**1. “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.”**

Annihilation is the juncture  of germination. Autumn sheds its leaves but summer spring comes with new leaves. Flood comes but leaves to be traced a long greenery in future with silted land.

Trash denotes scar or defeat of one. But connotatively it can be directed to the vices of one's personality. In positive sense; it can be said that where hopes end there hopes begin. In philosophical sense; it can be imperative that defeat transforms one's mind into a new entity unswayed by general virtues and vices being steadfast to a determined goal. So trash of one's is the treasure of another appears with different interpretations.

History shows that trash of French king with utmost privileges giving back to common people becomes treasure for another jacobian leader. The trash that US president once used to train muslim jihadist for her own sake now turns to terrorist leaders as treasure to initiate violence. Greediness; blind use of power; utter individualist thinking spurs the germination of vices in one's mind. It inspires them to do something vile. Thus they tarnish themselves and their trash in character thus proves treasure to another opportunist.

Mythological instances shows that trash of duryodhan or kaurav becomes treasure  to pandav. Trash comes to one's character from haphazardness; indecisive action. Trash created by extreme emotion proved fatal to the magnificent city Troy. Trash comes from extreme desire that challemges law of nature. "Achilles heel " shows how mother of Achilles in an attempt to make him immortal makes his heel vulnerable while not touching his heel unconsciously in styx river with the help of whose vulnerability he was killed in Trojan war.

In indian freedom struggle; gandhi was utterly conscious about this. He never let come trash to anyone because he knew about its fundamental flaw. The flaw of trash gives red carpet to the enemy to be pattered. Whenever any violence occurred gandhi immediately criticised it. It is the reason why gandhi did not support extremist thinking because he was aware about the fatal blow of its trash .

In political career ; trash has very dangerous effects. A little bit trash in one's personality might lead to downfall in his whole political career. Corruption is the noted evidence of trash in many politicians at present time with the help of which they have invited their ending of career and this golden treasure is grabbed by another opposition candidate and thus terminates career of the former within one night.

Story of jataka says that when once buddha went out for alms he was retributed by an alms giver. Then buddha asked him if one does not accept gift given by another what will happen ; in reply the latter says that it will be left to the person who offered it. After that buddha told him that whatever he had given to buddha all were left to him. Thus connotatively trash turns into boon or treasure for another. To err is human mercy is divine. If one has the tolerance to accept err done by another and makes the latter understand about his fault it will transform both of them spiritually.

At the present world of competition; everybody should be cautious about his weakness. His weakness or little bit of trash might push him backward. In the era of globalization; the whole world becomes very competitive. Suffice it to say that here survival of the fittest is the best policy. So one should put his every step very carefully that no one find any crack in him to grab as treasure.

In this emerging 21st century a clean ; transport diplomacy is very necessary for a country . Respecting to international norms; human dignity; environmental law occupies utmost important for a country.  
Violating international provision like human right ; nuclear norms by the head of a country might inspire the another head of the country who strategically wants to dominate the former. Any incongruity in ocean policy by the head of india might turn to treasure for another strategic head that is china.

Civil servants in government machinery should be very careful about transparancy in everyday life. One trash in their personality due to any hasty decision or other inherent human vices might poses threat to them whose opportunity will be grabbed by his rival civil servant.

In economy; one trash in transaction might lead to whole breakdown. One carelessness in policy direction and execution of company by the managing head will bring scar to its production and another rival company will grab it. In case of services related with public health a managing director of a company should be very careful. The same is applicable to the economic policy of a country also.

But trash given by someone intentionally is  antisocial and gruesome . it might destry one's innocent life. The growing concerns like acid attack; rape; killing of girl foeticide ; child marrige ; communal disharmony harms the basic structure of society.

But if spirit and determination alives such trash cant harm. It was that gandhi who was thrown out of train due to his black colour. Many acid attack victims  
In india defying the social stigma establishes themselves in society. Arunima sinha the amputee is planning to climb Everest. So; though trash created by one's own fault invites destruction to one's life; trash intentionally given to another with criminal mind can never defeat anyone.

2. India’s challenge is science, not pseudo-science

3.Importance of Preparedness in  Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

79 AD, Italy. People of Pompai and Herculaneum were busy in their daily work ignoring  
the potentially dangerous symptoms around them for weeks, thinking them as mere  
adverse climate. But this was the prelude to one of the catastrophic volcanic  
eruption in world history. Within few hours Mt Vesuvius erupted with all her  
might and buried these two prosperous  
cities alive sparing even a single soul.

Such could be the fury and destruction of a disaster. Even in twenty first century we are  
not immune from it, rather more vulnerable to it. The 9 point earthquake that  
stuck Japan with a deadly Tsunami, pushed the “advanced” nations to despair  
with a huge loss of life and property. The damage to Fukusima nuclear plant and  
its associated danger alarmed the world, forcing many nations to give up  
nuclear energy all together. Clearly, disaster does not recognize the human  
imposed political boundaries.

These disaster include both natural and man-made. The loss due to disaster is simply  
immesurable. One disaster reverses decades of economic development. Huge loss  
to infrastructure, raw material resources, man power etc brings the economy to  
virtual stand-still or at least slows it down. A large chunk of GDP is lost in  
one sudden event. It would be impossible to put a price tag in terms of GDP on  
human lives. Economic well being of many families are crippled beyond repair.  
Every year millions are pushed to poverty due to various disasters. Post  
disaster, outbreak of diseases terrorizes people and sometimes claim more lives  
than disaster itself. Emotional loss of the near and dear ones often go  
unnoticed which leaves a permanent scar on their psyche. Loss to environment  
and biodiversity is enormous. The consequences of Bhopal tragedy can still be  
seen among newborns who are 2nd or 3rd generation after  
that black day (3rd dec 1984).

In a century where global warming and climate change is a well-accepted phenomena. Many  
natural disasters like flood, cyclone etc will be witnessed with increased  
frequency and of very intense magnitude. Eastern coast of india has seen two  
very severe cyclones in last two years. Rise in sea level will submerge coastal  
low land and create problems of land shortage and water supply. What makes all  
these more catastrophic is the increasing population of the world. A natural  
calamity turns into a ‘disaster’ only when it involves significant loss of life  
and wealth. So shortage of basic necessities like land, drinking water, food  
will create conflict leading to significant loss of lives – which satisfies the  
definition of disaster. Someone has playfully said that, the reason for third  
world war would be water.

Coming of natural calamity can’t be stopped but we can ‘prevent’ turning it into a  
disaster. Better preparedness limited the death toll during phailin to 25 where  
as the same region saw corpes numbering to whooping 10000 during supercyclone  
just 15 years back. The same thing could be seen in Philipaines which  
drastically reduced human casualty during typhoon last year. All these point to  
a single fact that, disasters can certainly be prevented or their risk on  
precious human life can be minimized.

Let me not confine this only to natural disasters but to include man-made ones too. Incidents  
like Bhopal, Chernobyl, three miles island etc could have been prevented had  
they just followed the standard operating procedure. Thousands of road  
accidents daily- which is no less than a disaster- can certainly be minimized to  
a great extend with better safety standards. The Uttrakhand tragedy, which is  
dubbed as a man-made one by environmentalists, could be minimized by better  
planned, sustainable and eco-friendly development.

Due to its implication across international border, nations have come together to work  
together in this direction. United Nations observed the closing decade of the twentieth  
century as the international decade for natural disaster reduction. Even in  
UNFCCC, the focus is shifting to mitigation and adaptation. Since world is  
convinced that, even with best of our effort we won’t be able stop all disaster  
but we prepare ourselves to reduce their impact.

The most important link to achieve this lauded objective is the people themselves. Although  
nations, states, NGOs etc were playing their role, without people’s  
participation, the goal will always delude us. Instead of silent onlookers,  
proper training and supplying them with necessary tools and knowledge, helps  
them act long before rescue force make their appearance. Many lives are saved  
during those immideate aftermath of disaster. This thing can’t be done  
overnight, it has to be inculcated in them over long time to develop a culture  
among them. Better preparedness before disaster shows result after it.

Many special provisions have been made by international community to financially and  
technologically assist underdeveloped, island and small nations. Separate  
funding mechanism has been chalked out to help developing world deal with this.  
Many countries have adopted national policy for disaster management and  
institutionlised them through legal provisions.

India being not unfamiliar with disasters have taken many active steps in this direction  
after the bitter experience of Bhuj earthquake and tsunami. Legislation has  
been passed in this regard and national disaster management authority has been  
set up. Their counterpart are also present at state and district level.  
Separate funding arrangement has been made for their smooth functioning. Grey  
areas such as inter-departmental coordination, centre-state coordination,  
timely rescue and rehabilitation etc have been adequately taken care of. Now  
disaster is not only limited to rescue-compensation but prevention-  
preparedness- response- rescue- relief- rehabilitation. Efforts have been made  
to generate awareness, use of technology, early warning and information  
diesseminaiton mechanism etc.

In conclusion the words of UN security general in quite fitting that we need to develop  
a culture of prevention. Prevention is not only much easier than cure, it is  
also much cheaper. The loss during a disaster is no less than a war. When it’s  
the moral imperative of the world to stop wars, then why not efforts should be  
made to reduce the risk of disaster? We must always remember that either we all  
will swim or we all will sink. Had the people of Pompai understood the early symptoms  
of impending disaster, history would have remembered them differently. Now it’s  
upto us how we listen to the symptoms and what we do about them.

1045 words..

4. ‘Education for All’ Policy in India – Challenges, Loopholes and Prospects

“Education for all” policy in India-Challenges, Loopholes and Prospects

The roadmap of India’s education policy theoretically represented egalitarian nature and universal access to all since Independence. The government policy widely concentrated on making availability of such education system which can reach to every individual and society. However, the constitutional arrangements made by its maker and later by its users gave utmost care to establish a mechanism to reach education for all. In this direction, the governments' move to recognize primary education as a fundamental right and Right to Education (RTE) brought progressive arrangements for making education for all. In addition, there were numbers of missions and programmes have been implemented by the government at central level and state level. In reality, such initiatives have influenced the customary rights of some sections and made education inclusive. For example, Srav Saksharat Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-day Meal Scheme, Kasturba Gandhi Schools by the central government and other schemes of various states have largely focused upon making education for all.

It is obviously true that the government as per own capability and resources has attempted to make education inclusive and accessible to all without any discrimination. But, the intent of the government didn't fully materialized due to certain challenges which were thoroughly responsible for inaccessible and exclusionary education system running on the land of Bharat.

The challenges of education system which are greatly remained obstacles to achieve objectives of education for all may be divided into:

A.. Infrastructural Challenges

B. Institutional Challenges

C. Challenges within society

D. Challenges from Society

A. The Infrastructural Challenges: such challenges are basically emanate from lack of funding, mismanagement of resources, inefficient resource mobilization and allocation, unaccountable bureaucracy etc.. Such challenges pose the following issues:

1. Lack of School Buildings: There are numbers of schools have been going without proper school building or debilitated school buildings. Such schools largely fail to attract attention of students itself and their parents. In addition, the concerned school staff also feel discouraged to teach there and on consequent it result in there large scale absenteeism .

2. Lack of Infrastructural facilities : In those school we have buildings but the major lacunas are absence of playground for students, single or no toilets, no laboratory for development of scientific tempers of students and et al. All these effect students psychologically as well as physically.

3. Connectivity issue: There are number of schools running in remote areas without having proper means of connectivity. Students have to walk on 2-3 miles for attending classes. However, many state government have launched many schemes for students to attend schools by providing them cycles. But in rainy seasons such students face greater difficulty.

4. Isolationist approach: Those schools are running deep into tribal areas are remained isolated due to approach of bureaucracy having fear of red insurgents. Due to this, large number of tribal people are away from streamlined education system despite making favourable constitutional arrangements. Such geological issues not be taken seriously instead the funds made for these schools were looted by elite or power grabber.

B. Institutional Challenges: Such challenges results from policy issues which can be substantiated as:

1. Accountability Issue: The most of the government teachers are interested in evading own accountability by raising number of complaints against state apparatus and its functions. This erosion in accountability comes largely due to teacher-politic-bureaucracy nexus. This nexus underlined own accountability only to earn high money to fulfil own needs rather to fulfil social demands. We urgently require, an index determining accountability of the teachers to stop growing gulf between preferences to private schools and negligent attitude to the public schools.

2. Recruitment process and calibre of Teachers: Due to financial causes, the most of the states are forced to depend on Para-teachers as they are contractual teachers and ready to serve schools at low pay. Such teachers immensely lack in teaching methodology, unknown pedagogy, inefficient class room management, attention on weak learners etc. However, if the Para teachers are being viable alternatives, it must be needed to make a proper arrangements for their comprehensive teachers training, appraisal of their performances at various levels and making their recruitment process more transparent.

3. Mentality of Low salaried and high salaried teacher: The Para-teachers are recent innovation in teaching but those who are regular teachers working in the same schools creates a sense of derogation. As the regular teachers getting higher amount of the salary from the government with adequate security while the Para teachers are given meagre salary for the same work in the same schools. In this direction, we must feel to promote these Para teachers on regular basis for their performance and we must not forget that teachers are also human beings and they also require money. If not same salary pattern, respected salary must be given to teachers.

4. Teacher Absenteeism or Monitoring Issues: It is one of the realities that is often found in every schools irrespective of geological status. However, the teachers appointed in hilly terrain or remote areas frequently absent but they get regular salary. Here, we need to use technological tools to escape from large scale absenteeism of teachers. Though we have some manual and cooperative channel to look into the issue, we didn't achieve effective control over it.

