

## Chapter – 7

# The Unity of Indian Culture

Humayun Kabir

### About the author and the lesson

- Humayun Kabir was a famous poet, novelist, essayist and renowned political thinker.
- The present piece is an adapted version of his lecture delivered in Baroda University.
- The lecture focuses on the glorious past of India's culture and its rich heritage. It precisely reflects Kabir's love and faith in the greatness of his motherland.

### Culture and civilization

- Culture is a complex of many strands of varying importance and vitality.
- Culture expresses itself through language, art, philosophy, religion, social habits and political institutions and economic organisations.
- Not one of them is separately culture, but collectively they constitute culture.
- Civilization forms the base of any culture. It creates the condition for culture.
- There can be a civilization without culture, but there can't be a culture without civilization.

### What is Indian culture?

- The Indian culture is marked by an underlying unity of spirit surviving through the ages.
- It is a blend of different streams and elements.
- Unity in diversity is the main trait of Indian culture.
- It is based on the principle of 'Live and let Live' in all spheres.

### Unity of spirit in Indian culture

- Unlike other cultures, Indian culture has retained an underlying unity despite growth or change.
- Unlike them it encompasses all its sections and classes.

### Capacity of adjustment and toleration

- Indian society has grown and changed but never grown or changed at the expense of an underlying unity.
- This has been possible only because Indian society has the capacity of readjustment.
- The capacity of adjustment is found in the spirit of toleration.
- 'Live and let Live' in all spheres has been the guiding principle of Indians in all spheres of life.

- Contrary, if not contradictory, attitudes have been allowed to survive together.
- Indian society has been highly accommodative towards foreign invaders who chose to settle here.
- These various streams became the strength of Indian society.

#### Unity and continuity of Indian culture

The unity and continuity of Indian culture is remarkable.

- There has been no violent or sudden breaks in the Indian culture.
- There has always been a steady growth and extension of culture.
- Every class and section of the society has accepted this growth and extension of culture.

#### Questions

**Now, on the basis of your understanding of this chapter, try to answer the following questions:**

1. How is the Indian culture different from the cultures of other countries?
2. How does Humayun Kabir define culture?
3. How does Humayun Kabir define civilization?