The problem of diversity in the context of Indian society

When we say that India is a country with a lot of diverse cultures, we mean that there are a lot of different kinds of ethnic people and groups residing here. These are groups that can be identified by their language, religion, sect, race, or caste.

Even though India has a rich cultural history, egalitarian policies and programmes, and the 'rule of law,' there have been more narrow loyalties, parochial ties, and basic interests since independence. Hierarchy and inequality make it hard for people to feel like they belong to India and to have a sense of unity. India has this problem now because the way its social structure looks and what it does are not in sync with each other. There are things that bring people apart in many parts of the country. In the context of Indian society, let's look at the problem of diversity:

Regionalism:

Regionalism tends to put the interests of a certain region or regions ahead of those of the whole country. It can also hurt the way a country works together. Regional demands and ensuring are making it hard to keep law and order.

Ethnic conflict:

Ethnic conflict is due to the distinction made between 'outsiders' and 'insiders'. 'We' (insiders) against 'they' (outsiders) is an attitude found in all societies. Immigrants are treated as 'foreigners'. Such a problem arises when people speaking Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Oriya, Hindi, Kashmiri, Punjabi, Urdu, Marathi and Sindhi consider each other differences in the national context. Members belonging to one state often consider members from other states as outsiders. They would not like them to seek employment in their state.

At times, ethnic groups tend to operate as diametrically opposed groups due to a clash of their real or supposed interests. Such a clash of interests may also take the form of communalism. Some groups may take undue advantage of their large numbers or of superior social origins to corner a major share of the national resources.

Language Different:

The language issue in India is complicated and dangerous for national consolidation and progress. After much strife, India established linguistic states. Religion, language, locality, customs, and traditions divide minorities. The Hindu majority has many sects, castes, clans, and linguistic groupings. These groups want higher education, employment, and living standards for their members. Linguistic states have led to narrow sectionalism, provincialism, and parochialism, threatening national cohesion in the absence of an all-India language.

Divisive politics:

Sometimes, ascriptive identities such as caste, religion etc., are evoked by politicians in order to garner. This type of divisive politics can result in violence, feelings of mistrust and suspicion among minorities.

Development imbalance:

Economic disparities as a result of ineffective economic policies, uneven socioeconomic growth, and other factors can make a region less developed. Violence, a spike in migration, and possibly an increase in separatist demands may all arise from this. For instance, numerous secessionist demands and tendencies have emerged as a result of the North East's economic underachievement.

Ethnic differentiation and nativism:

Ethnic differentiation has often led to clashes between different ethnic groups, especially due to factors such as job competition, limited resources, and threats to identity. For example, frequent clashes between Bodos and Bengali-speaking Muslims in Assam. This has been accentuated by the son of the soil doctrine, which ties people to their place of birth and confers some benefits, rights, roles and responsibilities on them, which may not apply to others.

Geographical isolation:

Geographical isolation too can lead to identity issues and separatist The North-East is geographically isolated from the rest of the country as it is connected with the rest of the country by a narrow corridor, i.e., the Siliguri corridor (Chicken's neck). The region has the inadequate infrastructure and is more backwards economically as compared to the rest of the country. As a result, it has witnessed several instances of separatism and cross-border terrorism, among others.

Inter-religious conflicts:

Inter-religious conflicts not only hamper relations between two communities by spreading fear and mistrust but also hinder the secular fabric of the country.

Inter-state conflicts:

This can lead to the emergence of feelings related to regionalism. It can also affect trade and communications between conflicting states. For instance, the Cauvery River dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Influence of external factors:

Sometimes, external factors such as foreign organizations, terrorist groups, and extremist groups can incite violence and sow feelings of separatism. For example, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has been accused of supporting and training mujahideen to fight in Jammu and Kashmir and sow separatist tendencies among resident groups.

The problem is not diversity per se but the handling of diversity in Indian society. The problems of regionalism, communalism, ethnic conflicts etc., have arisen because the fruits of development haven't been distributed equally or the cultures of some groups haven't been accorded due recognition. This will continue until we take care of and respect ourselves as one tribe and one nation.