CHAPTER II

SOCIAL CRISIS IN INDIA
2.1 INDIAN SOCIETY THROUGH THE AGES

Indus valley civilization

The Indus valley civilization got its name by river Sindhu, as it flourished on its banks. Persians wrote the word 'Sindhu' as Hindu and the Greek as Indus, consequently the modern name of our nation, India. Indus Valley Civilization is one of the earliest civilizations of the world, in fact the first great civilization greater in extent than Egypt and Mesopotamia combined covering over 250,000 square miles, which flourished at least between 7000 BC and 6000 BC. Indus Valley Civilization is the only civilization of which many traditions & practices have survived till date. It was discovered lately in 1921; Daya Ram Shani discovered Harrappa and Rakhal Das Banerji discovered Mohenjodaro, (at present both of them are in Pakistan.) this was accomplished under the direction of Sir John Marshall, director general of the Archaeological survey of colonial India.

Indus valley society

Information about Indus Valley Civilization is based on archaeological evidences and interpretations. The people of Indus Valley Civilization were pastoralists; they reared animal’s viz.
cattle, sheep, goat, water buffalos and domesticated chicken, dogs and cats. They were well versed in the art of agriculture, they cultivated in during winter season, wheat and barley in November & December and harvested in April. They eat staple foods such as wheat, milk, vegetables and fruits and consumed intoxicants called as soma and sura.4

Religion

The people of Indus Valley worshipped Sakti (mother goddess) and Shiva,5 they worshipped Shiva in the form of figure (the seal no. 420) and in the form of lingam (Ring- stones measuring 1.21-1.27 cms in diameter).6 They also worshiped bulls & serpents (which is associated with Lord Shiva), fire, water, trees such as neem and Pipal.7 The people of Indus valley civilization practiced Yoga, the seal no. 420 bearing the image of Shiva (Mahayogi) seated in a yogic posture indicates Yogic practice during this period.8 Thus it implies one to believe that Yoga is as ancient as Indus Valley civilization, practiced even before Pattanjali Maharishi. So far no temples have been found in the Indus valley, which indicates that worship might have been a private affair, that later assumed prominence. We may trace the origins of many modern practices of cults and traditions to this civilization; in fact it is only civilization in World whose traditions

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and practices are in continuity till date, where as, today many ancient civilizations and cultures have become extinct.

**Position of women**

Women in Indus valley society enjoyed equal status with men. The archeological evidences such as the image of a woman fighting with tiger, reveals their fighting spirit and position in society. Besides the captivating female figurines embedded with beautiful jewelry and ornaments represent the social status enjoyed by them. The terracotta figurines also throw light on their devotion to personification of female power, Shakti.

**Early Vedic period**

**Social conditions:**

During this period, families were patriarchal in nature; eldest member of the family was its head who was called as 'Grihapati'. Monogamy was the order of the society polyandry was unknown to them. Practice of Varna system was purely based on occupation than on birth. There existed no prohibition on inter-dining & inter-marriage but marriage between brother and sister, father and daughter were strictly prohibited. Early Vedic people favoured male child, only to lead the family in future, to inherit property and perform funeral rites. The basic aim of education
was personality development, through which one could attain self-realization.

The origin of stratification of society into four divisions on the basis of occupation are traced to the Purshasuktam (Pursha’s Hymn) with 16 mantras in the Rig Veda, as the 90th Suktam (hymn) of its 10th mandalam, (book) 11; according to which the Brahmins originated from Purusha’s mouth, the Kshatriyas from his arms, the Vaishyas from his thighs, and the Sudras from his feet, the Moon was born from his spirit, the Sun from his eyes, the heavens from his skull. Indra and Agni emerged from his mouth. This description was only a metaphorical description of qualities of each varnas which later degenerated, misinterpreted and became invincible tool in the hands of priests & other high class men only to dominate & supress so called lower Varnas, who were subjected to untold miseries.

The term Brahmana meant originally “one possed of Brahaman”. It was first applied to the specially trained priest who superintended the whole sacrifice, and was ready to counteract with his magic apells any evil influence caused by minor errors of ritual. By the end of the Rigvedic period the term was used for all the members of the preistly class. 12
In fact in its beginning Varna system was not rigid nor its practice was mandatory at all; Smriti literature contain special sections on “duty when in distress” (apad-dharma), according to it a person could change his profession or duty to other, in case he is unable to earn his lively hood through his own varna.\textsuperscript{13}. The Varnas were like classes in which social mobility both vertical and horizontal existed. Special privileges were granted to those Brahmanas who lived by sacrifice and teaching. Besides the Smriti of Katyayana allows the execution of a Brahman for procuring abortion, the murder of respectable women, and theft of gold. Arthashastra admits for sedition and branding off Brahmanas, for instance in “The little Clay Cart” the hero Carudatta is threatened with torture and sentenced to death \textsuperscript{14}, probably because he was Brahman by birth and not by profession, it shows Brahmans did not always get the privileges which they claimed. Manu lays down penalty for all Chaturvarnas for theft; if it was Sudra he had to pay penalty eight times more the value of the stolen goods, if it was Vaishya 16 times, Kshatriya 32 times, and Brahmana 64 times. \textsuperscript{15}

**Position of women:**

Women held a high position in domestic and social affairs, Girls had Upanayana performed for them and carried out the sandhya rites. She got education at par with men. Yajur Veda
(VIII.1) states a young daughter who has observed brahmacharya should be married to a bridegroom who is learned like her. The Rigveda (v, 7, 9) refers to young maidens completing their education as brahmacharinis and then gaining husbands. Marriage was not compulsory; she could devote her entire life in pursuing knowledge by remaining a 'Brahmavadini' (celibate). The brahmavadinis were the products of educational discipline of Brahmacharya, for which women were also eligible. The 126th hymn of the first book of the Rig Veda was revealed by a woman named Romasha; the 179 hymn of the same book was by another woman Lopamudra. There are a dozen names of woman revealers of the Vedic wisdom, such as Visvavara, Shashvati, Gargi, Maitreyi, Apala Ghosha, and Sikata. In fact according to scriptures, Aditi, instructed Indra, one of the Devas, in the higher knowledge of Brahman, the Universal Spirit.

The 10th book of the Rig Veda reveals that women were allowed to go to the battlefields to fight against enemies, Sarama, one of the most powerful women of her day, was sent by her husband in search of robbers, she succeeded in her assignment, by discovering and destroying them. In the Rig Veda we find many women like Vadhrimati, Vishpala, Mudgalani, Danu etc fighting in wars, Women took able part in warfare, religo-philosophical debates etc. Women rose to the position of Rshis
by composing Vedic hymns. Birth of a girl child was a matter of pleasure and delight in the family, there was no discrimination between male and female in aspects of education and other opportunities. She freely participated in Education and public affairs like festivals, religious functions and dances etc and in philosophical challenges. The intellectual height of women was great. Panini refers to women students of different branches of the Vedas. Brahmaidinis, the speakers and revealers of Brahman, lead an ideal life of spirituality, being untouched by the things of the world Maitreyi turned down the wealth because it would not help in attaining immortality, the number of female Rishis comes to about thirty. Gargi, Maithreyi and Sulabha are famous for their spiritual debates. The dialogue between Maitreyi & Yagnavalkya in which she debatical challenged invincible Yagnavalkya reflects the intellectual height of women of this period. Vak's Devisukta which appears in the tenth mandala of Rigveda (10.125) is very elevating one in connection to the status of women. Seventeen of the seers to whom the hymns of the Rig Veda were revealed were women — rishikas and brahmavidinis, they were Romasa, Lopamudra, Apata, Kadru, Vishvavara, Ghosha, Juhu, Vagambhrini, Paulomi, Jarita, Shraddha-Kamayani, Urvashi, Sharnga, Yami, Indrani, Savitri and Devayani. The Sama Veda mentions another four: Nodha (or
Women were allowed to choose her life partner, through Swayamvara. Marriage was considered as the sacred bond between man women. Wife was called as Sahadharmi (companion in fulfillment of dharma).

The idea of equality was most forcibly expressed in the Rig Veda (Book 5, hymn 61. verse 8), the commentator explains this passage thus: "The wife and husband, being the equal halves of one substance, are equal in every respect; therefore both should join and take equal parts in all work, religious and secular." No other Scripture of the world have ever given to the woman such equality with the man as the Vedas of the Indians. Bride was greatly honoured in her father-in-law's house and had an authority over her husband, father-in-law and brother-in-law. Position of women was such that usually sons named themselves after their mother, as in case of Mamateya. She was considered as ‘Kulapa’- protector of family. The word ‘Dampati’ was used mean for a couple that jointly held the ownership of the house. The wife’s presence was essential in all rituals. Widows were allowed to re marry. Practices of Sati & Child marriages were unknown. In several mantras state that women of this country
have given its man-folk valour, spiritual illumination, piety and intellectual brilliance. Women of the Early Vedic period enjoyed a high and honorable position in society.

**Religion**

The early Vedic people worshipped Nature. They were fascinated by their natural surroundings. Gods representing the forces of nature find presence in the hymns of Rig Veda. Rta was the term used to mean the natural law of the cosmic order and morality. It was the regulator of the whole Universe. Dyaus(sky), Prithvi (earth), Varuna (the sky god and protector of Rta) and Indra (the weather deity). Savitri, Mitra and Pushan represented different powers of the Sun such as heat, light and nourishment. Vishnu was the symbol of swift movement while Rudra and Maruts were the gods of storm and winds. Shiva was the later name given to Rudra. Vayu and Vata were other gods of winds while Parjanya was the God of rain. There were Gods on earth also Agni("fire"), was an important deity. Soma was regarded as essential for sacrifice. Saraswati as river Goddess on earth. But the most loved Goddess was Usha (Dawn) belonging to both earth and heaven.22

The priests helped the common man in performing rituals. People prayed for abundance of children, cattle and wealth.

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Adherence to vegetarianism 'Ahimsa' can be traced to this period, Rig-Veda, Upanishads and later texts, often describes cow as aditi and aghnya (that which should not be killed). In Rig-Veda we find prohibition of cow-slaughter in numerous places such as follows: You should impart love to each other as the non-killable cow does for its calf, punish the killer of the cow and the man. Cow is pure, do not kill it. Cow was indeed a personification of God to them which is still indeed to every Hindu on this earth.

Post-Vedic period:

Social conditions:
The transition from the early to the later Vedic period was marked by the emergence of agriculture as the dominant economic activity and a corresponding decline in the significance of cattle rearing. During this period a marvellous systematic division known as Ashrama system was devised.

Ashrama system

The number four characterizes all cycles in the world we perceive, which is the number of the Earth. Like all things terrestrial, man's life thus divides into four periods - the four stages of life. All life has springtime, summer, autumn, and
winter, as also its morning, noon, evening, and night. These four periods of life are called "the four stages of action": the four Ashramas. Viz.

The First Stage of Life: Bramacharya: (up to 25 yrs)

During this stage an individual remained a student throughout. In quest for knowledge, he was expected to remain celibate and learn the higher values of life and the ways of attainment of Moksha, by realizing the perishability of earthly pleasures. Such knowledge enabled him to acquire and develop detached attitude, which would help him in discharging his duties (Niskama karma) in Grhasthashrama. After the Samavartana (culmination of studies) ceremony student was supposed to return home from Gurukaula. It also permitted him to enter Grhasthashrama.

The Second Stage of Life: Grhasthashrama: (25 to 50 yrs)

In this stage he was expected to enter the marital life, procreate children and perform his duties in mode disinterest and selflessness towards his wife and children. He was expected to attain the indispensable four Purusharthas Viz. Dharma, Artha, Kama, and Moksha. Clear all debts (rinas) towards God (Deva...
rina), ancestors (Pitra rina), teacher (Guru rina) etc. Thus enabling himself to achieve the supreme aim of his life Moksha.

The Third Stage of Life: Vana-Prastha: (50 to 75yrs)

In this stage he renounces the worldly life and retreats into forest to devote himself to study and reflection, with the intention to elevate himself above these carnal desires so as to prepare himself for a still higher stage of revelation of truth.

The Fourth Stage of Life: Sanyasa: (75 upto Jivanmukti or Vidhehamukti)

At this ultimate stage he was expected to attain mental-serenity and equanimity by renunciation all attachments and commence his journey to the realization of the ultimate reality.

The duties and obligations laid down by the Ashrama Dharma seems to be systematically planned, keeping the interests and need of the individual and society to establish equilibrium and harmony in the society, which is extinct at present.

