

National Integration and Communal Harmony

National integration is the togetherness and oneness felt by the citizens (even though different in caste, creed, religion, culture, language and region, etc). Sardar Patel's effort for the national integration is completely uncompromising in order to make a one nation that is India.

Unity in diversity

India is a great example of unity in diversity and it is multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual country. The preamble of our Constitution states India is a Secular country. It gives its citizens the freedom to practice any religion of their own choice. People belonging to different culture and religions, shares common platform to understand each other's cultural and religious beliefs which in turn fosters the feeling of mutual trust and harmony.

Threat to India

The separatist tendencies like aggressive communalism, religious bigotry, linguism, regionalism and casteism endangers the unity of the country. The foremost danger to National Integration is rapid communalisation which promotes communal violence. The worst affected states by communal violence are U.P, Bihar, Gujarat and Delhi. Communal violence has turned marginalised families into poor and many children become destitute.

Why Communal harmony is always preferred over other threats is British used this as a tool to enslave India in 19th century i.e. Bengal Participation-1905. Our Independence is achieved after achieving communal harmony. Gandhiji always gave importance on this and wrote a book called "The way to communal harmony".

During India-Pakistan partition wide range of communal violence took place. In post-independence era also India faced many communal clashes like Gujarat riot and Jhanmabhoomi- Babri Masjid. Communal violence is a biggest threat to internal security; **communal** polarisation creates an atmosphere of fear, anxiety and uncertainty among people.

What India needs?

The need of the hour is harmony and peace through which we can attain socio-economic development. Even Kashmir issue can be solved by attaining communal harmony. Cultural harmony and linguistic harmony also has to be maintained for peaceful and

prosperous country. Secular character of all the institutions, Judiciary, Executive and Legislature, is a pre-requisite for peace and harmony. The constitution of the country has enforced laws to ensure communal harmony in the country and the government taking all the necessary measures to ensure the same. The people participation especially the youth is essential to achieve this goal.

Tolerance is our strength and secularism is our soul

We the Indians have a very proud legacy of tolerance and respect for other's views and thoughts. So, we the people have to take responsibility of imparting brotherhood and togetherness in society and try to make our country peaceful. Eventually it is the responsibility of the political and religious leadership, civil society, intelligentsia and the media to uphold the Constitution and the integrity of institutions. The communal harmony campaign week (November 25-29) is celebrated every year to promote national integrity and government has erected Sardar Vallabhai Patel -statue of Unity in Gujarat for the same.

Union is strength

River Ganga is not a Ganga with out its tributaries. Lets be tributaries of the great Indian national stream which subsumes differences and continues the sacred flow.

One Sardar Vallabai Patel (Iron Man) is not enough for a country like India. Let us be Patel from today and let us take pledge "We may pledge to work with dedication to preserve and strengthen the freedom and integrity of the nation".

“Unity is strength”