5. Drop-out Students: Indian public schools have greatly witnessed high rate of drop-out children basically due to socio-economic condition. The government has made initiatives to arrest it but the lacuna is such schemes are not targeted and benefit was taken by someone else.

C. Challenges Within Society: India is historically divided in caste hierarchy which is responsible factor for underdevelopment of SCs, STs, Women and other weak social class. It is often seen that huge discrimination attempted to make by the dominant groups in relation to such marginalized class. The Dalit students often are segregated in schools and even their food is separately given under MDM Yojna in many schools. In addition, the conservative mindset of society regarding girl education discouraged them to join schools under pressure of patriarchal social norms. The same condition applies with the students of minority and tribal and subjected to social discrimination. At the time of communal or inter-caste domination issues in any region, the students belonging to lower stratum of society feel absolute deception form the value of education.

D. Challenges before Society: The education in India has remained subject to few classes rather to all and this was result of social inaction. The society or particularly social elite silently witnessed the exploitation of education system in own villages or locality. Because of this social inaction we remained fail to achieve education for all. In this direction we need to sensitize society for attaining purpose of education for all.

Loopholes: After looking the above discussed challenges, we might be able to find out the loopholes within the present education system. Such loopholes are:

1. Quality Education: The recent survey done by the ASER found that students of higher class are unable to read and understand the text of lower class. This has seriously brought a to seek answer where improvements needs to placed whether in assessing curriculum or assessment of performance of teachers.

2. Low Share of Girl in Education: The education of girls is not taken seriously by the society. Their birth is still considered a burden and in such scenario we need to bring positive discrimination enabling girl education accessible to all rather to few families in society.

3. No Skill development: Our education system is highly traditional which blunt creativity of the children. More importantly, the higher drop-out belongs to socially marginalized class as they were forced to secure own and family life with adequate availability of food. Such scenarios compelled them to compromise with education and to search job. If we are able to provide those skills which further helps in finding out job we can definitely arrest such dropout.

4. Loss of inquisitiveness and inability to develop scientific temper in absence of technological support.

5. Issues with present system of Evaluation, assessment and performance of students which are faulty and requires to be improved.

Prospects:

The policy for education to all might be achievable but not in nearly ten years terms unless the institutional and infrastructural challenges are corrected. However, the step by step the government is heading to this direction. Under SSA, the enrolment of students has surprisingly increased and it must be seen as first phase. In the second phase, we might be able to focus on quality education accompanying technological inputs from teaching to institutional management. In addition, the growing role of civil society and NGOs would be helpful to achieve rationale of such policy. Along with this, judicial activism may support educational system to grow up.

On conclusion, the present system of education is merely to literate the person as despite having institutional and infrastructural challenges the government is running schools to achieve purposes of education. In reality, they are not being educated.

But, with the growing support of civil society and government initiatives we may be able to render education to all.

**5.Inclusive Growth vs Redistribution – Which is Better for India and Why?**

12th Five year plan of India has provided for the theme of Inclusive growth. Inclusive growth in simple terms is inclusion of all sections of society along the path to development. It is by encompassing all sections of society that the vision of our constitution makers with Equality, Fraternity and Justice to all can be achieved . Redistribution is a phenomenon where the resources are distributed by taxing rich class and providing the benefits to the poor class.

The post Independent India has tried both ways and socialism as the base tried to provide the starved section of people with land, food, shelter etc. Nationalization of estates, big farmlands, subsidies through PDS, various schemes like JRY, IAY etc have worked towards building homes to many. These provisions are achieved by Redistribution of wealth from rich to poor Whereas in areas of providing voting rights, availability of fundamental rights, democratic institutions creation has worked towards inclusion of marginal sections.

The Emergency period during 1975 has created furore as it is lower strata who suffered most due to the rigid laws and made them suffocated. The impact is felt by the nation as the country will be at peace only if all sections are given opportunities, provided with proper share in country's developmental benefits. Further the rise of Left extremism along the 'Red Corridor' is a bitter evidence of lack of equitable distribution of resources and opportunities and exclusion of many along the country's growth.

Post economic reforms, strengthening of panchayats through constitutional laws provided much needed respite to the rural sections and in particular marginal sections like SCs, STs due to reservation. At the same time due to globalization, liberalisation on the other end, no strict enforcement of forest laws, easy environment clearances, land acquisitions there was displacement of many people across the country.

Whatever the reasons are it is the poor and marginalised who are suffering with the consequences and the onus is on democratic government which has to take care of them. From independence till today there was a transition of India's stance from more socialistic and less capitalistic attitude to less socialistic and more capitalistic tendencies. This also changed the concept of more Redistribution in the beginning towards more Inclusive growth emphasis at the later period.

Today India is persuing path of Inclusive growth vigorously and including it in 12th plan is a welcome step because it is not just Redistribution of wealth that can achieve the purpose of equitable development, but dependency and integration of all sections in a society that is to be established and that creates a sense of belonging, pride, enthusiasm to work ensuring equity.

Further Redistribution is just in monetary terms, but there are other aspects like public spaces, forests, fossils etc belong to every person and all has a share in it. One cannot be deprived of remaining in the name of Redistribution of wealth. The case of Niyamgiri hills of Odisha where a private company tried to access natural resources and in exchange of monetary benefits to the tribals of the place. It is not money, but the culture, beliefs, history, livelihood that is at stake and the supreme court ruling by reminding the PESA act to the villagers is an excellent way of judging the situation emphasizing the inclusive growth and equal rights. In this case Inclusive growth won over Redistribution(which comes after the society is benefited by extracting natural resources of the Hills).

Taking people along and marching forward is the sure shot of success in any democracy. Leaving few people behind will create imbalance in society that cannot be compensated through Redistribution of resources at a later point of time. Inclusive growth of tribals, minorities, deprived etc must be the keyword for India after 65 years of being a Republic.

**6.India’s Role in Changing Global Order – Should It Continue to be a Soft Power?**

THE CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER

The International political scenario has always remained ever changing. Over the centuries, the world has witnessed power transferred from the Industrialized centres of Europe to USSR and USA during the Cold war era that created a bi polar world. Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the United States of America has been playing Big Brother in World Politics wielding its economic and military prowess in situations they deem fit. Times have changed and experts of international studies forsee a multi polar world led by regional powers. This is where India is seen as a prospective candidate despite the looming presence of China’s rich economy.

INDIAS POSITION AS A SOFT POWER

Over the last decade, many scholars and analysts have tried to assess India’s emergence as a major actor in the global arena by looking at such material indicators as economic growth, military expansion or demographic evolution. These indicators are conventional benchmarks that all the superpowers in world history have met. Studies have failed to look into India’s steady emphasis on rising as a soft power nation with a foreign policy that maintains cordial relations with all countries. ‘Power’ in International Relations (IR) has traditionally been defined in relational terms as the ability of actor A to influence the behaviour of actor B to get the outcomes he wants. Basically the capacity to influence another nations foreign policy. In which case, India has long been employing its soft power toolkit comprising culture, values and policies through food, music, tourism, cuisine, bollywood, technology and lately yoga.

Throughout the timeline of history, India has maintained philosophical supremacy amongst its contendors. Starting with Gautama Buddhas “Middle Path” and Mahatma Gandhijis non violence or “ahimsa” that bought India her freedom. Jawarharlal Nehru’s Non Aligned movement revealed the spirit and courage of the infant nation to uphold its principles and values even at the risk of hurting super powers. To the later influence of Indian cinema, cricket and yoga on the world audience.

In the changing scenario there are questions that need to be asked.  
What are the pros and cons to India for being a “soft power”?  
Why would India want to become a hard power and if so, how?  
Is India ready for an overhaul for its decades old principle underlying its foreign policies?  
What is the path ahead for India as a future regional super power and how can this goal be reached?

BENEFITS OF INDIAS “SOFT” APPROACH

Being a soft power has two sides to it. One is where there is a an attempt for subtle influence through non military and non threatening means. The other is where the nation opts for not taking irrational sides and abstains from unwanted involvements in the worlds political stage.  
Indias ancient religious philosophies emphasizing on ahimsa allowed her to accept and embrace various cultures and this has resulted in a diverse yet tightly integrated nation.   
India’s non violence techniques used under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi to drive away the British saved India from a full fledged war for freedom and from possible large scale blood shed.

India’s leadership and involvement in the Non Aligned movement brought it international attention and respect especially from the developing nations. Silent yet powerful mechanisms of vocally asserting the Indian stand on international platforms have helped in avoiding the creation of enemies. Indias soft approach has helped create and maintain amiable relationships with nations all around the world. Indias largely neutral stand on important international issues such as the Israel Palestine conflict has led to an environment where fruitful talks can be held with both parties and their supporters without any bitterment.

Indias abstainance from voting at the UN regarding Human Rights Investigation and related allegations on the Rajpakse led Sri Lanka helped in re establishment of earlier soured ties ater ascendance of the new government at Colombo. Silence of India on International forum relating to the Ukraine crisis has helped avoid rage from both its investors ie Russia and USA. Lately the terror outfit Islamic State with its self proclaimed Islamic Caliphite has brought much fear, but India has chosen to be a quiet observer for fear of risking lives of millions of NRIs that remain to build their livlihoods in the Gul Region and Middle East.

WHY WOULD INDIA WANT TO BE A HARD POWER?

Military and Economic strength are two powers that can be easily defined, determined, calculated and compared. The absence of a formidable development and show of these powers by India on the international platform has led to it being perceived a passive and neutral nation of comparitively less significance. There have been allegations by Indian analyts of Indias soft power policies having fallen short of expectations. This they say can be seen from its inability to capitalise on soft power.

A significant piece of history that will reveal this statement with better clarity is the Sino Indian war of 1962. The war was enlightening for India the had untill then followed foreign policy of Panchsheel with China made popular with the famous phrase “India China Bhai Bhai” meaning India China are brothers. Post war the phrase rhetorically turned to “India China Bye Bye”. The background of the war was the India stuck to its principles and trust while China used the opportunity to unleash aggression over unmanned India China borders. India lacked the backing of hard power to udergrid its soft power ambitions.

Another problem that this approach faces is that India is yet to firmly establish its identity. The world audience continues to be bombarded with contrasting images of India. Indias constant trust deficit with its close neighbours and unsolved territory conflicts is yet aniother display of how the soft policy has failed. UNSC is yet to allow a permanent seat to India and this the attitude of the internatonal political community towards iIndia in a nutshell. Indian assets required in dealing with the world cannot remain intangible for too long.

IS INDIA READY?

Economically- India continues to grow but not without unavoidable hitches and hiccups. Its rate of growth can be compared with economic superpowers such as China and USA. But to reach that level of GDP India will need to take huge steps in diversifying and improving the business environment in India

Strategically – Indias geographical position remains to be one which can be envied with rich resources, protection by the Himalayas and easy livlihood and trade opportunities due to the long coastline. Proximity and access to important strategic points such as andaman and nicobar island in south china sea will serve beneficial.

Politically – Indias incumbent one party government and pluralistic democracy has brought political stability which is an imminent quality that is required by any world power.  
Socially- Communal conflicts, woman empoverment, poverty, education and healthcare remain to be issues of concern that have the capacity to reduce the demographic advantage that India hopes to benefit from in the near future

Internationally- Indias ties with powers such as Russia China and USA remain amiable but India is yet to gain a seat as a permanent member with veto rights at the United Nations Security council. Indias foreign service cadre remains inadequate in numbers though quality of training is not compromised.

PATH FOR THE FUTURE

Indias soft power continues to evolve organically. India has been working in the direction of being a hard power by large investments in space programmes such as the recently successful Mars Mission. Further, indegenous defence projects that are being implemented will help in asserting its soft power with a solid backing. With the advent of the new government in 2014 May, India is beginnning to see its rise on the World stage. It has been harnessing its soft power to build “Brand India” and bring economic benefits and attract investments from abroad. India should continue to being a soft power until its internal issues of extreme poverty are solved because a country that holds a large population of the worlds poor should focus its efforts on the problem at hand instead of aiming to be a hard power in the international scene and investing in military and defense programs.

**7.Are the standardized tests good measure of academic ability or progress? (UPSC-2014)**

Study has never been a pleasant experience for most of us. The vary name of ‘study’  
brings boredom and annoyance. It reminds us of relentless cramming, stressful  
exams and even more terrible result days. Our system’s obsession with exams was  
always beyond our comprehension. Our condition was, as an Sanskrit verse says, “like  
a donkey carrying a bag of sandlewood on his back, who can only feel the load  
but ever its value.” In the long run it is not good for nation as well.

Then why our system places all its bets on these tests? Well it has few advantages too.  
Firstly, it removes subjectivity in the evaluation of a student. Evaluation by  
teachers based on performance in classroom might have some bias or favor. Every  
teacher will try to overrate students of his class, his school, his state thus  
degrading the quality. Secondly, it gives a uniform method to assess all the  
students giving a comparative performance analysis of students compared to  
other students, a school compared to other schools or a state compared to other  
states. Similarly we can also gauge the performance of some particular communities  
like tribals or so called dalits and take corrective measures.

Thirdly, the benchmark set by the test makes all teachers and students to reach there thus  
raising the bar of education quality. It gives teachers idea of what to teach  
and when and plan accordingly. And this performance indicator also holds the  
school and teachers accountable under the pressure of delivering result.

