Question No.8 :-
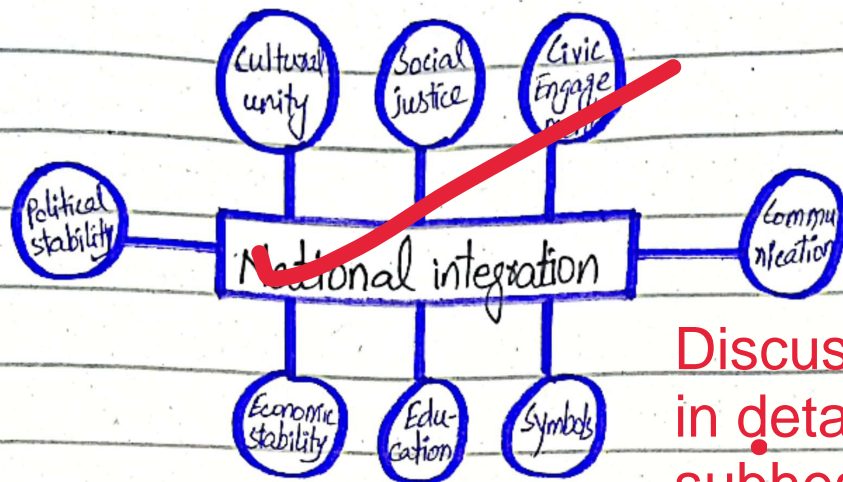
—◦(National integration)◦—

1) Introduction :-

National integration has remained an evolving pursue in all the post-colonial divided societies. The state of Pakistan is also facing problems in the creation of national integration. These problems are due to conflicting socio-political fibre of Pakistani society which was not handled properly. The diverse fibre of Pakistani society was based on its ethnic composition. The state adopted an authoritarian policy to expand and consolidate its power and position. While responding authoritarian policy, ethnic groups provoked ethnic politics and started movements for the preservation of their identity. With due course of time, these ethnic movements became a challenge to the national integration.

2) Components of national integration:-

Key components of national integration include:-
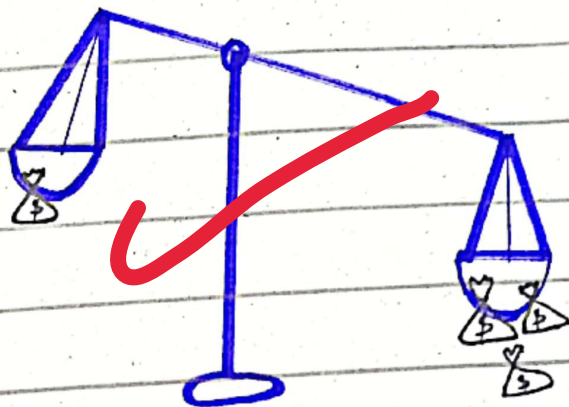

Discuss this part in detail by giving subheadings

3) Factors contributing to hamper it :-

3.1) Economic Disparities

In a heterogenous society, economic disparities strengthen ethnic identities. The minority groups feel themselves threatened by dominant groups in terms of culture and ethnicity. These feelings are intensified in the absence of

socio-economic justice. The socio-econo-mic injustice fosters ethnic conflicts.

According to an the recent article of DAWN newspaper, Pakistan performs poorly compared to other South Asian nations. For it, the ratio of average income of the poorest 10% of the population to the richest 10% is **6.5**. In other o'words, the average income for the richest is more than **16 times** the average for the poorest.

3.2) Ethnic & Religious Tensions:-

Conflicts arising from differences in ethnicity or religion can create divisions and foster mistrust. In this way, they pose significant threat

In national integration.

For example:-

In India, the communal violence surrounding the **1992 Babri Mosque** demolition illustrated how religious identities can lead to the violent confrontations between Hindu and Muslim communities, resulting in widespread loss of life and property.

Such tensions not only create a climate of fear and mistrust but also encourage political polarization and social fragmentation, making it difficult to build a cohesive national identity.

3.3) Demographic changes:-

Ethnic problems emerge not only due to socio-economic processes but also due to demographic changes e.g migration, assimilation etc. Large-scale migrations within the state contribute to ethnic conflicts. Inter-state migrations also create problems

of assimilation. These changes significantly impact national integration by altering the balance of cultural, ethnic or religious groups within a country.

For example:-

In countries like **France**, increasing immigration has resulted in a growing Muslim population, which some segments of society view with apprehension, leading to social friction and debates over national identity and integration policies.

3.4) Political Fragmentation

In Pakistan, political fragmentation also poes a significant challenge to national integration by reflecting and as exacerbating ethnic and regional divisions.

The presence of multiple political parties often aligned with specific ethnic groups, such as Muttahida Qaumi Movement **(MQM)** representing Urdu-

speaking communities in Karachi and the Awami National Party (ANP) advocating for Pashtun interests, can lead to conflicts and a lack of a cohesive national policy.

Example :-

The tensions between Punjab and Sindh provinces over resource allocation and political representation have historically fueled discontent, contributing to a fragmented political landscape.

3.5) Discrimination & Margin- alization :-

Certain religious groups may face systemic discrimination, leading to feelings of exclusion.

Example :-

In some countries, minority religious communities may be denied political representation or equal access to resources.

3.6) Foreign influences.-

External influences can also generate ethnic conflicts. History is full of examples of countries with outside interests, and cases of interference in the ethnic issues of other countries.

Example:-

In the post-Word War I period, several treaties were signed between states regarding protection of each other's national minorities. The **League of Nations** guaranteed the protection of minorities but it was not successful.

A number of bilateral treaties were signed between states on the treatment of national, religious and linguistic minorities during the period between World-War I and II. Subsequently, the UN and the international agencies have guaranteed against genocide and to protect human rights.

4) Recommendations to improve national integration:-

Following recommendations can be implemented to improve national integration:-

- → Promoting inclusive governance
- → enhancing quo education
- → strengthning civic engagement
- → Promoting national symbols
- → conflict resolution mechanisms

5) Conclusion:-

National integration is a complex process historically. The issues of national integration can be resolved by implementing the discussed recommendations to cultivate a more unified and harmonious society.