

# One Nation: Many Indian

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*Abstract: The most striking feature of India is its unity amidst great variety and diversity. We have in India all types of topography, climate, soil and rainfall. All the major religions of the world are practised here. We have several varieties of costumes, food habits and social customs. We have about one thousand six hundred fifty two languages and dialects affertent parts of the country. In a multiethnic country like India, extracting a common national identity out of the numerous distinct social identities is a cumbersome task.*

*Keywords: Unity, Diversity, Religion, Race and one culture.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

It is in this nation, India, where Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism were born, which is the second largest Muslim nation in the world, where Christianity has existed for over 2000 years; where the oldest Jewish synagogues and Jewish communities have resided, where the Zoroastrians from Persia have thrived since being persecuted from their ancient homeland. It is in India that a medley of religions makes a symphony; the various flavours and tastes make her a gastronomical delight. The colours, the contrast, the diversity make India so flamboyant and magnificent. As the seven colours of the rainbow pass through a prism, they emit a single ray of white light and thus emerges the beauty of oneness. Such is the story of our India, where a kaleidoscope of cultures makes us one people. The beautiful landscapes from the charismatic Kashmir to Kanyakumari, glorious Gujarat, majestic Madhya Pradesh, the soulful south, all stand apart so vividly in their individual threads, yet so beautifully woven together to make the fabric of India.

What is it that brings about this unity in diversity? This oneness among a population of over a billion? It surely must be our values that are inherently the same across the nation, no matter which region or religion we belong to. Secularism, liberty, fraternity and tolerance, brotherhood, mark the significance of our rich cultural heritage that took root in ancient civilizations.

Yes, we may have our individual differences, we may stand divided in our beliefs, but in times of threat, we stand together, in times of strife we bond together. We celebrate each festival with as much pomp, be it Holi, Diwali or Christmas. We are many cultures, many people, yet we merge into one nation, just as the rivers and streams flow into the ocean. We share the same glory and grief that comes to India. We have the same flame of patriotism burning in our souls, we Indians stand apart as individuals yet stand together as One India.

What is it that makes this nation? . What kept us together longer than any other nation on the planet is that essentially, we have always been a land of seekers – seekers of truth and liberation. In this seeking, we found oneness. When we look for sameness, we try to become a land of believers. This seeking is not something that we invented. It is the nature of human intelligence to want to know, realize, and liberate itself.

This nation was based on this foundation that we are seekers. As a seeker, you are not aligned to a particular thing on the outside but to the life process within you, and that never goes wrong. No matter how badly you contaminate human beings with belief systems and brainwash them, once their survival is taken care of, they always want to know the nature of their existence and of everything around them. Whether you call it science, spiritual process, inquiry, or quest, essentially, human intelligence wants to transcend its present limitations, wants to liberate it from the fetters in which we exist right

now. We built our nation on this longing, this seeking. Our nationhood cannot be destroyed as long as we keep this seeking alive. If we do not try to transform ourselves towards sameness, we will always be one.

Unstratified society with real equality of its members is a myth that has never been realized in the history of mankind. In no society people are absolutely equal in all respects. Differentiation is the keynote of human society. Society rests on the principle of difference. Differences are inherent in the very nature of the society. In all societies there is social differentiation of the population by age; sex; occupation and personal characteristic. There are the major factors of social differentiation. Men and women, teenagers and adults, children and old men, masters and servants, managers and attendants, rulers and ruled, teachers and taught, rich and poor, literate and illiterate, engineers and doctors, teachers and advocates, shopkeepers and hotel-owners are not always adjudged as equal. There are no equalitarian societies in the world.

India is a land of diverse cultures, religions and communities. There is great diversity in our traditions, manners, habits, tastes and customs. Each and every region of the country portrays different customs and traditions. To live peacefully has been our motto and this motto has helped us to achieve independence. As history tells us that there has been active participation from people of different caste and religion. In our struggle for freedom people from different communities participated keeping one thing in mind that they all are Indians first. But unfortunately this peace and understanding among different communities has been endangered lately. India at present is facing many problems. The biggest of these is the problem of communalism. In their personal fight they are destroying their life only. In fact, it is the biggest threat to humanity and to the unity and integrity of the country.