Then what is the issue? Actually they are plenty. But before that we must understand that  
education is not collecting few facts and scoring numbers in exam; it’s a process  
of evolution of a child where his passion or interest is identified and  
nurtured and encouraged to puesue fully aware of his social responsibility and  
not compromising his character. But today’s education hardly qualifies this,  
not even a fraction.

Relentless focus on exam as a scale of success makes students memorise the subject before exam and vomit it on exam paper without any long term gain. They are studying a  
lot but learning nothing. Questions, innovation, independent thought, new  
ideas- these terms are never heard of. Every student is forced to follow the  
same curriculum no matter where his interest lies. Even if someone has interest  
in literature, he will have to study same amount of science subject, what a  
student inclined to science will study. If someone is passionate for sports or  
art then why should his academic performance be judge based on his performance  
on maths and science?

Besides even within a class, every child is different and special. They all have their own strengths and weaknesses. But poorly trained, underpaid and over burdened teachers with a  
uniform pedagogy expects everyone to be toppers. If u fail in this shallow competition of who memorises more, you are a loser. You are good for nothing. The cure what they think is more hardwork and to ensure this more exams. But as a saying goes, “ measuring your height again and again does not help your increase your height, similarly by writing test again and again does not improve your quality.” The same system is prevalent from primary school to universities including the glorious IITs and IIMs.

In this ‘survival for the fittest’ environment, there is no room for those who are physically  
challenged or mentally retarded or bit slow learner. Although given right  
facilities, adequate time and opportunities they will also excel, but this does  
not happen.

Such is the pressure on students, teachers or parents that many just succumb to it. Often  
students go into depression or even commit suicide, teachers quit and change their field, distort family relation etc. Suicide rate among students in India is alarming. The frustration of not been able to follow his own interest and failing terribly in the field where he is, often pushes him into the grip of alcohol or drugs.

And the nation is also losing as a whole. This standardized test methods has already started showing flaws. ASER report says, half of the class 8 students cant perfrom a simple division and half of class 5 students can’t read a class 2 text. Quality of primary education is one of the lowest in the world. In secondary education too same problem is there. Using deviant mean to clear board exam, paper leak before exam, irregularities in paper correction etc make headlines every year. Our universities rank poorly in world university ranking.  
No encouragement for innovation and new ideas has made a research culture impossible, making our universities consumer of knowledge not producer of knowledge. Even teacher’s recruitment through NET entrance makes only such candidates with rote learning through leaving the talent behind. This this filter is separating the wrong material. Even the IITs and IIMs are not immune from this problem. They have become supplier of readymade workforce for high post of MNCs. The cumulative contribution of all IITs in research is far inferior than a single university of the west. Despite producing largest number of doctors and engineers, we lag in innovation index. Thus what nation building work they are doing?

But what is the solution? Certainly, standardized tests cant be completely done away with.  
They have their own advantages as we discussed and have served great purpose in  
case of entrance exams like IIT,CAT, UPSC filtering the best of minds. But we don’t  
need this in primary and secondary education. Instead of judging student on  
performance of one day their cumulative performance through out the year needs  
to be assessed. Enough flexibility should be allowed and pedagogy needs to be  
improved to sprout interest in students. Already many states have abolished  
board exams and they are shifting to rating models based on various parameters.  
But teachers need to be trained accordingly and which is lacking. For our  
universities, new education policy insisits upon shifting to universalisation  
of Choice Based Credit System (CBCS)- which allows students to take courses  
across disciplines. Flexibility will be allowed in choosing course and subject.

In conclusion, in the interest of future of our generation and our nation, we must  
shift our education policy from ‘studying’ to ‘learning’. In addition to improve the evaluation system, pedagogy, curriculum and extra curriculars need to be emphasized. In this process we will have a system where teachers will hold the key to unlock the potential of a child. Thus being the first ‘nation builder’ as south korea calls them, their training, skills, pay scale and  
status needs to be enhanced. Only a fine teacher can make education enjoyable and  
productive.

**8.“The Coaching Institutes for Civil Service Examination Thwart Intelligence and Analytical Abilities of Aspirants Which are Essential Cvil Service Attributes.”**

Civil services is one of the most coveted professions in the country.Every year of lakhs of students appear in its exam but just more than a thousand get selected into the final list.The probability of an aspirant getting selected is 1 out of 400 in a single year.The neck throat competition and desire to stay ahead in preparation leads aspirants from all over the country to move to Delhi-the hub of Civil services coaching institutes in the country.  
Some areas in Delhi like Rajendra Nagar,Mukharjee Nagar have become household names for the aspirants .The mushrooming of so many coaching institutes has raised concern about the quality of talent being selected to run the affairs of administration.Critics say that these classes 'program' the aspirants how to crack the exam in a limited time frame,while neglecting and even suppressing natural intelligence and aptitude among them.They accuse the latter of turning students into marks churning machines rather than a problem solver in real life situations.  
This issue needs a serious examination of the realities ,which factor significantly into making of a good civil servant.Firstly,we need to understand the concept of intelligence and analytical ability.Intelligence is defined as information processing ability of an individual.A public servant should also be emotionally intelligent ,which is an ability to understand and manage emotions of self and others in public life.Similarly,analytical ability depends on relating various sets of information and generating one's own opinion.These qualities depend on our genetic inheritance,socialisation and the variance of challenges we face in our everyday lives.It is difficult to understand how a year of classroom thwart or suppress these abilities of aspirants ,which have been built through life processes.  
Secondly,we need to better appreciate the nature of this exam.The whlole exam is a one year process comprising of different stages,viz:-preliminary,main and personality test.It is a test of preseverance and ability to stand amid all odds.The questions asked can not be answered on rote learning .They demand clarity of understanding on the issues.But their USP is asking the examinee to formulate their own opinion and suggest problem solving measures on the issues.Moreover ,they also test the decisiveness and ability to adapt to the conditions,since all of the questions are unforseen and 20 to 25 questions have to be attempted within 3 hours.It is impossible that classes can 'program' the students to write answers without application of mind.  
In the current pattern UPSC has incorporated apitude test in prelims and ethics paper at main stage.The aptitude test especially focusses on quick verbal and numerical manipulation skills ,while the ethics paper tests the application of experiences of life into value development in society and administration.The candidate who clears this exam has these abilities ,whether they were 'coached' or not.  
Thirdly,coaching industry is not limited to civil services preparation only.There are many devoted to preparing students for entrance in prestigious engineering and medical colleges like IITs,AIIMs,IIMs etc.If we apply the rationale that coaching thwarts intelligence and analytical abilities then it would mean that the a significant proportion of current crop entering these prestigious institutions also lack these abilities.This would be untenable when we hear that in west IITians and management gurus have built a niche of their own in their respective fields.  
Fourthly,there are some state governments like Tamil Nadu,Andhra Pradesh,Kerala who provide scholarships to 'bright' students to get civil services coachings in Delhi.Surely,the governments dont spend on the future civil servants who are not problem solvers rather programmed robots.  
The question then arises is how do these coaching centres help the aspirants.In the initial phase of preparation there is always a confusion among them regarding syllabus,prescribed books ,nature of question and many other aspects.These classes provide guidance to the students .They also teach the basic concepts of the syllabus ,which enables the students to understand what is expected from her.The teachers also motivate them ,especially when chips are down and failures greet in the struggle path.?They conduct periodical mock tests by which aspiarnats can assess their performance on a comparative basis.This doesnt mean that coaching classes are necessary or should be endorsed.There is a significant chunk of the successful aspirants who dont take coaching classes .The purpose herein is to just suggest that coaching institutes dont thwart the intrinsic abilities of the aspirants.  
Whether coaching institutes violate level playing field or not is a different question.But the nature of this exam is such that the successful candidates have the essential qualities like intelligence,critical approach,problem solving skills ,whether they took coaching classes or did self preparation

**9.Nationalism and internationalism are opposing and mutually exclusive**

Nationalism and internationalism are opposing and mutually exclusive

In June 2013, when Edward Snowden revealed about the acts of espionage by NSA on other countries of the world, he was perceived as disloyal or anti-national by his government. But for many of his co-nationals and other nationals took it as an attempt to work in favor of right to respect the sovereignty of other nations, truth and trust among nation and believe in  
humanity. Nationalism is often comprehended as a sense of loyalty to one's own nation but with a twist of caring whether the nation is doing right or wrong. Everybody starts their life as an individual who has connections and commitments towards family, then locality, then city, state, country and the world in the last. So, it can be well defined that nationalism is the subset of internationalism.

Literally, nationalism is always connected to the feeling of allegiance to a specific territory but conceptually, it is connected to humanity. It is about not only to sacrifice for the people of one’s own country but for the right. People of Syria aroused civil war against their own govt. can not be termed as anti-nationalist since they did that for a rational reason against the harsh policies of govt. to save their own people and country. Nationalism does not mean to progressing a country by harming another country, it is about advancing one’s own country at best without affecting other and that’s where internationalism comes to play its role. When one thinks of humanity and respecting the interests of other nation providing best to own  
nation, nationalism becomes subset of internationalism intersecting in almost every field.

In this globalized world, economies of every country are interrelated and depend on decision of peer countries. There is a scenario of cooperating each other to advance own country and the many world organizations like WTO, UNESCO, NATO, BRICS, SAARC, Commonwealth group etc. are commendable examples. Had nationalism and internationalism opposed to each other, these groups would not have survived till date. Countries are relaxing their economic policies for foreign countries because of globalization and can’t stay in  
isolation on the name of nationalism. All parent nuclear countries have sign Non Proliferation treaty taking care of the world not only of their state. It is the result of internationalism that every nation is committed against terrorist organizations such as ISIS. UNSC has intervened in Syria to destroy chemical weapons just to save Syrian people and OPCW was awarded noble peace prize for the same.

Indian philosophy of “Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam” which means “the whole world is my home” clearly demonstrates the relation among humanity and in turn human being of all countries. In the past also, states have helped each other for their liberation as India did in case of Bangladesh. NATO forces were deployed on Afghanistan to protect them and prepare them for counter against Taliban, a terrorist organization.

Clearly, its humanity, economic, political and social conditions which force this world to remain interconnected. In 2014 Crimea, earlier a part of Ukraine succeeded to Russia. This can not be seen as a part of betraying Ukraine since it was the desire of economic prosperity and  
ethnic links with Russia acted as motivating forces behind it. One can accept internationalism as a voluntary phenomenon or a forced development due the globalization. Both indicates that nationalism and internationalism are not opposing and mutually exclusive and coordination between the two is necessary for world’s development.

10.Academic Qualifications versus Experience: Which is More Important?

Words: ~1100 - "Friends it is my first essay on insights, I expect numerous critics from readers" - Thank You.

Chronology of Points Covered:   
1. Definition of both (100 words)  
2. Importance of both (120 words)  
3. Comparison of Both with example/s (500 words)  
4. Indian Perspective (230 words)  
5. Conclusion - neutral is Best - from my view (70 words)

**“The most important attitude that can be formed is that of desire to go on learning.”** ― *John Dewey*

Learning is correlated with Qualification and Experience by common frame.

**Qualification** is something that matches or suits an occasion, or makes person eligible for duty or responsibility. It denotes fitness of person in accordance to character of work.

**Experience** means that someone can perform at work place after gaining necessary skill and ability to complete given duty or responsibility in time, manner and quality.

There has always been great debate upon Experience and Qualification.

Importance of Academic Qualification :

Academic qualifications ensure you have the basics in learning. If your basic grounding in Maths, Science and Languages is strong, you can get success in life because mastering these subjects allows you to calculate, to innovate and to communicate. Though, the rule of success is hard work and destiny of course.

Importance of Experience :

**“Knowledge is Power”, but without experience, there will never be true knowledge. Vivekananda said “Trust is blind, experience is truth”.** So, experience drives us to reality of life. It gives us answers to our own capacity to perform in prescribed manner. Though, experience is secondary part, because primary is knowledge and is related to qualification whatsoever school a person can manage.

Comparison of Both with example/s

Recruiters often write job advertisements that specify that a degree is needed for the job, thus the market decides on this point, and it values degrees. The value of education cannot be overstated.

The reality is that the previous education system provided different standards of education, while today Degree are easy to gain and jobs (with better wages) harder in accordance to qualification.

Individuals are exposed to post-school education, are acknowledged the positive impact of a formal qualification and the impact it has on their attitude and approach to doing things. It is without a doubt that tertiary education is a critical component in the development of effective, forward thinking leaders who will drive efficiencies and organisations.

When reviewing CVs, both personally and alongside employers, experience is reviewed before education in most cases, apart from entry/junior level positions. A degree qualification used to be a major deciding factor in who got the job, but I think as more and more people have gained degrees, especially over recent years, employers have become less impressed on the whole, and focused more on experience.

**Examples**

Today, In India, MBBS courses in private universities cost Rs.1 – 2 crore, while in reputed public colleges it may cost Rs. 1-4 lakhs. Students with 50% marks opt for private universities to become MBBS, and practice under their truly qualified parents or relatives who are Doctors and running Hospitals.

But are they Good Doctors? Compared to Public College graduate, may be whose family’s annual income may not be more than Rs. 3 lakhs.

The answer is obviously **NO**. We as the patients would prefer latter option of Doctor for consultation.

If you asked most employers if they would select a raw graduate with 3 years in education but no tangible experience, or a college leaver with 3 years relevant experience, I would expect the vast majority would favour the latter.

