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Secularism and communalism in India: Role of the state and the citizens

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Abstract
The word Secularism is very common phenomenon which every now and then comes too heard in main media or in social media in India. Secularism means to follow neutrality in religion or the state does not prefer or support any religion and there is no state religion. It also means show equal respect for all the religion. The term Secularism was incorporated to the constitution of India due to the growing contention, discontent and discrimination among the people of the country which is an impending threat to the unity and integrity of the Nation. Due to the growth and development of Communalism and Fundamentalist forces the term 'Secularism' and 'Socialism' was incorporated to the constitution by an amendment of the constitution on 18th December,1976 with the 42nd Amendment of the Indian Constitution. After incorporation of the word secularism in the constitution is not enough to stop the feeling of fundamentalism and communalism among the peoples of the country. Even the initiative taken through the provision of DPSP, fundamental rights and others various provisions of the constitution as well as various acts etc. are failed to remove the feeling of hatredness from the heart of the people. Secularism and Communalism are opposite to each other and secularism is failed to restraint communalism from being a challenge to the national integration. In the present study it has been tried to study the role of the state as well as the citizen of the country that how both state and citizens playing to maintained national harmony or how they are providing fuel to growth and development of the feeling of communalism among the common people.

Keywords: Communalism, challenges, development, integration, secularism

Introduction
The term Secularism has been derived from the Latin word 'Saeculum' which means an age or the spirit of an age which is defined as state should be free from religion or religious interference. Secularism is defined in terms of exclusion of religion or rejection and indifference to religion or religious considerations by the state authority or an individual. Religion is being treated Secularism is absolutely as a personal matter which should be separated from political, economic, social, cultural and educational aspects of life. It is a system of belief and faith that remains aloof from religion. It should be a faith that religion should not be a part of state affairs or politics as a part of public education. It should not be imposed on others. Religion should not be combined to or part of the Church/Temple/Mosque or any religious institutions. It would be system of social and political philosophy to favour or support to any particular religious faith. Machiavelli distinctly argued for the separation of Politics from Ethics and Religion. Because Ethics and Religion exclusively relates to the faith and belief of the human beings that is treated as a sacred things preaches for the purification of mind and body practicing spiritual life based on truth, honesty and simplicity of mind while Politics is purely a matter of diplomacy, strategy and hunkering after power. Power makes a man corrupt and dishonest and absolute power corrupts and dishonest absolutely. In modern times most of the states are practicing the concept of secularism in different way from the West to the East except a few dogmatic and authoritarian states like Pakistan, Afghanistan etc.
India is a Secular State and in the preamble of the constitution it has been mentioned that India is a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic which is based on the principle of Justice, Liberty and Equality and Fraternity. For strengthening the National Integration in a country like India the principle of Justice, Liberty and Equality and Fraternity should be maintained within the territory of India which is closely related to the principle of Secularism.

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The concept of 'Secularism' and 'Secularization' are closely related to each other in the present day India but it is a matter of severe criticism today as it is defined in different way by different writers, philosophers, politicians and so on. In spite of all, Unity in diversity is the ultimate motto of our country so as to strengthen the National Integration to achieve its goal. Because there are diverse communities of people are living in the Indian Sub-Continent.

Since independence, India is following the principle of Secularism. The term Secularism was not incorporated to the constitution of India in the beginning when the first constitution was come into force, but in apprehension about the growing contention, discontent and discrimination among the people of the country whereby there is an impending threat to the unity and integrity of the people with the growth and development of Communalism and Fundamentalist forces the term 'Secularism' and 'Socialism' was incorporated to the constitution by an amendment of the constitution on 18th December,1976 with the 42nd Amendment of the Indian Constitution. Various provisions have been incorporated to the constitution to strengthen the unity and integrity among the diverse communities of religious, cultural and linguistic group of people of different castes, tribes and sub-tribes and sub-nationalities living together in every nook and corner of the country as a nation. Secularism implies liberty and equality of all religions without any kind of discrimination amongst its citizens. The state is liberal about religion where state will not have its own religion. As result of which there were the heads of the state of India (Presidents) elected since its independence from different communities of people who were from Hindus, Muslims, Sikh, Brahmins, Sudras or Scheduled Caste/Dalits irrespective of gender discrimination. Right to freedom of religion has been recognized as a fundamental right of the citizens under Articles 25-29 which provided every citizen to profess and practice their own religion according to their faith, belief, and worship. In India, the state does not have its own religion as it is there in Pakistan, Bangla Desh and other Islamic countries where the states were based on religion. In the Islamic countries, none but the Muslims can become the head of the state and the constitutions of those countries were based on Islam (Allah) and open the constitution in the name of Allah while the constitution of India is opened in the name of the people of country as a whole irrespective of caste, creed, religion, tribe, gender discrimination etc. as "We, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic ………". The constitution of India has been dedicated to the people to, upheld the people high while the constitution of the Islamic countries or other Non-Secular countries dedicate their constitution to Allah or God undermining and subordinating the people at large. Thus the nature of secularism has been maintained in India re in the context of State and the Individual Context. In the contexts of State Secularism means that State does not have any official religion or State do not favour or discriminate on any religion. On the other hand, in the individual contexts secularism in India means 'Sarva Dharma Samabhava' which means equal respect of all religions. In India every citizen has the right to preach, practice and propagate his/her own religion at the same time provide respect for all other religions. The Preamble and the Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles of Indian