Varna:

Gradually, the society developed the feeling of superiority and inferiority on the basis of pursuit of occupations. As the result there emerged a hierarchical order with Brahmans on top and Sudras at bottom. It was during time the theory of Karma was established according to which, karma in previous birth decided
the birth of an individual in particular Varna. Thus stratification of society based on occupation was gradually replaced by the criteria of birth; later it advanced from Varna to Kula and Kula to Jati and eventually into ennumber of sub-divisions. According to Manu-- "He transcendental, in order to protect his creation, assigned distinct duties to those born of mouth, arms, thighs and feet." Teaching and pursuing the Vedic studies, offering sacrifices and guiding those who wished to sacrifice gifts, these were assigned by him to the Brahmins." Protection of the people, gifts, sacrifice, study of the Vedic, non-attachment from the objects of the senses, these were ascribed to the Kshatriyas. The Sudras were assigned only one Duty- service of other castes without the feeling of being subordinate." 27

The concept of Varna and the rules of marriage became more rigid, but not yet watertight. The status of the Brahmins and Kshatriyas increased greatly. The Brahmins propagated specialization of an extreme order. Functioning as an intellectual bureaucracy, they also restricted social mobility, as in fields of science, war, literature, religion and the environment. The proper enunciation of verses was considered essential for prosperity and success in war and harvests. Kshatriyas amassed wealth, and commissioned the performance of sacrifices. Kshatriyas administered the state, maintained society and the economy of a
Vegetarianism, arose as a continuation of prohibition of cow-slaughter to prohibit eating all animals intensified, possibly already at the time of Panini: The root-compound *goghan* "slaying cattle", in Rig Veda 7.56.17 used parallel to *nrhan* "slaying men" in reference to the referring to the weapon *vadha* of the Maruts.

**Position of women:**

Vedic education was gradually denied to women and they continued to receive education at home indicating denial of freedom. The position of women was such that before marriage a woman had to live under the protection of her father, after marriage under the protection of her husband and during her old age under the protection of her son and in their absence under the kinsmen. One important aspect to be noticed is that, only her freedom was reduced, perhaps due to her safety, she was absolutely revered. Manu said "The mother exceedeth a thousand fathers in the right to reverence". Manu declares "Where women
are honored there the gods are pleased; but where they are not 
honored no sacred rite yields rewards," 30 he states that "Women 
must be honoured and adorned by their fathers, brothers, 
husbands and brothers-in-law, who desire their own welfare." 31 
he further adds up "Where the female relations live in grief, the 
family soon wholly perishes; but that family where they are not 
unhappy ever prospers." 32 Manu advocates "men who seek their 
own welfare, should always honour women on holidays and 
festivals with gifts of ornaments, clothes, and dainty food." 33

The demonic practice of sati which came into existence was only 
out of intense passion towards her partner, it was not mandatory, In Rigveda we come to know that widows mounted 
the funeral pyre of the husband, but before the fire set to it, after 
the ceremony a new husband took her home to lead a new life. 34

Society under Epic period:

During epic period the goal of life was centered on Dharma, 
Artha, Kama and Moksha. During this period the Trinity, Brahma, 
Vishnu, and Maheswara gradually replaced Vedic Gods. 
Monogamy seemed to have gradually lost its sanctity in this 
period, as we find king Dasaratha having three wives and 
Draupati having five husbands, polygamy and polyandry 
gradually creped in, possibly only in aristocratic families. On
contrary to this Maryada Purshotam Ram set an example himself by practicing Ekapatnivrata (monogamy).

Varna system based on birth was showing its traces, Inference could be drawn from the cutting of right thumb of the great Archer Ekalavya (who belonged to lower jati) by the demand of his Brahmin guru Dronacharya, on the pretext of Gurudakshina (tuition fees). But in Mahabharata we come to know that, by means of good deeds a Sudra can be a Brahamana, and a Vaishya can be a Kshatriya. The Chaturvarna system appears to be based on Guna (quality) and Karma (action) and not based on birth. Lord Krishna express that “the Chaturvarna was created by me according to the divisions of quality and active function: know me for the doer of these who am yet the imperishable non-doer”. The Varnas were like classes in which social mobility both vertical and horizontal existed. For example the author Mahabharata, Maharishi Vysa was a son of fisher woman. Maharishi Vasista was born to cyprian. Vidura the companion of king Drathrastra was a dasiputra (son of a maid servant). Change of Varna was not rigid as it became later. Brahmins became kshatriyas and vice versa. for eg. Brahmin Parashurama and Dronacharya (the martial arts teacher of Pandavas and Kauravas) became Kshatriyas, on the other side, Kshatriya Vishwamitra and Grtsamada became
Brahmans. Even in marriages there was mobility, Kshatriya girls married Brahmins such as Sukanya daughter of king Saryata married Yvana who was Brahmin and Rathaviti’s daughter married Syavasa. In Upanishads there is a famous story of Satyakama (who was a son of Cyprian.) who was accepted by his teacher only on the basis of his meritorious character rather on his birth. 38 A verse from Mahabharata states that “Neither birth, nor the purification rites, nor learning nor offspring, can be considered as the grounds for conferring upon one dignity of a twice born person. In deed conduct is the only ground”.39 So what appears is that there was neither absolute rigidity, perhaps practiced by only few. In spite of stratifications society was calm and composed welfare of citizens was given paramount importance than expansion of political empire especially during Ramayana period.

**Position of women in the epic period:**

The position of women and their contribution to the society during this period for the establishment of Dharma is very illuminating. Women received encouragement in her education at par with men. No religious activity was performed without her; Ramayana describes the performance of Sandhya and Havana by Kausalya (Mother of Lord Rama) and Sita. Ramayana reveals
that, once Lord Ram had to get the image of Sita done of gold owing to her absence, to perform a pooja. In Ramayana, Sita to whom Ravana many times addresses as Pundita, knew at least three languages. Kausalya was also conversant with the Vedic rites, as was Tara, the wife of Vali. Intellectual Sabari, who acquired highest knowledge along with men without any difference, later became in-charge of the respected Ashrama for many years. In the descriptions of Ayodhya there are references to 'Vadhu Sanghas' i.e., women's associations, which reflect the status of women belonging to this period.

Women actively took part in warfare for eg. Queen Kaikeyi participated in wars along with her husband, King Dasharatha. Tara wife of Vali was a sharp politician. Anasuya, the wife of Atri Maharshi was a great scholar and very famous for her work in relieving distress during famines, droughts.

In Mahabharatha there is an instance of all the Rishis going to Arundhati, wife of Vashishta to learn the subtleties of Dharma. Gandhari wife of King Dratrashtra was known for her psychical powers, fearlessness and impartiality. Satyavati, though a fisherwoman could become a queen and was consulted and obeyed by those in power. Stoic Kunti (mother of Pandavas) had to undergo lot of sufferings. To uphold her Dharma she had to
retreat to the forest following the instructions of Dratrashtra and Gandhari, even as her sons earned the kingdom.

Draupadi was addressed, as Dharmartha Kushale, Mahaprajne, Pundite, which highlights her efficiency. Her arguments about Dharma in the Kurusabha are also famous. In fact the great wars in Ramayana and Mahabharata were fought to uphold the dignity of women. In the famous ‘Vidhura Neeti’, Vidhura stresses that women should be specifically looked after because they are worthy of being worshipped, pure, bring fortune and luck to the house, are light of the house, Goddess (Lakshmi) of the house.

Post Epic period:

Society under Maurayas

The high ideals of Vedic religion were slowly eroding. Varnas and many sub- castes came into existence, In the Mauraya period the most pathetic condition was that of Sudras, who performed menial and unclean jobs. Cobblers, sweepers, liquor vendors, hunters, fishermen and criminals were termed as Chandals. They ate non-vegetarian food, consumed alcohol, and performed dejectable labour; they were forced to live outside the society.
Gradually the number of castes multiplied with rigid rules. This created a stumbling block in the future unity and integrity of India. Hindu rituals by this time became complicated which were conducted by the priestly class who occupied the top most ladder of social heirarchy and exploited the masses on the pretext of Varna and religious traditions. Spiritualism degenerated into extreme ritualism, which were costly and not within the reach of common man. This had a huge effect on Indian thought, and gave way to development of 62 different schools of thought Viz Carvaka, Buddhism, Jainisim, etc. In fact Upanishads were also products of scholarly reaction against the tyranny of the Vedic ritualism sanctioned by the Samhitas and Brahmanas; this indicated a golden age of thought in revolt of misinterpreted Vedic philosophy of this period. The Atheistic schools asserted the independence of the individual, and placed man above mantras which attracted common man who were suppressed and oppressed by the priestly class. Instead of going from man to universe, the degenerated Vedic philosophy came from universe to man, which subordinated human life. Atheistic schools challenged the subordination of man to mantras they asserted the superiority and dignity of man.

Both Buddhism and Jainism arose in strong opposition to Brahmanism & Ritualism; who rejected the authority of Vedas,
sacrifices and domination of brahmins; they could not accept the fact that people could claim sanctity because of birth and because they could recite the Vedas. They rejected acceptances of blind beliefs in the Vedas, while they advocated on experiencing the truth individually non-ritualistically. Both emphasized on inculcation the moral character & practice of good deeds as a means to attain salvation; both belonging to Kshatriyas families, by presenting simple & open methods to Salvation they could transform the masses to their ideology. By the end of 10th century AD one-half of the world population followed Buddhism which included SriLanka, Burma, Tibet, Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Champa, China, Japan, Siam, and central Asia.\textsuperscript{41}

**Position of Women**

The position was low but it did not blossom into rigidity, Women excelled in poetry, astronomy, mathematics, philosophical debates architecture, warfare, trade industry and administration; for e.g. In poetry, Vijayanka of the 7th century was ranked as a peer of Kalidas in the Vaidharbhi style of composition. Kshanavati was an astronomer and Lilavati, a mathematician. Though the principle of child marriage got introduced, it did not take its rigid stance. Women were not to be punished even for adultery. A
woman could remarry if her husband was unheard of for a long period, dead or a recluse or an impotent or an outcaste.

The Practices like Devadasi, Sati system commenced that had some values behind which were misused later. In north India we find many temples dedicated to Mata Sati. The practice of Sati was a voluntary act out of intense love, devotion and attachment to her husband. But it was not at all commonly practiced for example widows like Prabhavati Devi of Vakataka dynasty, Mayanalla Devi of Gujarat and Karpura Devi of Ajmer, were all widows who were not subjected to Sati system. Issueless widows commanded respected and inherited the property of their husbands.

Women were not punished even for adultery. A woman could remarry if her husband was missing of for a long period, if he died, if he taken to recluse, if was impotent or an outcaste. Women position rose back to its glory. Even prostitutes were protected. According to Strabo the kingdom was so powerful that in war times farmer would till lands in peace.42 Under Chandragupta, Mauryan Empire was sucessful in conquering most of the Indian subcontinent, and extended its boundaries into Persia, Central Asia and Gandhara (Afganistan)
Regarding the character of the people and administrative efficiency Alexander's historian described Hindus as "remarkable for integrity, so reasonable as seldom to have recourse to lawsuits, and so honest as to require neither locks to their doors nor writings to bind their agreements; they are in the highest degree truthful" 43 Greek historian Arrian in his Indica, X. observes, "that all the inhabitants are free, not a single Indian being a slave." When it was rampant in his home state (Greece). V.A. Smith comments that the aspects of skilled craftsmanship and luxuries was nowhere inferior to that enjoyed by the later Mugul emperors eighteen centuries later 44 The government made no pretense to democracy and probably the most efficient that India ever had 45 he further comments that "Akbar, dynasty "had nothing like it, and it may be doubted if any of the ancient Greek cities were better organized.46

Ashoka the Great the grand son of Chandragupta was the first monarch to unify almost entire India under one rule. He initially sought to expand his kingdom but the war of Kalinga, which resulted in demise of 1,00,000 soldiers, (Description of this war is found in the 13th Rock Edict at Jaugada in the Ganjam Dist Orissa.) made him renounce bloodshed and pursue Buddhist policy of nonviolence, from then onwards his 'Digvijaya transformed in to Dharmavijaya'. He prohibited slaughtering of
animals in his kingdom, even hunters, fishermen, had to denounce it. After embracing Buddhism Ashoka spread it across the whole of East Asia and South-East Asia. According to H.G Wells “Ashoka was the only military Monarch on record who abandoned warfare after victory” He further adds “Amids tens and thousands of names of monarchs that crowds the columns of history, their majesties, graciousness and serenities and royal highness and the like, the names of Asoka shines and shines alone almost as a star. From Volga to Japan his name is still honoured. China, Tibet and even India though it has left his doctrine, preserve the traditions of his greatness. More living men cherish his memory today than have heard the names of Constantine and Charlemagne.” Ashoka the Great is definitely one of the greatest rulers the world has ever seen.

Social Conditions under the imperial Guptas:

Maharaja Sri Gupta founded the Gupta Empire with the aim of reviving Hinduism and Hindu culture in India. The Gupta 'golden age' marked a period of significant cultural development during this period, Hindu culture, sanskrit literature, science and political administration reached new heights. The Indian Philosophy of Sad-darshanas came into existence the famous 18 purans were composed. I have assessed the detail contributions.
of Guptas in chapter IV. In short there was all round development in the field of art, literature, and science infact a renaissance or rebirth of Hindu culture. Even in the Political releams Guptas attained unification to a very large extent and maintained the kingdom free from foreign invasions.