Then Why employer prefer Academic qualification? **Reasons**:  
Most often, they associate the following characteristics with people who have degrees:

• A proven ability to analyze problems, conduct research and produce solutions  
• A proven ability to learn complex, difficult subject matter  
• Proof they are motivated and have drive  
• Proof of intelligence  
• Better interpersonal skills  
• More credible qualifications

So, change in attitude of employer is justified, but truth about conscious employment seeker is:   
*Whether it is a paid or volunteer status, person involvement [in your desired field] will increase [your] confidence and savvy while exhibiting dedication and responsibility. Even medical professionals want to see you put in a little legwork. Besides showing them how responsible you are, it gives you an idea of what to expect from yourself.*

Perhaps you'll find the industry so interesting that an internship will cement your career decision. Perhaps you'll find the industry so boring that your internship will lead you to change your career plans.

I believe, Many ambitious young adults disrespect the value of work experience because they've had jobs that have no connection to their future plans -- and pay poorly.

Indian perspective:

Indian plural society and plural culture have strong and rich traditions of education and qualification.

Two face of a Coin:  
Face One (Qualification): Casteism and poverty have induced illiteracy, oppression and depressed educational opportunity in India, since time of Mahabharata ex: Dhronacharya rejected Eklavya as his student because of casteism and inequality.

With centuries of illiteracy in India, today, when India steps up as global platform, the initiative such as skill development is very important to give experience a due share. This will help depressed people come out of poverty with higher level of Academic Qualifications.

Face Two (Experience): The question of value education in a teacher's education as well as in school education has to be examined in the overall context of social, political and economic process. The most pressing problems are the unavailability of money or inadequate funding of Indian education programs or systems. RTE needs teachers, but without proper training for teachers, sustainable pay and job security,thus role of RTE is diminished.

Many surveys says:

A master's degree gets you more money than a bachelor's degree; a professional degree gets you more money than a master's degree; but a doctoral degree, the highest point of educational attainment on the list, actually gets you less money than a professional degree. So, higher education pays higher wages to a certain point.

But an added flavour of 10 years experience with Doctoral Degree will surge wages to twice a professional degree.

Conclusion:

Most of us are susceptible to doing comparison between two, and usually we do it simply to make ourselves feel better. It’s just natural human behaviour, but I find it funny no less.

**They’re Both Useful In Different Aspects**

The ideal is a good combination of both theoretical knowledge and practical understanding, and I believe this is better. I would personally say that experience nudges ahead of qualifications just a tiny bit.

**11. The grass is always greener on the other side of the hill.**

“There’s more long-term value to children learning self-control and problem-solving than in their besting peers in childhood competitions.”

Without looking inside, without first being able to hold back the reins of our passions and desires, we will continually find ourselves short of the finish line. We will continually find ourselves sabotaging our true goals for some illusion of success. Looking inside and conquering the self is the last real adventure.

Grass of other’s field always looks lusher than our own field, if our passions and desires are more than a king.

It can be understand through a short story the wind and the sun were having an argument. Each thought that he was strongest. They soon spied a man below them. He was dressed in a warm coat and hat. Said the sun, “Whoever makes the man take off his coat must be the strongest. You may try first. “The wind blew from the east and the west, then from north. But all of his blustering only caused the man to fasten his coat more tightly and pull his hat down around his ears. Soon wind stopped to rest. The sun came out from behind a cloud and shone brightly. The man enjoyed the sun’s rays and began to feel warm. He took off his hat and coat and sat down beneath a tree to bask in the beauty of a day. “I‘ve won, smiled the sun, “ And without any bluster.”

Thus, a thing may be out-wordly attractive and tawdry, but deeper analysis will make up, that unless self-control on passion and desire, even a knighthood will not bring satisfaction to man.

The quality can be judged only if we came to know the reality of a thing.

**But to judge quality, we need to understand our own strengths and limits. To reach other side of the hill, we need to climb, we need to fight, we need to conquer.**

Shakespeare said: “It is better to have fought and lost, than never to have fought at all”.

Nature in its various forms is perfection in itself. Man or any living being is an entity of this nature where life strives hard to attain or fetch its livelihood. Man has his own means to meet the ends of livelihood. Ends are usually defined as goals in materialist ends like food, clothes, money, property. Spiritual ends are perfection of human qualities, which reflects human nature.

To reach highest point of success in terms of our ability, we must be able to look back on the failures, with pride for they are standing testimony to the heroism within us. This is possible if we feel that we have tried our best and have not spared ourselves in our efforts.

The “Apology” contain three speeches, defense, penalty, and after the trial. The second speech of Apology deals with Socrates penalty, Socrates respond to the given penalty by proposing an alternative one, and the jury had to choose between the two. The penalty that was suggested by Meletus was the death penalty. Socrates suggested that he, with the help of his wealthy friends, would pay a fine. He will also be treated as a Olympic hero.

From Socrates suggestions we understand that he is actually mucking the jury by suggesting ideas that obviously won’t be accepted. **One of the most important terms in the Apology is the term “Excellence”.**

Financial success is not something that is easily balanced with moral obligations. Like, USA’s financial success is evident since 1920s, but on social front, till 1949 AD Rape was not criminal offence in many Federal states of US. There was no equality in between Blacks and Whites. US is seen as Land of opportunities, but it has become hub of crony capitalists, who are **unaware, uneducated, deaf and blind** by success of their MNCs which has resulted in rise of rift between poor and rich.   
**So, can we morally say grass is always greener on the other side of hill?**

Creating wealth is no easy task. It is found with either innovation or timeless necessities, and it is highly competitive. **But money in itself cannot be the end.** There must be other goals, in which distribution of wealth must equal. Why Millionaire and Billionaire are not paying 75 percent tax? Why a person a person with Rs. 15 lakhs income should be 30 percent tax, and person with Rs. 15 crore income should pay only 40 percent tax?  
**Is it equal distribution of income?**

***Government machinery has become just like high hills which stops rains at one side and let other side starve, and be totally dependent on latter side.***

**From the story earlier**, Is our society, same as “sun”?. No, we are as rough as wind in the story, our passions and desires are burning. We don’t have ability to restrict our dreams. We look for fortunes in wonderland. We dream of being as famous as celebrity. But, we don’t want to accept the reality of our abilities and opportunities attached to them.

**Success must be measured and accepted in terms of:**  
1. Discover yourself  
2. Understand your limits  
3. Challenge your limits  
4. Change your limits

***Grass is green on our side also if we are satisfied with our course of actions, if we have self-control and if we respect our limits and other abilities.***

***We must climb the hill of our Roughness, Ego, Arrogance, and then look towards grass of our side of the hill, I am sure it would look as lusher as other side of hill.***

***12.* A little knowledge is a dangerous thing**

Knowledge is the ultimate key to all the doors and opportunities that you will encounter in your life. But little knowledge is a dangerous thing, Persons with little learning, imperfect and insufficient knowledge can do much harm to others. It can lead to wrong and haste decisions. For example, a doctor with an insufficient knowledge can be very harmful to his patients. A novice driving a vehicle may put the lives of his passengers to an end. Persons with shallow knowledge are generally very boastful. The man with a little knowledge is like a frog in the well. He thinks that the whole world is only as wide as the well.

‘knowledge is proud that he knows much; wisdom is humble that he knows no more’.

This can be clearly explained from the saying ‘empty vessels make much noise’ and so as the man with shallow knowledge poses like a scholar, talks and behaves in such a way that he knows everything and makes himself an object of annoyance, trouble and even danger to the society. It is dangerous both for the person who has little knowledge and also for those who seek the advice of such a person. It is the man of little learning who is haughty and self-conceited-standing erect likes a dry and rotten tree which breaks but does not bend. Hence, in turn, loses its own very existence.

An ill-informed soldier will get himself foolishly killed if he has no knowledge of war strategies or else will even more foolishly kill his own comrades. A teacher will instill absurd knowledge and inverted concepts if he has no real learning himself. An industrialist will ruin his fortune as well as of the others if he has no true knowledge about his own business. A lawyer will ruin his clients’ fate without thorough knowledge of law and legality. A dumb engineer’s bridge is sure to collapse and God save a patient from a dumber doctor!

However there are many instances where a little learning of a subject can be the difference between life and death. Rudimentary knowledge of First Aid can be vital when confronting a problem such as a lacerated leg. The knowledge to elevate the wound above the level of the heart may lead to a person surviving such a serious injury. It is not learning that is dangerous but the learner’s own pretensions that make his learning dangerous.

The old saying, “what you don't know can't hurt you,” implies that ignorance is bliss. “A little knowledge is a dangerous thing,” may be closer to the truth; however, it is not the little that we know that is dangerous, but that which is not known.

‘ Real knowledge is to know the extent of one’s ignorance’

On the other hand the man who has immense knowledge is always polite in manners, civil in talks, humble in bearing and never make a show of their learning. Unlike the man with shallow knowledge, this man just like Socrates considers himself a child gathering pebbles on the shore while the vast ocean of knowledge lies unexplored. People with real wisdom are like those trees over-laden with fruit bending low so that everyone can enjoy their blessed fruits.

A machine with a little straining may also prove to be dangerous. He may handle machine, but he does not know how to work them well. The machine may be damaged. He may lose his own life even. So a man should always try to make an exact estimate of his worth. He should not pose to be what he is not really. By this he will do no good not only to society but also to himself. Therefore, it is always very dangerous to rely on such a half-knowledge. It is rather better to have no knowledge and learning than to prove to be a fool with an incomplete one.

‘Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian Spring’ says Alexander Pope. The meaning of this proverb is that in order to serve humanity, one should be specialized in his/her field and if one cannot do so, then one must abstain from drinking the Pierian Spring because drinking from this great Pierian Spring calls for perfection and mastery in one’s field, profession etc. gaining knowledge in a particular field will definitely make one a master in a subject. Let us not be jack of all trades and master of none. Let us at least be a master of some.

Of course, in the grand scheme of things, however much you know is always "a little", compared with the sum total of things that can be known. Knowledge today is revolutionary. More is known and being learned everyday than was ever known or learned before. As a direct result, the pace of change (i.e) change in the sense of everything is beginning to accelerate much more rapidly than ever before in mankind's history.

In this era of expert knowledge, a little knowledge of the world stands nowhere. One has to keep oneself updated in order to be somewhere in this world. Be it any stream of knowledge, any part of wisdom, in depth knowledge of it is necessary in order to be able to formulate an opinion or develop a line of thought. Whether it is art, science, literature, politics, technology, communication, astronomy, computers, economics, administration, law etc or whether it is simply about life in general, one has to have great, deep and wide knowledge about it in order to be able to speak about it— for, or against. This is necessary, needed and demanded especially in today’s world where opinions are challenged and words have to pay a price.

13. Multilateralism Vs Regionalism : Which is Good for World Economy?

An economist rightly ovserved, “if one has to find the underlying current influencing all global dynamics, it is economy.” And in this globalization era, most nations have accepted globalization as a reality in happenning. It has its benefits for the world given sufficient safeguards for tis undesirable effects. Every country wants to take on globalization or a free economy but at its own pace and own way. To achieve this many economic blocks or groups starting from regional ones to multilateral ones have been formed. But now with increasing proliferation and strengthening of regional blocks and perceived weakening of WTO has opened new questions. As Jagdish Bhagwati asks, regionals blocks are BUILDING BLOCKS OR BREAKING BLOCKS for a world economy? Which is better for a world economy: regionalism or multilateralism?

Before starting analysis, a clarity over meaning of the terms ‘regionalism’ and ‘multilateralism’ is essential. Regionalism refers to association of countries belonging to a particular region (may not be geographically contiguous) for common economic interest. The arrangement may vary from a custom union to a free trade area such as NAFTA or a totally integrated economy like European Union (EU). Sometimes sharing or control over a resource brings countries together like OPEC having members from gulf world, Egypt and venezuala etc.

But multilateralism means promoting economic openness and cooperation beyond regional scale taking it to global level disregarding regional barriers. WTO is a global multilateral organization facilitating global free trade. But some other multilateral institutions important for world economy are IMF and WB. Some new institutions such BRICS bank, AIIB cant certainly be called regional indicating a different kind of multilateralism.

Regional blocks are doing well and their numbers are growing because this setting has many advantages. F

Firstly, it provides an opportunity for countries with same stage of development and same developmental need to formulate a barrier free trade arrangement without the threat of economic invasion by any developed nation from outside. This really worked well for newly independent south Asian nations when they formed ASEAN in 1967 and what followed is an inspiration.

Secondly, presence and aid of an economically better off economy provides better scope and opportunities for others to grow by getting access to a huge market, technology, capital, expertise and economic aid in times of distress. Mexico has benefited from NAFTA. Many east and central European nations have gained by free movement of capital, technology and especially labor across EU. We saw a spate of huge bail out packages by rich members to the debt ridden nations during EU debt crisis.

Thirdly, it helps to pool in resources of nations to increase their production. Each nation focus on the product of its advantage without producing all thus leading to economy scale. Increase production in addition to satisfying domestic need generate export income bringing prosperity to the region. The economy of the region grows as a result.

Fourthly, regional trade agreements mean a common set of rules and standards for all members easing cross border trade. But too many bilateral agreements with all nations weakens uniformity, increases complesity of tarrif structure and trade rules creating confusion and hampering trade.

So considering all these many believe regional blocks are preparing ground for full-fledged globalization integrating the global economy. Regional blocks are expanding their memberships, which is clear from vigorous EU and APEC expansion. The way in the initial phase, nations had joined together to form regional blocks, the next step would be to joining of regional blocks and merge into a global multilateral organization leading to full-fledged integration of global economy. Thus they say regional blocks are micro units or workshops of globalization and hence are building blocks.

