



## Portrayal of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) in Indian Literature and Language

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### Introduction

India is not merely a nation - state it is a civilization continuum shaped by thousands of years of shared history, philosophy culture and linguistic plurality. The idea of unity in diversity has been Central to Indian thought long before it became a political slogan. In contemporary India the vision of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) - meaning one India great India 6 to fir Modi civilization or ethos by promoting cultural integration, mutual understanding and linguistic harmony among different regions of the country . Though EBSB was formally articulated as a government initiative in the 21st century, its philosophical roots are deeply embedded in Indian literature and language traditions

Indian literature ,spanning ancient scriptures,medieval devotional poetry ,colonial - era writings and modern narratives has consistently portrayed the interconnectedness of Indian society. Similarly, indian languages despite their diversity have evolved through constant dialogue,borrowing and mutual influence.This essay explores how the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat is reflected and portrayed in Indian literature and language, demonstrating that EBSB is not a new construct but a rediscovery of an enduring Indian worldview.

### Philosophical Foundation of Unity in Indian Thought

The idea of unity underlining diversity is foundation to Indian philosophy. The Vedic dictum "Ekdm Sat Vipra Bahudha Vadanti " ( Truth is one ,the wise speak of it in many ways) encapsulates the essence of EBSB . This concept acknowledges multiplicity without denying unity a principle that later Indian literature and language repeatedly echo.

Upanishadic philosophy further reinforces this worldview by emphasizing the oneness of existence (brahman) while accepting the diversity of lived experiences.this metaphysical unity provided a philosophical framework that allowed Indian society to accommodate multiple languages, cultures and literary traditions without fragmentation.

### EBSB in Ancient Indian Literature

#### the Epics : Ramayana and Mahabharata.

The Indian epics are among the earliest literary embodiments of Ek Bharat shreshth Bharat. The Ramayana narrates journeys across regions - from Ayodhya in the lowers to Lanka in the south bringing diverse landscapes, culture and communities into a



signal to narrative framework characters such as Shabari , Hanuman and Vibhishana symbolize cultural inclusivity and ethical unity beyond regional boundaries.

Similarly the Mahabharata presents a Pan- Indian Canvas.The gathering of Kings from different regions for the Rajasuya Yajna and the kurukshetra war symbolises a shared political and cultural spacem The happy integrates regional myths , dialects and traditions reflecting collective Indian Consciousness.

### **Sanskrit as a Unifying Literary Language.**

Sanskrit played a crucial role as a pan - indian literary and intellectual medium km through not the spoken language of the masses,it served as a link language for philosophy, science, drama and poetry . Works like Kalidasa's

Abhijnanashakuntalam were appreciated across regions, reinforcing cultural unity despite linguistic diversity.

### **Mediaeval Bhakti and Sufi Literature : Emotional Integration of India**

The medieval period marked a significant shift from elite classical traditions to more inclusive literary expressions through the Bhakti and Sufi movements. These movements played a transformative role in realising the spirit of EBSB at the grassroots level.

### **Bhakti Literature and Vernacular Unity.**

Regional languages Kabir in a mix of Hindi dialects ,Mirabai in Rajasthani, Tukaram in Marathi andal in Tamil and Chaitanya mahaprabhu inspiring Bengali Vaishnavi literature. Despite linguistic differences there Gor message of devotion equality and love transcended regional and linguistic basis.

Kabir's verses , for instance, rejected rigid religious identities and emphasized a universal spiritual truth. His poetry is still sung across North India, Gujarat, Maharashtra and beyond illustrating linguistic and cultural integration.

### **Sufi Literature and syncretic Culture.**

Sufi poets such as Amir khusrau enriched Indian literature by blending parsian ,Arabic and local Indian linguistic elements.khusrau's contributions to Hindavi ( early hindi - urdu) symbolize linguistic synthesis . His poetry celebrates India as a shared cultural homeland , strengthening emotional unity across communities.

### **Indian languages as Vessels of EBSB**

### **Linguistic Diversity and Mutual Influence.**



India's linguistic diversity belonging mainly to Indo -Aryan , Dravidian ,Tibeto - Burman and Austroasiatic families - might appear divisive on the surface. However, historical,historicl linguistic interaction has fostered unity rather than separation .