Brahmanism regained its lost glory and brahmanas ascended to highest social summit. Caste system surfaced with its ugly face Abhayadatta was the proctor of the caste system and chandalas the fifth class were living outside the society, excluding them the society was pure vegetarian. People had so much faith that they never locked their houses nor used any documents for monetary transations. Chinese chronicler Fa-Hein records admiration of the wealth, prosperity, the virtue, happiness and the socio-religious liberty enjoyed by the citizens of Gupta dynasty. There were charitable institutions and free hospitals, where as in Europe the first hospital, the Maison Dieu was constructed in 7th century A.D, thus Gupta hospital antedated by three centuries.\textsuperscript{48}

\textbf{Religion}

The kings of Gupta Dynasty were Vishnavites who worshiped Lord Vishnu and called themselves as Paramabagvatas. They built many temples and idols of Ganesha,
Guptas were catholic towards other religions which can be inferred through various Buddhists monuments dating to this period, besides the Buddhist University of Nalanda was founded by Kumara Gupta, and even the commander of Chandra Gupta II was a Buddhist.

Towards the end of the sixth Century the dark clouds of war crepted over Indian horizon and the nomadic tribes of China called as Huns under the leadership of Toramana attacked India, consequently resulting in the debacle of this great empire, which historians consider as a golden age in northern India. However, much of the southern India were largely unaffected by this state of flux in the north.

**Harsha Vardhana**

Under his reign, for forty-five years there was peace and prosperity in the empire. Regarding the Philanthropic personality of Harsha, Chinese Buddhist visitor Yuan Chwang says “He was indefatigable, and the day was too short for him; he forget sleep in his devotion to good works”.

He also records that he celebrated a festival of charity every five years in which he fed ten thousand Buddhist monks and presented each with pearl, garments, flowers, perfumes and one hundred pieces of gold. Later was the turn of followers of
other sects, poor orphans of his empire. He records that some
times the distribution lasted for three or four months and at the
end he divested himself of his costly robes and jewelry, and
added them to the alms, 50 this was India during various periods
and under various kings.
End Notes


10. Ibid.P. 80

11. www.ramanuja.org/purusha /sukta

12. A.L Basham The Wonder that was India (Sid wick & Jackson, London 1958) P 139
13. Ibid. P. 140-42
14. Ibid. P140
15. Ibid. P.140, 120,121
19. Rig Veda, X-85: 86, and Atharva Veda 1.4.1
21. L.Lajpat Rai Unhappy India. (Banna Publishing Co, Calcutta-1928) P.151, 176+
23. Rig Veda VII.56.17
24. Rig Veda VIII.101.15
25. Rig Veda X.10.87.16
26. San.gr.S. II.18.1-4
27. Manusmriti I, 8-91.
28. Yajnavalkya Smriti ,I.85, and Manu Smriti, IX.3
29. Wood, Earnest 'An English Defends Mother India. (Madras 1929) p 27
30. Manu Smriti (III.56)
31. ibid, III, 55)
32. ibid, III, 57).
33. ibid, Manu Smriti III, 59
34. Rig Veda.X.18.8
35. Mahabarata, XIII.144.26. and XIII.143.50
37. P.R Rao, Indian Heritage and Culture (Sterling Publishers Pvt Ltd-1998) P-12
39. Mahabharata. XIII.143.50
41. Ibid. New Delhi-1975.) p.76
44. V.A.Smith, Oxford History of India from the earliest times to the end of 1911(Oxford Uni, press, 1923) P.114
45. V.A.Smith, Akbar the great Mughal. (Oxford University Press, New York Oxford, 1919) 396
46. V.A.Smith, Oxford History of India (Oxford University Press, Michigan1923) P 76,87
2.2 CRISIS IN INDIAN SOCIETY

According to Webster’s dictionary the term ‘Crisis’ mean a turning point or any sudden deceive change in the course of disease favorable or un favourable. In Indian context, crises have consequented in to a deceive change, which has drastically altered course of affairs in Indian society. Crisis in Human society is not a new phenomena, since antiquity human society has confronted series of crises and has emerged successfully by strengthening and transforming it self in to better. Indian society is no exception to this, since time immemorial Indian society had faced a number of crises; through its undying spirit it had retained its personality, renown to the World. But from the time the fanatic Islamic Invaders and Europeans imperialists arrived in India, the course of Indian society took a grievous twist leading to multitude of crises.

Swami Vivekananda says” Many times I have been told looking into the past only degenerates and leads to nothing, and that we should look to future. That is true. But out of the past is built the future” therefore he emphasis to look back, in order to built better future. The modern crisis have definite roots in the past, in order to solve the present crisis, cognizance of past crises
and its implications are imperative to solve the malady of modern crises. In this chapter earnest effort has been embarked to trace the crises in Indian society from the advent of Islamic Invaders to the present state of affairs.

**Background of Islam**

Islam means submitting oneself to God. The history of Islam centers on Muhammad, the prophet of Islam. He was born on April 20, 570 A.D in a Qoreish tribe in Mecca. After the death of his parents he was raised by his extended family. By profession he was a tradesman and got married at the age of 25 years to a rich widow of 45 years. During his period, there was profuse polytheism and Idol worship in Arabia, which dissatisfied him. From the age of 40 till his death in 632 A.D, he would have revelations which he would teach to his followers, the record of these visions by his followers is called as Al Qur`an or Koran (the sacred book of Islam) which means 'The reading'. The fundamental principle of Islam are two 1) there is no God other than Allah. 2) Muhammad is the only prophet.

At first, Muhammad was sympathetic to both Christians and Jews, but after their rejection to his teaching in Jerusalem, he turned to his hometown Mecca; even in his hometown Muhammad's new faith was not widely accepted therefore, he
and his followers moved from Mecca to Medina (which means "City of the Prophet"). This movement is known as the Hijira or "the flight". In order to save his faith and life he had wage war against the nonbelievers, since then, especially under Abu Baktar a close aid of Muhammad, Islam spread quickly, and was successful in converting entire Arabia, western Asia, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, North Africa and Persia, Afghanistan and Mongol into its fold. Francois Gautier says "If French king Charles Martel did not beat Arab armies in 732 at Poitiers, (300 km from Paris) whole of Europe, might have been Muslim today".

One unique feature that we find in Islam is that Religion, Politics, Conquest and Conversion go hand in hand in Islam. In the following pages I have made an attempt to find out the causes for atrocities and their long lasting impact on Indian Society, which decisively changed the Indian course of life,

According to a renowned American historian, Will Durant "The Mohammedan conquest of India is probably the bloodiest story in history. It is a discouraging tale, for its evident moral is that civilization is a precious good, whose delicate complex of order and freedom, culture and peace, can at any moment be thrown by barbarians invading from without and multiplying within."
Alain Danielou states "From the time the Muslims started arriving, around 632 A.D., the history of India becomes a long monotonous series of murders, massacres, spoliations and destructions" and that is what really happened.

The first Islamic attack on India was in 664 A.D., it was an passing raid upon Multan (Northern Punjab) such raids lasted for next three centuries, at the same time their co-religionists were fighting in the west (i.e. the battle of Tours (732 A.D) for mastery of Europe.

Muhammad Bin Qasim

In 711 A.D Muhammad Bin Qasim of Arab entered India; His attacked resulted in ennumber of crimes, massacres and destructions of temples on the name of Jihad 'Holy War'. Once when he was offered a huge ransom in exchange to spare a famous idol he said "I prefer to appear on Judgment Day as an idol-breaker rather than an idol-seller."

In 1000 A.D the Islamic forces attacked on the city of Herat in western Afghanistan (then apart of Hindu Shahiya Kingdom) and butchered the entire Hindu population. Afghan historian Khondamir, notes that '1,500,000 residents perished.' 'since then the region where the slaughter took place is called as 'Hindu
Kush'. In Persian language it means 'Hindu slaughter', or Kill the Hindus' still this region is still known as 'Hindu Kush' reminding the Indian generations of the slaughter and slavery during the Moslem conquests.

Muhumad Ghazni (998-1030 AD),

Muhumad Ghazni, well known as the destroyer of thousands of Hindu Temples and idols, began his invasions of India from 1000 A.D, within a short span of 30 years he invaded India 17 times. His pivotal aim in Indian Invasions was not conquest as commonly believed but termination of the infields, their idols and loot of immense wealth from India. He first attacked Bhimnagar, slaughtered all inhabitants, pillaged cities and destroyed many temples, among his long list of temple destruction, the destruction of the famous Somnath at Gujarat is prominent. The temple housed a Lingam believed to be one among the twelve to be descended from heaven to earth, This temple stood with 56 carved pillars adorned with gems, its bell swung on a solid chain which weighed some fifteen hundred pounds. The Lingam is believed to be 7 yards high “Its position was such as it was about to move, and its expression such as it was about to speak” and its crown of gold was imbedded with precious stones, which made impossible to the human eye to
trace its gold and its Janivar (sacred thread across the body) was embedded with large shiny pearls.9

He attacked the famous Somnath temple with 113 soldiers. Before he set on to destruct the idol, around two thousand priests offered him an incalculable amount of gold, not to destroy it, but Muhumud utterly refused the offer and vandalized the Shiv lingam in to fragments, killed all fifty thousand inhabitants surrounding the area and sent the fragments of lingam to be paved at the entrance of Jami Masjid, Delhi,10 and left with a large booty of pearls, diamonds and rubies to Ghazni. He some times he took the war prisoners with him as slaves, later the condition was such that no one was ready to pay more than a few shillings for a slave.

In Mathura (the birth place of Sri Krishna) he razed 1018 temples to ashes.11 He melted all the sacred images and looted 98,300 mithquals of gold, 450 mithquals of silver, 200 silver idols.12 The glory of this city prior destruction can be visualized by the words of Muhumad himself “There are here a thousand edifices as firm as the faith of the faithfull; nor is it likely that this city has attained its present condition but at the expense of many millions of dinars, nor could such another be constructed under a period of 200 years”13.
He looked upon his numerous invasions of India as Jihad a holy war, before every conquest he knelt in prayer to obtain the blessings of Alla upon his arms. Historian of Muhammad, Al'Utbi, describing his raids writes: “He demolished idol temples and established Islam. He captured cities, destroyed the idolaters, and gratifying Muslims. He then returned home and promulgated accounts of the victories obtained for Islam and vowed that every year he would undertake a holy war against Hind.”

In 1030 he destroyed the temples and burnt the holy city of Benares into ashes. According to Alberuni a contemporary chronicler ‘Muhmud utterly ruined the prosperity of India’. Alberuni records about Hindus that ‘They were men of noble sentiment and noble bearing. In all grandeur, they never slackened in the desire of doing what is good and right’. The immense wealth looted by him can be apprehended by the words of his chronicler Tabakat-I-Nasiri he records that the display of “jewels, and unbored pearls and rubies shining like sparks, or like wine congealed with ice, and emeralds like fresh sprigs of myrtle, and diamonds in size and weight like pomegranates” astonished the foreign ambassadors.
According to Nizamamu-ud-din Ahmad of Firisha, there was an idol in Taneshwar known as Jagsom, when he wanted to destroy it, Raja Jaipal offered 40 elephants as a ransom to spare the idol, but Muhammad utterly refused and shattered the idol into pieces and sent them to be trodden at the gate of his palace. 

Effect of fanatic Atrocities on Indian Society can be summed up in the words of Abu-Raihan Muhammad Ibn Ahmad Alberuni, a Muslim scholar from Central Asia who wrote a very comprehensive book "Indica" in 1030 AD. He accompanied Mahmud of Ghazni on his campaigns in India, he wrote that: "Mahmud utterly ruined the prosperity of the country, and performed there, wonderful exploits, by which the Hindus became like atoms of dust scattered in all directions. ... Their scattered remains cherish, of course, the most inveterate aversion of all the Muslims. This is the reason; too, why Hindu sciences have retired far away from those parts of the country conquered by us, and have fled to places, which our hand cannot yet reach." 