Constitution adopted such rights which help to maintain the security and national integrity among the people of India. Right to Equality, Right to Freedom of religion, cultural and educational rights emphasizes the national unity and integrity among the citizens of India. But in India, there is diversity of religion, culture, language, and to maintain national integrity our constitutional makers have incorporated so many provisions to the constitution. To strengthen the secularism is also one way of maintaining unity and integrity of the nations. The unity and fraternity of the people of India, professing numerous faiths, has been sought to be achieved by enshrining the ideal of a 'Secular' and 'Welfare State', which means that the State protects all religions equally and does not itself uphold any religion as the state religion and do the wellbeing of all its citizens. The secular objective of the state has now been specifically expressed by inserting the word 'Secularism' to the preamble by the constitution 42nd Amendment Act, 1976. There is no provision in the constitution making any religion as the 'established Church' as some other Constitutions do. On the other hand, the liberty of 'belief, faith and worship, promised in the preamble is implemented by incorporating the fundamental rights of all citizens relating to freedom of religion' in Article 25-29, which guarantee to each individual freedom to profess, practice and propagate religion, assure strict impartiality on the part of the state and its institutions towards all regions.

The term National Integration derives from two words 'National' and 'Integration'. Nation or National is a country which has a definite socio-economic and political structure and integration implies a feeling of oneness or having common identity. According to Dorothy Simpson, "National Integration is creating a mental outlook which will promote and inspire every person to place loyalty to the country above group loyalties and the welfare of the country above narrow sectarian interests." Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru once said, "Political integration has already taken place but what I am after doing something much deeper than that, an emotional integration of Indian people so that the two may be welded into one strong national unity, maintaining at the same time all our wonderful diversities." National Integration is an important essence for the dev elopement of nation. Every year in India, from November 19th to 25th celebrates as 'National Integration Week' or 'Qaumi Ekta Saptah' and 19th November of every year is celebrated as 'National Integration Day'.

Issues and Challenges

There are various factors those are the threats for maintaining of national integrity. As India is a secular country where there are different religious issues and practices a threat the national integrity. In the constitution it has been mentioned that untouchability is a sin and it should be prohibited and principle of equality should be maintained without any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, religion, colour, gender, etc. But in practice, for the sake of political aspirations and making a vote bank, almost all the political parties use religion, caste, and language as a strong weapon. These factors have become the main threats and challenges on the secular practices and strengthening of national integration.

1. Linguistic Diversity: India is known as a sub-continent with diverse communities and linguistic people practicing

different cultures of their own culture, tradition, customs and habitats. There are 1652 main languages and some others languages are spoken by the people of the country. Every ten kilometre ascent will be changed in India because of different communities speak different language. Due to the use of various dialects and languages speaking there is a great challenge into the National Integration. Even in some states people are not accepted Hindi as a National language instead of that they prefer to speak their own language and English and also consider themselves as a domicile of the region concern rather than an Indian. Imposition of language of a larger group of people on the smaller groups and linguistic chauvinism of different larger groups are the great issue and challenge to the national unity and security of the nation.

2. Socio-cultural diversity: In India there is various differences in Socio-Cultural structure which becomes a challenge to the nation's development and the National Integration. People from different socio-cultural background has a feeling of their own culture and want to develop it, instead of considering them Indian nationals as their culture.

