

5. NATIONAL INTEGRATION

Even a casual student of Indian history would realise how often disunity and discord among our people spelled ruin. Long foreign domination has been largely the offspring of lack of unity among the different sections of our countrymen. The most tragic instance of this bane was the partition of the country into Pakistan and India in 1947, only because the Muslim and other communities could not evolve a common formula for the transfer of power from the British to our hands.

The need for national integration is even greater at the present juncture. We have to be wide awake to the threats posed by the hostile attitude of our neighbours, China and Pakistan. National integration is also necessary for social peace and harmony. Our lives cannot enjoy peace and security, unless there is mutual trust and good will among all sections of the people of the country. No progress can be made in the field of art, literature, science and technology, cultural advancement and economic well-being if disruptive tendencies tear asunder the very fabric of national life. Also we cannot play an effective role in international field if we do not set our own house in order.

We talk of integration because there is disintegration. Disintegration in India has assumed many forms. The most menacing form is communalism. The monster of communalism, which has developed a tendency of raising its head every now and then, is eating into the vitals of our national life. Linguism is another form, Provincialism is still another. Casteism and parochialism also disturb social peace and harmony.

The issue of national integration should claim the first attention of our government and the people. Communal

parties should be banned. Education should be given a secular orientation. All media of publicity should be pressed into service for inculcating a national outlook among the people. There should be integration committees composed of representatives of various communities at city, district, state and national levels. The National Integration Council should be revitalized, rendering it more capable of devising ways and means to educate the masses into the prime need for national development. True spirit of religion should be brought home to the people.

The real answer to the promotion of national integration is enlightened modern scientific education backed by substantial economic uplift of the citizens. Side by side, the state must also ensure the maintenance of law and order with firm hands. If the people of this country are able to kill communalism, India could lead the rest of the world within a few years.

6 SCIENCE IN EVERY DAY LIFE

Science is a great blessing to mankind. Nothing better has happened in the history of man than advent of science in his life. The world into which science came was a world of ignorance, suffering and hardship. Science has come to relieve us of suffering, to remove our ignorance and to lighten our toil.

Science is a faithful servant of man. It serves us in all walks of life. It is our servant in the field, in the factory, It serves us at every step in life, Never was there a more helping servant. It is only when we spoil the servant and not keep him in proper control that he may cause some harm to us. But this is our own fault. A servant has to be under control.

Science has transformed our daily life. Gone are the days when only rich men would afford luxuries. Science has made them cheap and has brought them within the reach of everybody. Science produced goods on a large scale. These are sold at cheap rates in every market. Books, music and all other forms of entertainment have been brought to our door. Radio television and cinema help us passing our time in entertainment. Surely the daily life of the common man is very different from what it used to be.

Science is our most faithful medical attendant. It shows every care for our health. Science has cured us of many diseases. It has given us the power to keep epidemics in check. No longer are small-pox, cholera and plague the ravages of mankind. Science gives us power to kill germs, which spread these diseases. There is hardly any disease today which can be called incurable.

Science has made travelling a pleasure. No longer do we need to part sadly from our relatives and friends when we go to visit holy places. Science has annihilated time and space. Trains roar through desert and jungle, with safety and man travels with safety and speed. But already the train and motor car have become obsolete means of transport. The aeroplanes fly across thousand of kilometres in an hour. You can take your breakfast in kashmir and lunch at London and take dinner in New York. The work of months and years is completed in hour.

Science is the greatest blessing to the poor housewife. Now she need not always remain busy in the kitchen. A thousand devices have been placed at her disposal to lighten her toil. There are electricity-run kitchens in a pleasure. There is no smoke and cooking is done in the twinkling of an eye. Electricity serves the house wife to wash

and press her clothes and to sweep her floors. No one could be more grateful than the housewife to the science for blessings. It has given her leisure to rest, to study and to attend better to her children.

No less happy could be the labourer with science. science has taken upon itself the dirtiest of jobs. Man no longer needs to do the pack-breaking job of digging into the coal and iron mines with his bare hands. Every factor is a standing tribute of care and comfort that science has brought into our life.

But this is by no means the end of blessing of science. another job that this servant does for us is to educate us. Science has built great printing presses which produce a large number of books at the cheap rates. It has placed at our disposal scores of means to expel ignorance from mankind. News is brought to us from every corner of the world through the newspaper, the radio and the television. The result is that superstition and ignorance find it difficult now to thrive. No longer can clever people deceive the simple and ordinary people of the world.

However, there is the other side of the picture. science has done greater disservice to mankind in the field of armaments. The invention of gunpower was hailed as a great achievement, but humanity should rue the day on which this invention took place, steadily and relentlessly, gunpower has been used and perfected into a hundred new more destructive weapons of war. In this connection, it is stated that if science meant for man's happiness is employed by man for his own destruction, who can help him? It is certainly not the fault of science if we go on multiplying engines of destruction.