Mahmud of Ghor (Shihab-ud-din)

He began his career as an invader in 1173. He was killed in 1206. For thirty years after Muhammad of Ghazni, Mahmud Ghor ravaged India in the same way. In fact with much intensity
than Ghazni. It was he who laid the foundation of muslim rule in India through his slave Qutb-ud-din Aybak,

Regarding Qutb-ud-din-Aibak a Muslim chronicler states that “His gifts, were bestowed by hundreds of thousands, and his slaughters like wise were by hundreds of thousands,” In one of his conquest 50 thousand Hindus came under him as slaves.22 "K.T Shah writes that the oldest Mosque in India, Qutbuddin's Mosque, was originally a Jain temple, which was replaced by mosque by the fanatics of islam.23

**Balban (ulugh Khan) (1262 A.D-1285 A.D)**

Balban punished Hindu rebels by casting them under the feet of elephants or removing their skin and stuffing them with straw and hanging them on the gates of Delhi. On 20th Jummada-I awwal he destroyed all the idols in Chitor excluding one big one idol which he sent to the court of his Majesty and in that stronghold of idolatry the summons to prayer was pronounced so loud that, they heard it in Mecca and Medina. He killed 30 thousands Hindus and renamed Chitor upon his son Khizrkhan as Khizrabad.24
Muhammud bin Tughlak (1325 A.D-1351 A.D)

Muhammud bin Tughlak surpassed his predecessors in aspects of barbarism. He fed the flesh of a rebel nephew to the rebel’s wife and children. He killed so many Hindus that a historian records “there was constantly in front of his royal pavilion and his civil court a mound of dead bodies and a heap of corpses, while the sweepers and executioners were wearied out by their work of dragging” the Victims “and putting them to death in crowds.” 25 He destroyed many temples including the temple at Chidambaram (In Tamil Nadu) and Sarandip (Srilanka) 26 Lal writes that once his loot in one single temple amounted to a sum, that was carried on 200 elephants and several thousand bullocks. 27

Firuz Shah Tughlak (1351 A.D-1388 A.D)

Firuz Shah Tughlak (1351-1388) himself writes “on the day of a Hindu festival, I went there myself, ordered the executions of all the leaders and practitioners of his abomination; I destroyed their idols temples and built mosques in their places.” 28

In his Bengal conquest Firoz shah offered prize money for every Hindu Head as a result he had to pay for 180,000 heads.

52
Ahmad Shah feasted for 3 days slaughtering Hindus in his territories and in day he reached 20 thousand.  

**Amir Timur or Tamerlane (1336 - 1405)**

Timur, the Mongol conqueror wrote: "My principal object in coming to Hindustan... has been to accomplish two things. The first was to war with the infidels, the enemies of the Mohammadan religion; and by this religious warfare to acquire some claim to reward in the life to come. The other was... that the army of Islam might gain something by plundering the wealth and valuables of the infidels: plunder in war is as lawful as their mothers’ milk to Musalmans who war for their faith."  

On the border of Kashmir he ramped the fort of Kator and ordered his soldiers "to kill all the men, to make prisoners of women and children, and to plunder and lay waste all their property" and "ordered to built towers on the mountain of the skulls of those deceased infidels ". Later he attacked Bhatnir of Rajputs. Tuzk-i-Timuri records: "In a short space of time all the people in the fort were put to the sword, and in the course of one hour the heads of 10,000 infidels were cut off. The sword of Islam was washed in the blood of the infidels, and all the goods and effects, the treasure and the grain which for many a long year had been stored in the fort became the spoil of my soldiers. They set fire to the houses and reduced them to ashes, and they
razed the buildings and the fort to the ground." He captured 100,000 Hindus as war prisoners and used them to against Tughlaq army, and at the end of war he "proclaimed throughout the camp that every man who had infidel prisoners should put them to death, and whoever neglected to do so, should himself be executed and his property given to the informer. When this order became known to the ghazis of Islam, they drew their swords and put their prisoners to death." In 1339 Teimur killed 100,000 Hindus in a single day.31

Alau-ud-din Khilji (1296 A.D-1316 A.D)

Alau-ud-din Khilji got rules and regulations for grinding Hindus down and depriving them of wealth and property. He said, Hindus will never become submissive and obedient till they are reduced to poverty.... 32 The position of the Indians was such, according to a Muslim Historian "No Hindu could hold up his head, and in their houses no sign of gold or silver...or of any superfluity was to be seen...Blows, confinement in the stocks, imprisonment and chains, were all employed to enforce payment," In 708. H. Alau-ud-din got 60,000 heads to be cut and constructed a pillar before Baduan gate, on the torso less heads as example to the future generations33 Amir Khusrau says, in a single day some thirty thousand Hindus were” cut down like dry grass” 34
In 1303 H. Alau-ud-din attacked Chittor, to obtain the extraordinarily beautiful Padmini, queen of Raja Ratan Singh of Chittor, in order to safeguard the chastity and honour queen along with fellow ladies committed Jauhor and killed themselves.

**Babar (1526 A.D –1530 A.D)**

In 1526 Babar invaded India and founded Mughal Empire he too had a fair share in killings and destruction of many Hindu temples and replacing them with Mosques,(not to forget the controversy of Babri Masjid).

**Akbar (1556 A.D-1605 A.D)**

At the age of 14 Akbar demonstrated his ancestral tendencies by cutting off the head of Hindu prisoner and got the title of Ghazi this was nature of Akbar prior to reformation, whom we glorify today as the great. The Britannica mentions that Mughal emperor Akbar ordered the massacre of about 30,000 captured Rajput Hindus on February 24, 1568 AD, after the battle for Chitor, a number confirmed by Abul Fazl, Akbar's court historian. During this period the position of women fell deplorably. Akbar constituted a massive harem comprising 800 concubines which included many Hindu women and widows.
According to his chronicler, Abul Fazal in Ain-i-Akbari states ..

"His majesty has established a wine shop near the palace ... The prostitutes of the realm collected at the shop could scarcely be counted, so large was their number ... The dancing girls used to be taken home by the courtiers. If any well-known courtier wanted to have a virgin they should first have His Majesty's [Akbar's] permission. In the same way, boys prostituted themselves, and drunkenness and ignorance soon led to bloodshed ..His Majesty [Akbar] himself called some of the prostitutes and asked them who had deprived them of their virginity.38 During Muslim rule it was common for men and women to be capture and sold in the slave markets like animals 39

On November 5, 1556 at the second battle of Panipat Akbar defeated Kafir Hemu ,beheaded him and his soldiers and constructed a "victory pillar" (old Khanate tradition, one which pre-dates even Genghis Khan,) made from the heads of the dead soldiers.40

But among all Islamic invaders he demonstrated Catholicity especially after his marriage wife Rajput princess; he even tried to unite both Hindus and Muslims under his new religion Din I Illai, which Muslim fanatics did like it.
Shah Jahan (1628 A.D-1658 A.D)

Shahjahan too followed the footsteps of his fanatic ancestors in vandalizing Hindu people and their temples. He ordered that Hindus could keep their Muslim wives only if they converted to Islam. Consequently, during his reign, 4,000 to 5,000 Hindus were converted into Islam in Bhadnor alone, 70 such cases were found in Gujarat and 400 in the Punjab.\(^{41}\)

According to Professor P.N. Oak,\(^{42}\) Taj Mahal is not Queen Mumtaz Mahal's tomb, but an ancient Hindu temple palace of Lord Shiva (then known as Tejo Mahalaya), worshipped by the Rajputs of Agra city. He claims, Taj Mahal is a corrupt version of Tejo-mahalaya, or the Shiva's Palace. In the course of his research, Oak states that the Shiva temple palace was snatched by Shah Jahan from Maharaja Jai Singh of Jaipur, and remodeled it into his wife's memorial.

Oak quotes from the chronicle Badshahnama, in which Shah Jahan admits that an exceptionally beautiful grand mansion in Agra was taken from Mahaharaja Jai Singh for Mumtaz's burial. And further adds that two such orders from Shah Jahan for the surrender building have been recorded in Maharaja's secret collection. Besides Carbon dating tests by Professor
Marvin Miller of New York revealed that the riverside doorway door of Taj was 300 years older than Shah Jahan.

Oak sums up the use of captured temples and mansions, as a burial place for dead courtiers and royalty was a common practice among Muslim rulers. He states, Hamayun, Akbar, Etmud-ud-Daula and Safdarjung were are all buried in such mansions.

Historian Vincent Smith also states that Babur died in the Taj Mahal 100 years before the death of the lady for whom the Taj is believed to have been built as a mausoleum. Smith in his book 'Akbar the Great Moghul', says: "It is surprising to find unmistakable Hindu features in the architecture of the tomb of a most zealous Musalman saint, but the whole structure suggests Hindu feeling and nobody can mistake the Hindu origin of the column and struts of the porch."

Nobel Laureate V.S. Naipaul, Says "I am less interested in the Taj Mahal which is a vulgar, crude building, a display of power built on blood and bones. Everything exaggerated, everything overdone, which suggests a complete slave population. I would like to find out what was there before the Taj Mahal."
**Aurangzeb (1658-1707)**

Aurangzeb most notorious nawab all, destroyed many temples and built mosques on them. Among them are the Kashi Viswanath temple, Krishna birth temple in Mathura, the rebuilt Somnath temple in Gujarat, the Vishnu temple (the present Benares, Alamgir mosque on it) Treta-ka-Thakur temple in Ayodhya.

According to his official chroniclers; “Aurangzeb ordered all provincial governors to destroy all schools and temples of the pagans and to make a complete end to all pagan teachings and practices” the chronicle sums up the destruction—“Hasan ali khan came and said that 172 temples in the area had been destroyed...His Majesty went to Chittor and 63 temples were destroyed... Abu Tarab, appointed to destroy the idol-temples of Amber, reported that 66 temples had been razed to the ground.”

In 1668 Hindu religious fairs were banned throughout the empire. In Jaipur 66 temples were destroyed at Amber. In April 1679 the Jizya tax was reimposed on Hindus. When Hindus gathered for an appeal against it they were trampled down by elephants. Aurangzeb was so fanatic that even executed his own brother Dara Shikoh who took interest in Hinduism and even beheaded
the Sikh Guru, Tegh Bahadur after torturing him for five days in December 1675 because he raised objection to the forced conversion 49

In 1739 Nadir Shah of Iran attacked Delhi, plundered and slaughtered for one week and left with precious furniture, 10,000 horses and the worth 150 million rupees in gold 50 Regarding the loot by Nadir Shah, Baran remarks “the British did not as much as what Nadir Shah, took as much from India in one year as the East India Company did in the twenty years following the battle of Plassey”51 Ahmad Shah Abdali followed Nadir Shah, he invaded India in 1761 and smashed the forces of the Marathas at Panipat and crushed forever the attempt of the Hindus to gain the ground, which they had lost to their Muslim invaders.

South Indian Crisis

Regarding the wealth of south India, Shiahabuddin Abdul Abbas Ahmad records “gold had been flowing into India for a number of centuries and had never been exported” 52 Such was the richness and prosperity of south India which was later shattered in to pieces.
Vijayanagar (1336–1565) "City of Victory," according to Durant was "the richest city that India had yet known". It was an asylum to the oppressed distitutes of north India who fled to save their faith and themselves from muslim onslaught and conversion campaign which was done on the might of sword. Vijayanagar ascended to its zenith under Krishnadevaraya, it was the largest and most powerful kingdom of the south India. Portugese visitor, Domingos Paes states that "He( Krishnadevaraya) is the most feared and prefect king that could possibly be, cheerful of disposition and very merry, he is one that seek to honour foreigners, and receives them kindly, asking about all their affairs whatever their condition may be". Paes, well acquainted with the Italian cities of the Renaissance visited Vijayanagar in 1522, looking at the beauty of Vijayanagar he remarked "The city of Vijayanagar is as large as Rome and very beautiful to the sight". It is full of charm and wonder with its lakes and waterways and fruit gardens. It is "the best-provided city in the World" and "every thing abounds". The chamber of the palace were amass of ivory at the top- "it is so beautiful that you would hardly find anywhere another such", According to Abdur-Razzak of central Asia who saw the city in 1443 describes "the city is such that eye has not seen nor ear heard of any place resembling it upon the
According to Maltus Sadain, all the citizens of Vijayanagara whether high and low, even the artificers wore jewels and ornaments. Such magnificent city became another victim of Islamic aggression.

Over the control of fertile Krishna-Tungabhadra river basin, political rivalry emerged between the Bahmani and the Vijayanagara rulers. The allied forces of the five Deccan Muslim sultanates (Bijapur, Golconda, Ahmednagar, Berar, and Bidar) attacked Vijayanagara resulting in the Battle of Talikot or Rakkasa Tangadagi on 23rd January 1565. The coalition army consisted of 3,000 infantry and 50,000 thousand, whereas the Vijayanagar army consisted of 90,000 infantry and 70,000 cavalry headed by the brave 96-year-old Rama Raya, Venkatadri, and Tirumla. By observing the army strength, no one could doubt the victory of Vijayanagara under Rama Raya, but exactly opposite occurred; two Muslim generals from the Hindu forces proved treacherous and fought against the Vijayanagara forces which resulted in the defeat of Vijayanagara forces. The wounded Rama Raya was captured and beheaded by Husain Nizam Shah, he further insulted his dead body, raised his head on a spear for Hindu troops to see.
The victors slaughtered the helpless inhabitants in indiscriminate butchery, emptied the stores and shops. Smashed the temples and palaces, and labored at great pains to destroy all statuary and painting in the city; then went through the streets with flaming torches, and set fire to all that would burn, when at last they retired, Vijayanagar was as completely ruined as if an earthquake had visited it and had left not a stone upon a stone says Alain Danielou. About 100,000 Hindus were slain as result the river ran red with blood 59

The coalition forces looted the immense wealth including male and female citizens of the city, while return all the Islamic soldiers were rich. According to Durrant “The conquest of the Vijayanagar Empire in 1564 left the capital plus large areas depopulated.60 The battle of Talikota was decisive battle in the history of India, it destroyed the final chance of Hindu supremacy in the south.

