

# **Democracy, Minorities and Constitution of India An Analysis**

**Md. Mustafa Shahi**

In a democracy where the number is everything and the minority community definitely doesn't have numbers with them. Therefore to protect minorities rights is very important for democratic system. Protection of minorities is the hallmark of a civilization. According to Gandhiji, the claim of a country to civilization depends on the treatment it extends to the minorities. Lord Acton added another dimension: the most certain test by which we judge whether a country is really free is the amount of security enjoyed by minorities. In a democracy such as India, where people are divided in terms of religion, language, caste, race, culture, and socio-economic factors, one of the tasks of the framers of the Constitution of India was to devise safeguards for the country's different minorities. India has a pluralist society. This is the result of certain geographical and historical phenomenon in India. It is known for its 'unity in diversity'. Diversity in different geographical areas of the country project the cultural, religious, linguistic, racial and ethnic differences. The one billion population of india consists of six main ethnic groups and fifty two major tribes; six major religions and 6400 castes and sub castes; eighteen major languages and 1600 minor languages and dialects, India has opted for democratic form of government where decisions are made by majority opinion; therefore need to provide safeguards to minority becomes necessary.