Then why the apprehension of these being the breaking blocks? In the past few decades, we are seeing huge proliferation of regional blocks in every part of the globe. Each block is vigorously defending its interest inhibiting the blurring of economic boundaries between regions in stead deepening it. Geopolitical rivalry has also its role in this affecting global economic interest. Each existing power or rising power is trying to develop its own regional economic node to establish its economic supremacy and coutner its rival. Proposed Trans Pacific Partnership by USA, dream of an Eurasian Economy by Russia, strategic objective behind ‘one road one belt’ project of China, expansion drive by EU etc pointing towards this. All these somehow weaken WTO as a global institution.

Besides multilateral global institutions like WTO has failed on several counts. It has failed to chart a common path accommodating aspirations and concerns of all nations. When all countries under one umbrella with different interest, different economic need and different stage of development, it is difficult to accommodate compared to a regional block. Thus consenus building among developing and developed nations, global north and global south etc has been a tedious task. Even after twenety years of existence- the first truly global trade agreement i.e. Trade Facilitation Agreement failed to take off in Bali. This lack of outcome has pushed many countries to rely more on regional blocks.

Developing and underdeveloped nations often complain of hegemony by developed world in this body and their interest being overlooked and western countries imposing their interest on the rest. This has also delayed any tangible result out of it.

But despite many shortcomings the need for a global multilateral institution can’t be completely scrapped. The world economy, sooner rather than later has to make the transition to a free economy. It is undeniable that the growth of world economy require an integrated and free economy. And this needs a minimum set of rules, standards and principles which shall be prescribes by a multilateral institution ensuring equal participation of all countries.

Such a body is also essential for resolving trade disputes in a reasonable time. And for both these WTO is well equipped and can boast of fair amount of success through agreements like TRIPS, GATT and efficient dispute resolution.

But it also needs to focus on several other issues to develop itself into a vibrant and functioning institution. Firstly, showing enough sensitivity towards the genuine developmental and welfare interest of the developing world. Global free trade can’t be at the cost of global poverty and hunger. Secondly, empathise with the underdeveloped and small nations who are often left out in block rivalry. This may lead to disparity of development in the world economy which is already too severe. Thirdly, walk extra mile to bringout some tangible outcome thus increasing nations’ confidence in this institution.

In conclusion, it is essential to highlight that, for time being the regional blocks are to stay and they are essential for some developmental need of a particular region owing to certain advantages and peculiarity. But mutual block rivalry undermining global multilateral instituition will hurt all in the long run by slowing down global economic growth, marginalizing underdeveloped nations and deepening development disparity. Thus strengthening WTO by curing some of its drawbacks by combines effort of all nations will make the world prosperous ensuring welfare of nations, people and nature as well.

14.Freedom of the Press and Journalistic Ethics: Is Indian Media Misusing its Freedom of Expression and Acting Unethically?

Media is the oxygen of a free social and political order. Whatever has been the achievement of modern society in terms of liberty, equality, freedom or democracy, media has historically played a significant role in achieving and preserving them. That’s why it is fitting to call it the fourth estate of democracy. But this once revered media has seen some erosion in its standing, credibility and motive. Despite its many praiseworthy tasks that it continues to perform, questions are being raised about its declining ethical practice. Alleged media trails, paid news, sensationalisation of new items etc give firm credence to these allegations. Disease or even mild weakness in the fourth limb of our huge democratic structure will hamper its forward march. Analyzing various dimensions of this issue, its potential impacts and possible solutions will be the endeavor of this essay.

The reason for expression of such huge concern or the reason for this discussion is the enormous importance and responsibility bestowed on media, particularly in a democracy like india. Media is a link between people and government. People’s grievances, needs, necessities etc are made known to the government via media and government’s plans, schemes, actions for development and welfare reach to people by media. And this two way information flow is essential in a representative parliamentary democracy where people can’t directly participate in decision making.

Media brings information about major or minor development in social, economic, political and cultural sphere helping people form an informed opinion. Coverage of news from local to national to international level provides the advantage of comparative analysis further sharpening our opinion. That’s why autocratic nations have allergy towards free media. Furthermore, media is a great perception builder and its evaluation of an issue influences public opinion often with mixed consequences. Media reporting often brings accountability and transparency in governance. The extensive coverage and criticism of mega scams in the recent years had a role in sending many political stalwarts into scrutiny- an event rarely seen in independent india.

Another important function and responsibility of media is to fight the backwardness still prevailing in our country. The evils of caste system still exist. Communalism has been a great divider of our nations. Gender bias, attitude towards third gender, homosexuality, treatment of physically challenged or mentally retarded persons, honour killing etc point to incomplete transition from mediaval age to modern age. Media is well equipped and well positioned to act as an agent of this social change. The coverage of Nirbhaya case has helped in generating awareness and sensitizing masses.

Considering the central role of media in our society, constitution guaranteed freedom of press or media under article 19(1)(a). Government influence in this sphere has been almost absent with the notable exception of dark years of emergency. And media has always defended its territory quite vigorously against even the slightest government encroachment. But has media discharged its responsibility with all honesty?

Surely, media ethics is dwindling resulting in many problems. But there is one root cause to it and all other are its consequences- branches of the tree grown out of that root.

Till independence, media was a mission. The political workers, social activists and newspaper editor were often the same making media a great public service. But after independence, it was started to be treated as a profession. With growing readership, popularity of radio and television, some business element was added to it. But after liberalization, many corporate houses with deep pockets created media house of their own or acquired the existing ones. They curtailed to a great extent independence of editor to their commercial interest. With increasing competition from rival groups, pressure for profit making, increasing corporate- political nexus made the ecosystem worse of quality journalism with many hazardous consequences.

Firstly, it initiated and nurtured the culture of “breaking news.” Investigative journalism took a back seat thus spreading trivial, half backed, poorly investigated and hyped new stories. The slogan seemed to be “ bad news is good news and good news is no news.” Just few months back news of love jihad started appearing in especially hindi electronic media indirectly accepting its existence without prior investigation.

Secondly, as noted journalist P Sainath noted “this media is politically free but imprisoned by profit.” Since most of its audiances are from urban areas, it has become urban centric, rural news and issues virtually don’t figure in discussions. According to a survey only 2% of new displayed or published by national “mainstream” media is about rural area. The attitude is best summarised by this tale. When P Sainath appeared for an interview to avail a fellowship to report rural areas, one of the interviewer asked him, "Suppose I tell you my readers aren't interested in this stuff", Sainath riposted, "When did you last meet your readers to make any such claims on their behalf?"

Media is slowly becoming a glamour industry with extensive coverage of political news, sports, finance and fashion news. Most of the “mainland” Indians are not aware of the situation in conflict ridden areas of NE and J&K. Tribal regions get the privilege of coverage and debate of any sort only after a major naxal violence.

Thirdly, priority for profit generation, has created problems like paid news. This is a form of corruption among media striking at the very principle of media independence. Availability of sponsors decide which news to be covered and which not. So the elemnt of public service is gradually disappearing.

Fourthly, media has not played its due role fully to cure the social ills They have selectively covered sensitive issues instead of a continuous sustained campaign.

Apart from this, another issue independent of corporate hold is media trial. Due caution is not observed while reporting an allegation against an individual, organization or institution. In any case, instead of maintaining the new neutrality like a media person, they advocate one side like a lawyer. This creates a negative perception, causes irrepairable damage to that person’s reputation. It also promotes mob trial undermining rule of law. Evaluation of government action is sometimes done as the mouthpiece of one party or another sacrificing impartiality. Or often well intended government plans are criticized relentlessly following the lines of five star activists. This clearly violates the media ethics which according to Gandhiji is, “ A free press should neither be an allay or an adversary…. But a constructive critic.”

But what is the way out of this spreading disease? Firstly, media persons and journalists acknowledge that this problem exist, which is heartening. Now going for next step, any kind of government regulation is undesirable. So media associations have to evolve their own mechanism that will pre-empt any government inititative in this direction. Clear ethical codes need to be enumerated for both print and electronic media. Institutions need to be built to strengthen them. On this count, Press Council of India (PCI) needs to be given more teeth. Every media house should appoint an internal obmudsman. An independent regulator needs to created to set standard and assure quality in large number of journalism colleges that are mushrooming across nation. Few centre of excellences such as Jamia Mallia and Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) with significant autonomy must be created as model.

Future health of our democracy depends on health of media. A self conscious media must cure its own malises under the lead of veteran journalists and experts of integrity. Nowadays internet and social media has opened new avenues which will help shed some corporate dependency. We hope meida will keep its premise clean and continue to play its dominant role in nation building, the way it has been doing in the last two hundred years.

15.“All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy”

Hard and industrious work is necessary to achieve our goals in life. But concentration on work alone with no recreation tends to make a person dull and unsociable. The mind’s  
constitution is such that it can work for a long time. But at the same time, proper relaxation is absolutely necessary to keep it from getting overtaxed. An overtaxed mind loses all social spirit making the personality dull. Often children are made to study their lessons continuously so as to get good results in examinations. But this rather tends to make a child just a book worm with no social abilities.

Furthermore, a relaxed mind is a rejuvenated one. It retrieves all its capacities to absorb knowledge after proper recreation. Recreation revitalizes the mind’s inborn abilities. A balanced scheme of work and recreation is the proper way to keep the mind in trim shape. This is especially very important in the case of children because it is the age when the personality of the child is being moulded. In short, work with no recreation will make Jack a dull boy. On the other hand, a combination of work with recreation will make him a properly balanced person.

We all seem to know the proverb yet we do not give the freedom to our children to play and have fun. We underestimate the importance of play that’s crucial for children’s healthy psychological development and ability to thrive in life. Playing with other children, away from adults, is how children learn to make their own decisions, control their emotions and impulses, see from others’ perspectives, negotiate differences with others, and make friends,”. **In short, play is how children learn to take control of their lives.**

We are all born with an inherent curiosity, playfulness, sociability and deep desire to learn, but schooling seems to rob that from us. Anxiety and stress levels among students are at an all-time high: they are burdened with too much homework, over-scheduled with extra curricular activities, deprived of free play, and faced with the pressures of getting into a top college.

Our compulsory education system features forced lessons, standardised tests, and seems specially designed to crush a child’s innate and biological drives for learning. The traditional ‘coercive’ school model, was originally developed to indoctrinate, not to promote intellectual growth.

Man leads a complex life. He works to support himself and his family. During his non-working hours, he rests and spends the time with his family and friends, or with his hobbies. People look forward to weekends and holidays. People also say that if they were rich or if they win the lottery, they would not work anymore. It may seem as if we do not enjoy our work, we only want leisure time.

Many people may feel that they want only leisure, but if they really get their wish, I do not think they will enjoy it for very long. There is an old saying **"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy"**. I think, in a similar way, we can say that **"All play and no work makes Jack a bored boy."** It is important for us to have balance in our lives. Work makes us feel that we are doing something worthwhile with ourselves, while our leisure enables us to have time to relax.

Work makes us independent. We are able to support ourselves. Everyone needs to find out where his interest and talents lie. Work also makes us strive hard, and our ancestors have always stressed that diligence is a virtue. People also enjoy work because it makes them feel that they are using their time constructively. Many wealthy people who do not have to work for a living still work for these reasons. Many people also enjoy work because it gives them an opportunity to get to know and meet other people.

Of course, we cannot spend all our hours working, so leisure is equally important to us. During our leisure hours, we are free to make our own choices whether to pursue hobbies or  
to spend time with people whose company we enjoy. We can choose to pursue a lively activity or just choose to late around reading or listening to music. Also, unlike the office or workplace, we do not have to face people whom we do not get along with. I think this freedom makes some of us feel that we enjoy only our leisure, and not our work. Leisure breaks the monotony of the working week, and because we have fewer non-working days than days of work, we cherish our leisure more.

People need both the discipline of work and the freedom of leisure. It is quite natural to feel that we only enjoy our leisure because during our free time, we are our own boss. **But  
I think if each of us suddenly becomes rich and we are given a choice between "all leisure" or "work and leisure", we would choose to enjoy the joys of both work and leisure.**

16.“Corruption and its Effect on National Security and Development”

Corruption is prevalent in India since time immemorial. Kautilya in Arthashastra has devoted one chapter titled “ Detection of what is Embezzled by Government servant out of state revenue” . In this Kautilya talked about the all pervasive culture of corruption, 40 ways of misappropriation of public funds. How difficult it is to obliterate it. How and Why in spite of all checks and balances people will indulge in corruption. Problem of corruption in India also prevailed during British rule and didn’t mitigate after Independence instead started mounting. There are many reasons for this disturbing phenomenon.

Cause of corruption in India is the Ingrained Corruption culture coupled with low awareness, red-tapism, misgovernance, Illiteracy, Constitutional corruption etc. Currently, India is witnessing the onslaught of Materialism, Westernization etc. which has filled the ‘animal spirit’ of corruption in India people as they aspire for more, which has resulted in ‘ living beyond the means culture’. Corruption problem has aggravated in recent times because of corporate-bureaucratic-politician nexus which culminated into huge source of Black Money. In fact corruption is so omnipresent at the top echelon that at lower lever people see corruption as “ Low risk and high award action”.

