

Question No. 1-

Pakistan's national (unity) culture reflects unity in diversity. Elaborate.

Answer:

Introduction:

Pakistan has a multi-ethnic and linguistic population divided by language, culture, sect, race and traditions; however, Unity in Diversity has remained central to the country's identity. Socially, Urdu which is a national language serves as a bridge for communication between Multi-linguistic populations. Islam, as a state religion, serves as a unifying force between them. Moreover, a shared cultural and historical legacy from Mughal rule to the partition of sub-continent unites different ethnic groups of the country.

How Pakistan's Diverse National Culture reflects Unity?

Pakistan's national culture reflects unity in diversity by =

- (i) Maintaining a sense of harmony

among the different socio-economic approaches.

(ii) Considering the various social customs of all ethnic groups.

(iii) Establishing the environment for co-existence for all the cultural patterns.

(iv) Introducing the trait of tolerance and acceptance for each other's cultural values and tribal histories.

Significant steps have been taken by the government to ensure social cohesion and national integration among the ethnicities at following levels.

A - Social level

At the social level, the following factors help to strengthen social cohesion and national integration among the state's diverse ethnic groups.

(i) **Common National Language:**

In Punjab, spoken dialects are Punjabi, Potohari + and Saraiki.

In Sindh, spoken dialects are

(Pashtu) Saraiki, Sindhi, Vicholi, Larai, Lassi, Thari and Kachi. In K.P.K and Baluchistan, the spoken dialects are Pashtu and Balochi.

One language that unites these cultures is Urdu, and it serves as a bridge of communication between multi-linguistic populations.

It is not the mother tongue of any but the national language of Pakistan, showcasing the central point of the country's identity.

(ii) Religious Homogeneity - Islam as a Unifying force:

In the wake of severe financial and political crisis in Pakistan's early history, it was the sense of religious nationalism that united the

people. As Anatol Lieven aptly said in his book "Pakistan: A Hard Country", despite intense social stratification, the society of Pakistan shows incredible social resilience in the wake of

danger to the state's sovereignty or a calamity that reduces the chances of its collapse as a nation. Thus, the state sustains and regulates this sense to promote national cohesion and unity.

B- Political Level

Politically, following factors help to strengthen social cohesion and unity among the state's diverse ethnic groups.

(i) Role of Military and Islam:

Apart from military rule, the army considers religion as an important factor to suppress the Baloch or Pashtun rebels. As

Christophe Jaffrelot in his book "The Pakistan Paradox: Instability and Resilience", the role of military as a unifier in using Islam as a rallying factor to suppress ethnic and regional nationalism.

(ii) Shared Cultural and Historical

Legacy

It was the sense of religious nationalism that led to the creation of the country and made it able to survive in the early crisis-ridden phase of 1947-58. Christophe Jaffrelot, in his book "The Pakistan Paradox: Instability and Resilience," describes that the shared historical legacy of the partition of the Indian Subcontinent of Pakistanis acted as a unifying factor and promoted nation building by instilling a sense of common purpose.

Cultural Federalism - A Strong Center with Sufficient provincial Autonomy:

Despite several obstacles, the country's effort to enforce cultural federalism while granting sufficient provincial autonomy showcases the central theme of its identity (Unity in diversity).

Conclusion:

To conclude, the country's cultural diversity is complex. The state has taken steps to ensure unity at social, political and constitutional levels. The national language serves as a unifying force.

"The people of this land are one in heart, one in soul, and one in thought, despite all our differences."

—Allama Muhammad Iqbal

Thus, the country's national culture reflects unity in diversity, and it has remained central to its identity.
