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CLASS - IX

SECTION - 'E'

ESSAY

"ART AND CULTURE CONSOLIDATES US"

India is a treasure trove of languages, arts and culture which developed over thousands of years and manifested in form of arts, works and literature, customs, traditions, artifacts, heritage sites and more. It is through the knowledge of our own cultural history, arts, languages, and traditions that we can build a positive cultural identity and self-esteem.

The arts strengthen cultural identity, build awareness and enhance cognitive and creative abilities in individuals and increase individual happiness.

Conversing about the trio of Nagaland, Manipur and Madhya Pradesh; Nagaland and Manipur are North-Eastern states of the Indian Peninsula, while Madhya Pradesh is the "heart of India" i.e. it is located in the central part.

Although we are disjointed on the map of India due to our locations but still we are united on the map of our hearts by our rich culture and heritage.

The tradition and culture of any place includes the architectures, cuisine, festivals, art and craft, dance, music, clothing, religions and tribes that are instituted in that place.

1. ARCHITECTURE: Traditionally, architecture reflects and influences culture. The architecture of Manipur comprises of few forts like Kanglei fort, which is also called the "Pride of Manipur", some museums like Mutua Bahadur Museum, Manipur State Museum, and sporadic war memorials like Shaheed Minar and Khongjom war Memorial while the architecture of Nagaland includes some astounding places like Kachari ruins, War Cemetery Kohima, Dzonku Valley. If we talk about the beautiful architecture of Madhya Pradesh, the list is quite long. It involves some extraordinary temples like The Parshvanath Temple, The Lakshmana Temple and some forts like the Jahaz Mahal, Jahangir Mahal and the unforgettable Sanchi Stupas.

Although all these monuments in the three states, vary in the style, design and pattern in which they are made; but the incentive of each and every brick of these monuments is not only to represent the style of Indian culture and art but also to be a source of connection with the glorious past. "All these incredible architecture unifies us..."

2. CUISINE : What we eat, reflects our lifestyle, culture, preferences and beliefs. The food in Manipur involves some delicious dishes like Kabok [Rice is fried with lot of vegetables], Ngei [a type of fermented fish], Tromba [combination of fish, vegetables and bamboo shoots] while that of Nagaland includes Tathu [smoked pork cooked with fermented soya bean], and Naga curry [made with crushed potato and tomato]. Quite a few pleasing dishes like kusti, lavang lata, jalebi, spicy kebabs, biryani, korma and Bafra are ruling the heart of the people of Madhya Pradesh. These dishes may diverge in the ingredients used in them and the way in which they are cooked. But, above all, these mouth-watering dishes are doing the most important jobs i.e. to fulfill the stomach of mankind. "All the delicious dishes unifies us..."

3. FESTIVALS : While the whole of India celebrates festivals like Diwali, Holi and Dusshera, there are some festivals exclusive to particular states. Some prominent festivals of Manipur are Dol Jatra, Rath Jatra, Lai-Haraoba, Ranijan and Nagaland hosts the Hornbill festival, Yenshe and Buhlu. Madhya Pradesh organizes Lokrang festival, Khajuraho festival,

Malwa Utsav and Pachmarhi Utsav.

These festivals may vary in the way that they are celebrated by different tribes but the aim of commemorating all these festivals is to spread joy, love and peace.

"All these exuberant festivals unify us..."

4. HANDICRAFTS: The fine artworks, huddled right from the heart of the nation, endure a worldwide audience. Weaving cotton or silk sarees, stuffing toys, making floor coverings, working with bamboos, cane, jute, making folk paintings and ornaments are the talents initiated in people of Madhya Pradesh. Pottery and Textile weaving are majorly practised by the people of Manipur. While the Nagas are constantly engaged in weaving and knitting unique colours and designs producing shawls, shoulder bags, table mats, etc. They may differ in the way in which they are prepared but all these beautiful handicrafts mesmerize the tourists and hence contribute in the economy of the country and also reflect the integrity and soul of our ancient dynasties.

"All these attractive handicrafts unify us..."

From all these instances, we understand that we people of Madhya Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland may differ on the basis of the clothes we wear, the festivals we celebrate, the food we eat, the dance we do or the religion we practice but we are still consolidated because of the cultural richness of our country and the moral values and humanity that is inherited in our hearts and above all we all are united as responsible citizens of Mother India.