Corruption is anti-poor. In a country, where much of the population is below the poverty line, corruption hits the poor very badly. Many of the development schemes meant for the weaker sections do not benefit them at all. Rajiv Gandhi remarked that only 15 paisa out of every rupee meant for the anti-poverty programme reaches the beneficiaries. This affects growth, employment, human development and result is growing Inequality in the society. In this way poor is going into much poverty and the rich growing much richer. This turned into never breaking vicious cycle. Everyone is aware of this trend since long, but no political will is present in our country to curb it. This misgovernance is the prime reason for the lack of faith in public on administration. This condition is also lead to increasing trend of choosing extremism by the marginalized groups.

Corruption directly effects growth in the long run. India today is the example of this situation in contrast with China which is more or less similar to India immediately after Independence. Prime reason for India still being a developing country is the Corruption. It started in land reforms which affected the farmer and agriculture, the base of our growth and employment. This trend continued since then and evolved as nexus between politicians and corporates in the liberalization era. This was followed by huge scams like bofors scam, coal scam, 2G scam,..Also the huge black money generated due to corruption took its way to anti national elements like terrorism which is a major threat to National security.

There are many other issues where the corruption is aiding anti national elements and hindering development like issuing fake passports, identities, sim cards, driving licences, misuse of power, lack of transparency in government and private appointments, deals, consumerism in every aspect, lack of accountability for public and many more. Every possible way is being misused by the people in and outside India to try it against it. As many admit ‘Everything is possible in India with money and hardly anything is possible without giving money’

As we look ahead, the question before us is will corruption continue to plague the country? In the next 10 to 15 years, what is it that we can hope for on the corruption front? It is very easy to be pessimistic. The pessimist can always argue that corruption has always been with us like the poor and it is a global phenomenon. Nevertheless, the fact is that while corruption is a global phenomenon, we have seen countries which were corrupt, reforming themselves and getting the benefits of corruption-free, good governance in our own lifetime. Singapore is a classic example. We have tolerated corruption for so long. The time has now come to deal it from its roots.

Corruption is an intractable problem. It is like diabetes, can only be controlled, but not totally eliminated ! It may not be possible to root out corruption completely at all levels but it is possible to contain it within tolerable limits. Corruption is become cross linked matrix so difficult to break that matrix.

The above analysis makes it apparent that corruption is ingrained in our society. In order to alleviate it we need both short and long term solution. The most lethal weapon against corruption can be education followed by successive reforms like effective governance, Lokpal, accountability and transparency on government’s part. In fact social climate needs to be cultivated so that corrupt person, however successful may be needed to suffer social opprobrium. This led us to create culturally homogeneous society, where there is consensus on values thus diffusing corruption. APJ Abdul Kalam said “ If we can’t make India Corruption free, then the vision of making the nation develop by 2020 would remain a dream “

Let us come together.

Let us enjoy together.

Let our strengths come together.

Let us move from darkness to light.

Let us avoid the poison of misunderstanding and hatred.

That way we progress.

“Be the Lamp unto yourself”- Lord Buddha.

Adopting this strategy, we can definitely see India becoming a less corrupt, progressive and developed country.

17.Is Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) Good For India’s Higher Education?

Higher education is the pulse of a nation. This is more true for a country like india aspiring to leave its mark internationally. It is the higher education that produces skillful entrepreneurs, brilliant scientists, sensitive social reformers- all that are symbols of modernity and progress. But as well known, our higher education suffering myriads of problems waiting for reform. As a part of this reform measure, the government implemented Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) in all 400 central universities. This has drawn both admiration and criticism for various reasons. So what is this CBSC, what are its potential benefits and possible harms and how to go ahead with reforms- this will be the endevour of this essay.

What exactly is the CBSC system? It’s a grading system replacing the absolute marking system which provides choice to students to opt subjects from other disciplines. In future it aims to be an inter-university model giving the students to choose subjects across universities.

It is not hard to see its benefits.

Firstly, absolute marking system encourages mechanical rote learning turning students into a good memoriser rather than a good analyser. Like the Vedas says such pupils are like “donkeys carrying bags of sandlewood on their back, who can only feel the load but never its values.” Grading system is expected to bring some change in this attitude.

Secondly, the flexibility introduced to choose subjects across discipline was long needed in indian universities. Now students can really follow their interest across disciplines and will have a recognition for this. A science or engineering student can opt for a subject like history or political science of sociology. We must not forget that universities are the agent of social changes. The seed for revolution or reform lies in intelligentia educated in universities and cadres drawn heavily from students. Any great political leaders and social reformers has their first indoctrination during their college days. The huge demonstration during Nirbhaya incident in 2012 by various students unions of universities of Delhi like JNU and DU bears testimony to their enabler of social change.

The flexibility can also be used by students to acquire knowledge and skills in multiple areas to make them readymade for employment. Since most of the graduates and post grads are not quick employment material which is disappointing in a growing economy. Now students can develop computer skill, communication skill and management skill to enhance their employability in job market.

Thirdly, another important feature is vertical credit transfer facility. Now if a student feels not ready to take a subject I 3rd semester, he can take this up in 5th semester. Or if someone finds himself comfortable to take a subject of higher class, he is welcome. This is a departure from one-size fits all approach and allows students to pursue their academic career at their own pace.

Fourthly, such changes if implemented properly will restrict the huge flight of indian students to abroad for higher studies. This will not only augment our human capital but the economy will benefit from these young bright minds curing the brain drain.

Fifth, such freedom with its possible benefits if harnessed properly, will improve the ranking of indian universities. Although the government is planning for an indian rating system with parameters suited to indian condition.

But the critics have many arrows in their quiver too. They too have substance in their arguments.

This CBCS system can’t prodce the desired result with existing problems of faculty shortage and inadequate infrastructure. About 40% of the faculty posts are vacant in central universities. Although government has issues a notification to fill in all the vacanices within a year, the meagre budgetary allocation simply does not allow that.

Different universities have different structure, mandate, role and profile. Many universities don’t have a semester system yet. So making this transition is simply not feasible. With this is associated the larger issue of autonomy of higher education insititutions. Instead of prior consultation with universities, government is imposing this order through UGC, where as government’s role should be restricted to a facilitation and funder. This order was a part of government’s larger project of uniformity and standardization across universities at the expense of quality and autonomy.

Another criticism is that these moves are only at vocational need of the economy neglecting the research and innovation needs what is called the ‘factory model’ of higher education.

So what is the way forward?

None seems to have objected to the CBCS model as such, since it is a globally accepted model in higher education. But this needs to be backed by financial support to fill in the vacancies and gap in infrastructure. Teacher recruitment and promotion system need to be relooked to open the gate for passionate and competent teachers. Moreover, instead of forcing all the central universities to accept it by a deadline, it should be left to the wisdom of universities (at least those are of reputation and governed by separate acts) to impelement these with their own modifications and pace. This also needs a wide consultation with all stakeholders otherwise might face the fate of DU’s FYUP course.

Although such changes are welcome, huge structural flaws in our education will squeeze the outcomes of any such move. Autonomy of at least reputed universities is non-negotiable since freedom is essential to pursue excellence in any field. MHRD must stop its political interference through UGC, which has been growing for last two decades. Autonomy must be assured to UGC, universities and faculties within universities, without which innovations, research and efficiency will be h dreams. For this larger question of reform in higher education, the recommendations of Yash pal committee needs to be seriously considered. Recently submitted Harigautam committee even suggested complete scrapping of UGC.

Strengthening of higher education sets the path for the rise of india. What india would be like 20 years from now chiefly depends on what would be the condition of its higher education then. So well thought, consultative, facilitative attitude will serve more to this goal than hasty, authoritative and controlling attitude.

**18. “You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink.”**

In 2003, Saddam Hussein was captured by NATO forces and elections were held in IRAQ. It was perceived by western countries that democratic set up will solve all the problem. but after some time some part of iraq mostly northern-western region has continuously rejected such type of set up. these people includes KHURDISH, SUNNI, etc and supported with ISIS. thus, forcing something to do something better is not gives desirable results until and unless performer wish to do so. in this case, world leaders imposed democracy without any persuasion and political mobilisation. thus, does it mean that leadership failed? does it mean democracy failed? does it mean leader should not lead because action depends upon performers ?

today, we have rare incidents of SATI PRATHA [probably no] in our country. it was prevalent practice before second half of 19th century. it was RAJARAM MOHAN ROY who persuaded people and protested against it. with the help of RAJAJI Indian British government has made a law. similarly, ISHWAR CHANDRA VIDYASAGAR has persuaded people and protested against child marriage and supported widow-remarriage. with the help of him 1856 act was passed. matter of concern is our past leader lead us to create society where humanity and rationality should exist and not any social evil or inhuman treatment to others. but we still practice child marriage. thus, leader can lead and persuade but ultimately desirable results depends upon followers. it is the same case with DOWRY SYSTEM and UNTOUCHABILITY practice in India.

during independence time in the year 1947, our leaders like PATEL, NEHRU, etc have shown their leadership to persuade small states to integrate UNION OF INDIA but it was not done by force but it was done by leadership and persuasion through sign of ''instruments of accession''. thus many states came together and formed INDIA and PAKISTAN as per their choice. therefore we can lead but force to follow the same because it can't be sustainable as the case of IRAQ.

our philosophical systems like BUDDHISM, JAINISM, VEDANTIC etc have given various type of solutions to remove all misery of our life. they exist since ancient times but did we get rid off from such misery of life? obviously not, because they can lead us, tell us or persuade us but cant force us. however, those who follow they see desirable results.

moreover, it is the same case with RIGHTS of tribal people, rights of women, rights of marginalized section of our society, rights of child, etc. our national leadership and democratic system have given the various rights and protection in the form of law. but it will be usless if they dont exercise their rights because it depends upon rights bearer. however, those who exercised it, have shown their potential. eg- KALPANA CHAWLA, MARY KOM, upliftment of marginalized section of india i.e. SC/ST/OBC, etc.

it is also valid in our political system. we have voting rights which value and power cant be equated in our democracy. beauty of democracy is election and if it is not exercised, then its beauty gets degraded. however, it cant be forced to exercise as in the case of GUJRAT local election where voting has been made compulsory which is still a debatable issue since we have also a option of NOTA. In this field, ECI, political parties, media and NGOs have played important role in persuasion and leadership because they cant force them to exercise their rights.

further, in the case of social security schemes like MGNREGA, IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME, ATAL PENSION YOJANA, PM SURAKSHA YOJANA, PM JIWAN JYOTI YOJANA, etc can be facilitated and persuaded to people to exercise it but it cant be forced to people to exercise it. recent success of PMDJY and PAHAL was because of leadership and persuation. this is the reason also we have given FDs in our constitution under separate section PART IVA and it has been left on the conscience of citizens.

moreover, in our economy RBI, GOVT, SEBI only regulate and gives the guidelines as per need but never forces to do something except they violate the norms. for MAKE IN INDIA, SOLAR MISSION, DIGITAL INDIA ,etc we are persuding the investors and people because we cant force it, because it leads to counter productive. MUDRA BANK for MSME sector and small businessman can be boon be only they use it. it is the same case with GST which cant be forced to state to accept it. it is also the case of educational and skill programes in india we can only show the correct path and facilitate them, and without their willful cooperation it cant be successful because again forcing will be counter productive.

at international level also, we cant force anyone to do something. we can only persuade them. forcing has been always counter productive and have result disastrous which is evident from reason behind WW1, WW2, division of pakistan as BANGLADESH new country in 1971. thus, after understanding this principle UN resolution, UNO declation, UNHRC, UNICEF, UNESCO, etc works on the basis of persuation.

however, it does not mean that you should not lead beacuse results depends upon the performer. it only mean that we cant force to do something which is unwillful for performers. thus, leadership quality play impotant role to give productive and desirable results. you should not only be intelligent but also emotionally intelligent enough to understand the feeling, appetite and desire of performers. therefore both leadership and views and cooperation is necessary for desirable results. eg- we are now moving towards citizen-centric governance and bottom-up approach type governance. polio compaign and PMJDY is recent success.

thus, engagement of both leadership and co-operation are imperative for desirable outcome and only one cant give. persuasion may be the best tool which comes from the leadership and it should be used intead of forcing. it is also the basic tenet of democracy. moreover, views and need of others need to understand to give correct directions. thus it all depends on the leaders which can make heaven on the earth and hell on the earth.