3. Religious diversity: In India, diverse communities of people belong to Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Persis, Animism (Tribalism who treat Animism as their indigenous religion) are living together. Therefore every religious group of people have a soft corner for their own religion and at sometimes people with the influence of their own religious leaders or due to their ignorance started to show disrespect towards other's religion which hurt the sentiment of others and create a chaotic situation in the society. It is the most crucial issue and challenge in the development of feeling of oneness among the people of the country. Frequent intolerance of religious fragmentation of the different communities creates communal tensions in the country. The Seeds of communalism have been germinated among the people of the country by the then Colonial rulers with the formation of the Muslim league in 1906 and with the passing of the Indian Council's Act, 1909 and introduction of the Communal Representation which have been retained in the succeeding Acts like the Indian Council's Act of 1919, Government of India Act of 1935 and so on. The British Government adopted the policy of 'Divide and Rule' which continued with the partition of the country. Spread of Christianity in the backward tribal areas of the remote areas of the country feel themselves alienated from the main stream culture and tradition of India which encourage the followers to think in different ways. Small religious groups of people also feel themselves insecure of their religion and culture from the other religious groups ultimately lead to the disintegration and threat to the unity of the nation.

4. Geographical diversity: Geographical condition is also a barrier in the path of social harmony and National Integration because due to the geographical differences of the region people adopt difference methods and techniques for their livings. Development in different places takes a difference in socio- cultural structure in different places. The policy of development in the country varies from region to region depending on its geo-political condition.

5. Regionalism: Regionalism is a growing contention of the country. Since independence, regionalism has been grown up to a great extent because of the different reasons like deprivation of a particular region in the economic and communication development, unequal distribution of resources by the Union government, Political deprivation to the particular region by the national political parties as a result of which regional political parties are grown up; personality cult of the political leaders and to explore the regional resources for the development of the concerned region. When the tribal and other small communities and sub-nationals feel the threat to the protection and preservation of their language, culture, tradition and identity they try to form various movements for the protection of their identity and culture, language etc. in the form of autonomy movements, separate state demand movements and movement for secession or separation from the Indian Union. Regionalism is a serious threat and challenge to the unity and integrity if the nation with a feeling of aloofness from the Indian nation. Further with the spread of Christianity in different parts of the backward tribal areas of the country the demand for regionalism as well as movements for autonomy, separation and self determination have been cropped up to great extent and it is an impending threat to the national integration and secularism in India.

6. Economic Inequality: Economic inequality is also an important factor on the way of unity and integrity for the different communities of people because they feel discriminated to themselves by the Union government as well as the state governments to their regions. Economic backwardness force the people to do anti-social and anti-national activities and these bring a threat to the unity and integrity of the country. Economic differences among the rich and the poor people make them different from one another. Poor people are always become the victims of exploitation and so hatredness is being developed in their mind against the rich people. Recent sinario of Indian contexts that those who have money they use to get power and position and they generally control the political power of the country and favour the rich class of people and industrialists like the TATA, Birla, Goenka, Mafatlal, Reliance Group of Ambani, Adani Group and so on and so forth and other Corporate Sectors, Multi – National Companies who have been dominating the Indian economy and regulate the political scenario. So this kind of exploitation and deprivation to the poorer section of people push them and the unemployed youths to the anti-social and anti-national activities or attract them to the terrorist groups which is the most dangerous threat to the national security and integrity of the nation.

7. Unequal Development: Though there are a various developmental schemes and programs have been introduced and implemented by the Government of India but it does not reach to everyone equally. Even the poor needy people are being deprived of from it. There is a tendency in India that poorer becomes poor and richer become richer due to the unequal distribution of wealth and resources. Since independence the Government introduced various policies for the development of weaker section but all these policies failed to do the needful for upliftment of the poorer section of people. The Government Policy of privatization of all the institutions make a section of people of the country are being made more benefited while the other groups are

deprived of from getting the benefit of development schemes. This is happened because of the corrupt practices of the politicians, bureaucrats, a group of middle man and agents of the politicians, officials and so on. Various laws have been passed but not implemented properly so that laws have become un-laws.

