. This feeling of oneness is built on the basis of common history, society, common values and culture. Above all, the feeling of oneness among the people bind them together into a nation.

India is a nation. It is a land inhabited by people of different communities. They live in different regions and speak different languages. They practise different religions and have different life styles. But underlying all these diversities we feel that we are Indians. The feeling of oneness is strengthened by economic and political interdependence.

National integration is a positive aspect. It reduces socio-cultural and economic differences or inequalities and strengthens national unity and solidarity, which is not imposed by any authority. People share ideas, values and emotional bonds. It is feeling of unity within diversity. National identity is supreme. Cultural unity, Constitution, territorial continuity, common economic problems, art, literature, national festivals, national flag, national anthem and national emblem etc. promote National Integration.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 25.1

Fill in the blanks with suitable words from the bracket

1. A nation is a country with social and political structure (unified/un-unified)
2. The people of a nation have a belief of oneness (common/uncommon)
3. National integration creates feeling (regional/national)
4. National integration is a feeling of (unity within diversity/diversities within unity)
5. National integration is of communal out look by national out look (taking up/giving up)

25.2 COMMUNALISM

Communalism means placing one's own community above others, even above the nation. You might have seen temples, mosques, gurudwaras and churches where Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians visit to offer prayers and worship. As you know Hindus celebrate Durgapuja, Diwali, Holi and Ramnavami. You would have seen Muslims celebrating Id, Bakrid and observing Ramjan. Sikhs celebrate Gurupurnima as Gurparb, Christians celebrate Christmas and Easter. You would have also seen shrines dedicated to Lord Buddha. These indicate clearly that the people of different religions live in our country. Our government has declared these occasions as national festivals. There is no harm in practising one's own religion because it does not indicate that an individual practising his own religion is less secular. The fault lies in placing one's own community above the others and forgetting loyalty. The term communalism has always been used in a negative, destructive and harmful sense. Religious fundamentalism and fanaticism practised by some people in different communities pose serious threat to our national integration.

Unfortunately, our country has witnessed ugly scenes of communal riots on many occasions not only between two communities, but between communities. Massive communal riots had taken place in 1946-47 at the time of partition of our country. Our country has also witnessed Hindu - Sikh riots in 1984 after the assassination of Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi. Again our country witnessed a wave of communal riots in 1992 after the demolition of the Babri mosque. The recent 2002 Gujarat riot has tarnished our secular image before the world community.

In the wake of communal riots, we forget our national identity and start behaving as fanatics. We breed hatred and jealousy towards the people of other religions. The people of religious group damage life and property of other religious group. Both groups involved in communal riots forget their common national identity. Just a feeling of hatred is there.

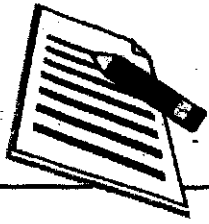
INTEXT QUESTIONS 25.2

Write true or false for the following.

1. Communalism means placing one's own community above the others (True/False)
2. Muslims celebrate Id and observe Ramjan (True/False)



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3. Easter is a festival of Christians (True/False)
4. In communal riots, we forget our national feeling and national identity (True/False)
5. We breed jealousy and hatred in communal ritos (True/False)

25.3 LINGUISM

Linguism is excessive love and bias in favour of people who speak a particular language. You might have met people speaking Hindi, English, Bengali, Kannad, Telugu, Malayalm, Marathi and Gujrati etc. Different languges spoken by the people of our nation reveals clearly that India is a multi-lingual nation. We have 18 different languages in schedule VIII of our Constitution. Hindi and English are our official languages. Each language has its literature and script. Linguism Limits the people speaking the same language.

Language and culture are inseparable. Language is the carrier of culture. It carries culture from one generation to the next and from one group to another. The teaching of a language to people speaking another language promotes the feeling of integration. But conflict often occurs over the relative status of language. This parochial tendency destroys the feeling of national integration. Our country has witnessed lingual riots in Tamil Nadu in 1964 and Assam 1967.

Like communalism, the term linguism is used in a negative sense. Lingual patterns pose a threat to national integration.

18 principal languages and their percentage in total population are being presented to make the learners understand the lingual situation of our nation.