Tipu Sultan (1750 - 1799)

Tipu sultan was no exception to the ruthless atrocities. According to two Mysore-based Historians Dr MA Jayashree and M.A Narasimhan, In 1790’s on Diwali day Tipu Sultan slaughtered nearly 700 men women and children belonging to Iyengars community in Mandya. The co-authors sum up saying,
it is because of this incident the Iyengar community till today do not celebrate Diwali but instead observe it as a Dark Day.  

The above stated facts may be monotonous, unaccountable record of slaughters and plunders, but it is bitter fact to known by every Indians irrespective of community. The above stated facts are not intended to decry any community but ruthless fanaticism, which is killing human race globally. A bitter lesson should be drawn from these holocausts, we have to realize that, national security should never compromised for the ideals of peace and nonviolence, no doubt we strive to achieve these ideals but not at cost of innocent lives.

Causes Muslim aggression

The Islamic law divides unbelievers into two classes, viz., the People of the Book (Ahl-i-Kitāb), the Jews and the Christians - and the idolaters. The former were not to be lawfully molested in any way so long as they subordinated themselves by accepting the rule of the conquerors and paid the Jezia. But for the idolaters, the choice was between Islam and death.

The Islamic invaders where mere followers and instruments of Islamic ideology and faith. The following verses of Quran clearly explain the cause for aggression and atrocities.
"Make war on them until idolatry does not exist any longer and Allah's religion rules universally." (Q.8:39, also 2:193)

"Fight the unbelievers in your surroundings, and let them find harshness in you" (Q.9:123),

"Kill the unbelievers wherever ye find them, capture and besiege them and prepare them every kind of ambush" (Q.9.5).

"We break with you; hatred and enmity will reign between us until ye believe in Allahh alone." (Q. 60.4)

"The Jews and Christians and the Pagans will burn forever in the fire of hell. They are the filthiest of all creatures." (Q.98:51)

**Causes for failure.**

Indian society was never a composition of extremes, neither materialistic or ascetic, it was a perfect blend of Purushartha, the ultimate journey of one's life was to commence through dharma and culminate in to Moksha the ultimate aim of Hindu life.

On the eve of Islamic invasions Hindu states were disunited and often wasted their energies in petty quarrels, their regional interests pushed the national interest's back seat. The Rajputs
were very brave and well known for their martial arts skills, In fact Prithviraj Chauhan and Shivaji boldly challenged and defeated Islamic invaders number of times, even women of our country were not behind men in defending the motherland from alien intruders, Obhava of Chitradurga (Karnataka) boldly killed many soldiers of Haider Ali (Sultan of Mysore), even Alexander had to acknowledge the bravery of Rajput women during his invasions.

Rajputs or any India kings for that matter looked upon the battle as a platform for exhibiting their fighting skills with certain ideals. For example Manu, stated that- "A battle was ideally a gigantic tournament with many rules: a warrior fighting from a chariot might not strike one on foot; an enemy in flight, wounded or asking a quarter, might not be slain; the lives of enemy soldiers who had lost their weapons were to be respected; poisoned weapons were not to be used; homage and not annexation was the rightful fruit of victory. Such generosity and high ideals became a potent cause for their destruction and to some to extinct the wave of non-violent Buddhism suppressed the warrior instinct among the Indian rulers. But on the other hand, the Islamic invaders were merciless fanatics who knew no rules, for them only end-justified means.
Like the mighty Mauryas and Guptas there was no strong centralized government. The Rajputs chiefly depended on feudals who lacked unity, training and organization and were assembled only at the time of emergency. " According to a medieval Muslim historian quoted by Dr. Misra: "A commander with a heterogeneous army consisting of soldiers - a hundred from here and a hundred from there - cannot achieve anything. An army with so varied and so many component elements has never been able to achieve anything great."\(^{63}\)

It is has been the nature of human beings to deviate from central to peripheral hence the perfect blend of Indian dharma degenerated into disunions, exaggerated ritualism and indifference to the worldly affairs, this negligence and intense inertia made way to the successive invasions from Alexander to Auranzeb, and consequently Europeans, who exploited this sacred land for over 300 years.

**Impact on Society**

The Islamic Invaders perpetrated the largest holocaust of Hindus in history of mankind. The nation, which was light of the world, was eclipsed under the Islamic fanaticism and barbarism. Religion intoxicated invaders razed uncountable temples and
built mosques on its ruins, massacred unimaginable number of Hindu men, women and children and looted their property they created a gigantic havoc in the Indian society. Muslim invaders, and kings openly and forcibly converted people to Islam through jihad, there only choice surrender or succumb to death. . Sri Aurobindo once said: "More than 90% of the Indian Muslims are descendants of converted Hindus and belong as much to the Indian nation as the Hindu themselves" Sri Aurobindo once said: "More than 90% of the Indian Muslims are descendants of converted Hindus and belong as much to the Indian nation as the Hindu themselves". Hindus who were converted to Islam were called "Ajaf" (the low-born) over the so-called "Arab-descended Ashraf".

Later realization the impossibility of terminating all the Hindus or forcibly protlezing the entire Indian population, they brought the natives under the Hanifite law which allowed the Pagans to live by paying Jizya (tax on non Muslims) and as Zimmis (protected ones ) under 20 humiliating conditions, The islamic administration was a theocracy, the Quran and Sharia (Islamic law) provided the basis for enforcing Islamic administration over the independent Hindu rulers and population, The position of Hindu in their motherland became deplorable, their economies were tactfully destroyed in order to compel Hindus into their folds. The Muslim feudalism led to starvation of farmers and workers.
By and large, social inequities widened with the onset of Islamic rule in the sub-continent. Land revenue records clearly indicate that with few exceptions (as in Kashmir and Bengal for a time), Islamic rulers taxed the peasantry at significantly higher rates. If the average rate of taxation during the pre-Islamic period varied between 10% to a maximum of 20% - averaging around 15-16%, it had increased to 33% or even more under the Mughals. (Note that even the Manusmriti limited the tax rate on the peasantry to one-sixth - about 16%)

While all Islamic rulers may not have insisted on the discriminating jaziya, many of the earlier invaders insisted upon it, and more than one court chronicler of the Delhi Sultanate describes the violent means taken to suppress peasant rebellions and extract the high taxes from the crushed peasantry. Urban revolts were also not uncommon and the Arab chronicler Ibn Batuta mentions how such rebellions were suppressed with great cruelty. Punishment for those who rebelled could mean loss of adults (particularly young women) and children to slavery, massacres or forced evacuations of entire villages and small towns, pillage and destruction of places of learning, of temples and other symbols of cultural identification, and denial of job opportunities in the courts. In the early centuries of Islamic rule, the distrust of the locals was so intense that virtually all the
important administrative positions were kept in the hands of foreigners.

The position was such according to a Muslim Historian "No Hindu could hold up his head, and in their houses no sign of gold or silver...or of any superfluity was to be seen...Blows, confinement in the stocks, imprisonment and chains, were all employed to enforce payment," All of them were the victims of fanatic ideology of Islam. E.g. "Oh Prophet, make war upon infidels and unbelievers, and treat them severity 67

Centuries of Muslim atrocities brought rigidity in behavior Hindus. In short, the policy of Muslim rulers was to keep the Muslim minority in a privileged position and see to it that there was no integration between the two communities. Muslim rulers were so allergic to the prosperity of the Hindus that they expressed open resentment at the Hindus dressing well, 68

Many rulers of the Sultanate and Mughal time enforced regulations requiring Hindus to wear distinguishing marks on their dresses so that they may not be mistaken for Muslims. 69 The Fatawa-i-Alamgiri also recommended that the Hindus should not be allowed to look like Muslims. 70 The order of the Prophet was, "Do the opposite of the polytheists and let your beard grow long." 71
Islam became more an instrument of devastation and terror rather than a vehicle for social equality or social justice. Taken in its entirety, the period of Islamic rule in India cannot be seen as furthering social equity or social harmony in the subcontinent. As a faith-based ideological system, Islam could only guarantee equality before "God" - i.e. equality after death. But on earth, the plight of Muslim converts depended more on social realities, on political equations - than on the abstract and remote promise of equality offered by Islam.

The Islamic rulers eliminated all the cultural symbols that instilled pride and self-confidence in Hindus, for e.g. Bakhtiar Khilji in 1200 destroyed the World's pioneer University the 'Nalanda'. They completely destroyed the older centers of culture and learning, by burning of libraries such as in Nalanda and Vikramshila, and converted a large number of Buddhists to Islam.

One of the most deleterious effects of the Islamic invasions on social relations in India was the practice of slavery, which was introduced on a scale hitherto unseen in the subcontinent. Unlike the societies of the East, slavery appears to have played an important role almost throughout the history of the Western world and the Quran has passages that endorse the practice of slavery.
Position of Hindu Women

The position of the women declined to the lowest ebb. The gravest social evil practices such as Sati and Johar originated and became a common sight in the society, the genesis of these evil practices was to protect women of their chastity from brute invaders, they found it honour to die rather become victims of rape or their slaves. One such instance took place in 1568 at Chattisgarh when Muslim invaders overran: rather than submit to the rape and slavery that would follow, eight thousand heroic Hindu women committed sati en masse. Even the system Purdha among Hindu came into force in order to avoid the eyes of rapacious Islamic conquerors on them. Thousand years of the purdah had a highly detrimental effect on women, something from which the northern states have yet to recover.

According to Dr. Younis Shaikh (Pakistani author of the study 'Islam and Women'), eighty million were slaughtered and millions of women were raped. Sexual violence occurred on a gory and unimaginable scale: it was standard practice for Islamic warlords like Ghori and Ghazni to unleash the mass rape and enslavement of hundreds of thousands of women after the slaughter of all males. Dr. shaikh also quotes that "A large
percentage of Muslims in South Asia today are the progeny of forcible conversions and systematic rape campaigns by marauding Muslim invaders." 72 For instance, prior to the arrival of Islam, women enjoyed greater freedom of movement and dress. 11th C chronicler of Indian life, Al-Biruni expresses puzzlement at how the Hindu men (of Punjab) took the advice of the women "in all consultations and emergencies". But in a matter of few centuries, Islamic notions of gender separation and sexual prudery had infected Hindu households as well.

Alain Danielou in his Histoire de l'inde rightly concludes that the Muslim policy towards India "seems to have been a conscious systematic destruction of everything that was beautiful, holy, refined" 73

**Crisis during European Colonization**

Modern European colonialism dates from between 14th to 15th century and can be divided into two overlapping phases: the first from 1415 to about 1800; the second from about 1800 to World War II. In the first phase, Western Europe, led by Spain and Portugal, expanded in the East Indies and the Americas; in the second, Britain spearheaded European expansion into Asia, Africa, and the Pacific.
History books glorify Columbus and Vasco da Gama as great explorers who discovered new lands. But in fact these new lands existed even before they discovered them. When Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople they blocked the land route between Europe to India this compelled the European Nations into desperation to find sea route to India, to top it was not just trade, but the immense wealth of India and conversion zeal of missionaries, which made European countries to cast their evil eye on India, which resulted in the colonization, exploitation, and inquisitions by, Portuguese, French, Dutch, and consequently the British, who exploited India over 300 years.

In 14th and 15th century Europe was not a developed continent, only Spain and Portugal were able countries that started the rat race in the field of explorations to have colonies. They often entangled in disputes with each other concerning acquisition of colonies and wealth. In order to settle their disputes they approached the Pope Alexander VI, who pacified them through the treaty of Tordesillas in 1494, accordingly the Pope demarcated the world into two blocks by drawing a line through a point, 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde Islands, as result Spain was permitted to exploit the west side of the line of demarcation and Portugal was permitted to exploit the east side of the demarcated line. As a result Spain led by Columbus
exploited the Americas and Vasco da Gama of Portugal exploited India.

Columbus of Spain and Vasco da Gama of Portugal were hard core pirates, and murderers. In fact Vasco was sent to India, with a mission to spread Christianity and wage war. In fact Vasco was sent to India, with a mission to spread Christianity and wage war. With the help of a Omani navigator named Ahmad Ibn Majid from Malindi and an Indian pilot from Gujarat, Vasco Da Gama reached on 20th May 1498, on India's western shore in Calicut, (Kozhikode). What had been attempted and dreamed by so many, like Columbus, Prince Henry (The Navigator) and Estevoa da Gama (Vasco da Gama's father), was finally accomplished by him.

