

PART-II

QUESTION-7

NATIONAL INTEGRATION

National integration is the process of merging diverse groups into a cohesive body by a shared sense of identity, loyalty and overall well-being. It is a continuous process of bonding together the individuals from various socio-cultural and ethnic backgrounds into a common national identity. More precisely,

“National integration is a quest for unity within the state regardless of religion, race, creed or ethnic traits and language.”

Principles of National Integration

National integration principles focus on fostering unity and cohesion among diverse groups within a nation, aiming to create

a sense of shared identity and belonging. These principles involve promoting equality, encouraging tolerance and understanding and emphasizing shared values and goals. These principles are discussed below in detail:

(i) Equality and Inclusivity

Ensuring that all citizens, regardless of their background, have equal opportunities and are treated fairly. For example: the initiative of granting NIC cards to intersex individuals by the former prime minister was a step towards equality and inclusivity.

(ii) Shared Identity and Values

It means promoting a sense of common purpose and shared values to foster unity and belonging. An example of which can be found in Japan when, after the Hiroshima-Nagasaki attacks, the citizens of Japan came together to ^{bring} ~~stand~~ the nation and country to its former glory.

(iii) Economic Justice

Addressing economic disparities and promoting equitable resource distribution to reduce social tensions and promote economic stability. For instance, programs like Benazir Income Support and Health Cards promote such justice.

(iv) Tolerance and Respect

It signifies promoting understanding and respect for different cultures, religions and beliefs. This respect and tolerance extends to online social presence as well.

(v) Addressing Regionalism and Discrimination

Tackling regional disparities and discrimination to ensure that all regions and groups feel included and valued.

Recommendations to Strengthen National Integration in Pakistan

The importance of national integration cannot be undermined and specially in a country who fosters various cultures and religious groups. Against the cloudy horizon of national disintegration, steering the process of national integration urges the federal government to focus on following steps:

(i) National Action Plan

A well-thought-out National Social Action Plan (NSAP) is required considering the socio-economic, and political imperatives of all the provinces, thereby satisfying the essential needs of the ethno-cultural and socio-political divergent identities.

(ii) Balochistan Issue

Excessive efforts at the grassroots level are needed to integrate the Baloch communities with the other provinces. In this regard, the provision of 4G internet service and the development of the transmission lines and rail roads networks in all the provinces will help bring the on going initiatives to a logical end.

(iii) Equitable Distribution

Equitable distribution of development projects is required while accommodating the local private sector for creating new entrepreneurial units, cementing the unified economy. The central government needs to give priority to those projects which generate national integration.

(iv) Inter provincial Jobs

Inter provincial internship programmes with attractive packages for the qualified skilled professionals like doctors, engineers and economic managers should be encouraged.

(v) Political Integration

National political parties need to shed off their major reliance on provincial politics. They should transform their role, behavioural patterns, political priorities and party interests from regional politics to more national politics.

(vi) Media Role

Media plays an important role for cultural consolidation and national integration. A strong national narrative should be broadcasted to counter the extremist and sectarian along with provincialism narratives in the society.

QUESTION-3

ROLE OF SHEIKH AHMAD SIRHANDI AND SHAH WALI ULLAH

16th Century - Socio-Political Background

16th century was a harsh time for pure Muslims under Jalal-ud-Din Akbar's rule, who formed his own religion of Deen-e-Ilahi and positioned himself as the sole authority, not recognizing any god or deity from any religion. Many Islamic scholars joined Akbar in his false religion and began misguiding orthodox Muslims.

Regarding the political situation; orthodox Muslims were excluded from participation in any social or political affair. Moreover, witnessing the regime of Akbar, the Hindu population became powerful and assertive and started destroying mosques

and other Islamic institutions. It was during this time, that Sheikh Sirhandi, also known as Hazrat Mujaddid Alfarsi, rose against at Akbar and his false deen-e-Ilahi.