8. Casteism: Scheduled Castes occupy the lower strata in the Indian social hierarchy and they occupy the majority among the deprived and depressed backward classes in the society. They are known as the untouchables, dalits, horizons, who are being discriminated, deprived and exploited by the upper castes or superior castes in the Caste hierarchy or Varna system. In India since a long time a group of people who lived in the hilly regions or in the villages in isolation because of geographic, social and political factors. They were socially and economically backward in all respects. Nowhere in the country have they occupied the top most position in the social, economic, political and cultural field because they were not accepted by the upper caste society thereby discriminated in all respects. The Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes occupy together about 25% of the total population of the country. Presently, the scheduled castes population are occupying some positions in every sphere of the country with the constitutionally recognition conferred by the Government of India for the upliftment of the backward castes and communities. The President of India is empowered to recognize some castes, races and tribes as the 'Scheduled Castes' in consultation with the concerned State Government under Articles 341 and 342. The constitution has provided various development schemes for the backward castes and tribes with some special provision for reservation for them in various fields so that they are coming forward in the mainstream civilization with the occupation of some topmost positions, too. Now-a-days, constitutionally it has been accepted that untouchability in a crime and it is a punishable offence. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi tried their level best for the emancipation of the backward classes of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities of people and incorporated various provisions to the constitution being the chief architect of the Indian constitution. In spites of all these also there are deprivation and discrimination of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities of people who are used as a vote bank and political instrument by the political parties and the politicians. So these people still feel themselves alienated from the mainstream civilization other than discrimination, deprivation and exploitation. Until and unless such kind of caste system is to be abolished from the society, it will stand on the way of strengthening the unity and integrity of the country.

9. Communalism: India is facing a difficult situation of Communalism. Since independence to till date Communalism is found to be the utmost challenge to the unity and integrity of the country. In different parts of the country various religious vandalism and communal riots took place in different times which caused the loss of lives and injuries of hundreds of innocent people. These kinds of riots promote the feeling of differences and discrimination from one community to the other. So, it is a threat to the unity and integrity and secular principle of the country.

Communal riots provoked the general people against one community to other community and create distrust, doubt, hatredness, jealousy, apprehension and discrimination amongst all. It is found that Communalism has been germinated by the British government in British India with the partition of Bengal and introduction of the Communal Representation by the Indian Council's Act of 1909, Government of India Acts of 1919 and 1935. The legacy of the Communal Representation has been continuing till date in different forms. The Britisher's were quite successful in establishing and strengthening the philosophy of Communalism with the partition of the Indian Union into two sovereign countries-India and Pakistan. Communalism witnessed the loss of lives of hundreds and thousands of innocent people with severe injuries. Displacement and migration took place with the partition of the country which was the ultimate verdict and consequences of Communalism; and innocent people had to loss of their lives, leave of their land, property, kins and kiths while it was witnessed the wild and fierce nature of the human beings by killings of children, old men, women, rapping to the women, abducting, lootings, burning of houses and properties and what not. Communalism is nothing but a blood-shed of the innocent people that is to fulfil the ambitions and aspirations of a section of the unscrupulous, cunning political leaders to fulfil their vested interest but the innumerable innocent people have to cry and cry for survival which is nothing but a cry to build a castle in the air. Communalism is a conspiracy of a section of naughty political leaders doing nothing but to capture and wielding of political power at the cost of bloodshed and loss of lives of innumerable innocent people. Communalism is a great challenge on the way of strengthening the unity and integrity which violates the Secular principle at all what India has been witnessing in the day to day life. The present day frequent incident of killings of the Jammu and Kashmir where Kashmiri Pandits are being killed by a section of Kashmiri Muslims and the Pakistani Terrorists including the Indian defence personnel with a demand to make Jammu and Kashmir separate from India and to make it a part of Pakistan. The recent incidents of Rajasthan, Maharashtra and many other places of the country on the issue of Nupur Sharma's debatable comment in a TV Talk Show, killed two Hindu young people by cutting their necks in the broad day light in a busy town and uploaded the incident of video in the media with their proudness ignoring the rule of law. While a group of people demonstrated for and against the incidents with the support of a section of the political parties, religious groups, organizing vandalism, burning of shops, goods, vehicles, pelting of stones, face to face clash with the police and paramilitary forces like fierce animals which are nothing but a politico- religious motive of the political leaders as well as the religious groups. Such kinds of religious fanaticism are being cropped up due to the growing trend of communalism. Because communalism is a gift of the Britishers which they have started with the Partition of Bengal in 1905 and formation of the Muslim League in India in 1906 and the British legacy has been continuing till date. It destroys the unity and integrity of the people and it brings a great challenge and threat to the Sovereignty of the country.