The King of Calicut, Raja, Zomorin received Gama warmly, but later Gama reciprocated this gesture by slaying him. Vasco-Da Gama started notorious games for which he was well known; he killed many innocent Indians and Muslims. In one instance, he waited for a ship to return from Mecca overtook it and seized all the merchandise, locked all the 380 passengers and set the ship on fire. It took four days for the ship to sink, killing all men, women, and children.
Later to demonstrate his demonic power, he hung 38 fishermen, cutting off their heads, feet, and hands; and dismembered corpses onto the shore. He bombarded the city with guns and forced his way into the trading system and this led the way for other Portuguese conquests in the East Indies. In seizing and retaining their strong points Portuguese acquired a reputation for cruelty and perfidy because their practice on both these points was below the current Indian standard. They were deeply impregnated with the idea that no faith need be kept with an infidel. It was from this period that the word feringi (lit.farangi, frank) acquired the obloquy (defame) which still be heard today.

In 1510 Affonso de Albuquerque attacked Goa (earlier called as Gomantak), which was then under the possession of Ismail Adil Shah, after conquering Goa he started slaughtering local residents specially targeting Muslims, the slaughtered campaign lasted for three days, in which 6000 were killed and number of mosques were burnt.

Alburquerque chalked out a cunning policy of inter-racial marriages to convert Indians in to Christianity, which resulted in a hybrid population called as Luso-Indians or goans, who are now Indian in blood, Catholic in religion, and partially western in
outlook. In the recent Football World Cup match many of them were found cheering the Portugal team, perhaps not knowing the atrocities committed on them. Portuguese in the aspect of proselytism exhibited brutalism as much as Islamic fanatics did. In 1540 on the orders of the King of Portugal all pagan temples in the island were destroyed. On 4th Dec 1567, laws were passed by the Roman Church for conversions of Muslims and Hindus. As per the law Christians were prohibited to employ infidels as servants in their houses, be cured by an infidel doctor or be shaved by an infidel barber. The law banned priests and public worship of both Hindus and Muslims including purchase of commodities pertaining to religion, not only this, Brahmins was forbidden to wear, the sacred thread (Janivaar). Pagans were tortured to attended church on Sundays. In 1575 they enforced a law, under which the property of issueless deceased of heathen (pagan) went to this nearest Christian relative (A Christian convert) if he had none, it went to the Cathedral. The Christian converts were allowed all legal privileges of the Portuguese.

**Portuguese Inquisitions**

The year 1541 marked the entry of the Catholic Church in the field of spreading Christianity, with the arrival of St. Francis
Xavier in India. He was the first missionary of the new Society of Jesus formed to support the authority of the Pope.

St. Francis Xavier along with Don Alexis de Menzes played a prominent part in Inquisitions of Goans; in fact Xavier had come to India with the firm resolve of uprooting paganism from the soil of India and planting Christianity in its place. He had pleaded with his monarch, Dom Joao, to 'order the establishment of the Inquisition in Goa.' The Goa Inquisition office (locally known as Vodlem Gor -- the Big House) aimed at Inquisitions at Goa and the rest of the Portuguese empire in Asia. A judge dispatched from Portugal headed it up, it aimed primarily at inquisition of Hindus and obstinate new converts, it had thousands of people converted, mostly by force and through torture.\(^\text{84}\)

The word Inquisition explains the strategy called 'Torture' in handling 'heretics'. The cost of torture and burning was paid by the victim or his/her relatives. Torture is justified in Bible "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned"-- John (15:6)

The Inquisition office became a symbol of fear. Children were flogged and slowly dismembered in front of their parents, whose

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eyelids had been sliced off to make sure they missed nothing. Extremities were amputated carefully, so that a person could remain conscious even when all that remained was a torso and head. Male genitals were removed and burned in front of wives, breasts hacked off and vaginas penetrated by swords while husbands were forced to watch. "So notorious was the Inquisition in Portuguese occupied India that word of its horrors reached every home. The archbishop of Evora, in Portugal, eventually wrote, "If everywhere the Inquisition was an infamous court, the infamy, however base, however vile, however corrupt and determined by worldly interests, it was never more so than in Goa." And it went on for two hundred years." 85

According to a Christian historian, Dr. T. R. de Souza: "At least from 1540 onwards, and in the island of Goa before that year, all the Hindu idols had been annihilated or had disappeared, all the temples had been destroyed and their sites and building material was in most cases utilized to erect new Christian Churches and chapels. Various vice regal and Church council decrees banished the Hindu priests from the Portuguese territories; the public practices of Hindu rites including marriage rites, were banned; the state took upon itself the task of bringing up Hindu orphan children; the Hindus were denied certain employments, while the Christians were preferred; it was ensured
that the Hindus would not harass those who became Christians, and on the contrary, the Hindus were obliged to assemble periodically in Churches to listen to preaching or to the refutation of their religion." 86 Normal rolls for Hindus were made, 100 in each roll, and 50 from each batch were to attend alternate Sunday sermons of one hour length. 87 A particularly grave abuse was practiced in Goa in the form of 'mass baptism' and what went before it. The practice was begun by the Jesuits and was alter initiated by the Franciscans also. The Jesuits staged an annual mass baptism on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (January 25), and in order to secure as many neophytes as possible, a few days before the ceremony the Jesuits would go through the streets of the Hindu quarter in pairs, accompanied by their Negro slaves, whom they would urge to seize the Hindus. When the blacks caught up a fugitive, they would smear his lips with a piece of beef, making him an 'untouchable' among his people. Conversion to Christianity was then his only option." 88 To seek justice, a non-Christian had to deposit £ 50. Non-Christians compelled to put different dress and were not allowed to ride on horse or move in Palanquin nor carry umbrella in Goa or its suburbs. "under these situations" says Whiteway, "nothing strange if one learns that in 1561 Goa and its surroundings areas became depopulated and that before the end of 16th century even fertile Sal settee became a desert." 89
The terror created by the Portuguese defied description. In fact sexual diseases especially Syphilis was actually first transmitted by them into India.\textsuperscript{90} Traditional lifestyles were disrupted, cultures destroyed, and people were subjugated or exterminated. As a result, the natives continued to harbor a deep resentment of the colonial powers.\textsuperscript{91}

The Portuguese monopolized the trade and started looting immense of wealth of India which impoverished Indian and enriched Portugal. The Portuguese were notorious for their slave-markets in India, even as slavery was banned in Europe. The European trading companies made huge profits from the slave trade. The capital drain from India had major effects on Europe's development, it also helped to bring an end to the middle Ages, stopped Muslim superiority in trade in the Indian Ocean, and was a significant revolution in trade.\textsuperscript{92} Because of this, many Arab nations entered a state of economic decline. This may have contributed to the period of stagnation that Islam experienced in the seventeenth century.

William Durant asserts that his voyage was one of the causes that helped end the Medieval Ages. Vasco's voyage not only did it help Portugal's economy, but it helped all of Europe's economy and trade. Durant also claims that Vasco da Gama's voyage
helped one of the greatest commercial revolutions before the invention of the airplane: "The discoveries begun by Henry the Navigator, advanced by Vasco da Gama, culminating in Columbus, and rounded out by Magellan affected the greatest commercial revolution in history before the coming of the airplane."  

The British Background

The immense wealth looted by Portugal widened the eyes of British. Later it was successful in decoding the secret route to India, which the Portuguese kept it secret. The British East India Company was established on 31st December 1600 AD under a Royal Charter of Queen Elizabeth I for 15 years for spice trading, with the capital of £70,000. In 1615 A.D Sir Thomas Roe, ambassador of James I of England came to the court of Jehangir and was successful in obtaining permission to start factories in Surat. It should be noted that East India Company came to trade in India with only 50,000 pounds. On pretext to protect its trade form thieves they established a armed force. Gradually, they started involving in the petty quarrels and disputes by taking sides through helping one against another charging heavy price. First they captured Surat market then Surat itself; latter in the
same way they captured Madras, Calcutta, Delhi and ruled Indian markets till 1750. But after the decisive battle of Panipat in 1757, the almost entire nation politically came under its control. Later the Company took control of Mysore in 1792 by defeating Tipu Sultan, Marathas in 1817 AD - 1819 AD, Nepal in 1814-16, Sind in 1843, Punjab in 1848-49 and by 1858 entire nation came under its control.

**Battle of Plassey 23 June 1757**

The battle of Plassey holds historical importance to India because its formidable enemy plugged off which later made way for the control of entire India. This battle cost, loss of immense wealth to East India company at the cost of helpless people. It was fought was between Siraj Ud Daulah, the last independent Nawab of Bengal, and the forces of the British East India Company, at Palashi (name of a small village near battlefield), West Bengal. It was a decisive victory for British East India Company.

The British through corruption got Mir Jafar Ali Khan, Commander-in-chief of Nawab’s army to his side by promising the throne of Bengal. According to Robert Clive in his letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury on the recapture of Calcutta from Sirajuddaulah, Spring 1757: The British army consisted of six
hundred Europeans, eight hundred blacks, seven field-pieces, and the sailors, where as Siraj ud dwula's army composed of twenty thousand horse, and thirty thousand foot, twenty-five pieces of cannon, and a great number of elephants, in spite of this massive and superior army Siraj ud dwula lost the battle due to the treason by his army Commander-in-chief, who remained aloof with 16,000 cavalry, causing his army to collapse. Robert Clive reports on the Battle of Plassey, 1757 to the Secret Committee of the Directors, 26 July 1757 that 'the battle cost them just 22 killed and 50 wounded (most of these were native sepoys), while the Nawab's army lost at least 500 men killed and several wounded This is how, though treachery and corruption British ascended the throne of India

Wealth Drain

The battle of Plassey fetched the East India Company untold wealth, which was drained to Britian at the cost of natives. As per their agreement between Jafar and Clive, Clive collected £ 2.5 million for the company, and £ 234,000 for himself from the Nawab's treasury. In addition, Watts collected £ 114,000 for his efforts. The annual rent of £ 30,000 payable by the Company for use of the land around. Fort William was also transferred to
Clive for life. To put this wealth in context, an average British nobleman could live a life of luxury on an annual income of £800.

The Battle of Panipat was a starter to the drain of wealth from India Britain, which help Industrial Revolution in England, in the 18th century, which consequently spread to Europe. With the emergence of Industrial revolution, British gained the monopoly of Indian exports; East India Company stopped the export of Indian manufactured goods to England and Europe through legislation.

Montgomery Martin in 1840 before the inquire committee of British Parliament said that: "India is as much a manufacturing country as an agriculturist; and he who would seek to reduce her to the position of an agricultural country, seeks to lower her in scale of civilization" this is what the British did exactly by reducing her to utter poverty.

Caste

According to Oxford Dictionary Caste is a religious concept "each of the hereditary classes of Hindu society, distinguished by relative degrees of ritual purity or pollution and of social status." and as "any exclusive social class." The term caste is misnomer to Varna, there is clear distinction between Varna & Jati. Basically Varna means class and Jati,
means caste, which signifies birth. The word 'caste' is derivative of the Portuguese word 'Casta' which means breed or kind. It was applied to the Indian Varna system by Garcia de Orta in 1563.\footnote{101}

Portuguese indiscriminately applied this term to the group's, tribes, & classes irrespectively of their Varnas & Jati. When the British undertook Census they termed more than 3000 social groups as caste in substitution of Varna.

Caste system is not confined to only Hinduism, as commonly believed. In all non-egalitarian societies, where in wealth and political power were unequally distributed, social inequities have appeared and often implied hereditary privileges for the elite and socially (or legally) sanctioned discrimination against the subordinate lot.

Caste-like divisions are to be found in the history of most nations - whether in the American continent, Africa or Europe or elsewhere in Asia.\footnote{102}

In some societies, caste-like divisions were relatively simple, in others more complex. For instance, in Eastern Africa some agricultural societies were divided between land-owning and landless tribes (or clans) that eventually took on caste-like characteristics. Priests and warriors enjoyed special privileges in
the 15th Century Aztec society of Mexico and so was in Japan between Samurais (warrior nobles) and priests. Notions of purity and defilement were also quite similar in Japanese society who carried out "unclean" tasks, they were treated as Baraku, (social outcasts) just as Sudras were treated in India.

In ancient Roman civilization, there was state sanctioned slavery coded into law. European feudalism provided all manner of hereditary privileges for the knights and landed barons (somewhat akin to India's Rajputs and Thakurs) and amongst the royalty, arranged marriages and dowry were just as common as in India. Discrimination against the artisans was also commonplace throughout Europe, and as late as the 19th century - artisans in Germany had to go through a separate court system to seek legal redress. They were not permitted to appeal to courts that dealt with the affairs of the nobility and the landed gentry. A common pattern that seems to emerge from a study of several such ancient and medieval societies is that priests and warriors typically formed an elite class in most medieval societies and social privileges varied according to social rank; in settled agriculture based societies, this was usually closely related to ownership of land.