Role of Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi:

Sheikh Sirhandi acted as a pillar of guidance for the orthodox Muslims and revived the true spirit of Islam. His key services are given below:

1- Social and Political Contributions

He encouraged Muslims to live according to Islamic values and reject social customs and practices that were incompatible with their faith. His writings, including *Risala-e-Makawat* and *Tauheed-e-Shahwali*, ~~and many other works~~, and teachings had a profound impact on the intellectual and religious landscape of the sub-continent. Moreover, he actively engaged with the political and social realities of his time,

advocating for a just and equitable society based on Islamic principles.

Furthermore, his letters to Jahangir brought him to the palace's court and was asked to bow, when he refused, Jahangir imprisoned him. However, Hazrat Miftsani continued his teachings even in jail which later influenced Jahangir himself.

2- Revival of Islamic Teachings

Hazrat Sirhandi actively worked to counter the influence of syncretic religious practices and beliefs, specially those associated with Emperor Akbar's Deen-e-Ilahi. He emphasized the importance of adhering to the core tenets of Islam and discouraged innovations (bid'at) that deviated from the authentic path.

18th Century : Socio-Political Background

During the 18th Century, Muslims were once again going through a harsh time as the Mughal Empire was falling apart. The crime rate was going up with each passing year and Muslims came under the torment of Marathas and Sikhs. Moreover, Shia-Sunni conflict was deepening further and further.

In addition to this, the economic condition of the region was no better as the jagirdari system, huge wealth gaps between the rich and the poor as well as high taxes were hurting the economy.

During this time, Shah Wali Ullah found the need to better the circumstances of subcontinent.

Role of Shah Wali Ullah

Shah Wali Ullah offered significant services through his religious reforms, political reforms and social activism. He established madrasahs, translated Qur'an and emphasized religious unity. His teachings aimed to revitalize Islam in South Asia during a period of decline. Following are his services:

(i) Social Reforms

It was not enough to remove doctrinal differences among the Indian Muslims at the time, they were experiencing moral crises. In response, Shah Wali Ullah presented Islamic teachings in a rational way and inspired people to spend their lives in accordance to the teachings of Islam.

(ii) Political Reforms

Shah Wali Ullah wrote a letter to Ahmad Shah Abdali, Amirs and chiefs for the invasion on India and break the power of

Marathas and rescue the helpless Muslims held by the non-believers. On his request, Ahmad Shah Abdali came to defend India and defeated Marathas at the 3rd Battle of Panipat. The victory disintegrated the power of Marathas and opened new ways for the revival of Islam.

QUESTION - 6

DOMESTIC IRRIGATION ISSUES

Challenges

Irrigation has been one of the major challenges for Pakistan over the last few decades. Domestic irrigation challenges in Pakistan include water wastage, unequal access, and inefficient infrastructure, leading to reduced agricultural productivity and water scarcity. These challenges are discussed below:

(i) Outdated Infrastructure

Much of the irrigation infrastructure is old and poorly maintained, leading to significant water losses through seeping seepage and leaks. Moreover, low storage capacity and silting of existing reservoirs result in water shortages, specially during critical periods.

(ii) Water Delivery and Distribution

Losses in the canal system are substantial and farmers often face inequitable water distribution, especially at the tail end of the system.

The Indus Basin Irrigation System, while vast, faces challenges in ensuring equitable distribution of water among provinces and even within regions, leading to disputes.

(iii) Over extraction

Overreliance on groundwater for irrigation, especially ~~with~~ⁱⁿ regions with poor surface water availability, has led to declining water tables and further exacerbates the issue.

Irrigation Institutions and their Roles

(i) International Water Management Institute

IWMI has a long standing presence in Pakistan, focusing on improving water management practices, particularly in the Indus Water Basin. They work on projects related to irrigation modernization, water-use efficiency and disaster risk monitoring.

(ii) Indus River System Authority

IRSA is responsible for the equitable distribution of water among provinces of Pakistan and for ensuring the overall management of the Indus River system.

(iii) Agha Khan Rural Support System

AKRSP is involved in constructing irrigation infrastructure, such as channels, to increase arable land and provide communities with access to water. They also focus on promoting sustainable irrigation practices, including solar lift irrigation.