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Subject:- General Knowledge - III

Part II

Q no 6:-

National Integration:-

National integration is a feeling of oneness and brotherhood in the country having diverse society. It is a centripetal socio-political force that blends different individuals and groups of a nation into a single unified force. It builds a unified sense of purpose and belongingness.

Chief Constituents:-

There are some ideas and principles that further strengthen the unity of the Nation and are considered main elements of national integration.

Democracy:-

Democracy is a state in which all citizens are equal under the country's law, no matter from where and what background they belong. All citizens has the right to elect the representatives to form a government.

Equal Fundamental Rights and Duties:-

Every citizen of the nation have equal fundamental rights and the interests of every citizen and of every group and section is the responsibility of the state.

Similarly, every citizen has the duty to regard loyalty to the nation as being above all group or sectional loyalties and individual interests should be subordinates to the national interests. It is the fundamental duty of citizen to honour the constitution of the country.

Unified justice system.

The legal structure of a nation should guarantee equality justice and security of all its citizens without any discrimination.

Identical Symbols:-

National emblems are adopted to inspire the citizens to have ideals and loyalty toward the nation. National symbols like national flag, national anthem etc unify the citizens of the nation under same ideology.

National integration in Pakistan.

The following can be ways to increase national integration and cohesion in Pakistan.

Strong Provinces:-

The empowered and internally autonomous provinces can make use of their resources for the socio-economic development of

the people. It will reduce the insecurity among the different ethnic groups in the country, which will reduce different ethnic movements and promote national harmony.

Promote dialogue:-

Sub-nationalism and militant culture has been threatening the ideological and territorial integrity of the state. So, it is important to adopt the policy of reconciliation and dialogue with these people rather than oppression and use of force.

Equitable distribution of resources:-

Economic disparity in Pakistan is a major reason for provincialism and compromised national unity. So, state should ensure equitable economic distribution to increase economic opportunities

Interfaith harmony:

Religious intolerance is a major challenge for national integration and integrity. So, the state should take steps to promote interfaith harmony and do not let anyone exploit religious sentiments of one faith against opposite faith.

There are many other ways to reinforce national integration like meaningful land reforms, educational equality and access, institutional harmony, transparency and accountability.

In nutshell, it is the convergence of the three forces of religion, ethnicity and external environment that hinder national integrations. So resolving these issues are essential for national integration in Pakistan.

Q NO 51-

18th Amendment:-

The 18th Amendment of the Constitution of Pakistan was passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan on April 8, 2010, removing the power of the president of Pakistan to dissolve the Parliament unilaterally, turning Pakistan from a semi-presidential to a parliamentary republic. It also gave self-governing, legislative and financial autonomy to provincial authorities.

Major reforms in 18th Amendment:-

- ① Restoration of Parliamentary form of government
- ② Strengthening of key institutions of Auditor General of Pakistan and Election Commission of Pakistan.

- ③ Appointment of judges through Judicial Commission of Pakistan
- ④ Decentralization of Responsibility and Authority.-

A large portion of 18th Amendment dealt with federal-provincial relations and sought to strengthen the position of provinces in the federation of Pakistan.

- a) changes to the Federal legislative list
- b) Abolition of the concurrent legislative list → Article 70
- c) Strengthening Provinces with regards to Federation
- d) Enhanced Share in National Resources

→ **Criticism on 18th Amendment.**-

The 18th Amendment altered about a third of Pakistan's Constitution, and it had been proven to be quite controversial

The major concerns regarding the Amendment was the issue of the devolution of Powers, whether this Amendment would devolve too much power and resources away from the centre. Secondly, there were apprehensions about the capacity of Provincial Government, which neither had the legal and institutional infrastructure nor the human resources to effectively perform various functions. Another issue was the devolution of power and resources from provincial government to local government that remained unfulfilled.

Political and Economic Strain-

A few amended articles of the 18th Amendment remain under constant criticism as the enduring cause of political and economic strain in Pakistan.

① One such article is 160(3)A which reduced the federal revenue generation, which left the center with considerably low budget to run its normal and optimal functioning.

② Another criticized amendment is Article 142 as it has reduced the control of the centre on the provinces consequently making the centre weak. This is a major cause of political strain in Pakistan.

③ The abolishment of the Concurrent list and handing over almost 47 subjects to provinces isn't considered very wise by many critics because the provinces are incapable of dealing with the increased responsibility. Due to this, the respective departments for education, environment, drugs, crime, population

and national projects get hit badly.

In short, though 18th Amendment was a major milestone in the political history of Pakistan, further strengthening of the Constitution might be required to ensure optimal work of both federal and provincial government.

Q No 4:-

Population growth and its impacts.

Pakistan is facing a population growth rate that is among the highest in the world. As of 2021, the population of Pakistan is estimated to be more than 220 million, and it is projected to continue growing rapidly in the coming years.

The country's high population growth rate is driven by several factors, including a high fertility rate, a young population and a lack of access to family planning.

Overpopulation in Pakistan has led to a number of challenges, such as increased competition for resources, overburdened infrastructure and strain on public services.

Socio-economic Impacts:-

The consequences of overpopulation in Pakistan can be far-reaching and have a significant impact on the country's social, economic, and environmental well-being.

Strain on Resources:-

Overpopulation puts a strain on resources such as food, water and energy, leading

to shortage and higher prices
Pakistan has been an
agricultural nation. The cultivable
land and many other things
depends on water. Supply of
both cultivable land and water are
significant but the population is
continuously increasing that leads
to increasing pressure on resources

Environmental degradation

Overpopulation can lead
to environmental degradation,
including deforestation, air
and water pollution and
loss of biodiversity. Overpopulation
in Pakistan has led to the
cutting of forest either for
cultivation or housing leading
to several environmental changes

Rapid Industrialization to cater
the needs of population has caused
environmental pollution and global
warming

Overburdened Infrastructure

Overpopulation can lead to overcrowding, which can put a strain on infrastructure such as roads, housing and public transportation. The Pakistani government has to spend a lot on providing basic facilities and social needs like education housing and medical aid.

Economic Challenges:

Overpopulation can lead to increase competition for jobs, which lead to high unemployment rates and lower wages. A rapidly growing population increases the requirements of demographic investments which at the same time reduces the capacity of people to save. This creates a serious imbalance between investment requirements and availability of investable funds for the state.

Social Challenges:-

Overpopulation leads to increased crime, poverty and social unrest. It also put a strain on social services like welfare programs. It has raised the general price level leading to sharp rise in cost of living.

Political Instability:-

Overpopulation leads to political instability as many government in Pakistan has struggled to meet the needs of the rapidly growing population and to provide the proper facilities to its public.

So, it is important for Pakistan to take action to address consequences, such as promoting family planning and education, increasing access to resources and promoting sustainable development.