Languages have borrowed vocabulary , idioms and literary forms from one another .for example :

- Sanskrit influenced most Indian languages through religious and philosophical texts.
- Persian and Arabic enriched Hindi ,Urdu, Bengali and Punjabi .
- Dravidian languages influenced Sanskrit phonetics and syntax in Southern texts.

This constant exchange reflect the lived reality of Ek Bharat shreshth bharat within language evolution itself.

### **Translation Tradition in India.**

Translation has been a powerful tool for National integration. The Ramayana and Mahabharata exist in nearly all Indian languages each adopted to local culture while retaining Kori values Tulsidas's Ram Charitmanas made the Ramayana accessible to Hindi - speaking messes ,while Kamban's Tamil Ramavataram expressed the same narrative with Dravidian literary aesthetics.

Such translations do not dilute unity ; instead,they strengthen it by allowing regional expression within a shared culture framework.

### **Colonial Period Literature and the idea of National Unity.**

During British colonial rule , Indian literature became a medium of resistance and National awakening.writers increasingly emphasized pan indian identity to counter colonial divide and rule policies .

### **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and National Consciousness.**

Bankim Chandra's novel Anandamath introduced the song " Vande Mataram " which personified India as a mother figure transcending regional divisions. Written in Bengali but embraced nationwide ,the song exemplifies how literature can forge emotional unity across linguistic boundaries.

### **Rabindranath Tagore : Universal Humanism.**

Rabindranath Tagore's writings reflect a harmonious blend of regional rootedness and universal Outlook. Though deeply connected to Bengali culture, Tagore's works were translated into many Indian languages, influencing writers across the country.His vision of India was inclusive,pluralistic and deeply aligned with the EBSB ethos.



## Post - Independence Literature and Cultural Integration.

After independence, Indian writers grappled with questions of identity, Unity and diversity. Literature became a space to negotiate regional aspirations within the national framework.

### Multilingual Indian Writing.

Modern Indian literature, including works written in English, often portrays characters navigating multiple linguistic and cultural worlds. Writers like R.K. Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand, Mahasweta Devi and U.R. Ananthamurthy depict Indian life as inherently interconnected despite regional specificities.

Translation by institutions like the Sahitya Akademi have played a critical role in promoting inter - language literary exchange, reinforcing the ideals of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

### Folk Literature and Oral Traditions: Grassroots Unity.

Folk songs, ballads and oral narratives reflect the lived unity of Indian society. Themes of love, heroism, devotion and social justice recur across regions, even languages and forms differ.

#### For example:

**The legend of Raja Harishchandra appears in multiple regional traditions.**

**Seasonal songs and agricultural rituals share structural similarities across states.**

These oral traditions demonstrate that cultural unity exists not only in elite literature but also in the everyday expressions of common people.

### EBSB and Contemporary Literary Discourses.

In contemporary times the EBSB initiative encourages rediscovering these literary and linguistic connections. Literary festivals, translation projects and student exchange programs promote awareness of India's cultural diversity while emphasizing shared heritage.

Digital media has further enabled cross linguistic access allowing readers to explore literature beyond their mother tongue. This revival of inter regional Literary dialogue aligns closely with the objectives of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

### Challenges and the Way forward

While Indian literature and language powerfully reflect unity, challenges remain. Linguistic chauvinism, lack of translations and unequal representation of regional literature can hinder integration. Addressing these challenges requires:

- Strengthening translation ecosystems
- Encouraging multilingual education
- Promoting lesser known regional literatures at the national level.

Literature and language must remain bridges not boundaries.



## Conclusion.

The portrayal of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat in Indian literature and language is profound, continuous and deeply rooted in history. From ancient epics and philosophical texts to Bhakti poetry, colonial-era nationalist writings and modern narratives, Indian literature consistently affirms unity amid diversity. Indian languages, through centuries of interaction and mutual influence, embody the lived reality of this unity.

EBSB, therefore, is not merely a contemporary slogan or policy initiative; it is an articulation of India's timeless cultural and literary soul. By nurturing literary exchange, linguistic respect and cultural dialogue, Indian literature and language continue to uphold the vision of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat: an India that is diverse in expression yet united in spirit.