Caste system prevails in Nepal, Bangladesh, Bali, Pakistan, Yemen, Israel and Africa. It also exists among Indian Muslims,
despite their conversion to Islam as, Ashraf and Ajlaf, or oonchi zaat (high caste) and niichi zaat (low caste) \(^{104}\)

In addition to the Ashraf and Ajlaf castes, there exist the Arzal under-caste or the Dalit Muslims who are regarded by the Ashraf and the Ajlaf as ritually impure and are relegated to professions regarded as "menial" such as scavenging and the carrying of night soil.

Pakistani Muslims still refer to themselves as Jats, Gujjars, Rajputs, etc. especially during match-making in an arranged marriage (Nikah). For eg. The exiled former prime minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto in her book 'Daughter of the East', says, "In my veins runs the blood of a Wadhera". Wadheras are a Rajput clan from Punjab and Sindh. Indian Christians also are not free of caste; Goans and East Indian Christians, still refer to themselves as Bamons (Brahmins), Bhandaris, Kolis, Prabhus, etc. The Sikhs too refer to themselves as Jat Sikhs, Mazabhi Sikhs, Ramgarhia Sikhs. Jat Sikhs profess surnames like Chauhan (Jagjit Singh Chauhan), Dhillon (Ganga Singh Dhillon), Arora (Jagjit Singh Arora), Oberoi, Saini, etc., that display caste backgrounds.

But in the intensity of its existence in the social fabric, no country can dare to come close to India
Harmful effects of caste system on Indian society

Caste system since its degeneration has become a major stumbling block in the way of national progress, it has divided the society in to thousands of castes and sub-castes; it is worth recalling that it was this bifurcation that failed the masses to be united during the alien invasions since Alexander to Britishers. It sappened the defense of the country. Caste system created a separate block called as Kshatriyas and defense became the sole concern of them only. Common men failed to come forward to fight the alien invaders. Due to extreme rigidity of casteism massive number of Hindus migrated to other religions such as Buddhism and Jainism etc. Dr. B.R Ambedkar so fedup that after receiving ordination from Buddhist monk Bhadant U. Chandramani, On 14th October 1956 at Nagpur, Bodhisattva he gave Dhamma Diksha to the half a million Indians. 105

The role of Caste in politics

Casteism has been a source of social and political weakness of India. Since pre-independence caste has been a detriment and decisive factor in Indian politics. The Britishers accepted and encouraged the castes liberally to counter balance the higher classes who seemed detrimental to their empire. It also provided
them a fair chance to convert low castes and tribal Indians in to Christianity. In the independent India, the government carried the same legacy by providing special privileges to the backward classes thus turning them in to separate sects.

The pathetic condition is that today out of total population of India there are 16% of Scheduled castes (i.e. around 160 million), 7% of Scheduled Tribes (i.e. around 70 million) and 52% of OBC (There is substantial debate over the exact number of OBCs in India) who need care and support.

Constitution provides for reservations of seats for scheduled castes and backward classes in parliament, state legislatures and government services. No doubt it is a noble and necessary move by the government, initiated by the great son of India Dr. B.R Ambedkar. The reservation system was originally supposed to last only for ten years. However, it has continued to this day. Efforts are not being made to uplift the down trodden to the main stream, instead the governments are suppressing them by granting special privileges, thus reminding them that they a separate lot. This is a major set back to National integration.

Politization of Caste in Independent India can be traced back to the post Mandal Commission, which was established by Jantha Party in 1979 by the under Prime minister Morarji Desai with a mandate to "identify the socially or educationally backward" As
per the commission in 1980 the members of lower castes, known as other Backward classes, Scheduled castes and tribes were given exclusive access to a certain portion of government jobs and slots. Since then many political parties in India have openly indulged in caste-based Vote bank politics. In 1990’s, many parties such as Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), the Samajwadi party, Janta Dal DMK etc. started claimed to represent the backward castes and eventually came into power with the support of Dalits and Muslims.

Today the situation has become so grave, that it reminds of Mr.J.P.Narayan words, who once stated “caste is the most important political party in India”. Caste today plays a vital role right from issue of tickets by the party to its candidates to caste-based governance. Wherever discriminations take place upheavals occur, May 2006 Anti-Caste –based reservation protests against 27% OBC reservation quota is one such recent specimen.

The preamble of our Constitution declares India in to a sovereign, socialist, secular democratic, republic and to secure to all its citizens: Justice, social, economic and political liberty of thought, expression, belief and worship, Equality of status and opportunity and to promote among all Fraternity assuring the
dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation. Hence any discrimination is against the constitution. Article 16(4) no doubt makes provision for the reservation of Sc/St’s and Obc’s, but reservation based on caste (birth) is dangerous, it differentiates them with the fellow brethren, Discrimination only guarantees, dissatisfaction and disorder in the society, which is a major stumbling block in nation’s integrity and prosperity.

**Corruption**

Our country has most gracefully mastered the art of corruption. According to World Bank report of 1997 “corruption is abuse of public power for private gains” this appears to be very a slim explanation of the term corruption. In fact corruption is a multi-facet, all pervasive evil found in every nook and corner of our society, from bottom to top, like virus it has engulfed our entire nation.

According to the ‘Indian Corruption Study 2005’ (based on a survey conducted jointly by Transparency International India and the Center for Media Studies) Indians pay Rs 21,068 crore per year as bribes to 11 services viz. the police (crime and traffic), subordinate judiciary, land administration, municipal services, government hospitals, electricity (consumers), public distribution system (ration card/supplies), income tax (individual assesses),
water supply, education (up to Class XII) and rural financial institutions (farm micro-credit).

The study clarifies, the police (crime/traffic) accept bribes- Rs 3,899 crore and schools up to Class XII -- Rs 4,137 crore in one year, and has been ranked the most corrupt, for accepting bribe among the 11 public services. The study states the reason for schools lion’s share of the bribes is because the proportion of citizens interacting with schools is greater compared with those interacting with the police.

Among the five basic services, government hospitals were branded the most corrupt as people had to pay bribes to get medicines, get admission into hospitals, consult doctors and avail of diagnostic services.

Electricity was the second most corrupt among the basic public services. Nearly 65% of the corruption here involves billing and granting new connections.

The survey also reveals that among the 20 states surveyed in India, Kerala ranks first as the least corrupt state, followed by Himachal Pradesh (2), Gujarat (3), Andhra Pradesh (4), Maharashtra (5), Chhattisgarh (6), Punjab (7), West Bengal (8), Orissa (9), Uttar Pradesh (10), Delhi (11), Tamil Nadu (12), Haryana (13), Jharkhand (14), Assam (15), Rajasthan (16),
Karnataka (17), Madhya Pradesh (18), Jammu and Kashmir (19) and Bihar (20) rank as the most corrupt.  

A recent countrywide corruption survey by Transparency International found that Delhi’s public distribution system (PDS) is the second most corrupt in the country after Bihar, with estimates suggesting that between 80%-90% of food grain meant for citizens below the poverty line is pilfered, sold to grain traders and then sold at regular prices on the open market.  

Over fifty years of democratic rule, has made us so immune to corruption that we have learnt, how to live with the system even though the cancerous growth of this malady may finally kill us.  

According to a latest World Bank study, farmers in Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have to pay huge sums of money as bribes to get their loans sanctioned. On average, a farmer in Andhra Pradesh has to pay Rs 1,428.60 in bribes to take a loan from a commercial bank, and Rs 1,565.10 if the loan is from a rural bank. In statistical terms, this amounts to 6.5% and 9.8% of the approved loan. The situation is worse in Uttar Pradesh with commercial banks collecting 10.2% of the loan amount as bribes, and rural banks going a step further sometimes collecting bribes amounting to 23.8% of the loan. Interest rates too are often
high. In Andhra Pradesh, banks only sanction 87% of the loan and take 25 weeks to process it; in Uttar Pradesh, farmers get 95% of the loan amount and the time taken to process it is 22-36 weeks.

The matter of serious concern is that by every year corruption is mounting at alarming rate in 2001 India ranked 72 place, in 2002-73 place, in 2003- 83 place and 88th place in the 2005 Corruption Perceptions Index's (CPI's) a 145-nation survey of the world's most least non corrupt countries; In Asia, India ranks 2nd place in the list of most top five corrupt countries where as our neighbor countries like Singapore and Sri Lanka ranked 6th and 78th rank. Deplorable condition is that India is one of the few countries in the world, which has not signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption, that seeks to establish a global legal framework to fight corruption in a more cohesive way.

Criminalization of politics is another facet of corruption. A.D.Gorwala, an eminent civil servant in his report submitted in 1951 mentioned that a few of Nehru's ministers were corrupt and Government went out of its way to shield its ministers. we find that while Nehru's tolerance of corruption among his ministers legitimized this malady, his daughter Indira Gandhi
institutionalized it by holding both the posts of the Prime Minister and party president. By doing so she was herself controlling the party funds, which gave birth to the money power in politics. Transparencies, responsiveness, accountability, probity in public life and good governance are now only slogans. The failure of the political leadership to take a principled stand against corruption has clouded the system to the extent that it is now difficult to understand whether the system is alive or dead.

The on going war cry against corruption, which is nothing but a mad fight to replace one corrupt system by another is not going to transform the nation to a sustainable social order. License to govern has come to mean license to be corrupt. It worth to take lessons from the pages of history that corruption and nepotism were the main reasons behind the fall of Roman empire, the French Revolution, October Revolution in Russia, fall of Chiang Kai-Shek Government on the mainland of China.

**Communalism**

Tensions based on religious affiliations are called as communalism. Communalism is concerned with the ideological difference between different religious groups; every communal group believes itself to be superior to others and hence the clash.
Besides major communities there are sub divisions in one religion for e.g., Islam into shias and sunni and Christianity in to Catholic and Protestants, which often result in violence.

India is a vast country with large population, next to China in world population ranking; India has embraced and sheltered many religions in to its fold. It is a home to 827,578,868 Hindus, 138,188,240 Muslims, 24,080,016 Christians, 19,215,730 Sikhs, 7,955,207 Buddhists, 4,225,053, Jains, 6,639,626 others-114
1,652 mother tongues in spite of this diversity there is a sense of national unity. But Communalism has posed a most formidable threat to national integrity, like a parasite it is weakening the foundations of our society. Communalism has created an attitude of intense isolation among the masses, the situation is such that one group is always on the look out for the opportunity to harm other.

Origin

Historical factor:

Islamic invaders surcharged with fanatic ideology invaded and destroyed numerous Hindu religious monuments razed cities into ashes; levied Jazia converted Hindus into Islam by force. Even the early Christian missionaries led crusades and
inquisitions against Indians to convert them to their fold, these series of atrocities have created a vast gap between the communities. (Please see the earlier chapter for the atrocities on Indians)

**Psychological Factor:**

There is a vast difference in ideology Hindus and Muslims, ideological differences kept Muslims aloof from Hindus. The very bases of Islam is against Pagans, it recommends Jihad against infidels and aims at Dur-ul-Islam (Converting the whole world into Islam). Besides Hindus too could never erase from their memory the Indelible atrocities committed on them since centuries.

**Cultural Factors:**

Each religions has grown as a consequent of its social and geographical factors and hence the cultural variations, In the matters of property inheritance, divorce attitude way of life etc. there is remarkable differences between Hindu and Muslim Culture, For e.g. Hinduism implies polytheism and monogamy while Islam insists monotheism and polygamy.
Religious Factors:

As India is a secular country it does not interfere in religious matters this freedom in one way has effected in strengthening of each communal groups at the cost of national integration. Besides inflow of funds from foreign countries remains unchecked which is mostly utilized in conversion, spread of ill will and terrorism.

Political Factors:

In pre independent India there was peaceful coexistence if not absolute unity between Hindus and Muslims. In fact Hindus and Muslims were getting close to each other. This unity was an eye sore to British. Lord Ellenborough, governor general of Colonial India, in his writings to the Duke of Wellington on 4th October 1843 observed: "I could not have credited the extent to which the Muhammadans desired our failure in Afghanistan, Unless I had heard here circumstances which prove that the feeling pervaded even those entirely dependent upon us. "......The Hindus, on the other hand, are delighted. It seems to me most unwise, when we are sure of the hostility of one tenth, not to secure the enthusiastic support of the nine-tenths which are faithful." Again on January 18, 1843 he said: "I cannot close my eyes to the belief, that the race (Muslims) is fundamentally
hostile to us and therefore our true policy is to conciliate the Hindus." But the Sepoy mutiny of 1857 changed the course of affairs in Indian History. The mutiny sparked due to the episode of the greased cartridges which were to be chewed before firing contained fats of cow and pig. The cow was holy for Hindus where as pig was the most unholy animal for Muslims. The Mutiny led Martyr Mangal pandey, severely jolted the very foundations of the Company's rule in India, which culminated in to the transfer of power from the East India Company to the British crown in 1858

After this incident the English realized the potential danger of Hindu Muslim unity to their very existence in India and began their decisive policy of "Divide and Rule" which no doubt paid them rich dividends but ruined India by dividing the two most powerful communities.

