

and spread to other parts of the region. Government employees and opposition members of the state legislative assembly threatened “direct action” in support of the students. This movement since then finally resulted in the creation of separate state of Telangana.

4. **Shiv Sena against Kannadigas:** In 1966, Shiv Sena, in Maharashtra, launched its agitation against Kannadigas in the name of Marathi pride. The first targets of its agitation were South Indians who were the workers of Udipi hotels in Mumbai. This agitation was labelled to be a retaliation of the lathi-charge on Marathi speaking people in the border areas.
5. **Bodoland Demand within Assam:** The Bodo agitation is led by the Assam Bodo Students Union which is demanding a separate state and has resorted to wide scale violence and series of crippling bandhs to pursue their demand. One of the basic reason for Assam agitations was due to the expansion of education, particularly higher education, but not industrialization and other job creating institutions thereby creating the army of educated youths in the backward regions. These frustrated young men are allured by the movements against the inflow of people from other countries and states. On the other hand these unemployed youths are also attracted by the caste, communal and other sectional agitations fighting for the protection of rights on sectarian lines.
6. **Khalistan Movement:** It was during the era of 1980s that Khalistan movement with its aim to create a Sikh homeland, often called Khalistan, cropped up in the Punjab region of India and Pakistan. In fact this demand also had the colours of communalism, as the demand was only for Sikhs.
7. **Attacks on Bihar Labourers by the ULFA:** ULFA continues to attempt ambushes and sporadic attacks on government security forces. In 2003, the ULFA was accused of killing labourers from Bihar in response to molestation and raping of many Assamese girls in a train in Bihar. This incident sparked off anti-Bihar sentiment in Assam, which withered away after some months though. In January 2007, the ULFA once again struck in Assam killing approximately 62 Hindi speaking migrant workers mostly from Bihar. On March 15, 2007, ULFA triggered a blast in Guwahati, injuring six persons as it celebrated its ‘army day’.
8. **MNS Targeting North Indians:** It was in 2008 that Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) workers began their violent agitation against North Indians. Bhojpuri films were not allowed to run on theatres in Maharashtra. The targets were vendors and shopkeepers from North India in various parts of Maharashtra.

2. Past Year UPSC GS Mains Questions

1. Growing feeling of regionalism is an important factor in generation of demand for a separate state. Discuss. (2013)
2. What is the basis of regionalism? Is it that unequal distribution of benefits of development on regional basis eventually promotes regionalism? Substantiate your answer. (2016)

3. Vision IAS GS Mains Test Series Questions

1. *Regionalism is not opposed to national integration; rather both can co-exist in a creative partnership. Critically analyse this statement in the context of India.*

Approach:

The answer should attend to the following sub-questions:

- What is regionalism?
- What are the causes for the proliferation of regionalism?
- Why regionalism is considered antithetical to national integration?
- How can regionalism and national integration be reconciled?

Answer:

- **Regionalism** can be defined as “a phenomenon in which people’s political loyalties become focused upon a region, often in preference to the country or state of