19.“ **Political Interference in Bureaucracy – Causes, Consequences and Remedies**

political representation and bureaucracy go hand in hand in any democratic set up like india. they are integral and inseparable part of the administration which basic purpose is to provide services to its citizens. thus, interaction and influence become inevitable. at this juncture, two forms are possible- one is 'intervention' and another is 'interference'. intervention attempt to resolve the conflict between the two opposite issue or helps to both bureaucracy and politicians to achieve common purpose. whereas interference attempt to stop someone's own work/duties for some vested interest. interference is negative connotation. therefore, political interference in bureaucracy is considered as counter-productive and against ethos of constitution. And this also leads to undesirable consequences. thus, political system and bureaucracy should be isolated? how will we ensure that interaction is 'intervention' or 'interference'? what are the sustainable remedies?

firstly, we need to know causes of interference. this is vested with some personal interest or to gain some political benefits,sometimes known as 'POLITICAL STUNT'. regionalism is also factor in which local leader tries to influence the bureaucratic function. corruption in the system also make vulnerable for interference and they indulge in it without fear of law because they think due presence of corruption they will escape easily from law.

further, lack of transparency and accountability in the administrative structure make vulnerable ground for political interference. lack of value system like integrity, honesty, dedication, commitment towards 'RULE OF LAW' leads violation of ''service code of conduct'' and such situation become vulnerable for political interference. thus weakness in administration is also responsible for interference.

moreover, sometimes lack of awareness and seriousness among the people about the correct procedure of administration creates fertile ground for political interference. eg- in 2010 when DC of DANTEWADA in CHHATISGARH plotted a project called 'EDUCATION CITY' in left wing extremism affected area, it was rumoured by local leader that A company is going to mine this area and all will be thrown out of the place. there was mass agitation against DC. it has taken the time to explain the exact project. therefore, lack of awareness and low literacy rate is also responsible for it. social and economic inequality polarise the society in which political leaders are more strong than in terms of capital and power. so inequality also become vulnerable for interference.

now, their consequences are not only against the purpose of law but against the 'ETHOS OF SERVICE'. it impacts the decision of bureaucracy and delays the functions. it may be only in the favour of particular person/group/section of the society which is against the principle of ''rule of law'' and ''democracy''. this may lead to degradation of implementation of LAW AND ORDER and eventually bad governance. In this situation, our more vulnerable section of the society like WOMEN, CHILDREN, WEAKER SECTION, MARGINALISED SECTION LIKE TRIBAL PEOPLE, etc will be greater sufferer. bad governance may lead to increase in crimes like kidnapping, rape, murder, riots.

further, interference may impact our societal and political structure. since it promotes only ''mighty'' of society , then indirectly, inequality may be resulted in the society. And societal structure is always relflected at the poltical platform. it may also result in 'COLLUSION' and it will lead to CRONY CAPITALISM' in our economic system. thus growth and development of our fastest growing economy may be impacted. targets like 100 percenrt ELECTRIFICATION by 2019, installation of 100 GW renewable energy, MAKE IN INDIA, DIGITAL INDIA cant be achieve in time if interference is there.

Again, if it is continued to happen, then at international level, our system will be considered as fractured, corrupt and weak system which will not only hamper our ties with other countries but also threat to our NATIONAL SECURITY.

however, on the other hand 'political intervention' since it has possitive purpose increases the productivity of PUBLIC SERVICES and creates favourable WORK CULTURE for both bureaucracy and political system. eg- political campaign on the guidelines of EC during election educate and make aware the people for VOTING RIGHTS. And such activity results in higher voting percentage. during DISASTERs like flood, EQ, cyclone, etc work together.

moreover, political executives are the direct presentatives of people and bureaucracy's basic duty is to serve the people. thus, bureaucracy shuold also follow the order and suggestion of political bosses provided that actions are in the frame of law and not against the RULE OF LAW OR CONSTITUTION. thus, sometimes interventionn becomes imperative for more efficient governnance and GOOD GOVERNANCE. such type of intervention should be envisaged in our work culture and this wisdom associated with administration called ADMINISTRATIVE WISDOM which is evident from SARDAR PATEL and PANDIT J L NEHRU to current PM. thus, we cant isolate our bureacracy to political intervention. however, interference should be isolated.

further, for ensuring that interaction is 'intervention' or not we should strictly follow the ''SERVICE CODE OF CONDUCT'' for both bureacracy and political executives. although we have, but poor implementation creates such situation of interference. we need to bring more transparency and accountabilty to cuonter it. RTI has created such steps and it should be spreaded in the sense of awareness and range. we need to make our governance more ctizen-centric and participatory. for this, we should include more participation from civil soceities like NGOs, TRUSTs etc. shifting towards digitalisation through DIGITAL INDIA mission and e-governance, DBT schemes, etc are also countering political interference in bureaucracy.

moreover, we need to implement reform proposals and guidelines which were given by SC and various commissions. these includes POLICE REFORMS recommended by SC and ARC-II, Administative reform recommended by ARC-II, political reform recommended by PUNCHI COMMISSION and SARKARIA COMMISSION, judicial reform and so on. then we will be able to ensure that interaction is ''intervention'' and tranparency and accountability will help in sustainable remedy. however, such acts like whistle blower protection act 2014 is also beneficial in countering political iterference.

thus, political interference in bureaucracy is always counter-productive and leads to fractured governance and threat to our national security and integrity.on the other hand, we cant isolate the them because of its integral structure, we should create such a WORK CULTURE in which only 'intervention' should exist and not 'interference'. therefore exercise of such an ADMINISTRTATIVE WISDOM will not only fulfill the aspiration of our constitution but also will eastablish peaceful and tolerant society on the land of BUDDHA and ASHOKA and again land will become inspiration for the world.

**20. Terrorism and Humanity – How to Deal With Terrorism and its Threats?**

Terrorism and Humanity – How to Deal with Terrorism and its Threats?

Terrorism is an anti-thesis of Humanity, to be precise. Conflicts are bound to happen in human society, conflicts are mainly based on the allocation of resources and values. Terrorism as a word is of recent origin. It’s an Ideology which thrives on the fear of others. Terrorism is not only the hardcore terrorism which we come across the newspapers on daily basis. In today’s time with the increase in sophisticated and complicated human,societal interaction other forms of terrorism too has come to picture. It would be better to demarcate the terrorism as Soft Terrorism and Hardcore terrorism .We have many things to put into soft Terrorism such as Cyber terrorism, Cultural terrorism,Intellectual terrorism etc. And as far as Hardcore or violent form of terrorism it is very much tangible to see the world around that how ideology of terrorism has not spared a single country on the Planet.

Terrorism clearly has a very real and direct impact on human rights, with devastating consequences for the enjoyment of the right to life, liberty and physical integrity of victims. In addition to these individual costs, terrorism can destabilize Governments, undermine civil society, jeopardize peace and security, and threaten social and economic development. All of these also have a real impact on the enjoyment of human rights. Security of the individual is a basic human right and the protection of individuals is, accordingly, a fundamental obligation of Government. States therefore have an obligation to ensure the human rights of their nationals and others by taking positive measures to protect them against the threat of terrorist acts and bringing the perpetrators of such acts to justice.

Terrorism has inflicted a grave wound on the Humanity. Humanity index in the modern world is identified with Human Rights/Fundamental Rights enjoyed by the people. Terrorism has many facets and one critical facet of its ideology to subjugate the people before it that is "total submission". It wants the people to behave, act and live according to its will. Terrorist organizations such as ISIS, BOKO-HARAM, AL-QAEDA etc. are doing things which are not only retrospective but also anti-evolution. Recently there have been unprecedented rise in the terrorist activities in the world. Middle-east and African countries have been worst affected, BOKO-HARAM which literally means Western Education is bad started with cultural propaganda and it’s now inflicting grave crimes on humanity, thousands of Girls from Schools have been abducted and they are converted and made to work and act like a slave for the fighting terrorists. Similarly What ISIS is doing is in front of whole humanity they are openly beheading, butchering, enslaving humans wherever they can. The sophistication with which these modern day terrorists are equipped with is also a grave matter to be looked into, sophisticated arms, media propaganda machinery are amongst them. Corporatism and terrorism nexus especially arms manufacturing companies are playing with the lives of people. All Religions tenets are based on the Humanity and spiritual well-being, although political scientists places religions itself an ideology but looking on the broader picture we can say that religions were developed also to give an idea about how to live a productive and evolved life. So called ‘Islamic terrorists’ organizations do proclaim that they are on JIHAD and they interpret the verses to befit their goals and which acts as a boost in their propaganda machinery. So they justify their acts by citing that they are doing according to the Verses of ‘Quran’. They justify killing of other religious groups, minorities ,and they inflict disproportionate punishment such as death for Apostasy, stoning for adultery , chopping limbs for burglary etc. these are against the modern way of life style and system of Punishments.Recent revelation about the working of ISIS by absconding members of the group suggests that how Women and even males are treated very badly in the intra-group setup. These Ideologies works on the anti-diversity principles, it doesn’t recognizes the basic tenets of Natural justice even Rt. To life, leave other things. Taking Naxalism which has been a concern for India as a nation for 3-4 decades. Here there propaganda is based on the class conflict, class-annihilation, anti-state and violence is used as a means. Wherever violence is used to justify the deeds of any action Human rights are violated. Humanity is under grave threat from terrorism.

Dealing with terrorism where the terrorists organizations have evolved technologically, is posing a difficult task before the world. Sometimes the anti terrorist operations are itself blamed with the anti-humanity acts eg. Zarb-e-abz by Pakistani govt. where citizens also gets vindicated andgovt.keepssilenceand take it as ‘collateral damage’. similarly,anti-naxal operations have often given rise to many controversial happenings one among them was SALWA-JUDUM. So the anti-terrorist operations and dealing with terrorism is concerned THREE-PRONGED strategy should be used. First the govt should propagate that how the terrorists are on the wrong path and should counter the views propagate by them. This thing won’t only motivate the people who want to come back to main-stream but also inhibit the new –recruitment to flow into the terrorists direction. This is applicable to the state-sponsored terrorism (PAKISTAN) in J and K also, where the propaganda run by the PAK’s ISI along with miniscule separatists leaders of the region. Proper employment opportunity for the people especially youths should be there, as youths who are discontented are easy prey for such groups and thus the perpetual recruitment of wannabe terrorists are contd. Third approach should be targeting the main organ/person of such groups and they should be bring before the law or even encounter can be justified if the situation arises as in case of stiff resistance.

Terrorism should be viewed as a menace for the whole Humanity. It should not be associated with any religion, race etc. Also the sensitivity towards the victims should be same, we can see how the world reacted unanimously in case of CHARLIE-HEBDO attack and such sort of reaction is never seen in support of the people suffering in Middle –east and Africa. Former US Secretary Hilary Clinton during her visit to Pak, once said "you can't keep snakes in your backyard and expect them only to bite your neighbors. Eventually those snakes are going to turn on whoever has them in the backyard,". The point here is that the state sponsored terrorism should be condemned internationally and in the harshest possible words and no country should give tacit support to terrorists in order to achieve its myopic goal, a prerequisite for the Humanity to survive at large.

**21.“Good Fences Make Good Neighbours”**

Good fences make good neighbours

A fence is a boundary which separates two countries, two neighbour homes. This fence can be visible as well as it can be invisible.

A fence represents a idea of barriers between people, friendship , communication , sense of security. A fence is a reality fo life and scenario everywhere.A fence eliminates any chance of someone trespassing into a zone which belongs to you. This is also true for relationships, neighbouring countries, colleagues or everything else in life.

A fence is a good thing even for neighbouring houses. There may be friendship between neighbours but to avoid any quarrel a fence provides a separation between two houses. A fence maintain the privacy of a person and avoid too much interference into one's life.which is good for nay relation whether it is friendship, parents, family or any other relation . Also it helps in maintaining good professional relations at workplace if you draw a line and maintain tresspassing into ones personal life. Nobody likes the interference of others in their private affairs. So such an action may often result in quarrels. Besides everybody like some privacy. If neighbors move too freely with each other, there won’t be any privacy at all. Apart from that certain people are eager to take too much freedom which can lead to unpleasant incidents. Therefore it is always good to keep some distance even with very friendly with others. We can be very friendly with others and at the same time keep a respectable distance from them.

Similarly, fences play a very important role between countries like great wall of china, berlin wall. India is facing lot of problems from its making itself which is created due to no proper fencing with Pakistan, CHina etc. Later on India faced same problem with Bangladesh and Infact India has faced this problem with Srilanka over sea fencing.No proper fencing has taken so many lives and millions are spent to keep check on millitancy or tobe prepared for any war in future which is due to no proper fencing.If this fencing would have been proper then millions could have been saved both in monetary terms and human terms.Also, this would have created good relations between the people across the borders or fences which would have created multiple opportunities for the people of both countries and world would have been a happy place. Similarly , India has dispute with china over fencing as china doesnt recognize the treaty with British which is known as macmohan line.So all these problems are created just due to fencing. India also had problems with Bangaldehs over boundaries and problme of illegal immigrants which now is trying to be resolved with land boundary agreement. Similarly, India is having problem with Srilanka over sea area where fishermen can go for fishing, which is again now under talks. So we can see India as a nation has faced this problem right from its birth and it has been onloss due to this.

If we go internationally we can see brelin wall, boundary between america and mexico, boundary between israel and palaestine , so we can see everywhere whenever these is no clear fencing there have been problems.

India has clear boundary with Nepal , Bhutan etc so we dont have much problems with these countries.

If we see fencing and maintaing proper boundaries have always been a good thing and it has lead to peaceful things.

There could be some problems as well with fencing.creation of a boundary can also lead to isolation. In yesteryears, porous fences made it easier for neighbours to come home and casually talk about mundane things. However, times have changed and people are very often are not aware of who resides even in their immediate neighbourhood, thanks to the boundaries. Creation of a wall can also result in dispute over its need in the long term as people have difference of opinions. For citizens of one country who share a relationship with their neighbours, it can become difficult to cross borders as the amount of permissions required for the same can be immense.

Even on the front of personal relationships, those who build walls before even talking to the person, they lose out a chance to know someone as there are already some pre-conceived notions. In the long term, words such as close friendship or true intimacy would be alien words for such people as they would have created a barrier in their relationships much before.

Creation of a wall also results in less movement of people. Man is known to be a social animal and by creating such boundaries, there is elimination of any social interaction. This can be terrible as the world is already fast witnessing unwarranted changes leading people to move away from each other at a faster pace despite having all means of communication. Civilisations have progressed because of various social, cultural and technological reasons. If there is no social interaction, cultural intermingling would take a backseat leading to death of free exchange of ideas and growth of human beings. This can have a deeper impact on human beings’ growth over long term.