In 1857 Lt.-Col.Jhon Coke wrote: " Our endeavour should be to uphold in full force the (for us fortunate) separation which exists between the different religious and races, not to endeavour to amalgate them. Divide et impera should be the principle of Indian government"

The same was exhorted by Lord Elphinstone, Governor of Bombay(Mumbai) on 14th May 1859: " Divide et impera was the old Roman motto and it should be ours" 116
Mr. Sayyid Ahmed Khan (then torch barer of Muslim community) was corrupted by the seeds of bigotry and communalism by the British through Mr. Beck. Mr. Sayyid Khan who once had remarked "Hindus and Muslims are the two eyes of India. Injure to one and you injure the other". Later advised the Muslims not to join the Hindus. and on July 20 1905, Bengal was divided on communal lines in to East Bengal which was of Muslim majority and West into Hindu majority. One of dire consequences of partition was it gave birth to two groups Unionists led by Jinnah who wanted to work with Congress and another was Separatists who refused to join Congress Agha Khan in fact declared that Muslims were a nation with in a nation and on 1st October 1906 Muslim league was founded under the leadership of Agha Khan. The main aims of Muslim league were: loyal to British and to protect and advance the political rights and interests of Muslims

**Communal riots**

Sayyid Ahmad Khans opposition to the congress quickly turned into anti-Hindu Jihad. Instigating messages were published, "Ye Mussalmans, arise, awake! Do not read in the same schools with the Hindus. Do not touch any article manufactured by the Hindus. Do not give any employment to the Hindus. Do not accept any degrading office under a Hindu. You
are ignorant, but if you acquire knowledge you can send all Hindus to Jahannum (Hell). You form the majority of the population in this province. The Hindu has no wealth of his own and has made himself rich only by despoiling you of your wealth. If you become sufficiently enlightened, the Hindus will starve and soon become Mohammedans”. This gave rise to massacre of number of Hindu Men, women and children.

According to H.W Nevison, representative of Manchester Guardian “Priestly Mullahs went through the country preaching the revival of Islam and proclaiming to the villages that the British government was on the Mohammedan side, that the Law Courts had been specially suspended for three months and no penalty would be exacted for violence done to Hindus, or for the loots of Hindu shops or the abduction of Hindu widows. A Red Pamphlet was everywhere circulated maintaining the same wild doctrine … In Comilla, Jabalpur and a few other places, rather serious riots occurred. A few lives were lost, temples desecrated, images broken, shops plundered, and many widows carried off. Some of the towns were deserted, the Hindu population took refuge in any pukka houses, women spent nights hidden in tanks, the crime known as ‘group rape’ increased and throughout the country districts, there reigned a general terror, which still prevailed at the tome of my visit”. During all this the British kept
mum. Later the British introduced the Minto Morley's reforms, which is known as the Government of India Act of 1909. Which further gave birth to the demand of separate electorates in 1906 from then onwards communalism was openly introduced in India.

Since then it became the policy of British instead uplifting the Muslim Minority they instilled ill will and hatred against Hindu Majority and reared up communal force to counter balance the Majority Hindus. Sir Bampfylde Fuller, Governor of East Bengal referred British government in India as having two wives, Hindu and Muslim, of which Muslim was the 'favourite' Wife. The most deplorable situation today is that still principle of Divide and rule is being carried with utmost sincerity and loyalty by our Political leaders to secure vote Banks.

We have realize that it was this communalism which ruined the country during pre independence and post independence period. It was this fanatic ideology which resulted in the mercy less killings which was between 200,000 and three millions innocent lives of both India and Pakistan during partion of India. And still a very inflammable source of tension and Violence.
Kashmir Crisis

Kashmir is derived from the Sanskrit "Kashyapa" + "Mira", which means the mountain range of sage Kashyapa. Kashmir was one of the most important centers of Buddhism in India.

Background

Due to weakening of health and tiresome politics Mohammad Ali Jinnah wanted to take a vacation in Kashmir (mountain ranges of Sage Kashyap), which followed the policy of 'Stand still' by not ceding to Pakistan nor India. Jinnah’s wish was rejected by the Hindu king of Kashmir, Raja Hari Singh, this created ill will and suspicion that Kashmir might join India. To avoid this Pakistan gave communal colouring to it, through by brainwashing the Pathans (Pasthuns) tribes of Northwest frontier province to rescue the Muslim brethren from the rule of infidel, who were planning to expand their boundaries up to Peshawar and river Indus under the king of Afghanistan, who aimed at creating of 'Greater Pasthunistan'. Thus Pakistan succeeded in misleading the Pasthuns from invasion of Pakistan to Jihid (holy war) against the infidel Hindu king.

The interwoven forces of Pakistan and Pasthuns launched attack on Kashmir on 21st Oct 1947 and began to kill, rape and
loot Kashmiris owing to this Raja Hari Singh appealed to the Indian government to come to its rescue by signing the instrument of accession of J & K to India; it should be noted it is through this instrument of accession all the 600 princely states of India were united in to one nation by Home minister Sadar Vallabhai Patel after Independence.

Below is the Extract of the Instrument of accession of king of Kashmir:

"...I Shriman Indar Mahandar Rajrajeshwar Maharajadhiraj Shri Hari Shinghji, Jammu Kashmir Naresh Thatha Tibbet adi Deshadhipathi, Ruler of Jammu and Kashmir State, in the exercise of my sovereignty in and over my said State do hereby execute this my Instrument of Accession and I hereby declare that I accede to the Dominion of India... Dated this Twenty-Seventh day of October Nineteen Hundred and Forty-Seven." 121

On Jan 1, 1948 Nehru did a great blunder by taking the issue of Pakistani attack to UN Security Council by advise of Mountbatten, which was already decided by the War of 1947 that Kashmir was an integral part of India. On 13 Aug 1948 United Nations Commission on India and Pakistan (UNCIP) was constituted and according to its resolution of Aug 13 1948, Part I: provided for a cease fire between the two countries by signing
treaty which was broken again and again by Pakistan in... Part II: recognized for necessity of Indian army in Kashmir to defend it and Part III stated that the "future status of the state of Kashmir shall be determined in accordance with the will of the people" indicating the possibility of independence from both India and Pakistan but Pakistan could not digest it and reduced this provision to the question of the accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to India or Pakistan and hereby excluding the possibility of independent Kashmir altogether in the resolution of 5 Jan 1949.

Pakistan was never in favour of Self-determination (Plebiscite) of the Kashmiris because it very well knew that she will never win due to the atrocities committed on the Kashmiris, until there was illegal Pakistani infiltration and thus since then terrorism and infiltration began to change the mindset of Kashmiris and to drive Hindu population out of Kashmir, Between 1989 and 1990 world got to see the best specimen of human genocide and terror in Kashmir sponsored by Pakistan

Anti Hindu drive began publicly from 1989 by killing selected kashmiri Pandits such as, advocate Tiklov kapoor, Justice Nikanth Ganju, advocate Premnath Bhatt etc. Men were mutilated, women were raped and hanged naked on streets enumber of Hindu men, women, children were brutally massacred, in first months of
1990, the entire Hindu population (about 2 lakhs) was forcibly driven from the Kashmir Valley, this inhumane act of terror led to the throwing out of 400,000 Kashmiri Pandits. Kashmiri Pandits out of their 5000 year old home Kashmir, in way this large number of Indians became refugees in their own land; 90% of them are still struggling in the refugee camps. But nobody, no Government nor human rights organization has come to its rescue. So called human rights organizations, and global powers have become mute spectators of this fanatic Blood Sport on Humanity.

Today more than 350,000 Kashmiri Pandits are still languishing in the refugee camps succumbing to death due to intolerable temperature, food, clothing, shelter and bronchial diseases resulting due to the presence of surrounding of brick factories. Every single living Kashmiri Pandit is a living example of neglect, misery, despair and deprivation.

At present the situation is that India controls only 45.5% of J&k, which include four regions namely Kashmir valley, Jammu, Ladakh and Siachen. And is divided into 14 administrative districts: Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam, Doda, Jammu, Kargil, Kathua, Kupwara, Leh, Poonch, Pulwama, Rajauri, Srinagar and Udhampur. Major cities include Srinagt, Jammu, and Leh.
Whereas Pakistan Occupied Kashmir includes 85,846 km\(^2\) comprising Azad Kashmir and northern areas. And China occupied Kashmir includes Aksai Chin and a small part of Trans-Karakoram tract that was ceded by Pakistan to China in 1963.

The so-called global leader takes no cognizance of this issue, in fact, there have been intentional efforts by international firms to portray Indian maps without Jammu and Kashmir (J & K) for instance, CNN and Fox News displayed India maps without (J & K) in one of their news pages and sites. But after strong protests, they ended up in removing distorted Indian maps. (Please find Distorted Indian map on next page)

**Terrorism**

Terrorism means the use of force to achieve ends. In India, terrorism is actually political terrorism aimed at achieving political ends. Ironically, only after 9/11 terrorism is being recognized as a global problem, which we and other nations have been suffering since decades. According to South Asia Terrorism Portal during 2000 to 2004 the highest fatalities due to terrorist acts are in India resulting in 23312 fatalities and 41271 in South East Asia,
Pakistan’s emergence and recognition as a frontline state in the US-led global war on terror has done nothing to stop it. In spite of Pervez Musharraf’s declaration to end terrorism nothing seems slim. Pakistan is rearing over 1,500 militants in 60 active training camps. Pakistan has been using terrorism as an instrument of state policy and a strategic weapon against India since 1956. It has been sponsoring acts of terrorism through its Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), against India in J&K and in other parts of India.

Pakistan’s short-term objective may appear to Kashmir but long-term objective is disintegration of India and the creation of an Islamic caliphate from Afghanistan to Bangladesh.

Initiation of ‘peace process’, by opening up transport links between India and Pakistan, is actually facilitating Islamabad to dump its fanatics into India. The proportion of non-Kashmiris involved in the militancy in J&K has been steadily rising from about 6% in 1992 to about 60% in 2002. Pakistan’s jihad has already succeeded in driving the Pandits out of Kashmir, and in setting Mumbai, Delhi and other cities ablaze. Since decades Arab countries is monetarily aiding Pakistan besides United States and China have been arming and assisting Pakistan in its military armament against India. U.S. list of state sponsors of international terrorism which began on 29th December 1979
includes Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria \(^{125}\) but does not mention Pakistan; it regards Pakistan as an ally in the global war on terrorism.

**India’s North-East: The Problem**

North East consists of the eight Indian states comprising nearly 40 million people (Census of India, 2001), covering a vast area of 2,63,000 square kilometer with its diverse tribes, customs and cultures.

Insurgency has been major cause of unrest in this region it has multiplied and assumed dangerous proportions, with trans-border linkages, flushed with funds and military hardware, north east has as many as 30 armed insurgent organizations \(^{126}\) operating and fighting the Indian government for secession to autonomy and right to self determination.

**Background of the problem**

Poor governance has been a major problem in the region. After India’s independence the national leaders were busy in addressing the broader economic concerns and neglected the northeastern region perhaps, not realizing the strategic area that needed concentration of military strength and attention. As
consequence by the mid-sixties militancy stroked roots in the region and gave rise to dangerous-looking insurgency movements with separatist designs, and extinguish the problem the Union Government started pumping money to the states in the region, hoping that a semblance of economic growth or development could halt this trend.

In 1996 Prime Minister Deve Gowda came up with an Rs 6,100 crore exclusive economic package for the region. In January 2000, I.K. Gujral increased it to more than Rs 7,000 crore. His successor and then Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in January 2000 announced an Rs 10,000 crore special package for the region. But because of poor monitoring, lack of accountability and non-adherence to this package went impotent. Due to leakage of funds at various levels of the government machinery, development funds made their way into the coffers of the insurgent groups. Poor governance and lack of accountability of the officials and the official machinery failed development of the region.

The upheaval of northeast has not confined that region only; in fact it has spread from Nepal border, to south Indian sea. India now is facing major Naxalite threat in 13 states and 156 districts. (See fig for the Naxalite effected areas) (please image on next page for Naxalite affected areas in India)
The rebels are pressing for the creation of a communist state comprising tribal areas in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Bihar and Chhattisgarh. The Indian government believes that there may be 10,000 armed Maoist rebels in India. The organisation now largely relies on extortion to fund its activities, reportedly collecting between five and $10m a year.\textsuperscript{129}

Terror has surrounded India from all sides, to east it is Pakistan, to north it is Islamic terrorists demanding Kashmir for Muslims. The major concern of worry is China to whom we lost in 1961 War. In the north east, it is militancy again causing untold tension and misery to the natives, today Naxalites groups have spread their roots of from Nepal border upto Indian Ocean. Thus India is thickly entangled in vicious coils of crises.
End Notes


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