Sl. No.	Langauge	Speakers percentage 1981 (census)
1.	Hindi	42.9
2.	Bengali	8.3
3.	Telugu	8.2
4.	Marathi	8.0
5.	Tamil	7.6
6.	Urdu	5.7
7.	Gujarati	5.4
8.	Malayalam	4.2

9.	Kannad	4.2
10.	Oriya	3.7
11.	Punjabi	3.2
12.	Assamese	2.2
13.	Sindhi	1.6
14.	Kashmiri	0.3

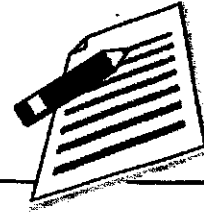
INTEXT QUESTIONS 25.3

Choose the correct one from the following:

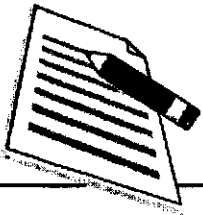
1. Lingual riots in Tamil Nadu had taken place in the year.
a) 1963 b) 1964 c) 1965 d) None
2. Lingual riots in Assam had occurred in the year.
a) 1966 b) 1967 c) 1968 d) None
3. The percentage of people speaking Hindi in our country is
a) 41.0 b) 42.0 c) 42.9 d) None
4. Our official Language is
a) Urdu b) Sanskrit c) Hindi and English d) None
5. What do we breed in communal riots?
a) Love b) National Loyalty
c) Hatred and Jealousy d) None

25.4 REGIONALISM

Regionalism is a feeling of pride and loyalty that people belonging to a region have. It is sometimes associated with a feeling of superiority of belonging to one region as compared to those belonging to other regions. Region is an area the inhabitants of which have a sense of unity on the basis of language, culture and economic interests. Regionalism is regional loyalty in place of national loyalty. Regionalism gives a negative feeling among the people of a region towards the people of other regions. Regionalism encourages the demand



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of regional autonomy. It also leads to the demand for the creation of new state. It favours the son of soil theory.

We Indians live in different States and Union territories. Each State or Union Territory has its own geographical boundary. Each state also has its own natural and human resources. But within the State, demands for the creation of separate small States are being raised. Regional political parties demand for the creation of separate State are based on narrow personal interests. They also lay emphasis on the imbalanced growth and developement of the regions in which they live. They place emphasis upon the son of soil theory for employment and organise movement for regional autonomy and creation of new States.

In November 2000, three new States viz, Chhatisgarh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand were created. The creation of these new States was based on strong regional feeling and loyalty of the people of these regions. Even after the creation of these States, the demands for the creation of more new States have emerged. In the state of U.P., the demands for the creation of Harit Pradesh and Purvanchal are being raised. In the state of Maharashtra, there is a strong demand for the creation of a new Vidarbha state. In the State of Andhra Pradesh, the people of Telangana region are demanding a new Telengana State. Similiarly, in the State of Assam, there is demand for the creation of Bodoland. In the State of Bengal, too, the demand for the creation of Gorkhaland is being raised. The regional parties and leaders associated with the creation of these new regional States are organising movements, dharna and protests etc. in support of their demands. Sometimes, they come in conflict with the people of other regions. They forget their national identity. They get ready to do or die for their regions. They forget their national identity. Such regional loyalty is really very dangerous for national integration.

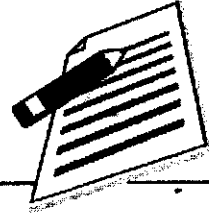
INTEXT QUESTIONS 25.4

Answer the following questions in one sentence.

1. What is regionalism?

2. How is regionalism a negative term?

3. What does regionalism lay emphasis on ?



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4. When were the three new states were created?

5. In which state is the demand for the new Telagana state being raised?

25.5 CHALLENGES TO NATIONAL INTEGRATION

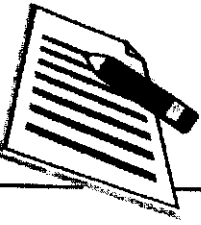
Communalism, linguism and regionalism are the main challenges to national integration in our country. These are negative terms.