10. Insurgency: Insurgency in India is becomes a common phenomenon which has occurred in every now and then in

various part of India. Basically entire nation is suffering from it but it is more in North-Eastern part of India. Insurgency is mainly occurred due to the feeling of Identity crisis, deprivation, backwardness and discrimination etc. At present, in North East Karbi-Dimasa Movement, Bodo Movement, Naga Movement, Mizo Movement etc. for Autonomous State and separate states while Nagas has been demanding Self-determination prior to independence to till date. These movements are creating differences and discrimination in the mind of the other communities of people those who are living in this region and those who are doing the movements which develop the feeling of hatredness among both the sections. It is also a threat to the National Integration which tries to develop oneness amongst all the people of the country.

10. Terrorism: Terrorism is a menace in the present day world scenario and also a great challenge to the modern day civilization vis-a-vis Secularism and National Integration in India which is the largest Democratic Country of the world. It creates fear psychosis and tension among the common citizens and develops the mistrust against a particular community who are frequently organizing and involving with the terrorist activities destructing the human lives, properties, intellectual properties, common faith and beliefs, finally human civilization at large. Terrorism may be of Cross Border terrorism and State Sponsored Terrorism that can be found in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Nagaland etc. Pakistan sponsored Terrorists like Al-Qaida, Hurriut Islami, Jais-e-Muhammad, Talibans and others like ISIS, etc. in Jammu and Kashmir frequently organizing cross Border Terrorist activities disturbing the law and order situation in the region. These are the challenges stand at the way of unity and integrity of the nation.

11. Autonomy movements and Demand for self-determination: Autonomy movements and Demand for self-determination is a common feature in the Northeast India. Nagas demanded Self Determination prior to independence with the formation of the various Outfit organizations like the NSCN (National Socialist Council of Nagaland) - NSCN(K), NSCN(IM) etc. The Karbi- Dimasa autonomy Movements, Autonomy Movements for the creation of Meghalaya, Movement for Self Determination by the Mizos ultimately created the full-fledged states of Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, etc. The demand for autonomous state for the Karbis, Dimasas and the Bodos are still going on with a short break with the creation of Autonomous District Councils and Territorial Region. Demand for Gorkhaland and Khalistan has also been raised from to times which are nothing but a political gimmick of a section of the politicians and political parties. These issues and demands for autonomy, separate state and self determination cropped up from time to time are the challenges for the existence of Secularism and National Integration.

The above issues and challenges may lead to a threat to the unity and integrity of the country and existence of secularism thereby Sovereignty of the country. The dynamic leadership of the Statesmen of our Country have been resisting the issues and challenges cropped up in the country and will surely overcome all these problems and challenges strengthening the national unity and integrity among the people whereby defend the Sovereignty without any kind of

compromise and appeasement to the sectarian and separatist grop of people as well as the political parties and leaders.

Remedial measures: The Social media, political leaders, news-papers should play a key role to build up the national integration very strong and develop the unity among the people defying all possible challenges on the way of maintaining Secularism. The Political leaders should stop of provoking the different communities of people for their party's vote bank interest; it can be possible to strengthen the secularism and national integration among the different religious communities, castes, tribes, linguistic groups without any biasness. Different social media can help to promote national integration among the people by making film on secular way without any biasness of any particular community, religion etc. because people follow the celebrities to a great extent so that they can also promote national unity. For promoting national integration in India, National Integration Conference of 1961 formed and suggested that no Political Party should be formed on the basis of caste, community, religion or any linguistic groups. There is a demand to band all communal parties and communal organizations which can be dangerous for communal harmony and thus religious differences can be reduced if so happens.

Conclusion
From the above discussions, the study can be summed up that there are various factors and challenges for the development of the secularism and national Integration in India. Because India is full of diversity of language, culture, religion etc. and to ties them all together into a common identity is very difficult. Considering all the diversities and difficulties, the framers of the Indian Constitution tried to incorporate various provisions such as Secularism, Justice, Equality, Fraternity, National Integration, Fundamental Rights and Duties, Directive Principles of State Policy and many other provisions under different Articles for maintaining Secularism and National Integration in India. Though there are many provisions in our constitution yet the communal violence, communal riots, extreme feeling of regionalism, movements for autonomy and self-determination, terrorism, language politics, caste politics, religious fanaticism, students' unrest etc. are always found to be a threat to the existence and development of secularism and maintaining National Integration. Secularism and National Integration are the two sides of the same coin; one cannot exist without the other. We, the citizens of India, should fight and strive for strengthening National Integration considering the basic principles of the Preamble of the constitution and its proper implications and upheld the Secular principle overcoming the challenges before us.

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