People from different background and culture participated in India's struggle for freedom. The national leaders, particularly Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, Azad and Bose had coined the slogan unity in diversity. There are numerous others who were also involved. Be it Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Jain and Sikhs everybody had a single identity of being an Indian. It should be understood that all of us have multiple identities religious, linguistic, cultural, and regional and caste identities. No one can claim single identity. One who demands single identity i.e. national identity does not recognize the reality but during India's struggle for freedom no one thought in that manner they just thought of India's independence. Modern India presents a picture of unity in diversity where people of different faiths and beliefs live together in peace and harmony. Still today also India remains one of the most ethnically diverse countries in the world.

India has become the land where cultures and thoughts intermingle to provide an altogether new way of living to the people. Since being a home to people from different cultures, the residents have learned how to respect all the various cultures and traditions. Come to India-the only country in the world where you shall find a Hindu temple, a church and a mosque adjoining each other and followers of any of them visiting each. This is the best part of the underlying Indian thought – tolerance and respect for everyone. So whatever be

your culture, beliefs, religious practice, India can surely make you feel at home.

India is truly a land of great cultural heritage and enriched traditions. The influence of various cultures on each other is evident from the architecture styles, language as well as the practices in various parts of the country. This innate mixture of features of various cultures and traditions gives India the place and the reputation of being the most tolerant and patient country in the world.

State Wise Percentage of Religion in India -2011								
States	Majority Religion	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Buddhist	Jain	Other Religions Not Stated
Andaman and Nicobar	Hindu	69.45%	8.52%	21.28%	0.34%	0.09%	0.01%	0.15%
Andhra Pradesh	Hindu	88.46%	9.56%	1.34%	0.05%	0.04%	0.06%	0.01%
Arunachal Pradesh	Christian	29.04%	1.95%	30.26%	0.24%	11.77%	0.06%	26.20%
Assam	Hindu	61.47%	34.22%	3.74%	0.07%	0.18%	0.08%	0.09%
Bihar	Hindu	82.69%	16.87%	0.12%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%
Chhattisgarh	Hindu	80.78%	4.87%	0.83%	13.11%	0.11%	0.19%	0.02%
Chhatisgarh	Hindu	93.25%	2.02%	1.92%	0.27%	0.28%	0.24%	1.94%
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Hindu	93.93%	3.76%	1.49%	0.06%	0.18%	0.35%	0.09%
Daman and Diu	Hindu	90.50%	7.92%	1.16%	0.07%	0.09%	0.12%	0.03%
Delhi	Hindu	81.68%	12.86%	0.87%	3.40%	0.11%	0.99%	0.01%
Goa	Hindu	66.08%	8.33%	25.10%	0.10%	0.08%	0.08%	0.02%
Gujarat	Hindu	88.57%	9.67%	0.52%	0.10%	0.05%	0.96%	0.03%
Haryana	Hindu	87.46%	7.03%	0.20%	4.91%	0.03%	0.21%	0.01%
Himachal Pradesh	Hindu	95.17%	2.18%	0.18%	1.16%	1.15%	0.03%	0.01%
Jammu and Kashmir	Muslim	28.44%	68.31%	0.28%	1.87%	0.90%	0.02%	0.01%
Jharkhand	Hindu	67.83%	14.53%	4.30%	0.22%	0.03%	0.05%	12.84%
Karnataka	Hindu	84.00%	12.92%	1.87%	0.05%	0.16%	0.27%	0.02%
Kerala	Hindu	54.73%	26.56%	18.38%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.26%
Lakshadweep	Muslim	2.77%	96.58%	0.49%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%
Madhya Pradesh	Hindu	90.89%	6.57%	0.29%	0.21%	0.30%	0.78%	0.83%
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