So far, in this lesson you have understood the meaning of nation, national integration, communalism, linguism and regionalism. Now let us discuss the challenges to national integration. There is no doubt that national integration is the feeling of oneness among the people of a nation beyond caste, religion, region and language. In other words, it is feeling of unity within diversity. It is above religion, lingual and regional loyalty. But it is unfortunate that the feeling of oneness is hurt by religious, lingual and regional loyalties. On many occasions, communal outlook, lingual favour and regional loyalty pose a serious threat to national integration. So, communalism, linguism and regionalism are the main challenges before our national integration.

In our country the feeling of oneness between Hindus and Muslims have been challenged on many occasions. Although there have been minor communal riots in Bihar, U.P. and other States, but the most cruel scenes of riots had appeared in 1947 and 1992 which had touched almost entire length and breadth of our nation. In communal riots, the people forget that they are Indians. They forget that the people whom they are going to kill are also Indians. They are not influenced by national identity. Religious fundamentalists and fanatics guide them. Some political and religious leaders add fuel to communalism to promote vested interests. Thus, communalism is a challenge to national integration.

Like communalism, linguism also poses a threat to national integration. Lingual loyalty is against the feeling of oneness among the people of a nation. In linguism, the people forget about their national identity and attach more and more importance to their lingual identity. For the relative status of individual languages, they come in conflict and behave like enemy. They develop jealousy and hatred towards the people speaking other languages. They cause damage to lives and properties of other lingual groups. They behave as if they are not Indians. The people of south Indian states prefer English in place of Hindi language. That is why both Hindi and English have been declared as official languages.

Regionalism, like communalism and linguism, is also a challenge to national integration. Regional aspirations of the people articulated by their leaders threaten



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national integration. The regional aspirations and loyalty hurt the feeling of national integration. Regionalism is responsible for the existence of a number of regional political parties. It has sponsored the demand of regional autonomy. It has created new States and is working for the creation of more states.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 25.5

Match the following column A with B

A	B
I) National integration is	D) fuel to communalism.
II) Communalism, linguism and regionalism are	II) the demand of regional autonomy.
III) Political and religious leaders add	III) to their lingual identity.
IV) Regionalism has sponsored	IV) negaive terms
V) In linguism people attach more and more importance	V) feeling of unity within diversity



WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

In this lesson, you have learnt about the following:

- Nation is a body of people sharing the sentiments of belongingness
- National integration is feeling of oneness, which is not imposed by any authority. Thought, feeling and action in this regard come from within.
- Communalism is placing ones own community above othes, even above the nation.
- Linguism is excessive love and bias in favour of the people who speak ones own language
- Regionalism is a strong feeling of unity among the people of a region based on language, culture and economic interests. It in encourageous the demand of regional autonomy and creation of new states.
- Communalism, linguism and regionalism are challenges to national integration. They hurt the feelings of oneness and national identity.

**TERMINAL EXERCISE**

- 1) What do you mean by nation and national integration?
- 2) What is communalism? Why is it a threat to National Integration?
- 3) What is linguism? In what way it is harmful to National Integration?
- 4) What is regionalism? How it is a challenge to National integration?
- 5) What promotes our National integration?

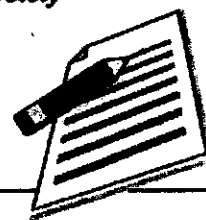
GLOSSARY

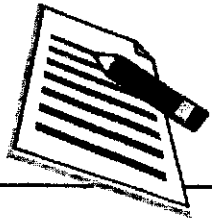
Connotation	–	Meaning
Identity	–	Recognition
Linguism	–	excessive liking and support for the people speaking same language
Nation	–	A body of people bound together by common feeling of oneness.
National Integration	–	Feeling of being together despite cultural, lingual, regional relational diversities.
Regionalism	–	Excessive love and bias for the people of one's own region.
Secularism	–	No distinction on the basis of religion.
Secular	–	Above religion.

**ANSWER TO INTENT QUESTIONS**

- 25.1 (I) Unified (II) common
(III) national Unity within diversity (IV) giving up
- 25.2 (I) True (II) True (III) True
(IV) True (V) True

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- 25.3 (I) b, (II) b, (III) b,
(IV) c and (V) c
- 25.4 (I) Refer to 9.19, (II) Refer to 9.1.1, (III) Refer to 9.1.9
(IV) Refer to 9.1.9 (V) Refer to 9.1.9
- 25.5 A(i)–B(V)–B(IV), A(III)–B(I), A(IV)–B(II), A(V)–B_(III)