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The Challenges of Cultural Diversity

VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q1. What is state?

Ans. State refers to an abstract entity consisting of a set of politico-legal institutions claiming control over a particular territory and the people living in it. Max Weber stated that state is a body that successfully claims a monopoly of legitimate force in a particular territory.

Q2. State few consequences of non-recognition of rights of groups of people.

- Ans. • One of the key issues that led to the formation of Bangladesh was the unwillingness of the Pakistan state to recognize the cultural and linguistic rights of the people of Bangladesh.
- The ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka is based on the imposition of Sinhalese as national language.

It is important to realize that minorities exist everywhere. Capitalism, colonialism and migration have brought plurality of groups.

Q3. What is the idea of an ideal nation?

- Ans. State was conceived in culturally neutral terms, and the 'nation' was also conceived as an inclusive territorial-political community of all citizens. Nation building was viewed mainly as a state-driven process of economic development and social transformation. The expectation was that the universalisation of citizenship rights and the induction of cultural pluralities into the democratic process of open and competitive politics would evolve new civic equations among ethnic communities, and between them and the state.

Q4. What is authoritarian state?

- Ans. • It is a state where people have no voice and those in power are not accountable to anyone. Authoritarian states often limit or abolish civil liberties like freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of political activity, right to protection from wrongful use of authority, right to due process of law.
- The state institutions become unwilling or unable to respond to the needs of the people because of corruption, inefficiency, or lack of resources.
 - Non-state actors and institutions become important, for they keep a watch on the state, protest against its injustices or supplement its efforts.

Q5. What does the principle of nationalism assume?

- Ans. • Nation state pertains to a particular type of state, characteristic of the modern world. A government has sovereign power within a defined territorial area, and the people are citizens of a single nation. Nation states are closely associated with the rise of nationalism.

The principle of nationalism assumes that any set of people have a right to be free and exercise sovereign. It is an important part of the rise of democratic ideas.

Q6. State any four laws passed by the Indian government to prohibit caste discrimination. Discuss them briefly.

- Ans. • The Caste Disabilities Removal Act of 1850, which disallowed the curtailment of right of citizens solely due to change of religion or caste. 1850 Act was also used to allow entry of Dalits to government schools.
- The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989- revised and strengthened the legal provisions punishing acts of violence or humiliation against Dalits and Adivasis.
 - The Constitution abolished untouchability (Article 17)
 - The 93rd Amendment is for introducing reservation for the Other Backward Classes in institutions of higher education.

Q7. What is community identity? State any two features.

- Ans. • Community identity refers to ascriptive identity i.e. an identity based on birth.
- Each individual is born in a particular family and community that has a special identity which is called community identity.
 - It can be based on language, religion, region, etc.

Features:

- It becomes individual's personal identity.
- Members are committed to community identity.

Q9. What is Nation State?

Ans. A Nation state refers to a cultural group that lives within a political system willingly and is bound by moral sentiments and powerful bonds.

Q10. What is Assimilation?

Ans. Assimilation refers to process when culture blends with another culture. It is a process of cultural unifications and homogenization by which newly entering or subordinate groups lose their distinctive culture and adopt the culture of dominant majority. It may be forced or voluntary.

Q11. What is integration?

Ans. Integration is the process of cultural unification whereby cultural distinctions are relegated to the private domain and common public culture is adopted for all groups.

Q12. State major issues related to India's cultural diversity.

Ans. The main challenges for India's cultural diversity are regionalism, communalism, casteism, linguistic, local interests and Naxalism.

Q13. What is regionalism? State any two factors which facilitate it.

Ans.

- Regionalism refers to people of a particular region considering themselves to be the best because of their common traits, values, norms, beliefs.
- It refers to affinity and commitment to a particular region, based on language, ethnicity and other characteristics.

Q14. What do you understand by minority?

Ans. Minority is a group of people in a given society who, because of their specific physical or cultural features find themselves in a situation of inequality with that society.

Q15. What is Secularism?

Ans. Refers to most complex term in social and political theory. It is the principle that treats all religions alike and on moral grounds. It can be perceived in different perspectives or senses :

- (i) State is kept strictly separate from religion e.g. in western societies.
- (ii) Doctrine by which the state does not discriminate different religions.
- (iii) Considered the opposite of religious chauvinism or reluctance in matters of religion.

Q16. What does the principle of nationalism assure?

Ans.

- Refers to passionate commitment to one's nation and everything related to it.
- The principle of nationalism refers to stand altogether.
- Refers to putting the nation first, being biased in its favour.

Q17. What is Authoritarianism?

Ans. Refers to system of government that does not derive its legitimacy from the people.

- It is a state that used force to enforce its policies and limits civil liberties.