Not everyone has the knowledge of living in a typical neighborhood. Some stay very close to their neighbors that they even know what’s cooking in their house and some stay so far that they cannot event come whenever they feel like. If we think in this way then we will realize that we are creating various different walls with our neighbors that will keep us attached with them for a lifetime. But always remember too much of friendliness is also not good.

Nobody likes an interference of a third person in their private lives. If neighbors are given too much freedom then it may well lead to unpleasant incidents. Therefore, division between neighbors is a way to create a safe and secure feeling but at the same time may well create isolation amongst each other. Thus, always be friendly with others but at the same time keep a notable distance from them. And this is what the saying implies – be a good neighbor but at the same time maintain the distance by creating a small wall or fence.

This age old belief of Good fences making good neighbours holds true even in the modern age. But, like everything, these boundaries should not become restrictions for people to communicate with each other. Barriers must be put in place sufficiently in order to ensure that privacy is not affected, borders are not trespassed and there is a sanctity in various relationships at all times.

Fences will always be good and they can resolve lot of problems

One should not build a stone wall making it impossible to communicate but rather build a low fence in order to maintain a distance.

**22. “Two wrongs don’t make a right.”**

“Two wrongs doesn’t make a Right” – This is particularly a premise used for the caution the second person have to keep in mind while dealing with a first person. To be frank the above line is weird, because its needs an example to understand.

Let us say a person has intentionally done a harm to another one, and after wards there is a time when latter person had got a chance to harm or dictate the former person. Though the latter harm the former in this situation, actually there is neither gain to anybody but only distress and aggravating the problem already exists. Hence the caution the second person have to keep in mind is not to repeat the same mistake what the first person had did in the past, rather do the best to decrease the intention of that problem. To go with different perspectives of this premise, let us go into ideology oriented analysis taking into Social(S), Technological(T), Environmental & Economical(E) and finally the Political(P) perspectives into concern. Let us call this analysis STEP analysis which cater all the above perspectives mentioned.

In view of Sociological view, let us take the terrorism issue that too regarding their genesis and present violence. View the subject keeping in mind the above premise. Terrorism at the first started by some local groups of a country to save their interests from other country(let us say Russia in Afghanistan invasion). Though started on a low scale its expansion was made through with the help of Second country which is opposed to the invading country(like USA). In this situation though Invasion is one of the wrong thing, the other thing done by the another to encourage had resulted in not the suppress of the problem but only resulted in welcoming a new problem- terrorism. This resulted in wide spread discontent and blood shed in every part of the world. In this terrorism , we can see other view too. That is, yes the terrorism had expanded. This resulted in violent activities in the origin countries and other neighbor countries. But in order to tackle this problem the developed are also doing the same mistake again- that is violence. This resulted in creation of vacuum in the origin country’s political space there by enchancing the scope of terror activities. This scenario can be seen in recent ISIS, Alqaeda, and other terror outfits rise. Rather than containing the violence with peaceful measures, the same repeated violence actually exploded the already existing problem.

Next one important is Environment. Its particular discussion mainly hover around Climate change. Every one knows that the climate change is as a result of drastic emissions and unsustainable activities of industrial Revolution by the developed countries in the past. So the first mistake is already done. Now the concentration is on the second action what we have to take. Yes, the developing countries need to develop too. Hence they are pitching for more carbon space. But the concentration must not be on purely repeating the same mistake by irrelevant emissions , but also to limit their carbon space on their own. Purely repeating the same mistake doesn’t cater for sustainable environment. Hence the focus must be on limiting the carbon space emitted, moving towards the renewable energies, and finally pitching for adaptable technologies. It is not to say that developing countries must not develop, but they must develop in a sustainable manner unlike the developed countries which harmed our Mother-Earth. Care must be taken whether the same mistake will be repeated by the third world too. We have to keep in our min that “prevention is better than cure”.

Next one being the Economic (E) perspective. It is often seen that the world finance Institutions like world Bank, IMF, ADB are dominated by the developed countries and the credit will often come in a manner that developing countries are at a dis-advantage with respect to developed. So obviously the first mistake again by the developed nations was seen. Now in 21st century we are seeing new finance Institutions like New development Bank(by BRICS), AIIB(by china) and other regional financial Institutions where the main stake holders are third world countries. But in future these must not be considered that they have to cater only the developing and make irrelevant returns from the other countries. They have to be and designed in a way that they could cater the needs for the peaceful coexistence and well being of all countries. If the same mentality of previous finance institutions was repeated then there is no use to set up new finance lenders. Space has to be given to vulnerable stake holders too to make world financially stable.

Then next comes the Political context(P). There may be lot of differences in the neighbouring countries. In the past we can get a gist of examples like Israel-palestinian Conflict, Tamil conflict in Sri Lanka, Pakistan-India Conflict regarding Jammu& Kashmir and others like the NATO vs Communist Conflicts. In the 20th century every party to these conflicts had involved in one or the other insurgency and counter insurgency to tackle the conflicts. But none resulted in a fruitful outcome. Rather they all led to considerable violence and blood shed where innocent people lives are at stake. So now the way forward is not to launch a counter offensive measures to tackle the violent action by other stake holder rather put into dialogue by discussing the stake holder concern and arrive at a optimal solution to resolve the conflict. Yes, the way to have a peaceful negotiation is very difficult, but it is the only way forward to have a amicable solution. Concentration must be given on the extent and quality of solution oriented dialogue between the stake holders than the quantity of dialogues. Examples like Indo-Bangladesh land Boundary Agreement can be inspirational too. It is upon the countries whether to continue that blood shed rather than arriving at a peaceful negotiation.

The last being the Technological front (T). The technology developed in the past usually being utilized domestically rather than helping other countries. Now the world is globally connected and many third world countries are developing various technologies, it should be kept in mind that technology can be transferred to other countries rather than confine its use mainly to self aspirations. We have to kept in mind that some of the issues discussed above can be answered by technology transfer and this makes the world to become a Global Village rather than suspecting each others technology potential to form secret allies like the case on the eve of first world war situations which finally brought nothing but violence.

To conclude, we have to remember that humans has a natural capability to rectify their mistakes from the past experiences. But this was not happening due to the self aspirations welcoming other problems globally. Hence the premise we have to follow is to allow that natural attitude of humans which have the potential to prosper the world with peace and prospective life. We have to remember that “we are born first as a human than a citizen of a nation”

**23. Sexism in India – Whom to Blame and Why?**

16th December 2012 was a watershed moment in india’s battle for gender parity. The brutal sexual assault of a young girl in capital city caused nationwide outrage. The outpouring of anger and disgust were well encapsulated in the slogan of ‘enough is enough’. But all thse unprecedented spontaneous activities were not only about the girl or rape per se. She was not the first woman to face such fate, nor was she the last. It’s on the larger issue of the way women are being treated and violence was an inevitable off spring of this.

Most or all culture across the world entered the modern age with the baggage of historic bias against women. Sexism has its origin in the simple belief system that men are superior to women and popularization of this belief. It creates stereotypes and prejudices. This opens door for discrimination, oppression and even violence. The “great” modern scientist Charles Darwin once observed, “ the chief distinction in the intellectual powers of the two sexes is shown by man’s attaining to a higer eminence, in whatsoever he takes up, that can woman.” This was a “scientific justification” of inherent superiority of men. A philosopher like Socretes was not an exception either. He said, “ once made equal to men, women become his superior.”

In india, thousands of years of cultural continuity, has successfully transferred this gender bias generation after generation. Following information will provide a concrete evidence of the phenomena existing in our society. Gender Inequality Index ranks india at distant 128th position. IMR and MMR in our country is even worse than sub-saharan Africa. In 2013, Trustlaw study called india the fourth most dangerous place for women to live in. Work force participation rate is just close to 28% and recent study revealed this is declining in urban areas. We all are aware of the growing instances of violence against women be that sexual, domestic or dowry related or anything else. Noteworthy here is the fact that about 34% of women in india have faced some kind of domestic violence.

But how did we reach here? What is responsible for all these and who are we to blame?

The core of this problem is attributed to our mindset- this sexism has become a part ofour accepted norm in our culture. And culture is not developed or changed over night, but it is accumulated over centuries. So history has played a role in arriving here and a much stronger role than any other part of the world owing to long and contious historic process which allows prejudice to accumulate over time into a gigantic heap.

Early vedic era was more or less an egalitarian phase for women and they were allowed to participate in decision making process. But following that from later vedic era, encroachment of brahminical religion dominating the society, women were gradually pushed into closed walls. Authority was sought by claiming divine origin to this system hence making them infalliable. Such beliefs were strengthened by rituals and denying them even the right to study scriptures thus pre empting any possibility of revolt or protest. Subsequently many heterogenous movements were much more accommodating and liberal towards women but later on they too walked into the same trap. Later on devotional movements provided some oxygen to women.

But true renaissance for women came in 19th century questioning many evils of society and setting the momentum for redeeming the women from their social bondage. Arrival of Gandhiji on india’s political scene saw huge politicization among wome and their active participation. He brought more women to public life than the communists did. But economic empowerment has come hugely after the liberalization which has increased women’s presence in pubic life considerably. Having achieved economic freedom and enthused with confidence they no longer prefer patriarchal subjugation but demand equality and assert their rightful voice. And this challenging the status quo mindset and power equation. As always, the exploiter with power never wants to lose it and resiting to this change . Sexiest mindset, comment, action etc are just expression of this reaction.

One thing here to note is that sexism not only is a disease among men,it has infected many women too. In a dowry death, often the mother-in-law and sister-in-laws are found complicit. Since such mindset creates and sustains power asymmetry in society, all stake holders befefitting from it (including some women) don’t want it to change. Otherwise, how can a mother give approval for honour killing of her daughter? How is it that often mother preach their daughter to know her limits?

But all blame cant be placed at the door of history and religion. Because Vedas also says, “ the land where women are not worshipped, even god will abandon that land” So contemporary society is also at fault.

There is problem in upbringing of children especially of boys. Girls are preached from very childhood of their code of conduct regarding dos and donts. But such conduct rules don’t apply for boys. Boys were never taught to respect the other gender. Often gender violence witnessed at home at early age leaves a deep impression and shapes their behavior as adult.

This further continue and intensify in schools. Often our curriculum are not designed for this and teachers are not well trained to inject these values among children. School is the first socializing experience of a child and its behavior in school decides greatly its behavior in society in future.

Neglisence at family and school level is further reinforced by the similar environment, social set up and attitude in the society. The accumulated attitude translates into eve teasing in college, prejudice in workplace and among institutions. This completes and perpetuates the process of discrimination, sterotyping and of course friction. Since this product of society are manning all institutions such as police, lawyers, judiciary etc, it’s a big encouragement for status quoists. Since whenever they translate their mindset and prejudice into action say discrimination, marginalization or even violence, they easily get away with it. And worse, they often receive support and justification for this. In the much controversial documentary ‘india’s daughter’, the statements made of the defense lawyers are evidence of the point I am trying to make.

Even in our popular culture like indian film industry (Bollywood and other regional film industries) , soap operas, comedy shows etc have been at the forerunner of perpetuating such mindset. Hyper sexualisation of women body, on screen violence against women, subordination and downplaying women’s role et c are very much evident in our films. But good new is, this trend has begun to change.

But one thing is to learn from all these is sexism is not only a disadvantage for women but also a great loss for men. Thus society as a whole is the loser and sufferer. Violence against women (verbal or physical) at personal level often manifests the violence in the other sphere. If power structure at home allows a man to be violent towards his wife, given the same power equation he will perpetrate violence anywhere. This call for manhood or masculinity invites street fight, road rage, sexual assault, acid attack, fundamentalism too. Fundamentalist often use women to emotionally mobilise people. A society not giving the rightful space to women is deprived of the values of love, emotion, tolerance and compassion. And without these values a society will always be cruel, violent and unequal. Economically too, when half of our population is exploited and disempowered, how the nation as a whole can progress?

To change things we must remember, this is not a battle of men vs women. In reality, the two rivals are one which believes in equality which included many men and the other is patriarchy which includes many women as well.The real enemy is mindset not the people. Without the aid, assistance and cooperation of men, ridding society of gender inequality is impossible. And this battle must start at home. As it is said, “ no society can be reformed without having a reformed home and no home can be reformed without having an empowered woman.”

24.“Problem of Food Wastage in India – Magnitude, Causes and Remedies”

India presents a picture of paradox as far as the food situation is concerned. While it has hogged the dim-light on account of housing largest number of hungry, malnourished people, the unfortunate phenomenon of food wastage goes unabated on the same very land. Health and nutrition form the firm foundation of a citizen's life where he becomes indispensable human resource. But with food eluding 20 crore Indians as they go to bed, they become an undernourished liability, stunting the popular wellness indicators.

The food wastage starts right from the agricultural field where crops are grown. With over half of the farmers still rain-dependent, vagaries of monsoon further add to farmer distress. Unseasonal rainfall that happened early this year has destroyed standing crops that were to be harvested soon. Those which could bare the atmospheric onslaught hardly have desired characteristics like moisture content, luster, etc. Also, they are susceptible to pests and rodents in warehouses. Opportunity costs like release of methane and the groundwater used during paddy cultivation have adverse environmental impact.

Next, inadequate infrastructure along the supply chain consumes most of the farm produce. Lack of cold storage facilities particularly affects foods like fruits and vegetables that have limited shelf lives. Roughly, in India a third of fruit, vegetable production rots annually. This wastage is aggravated by storage issues. FCI godowns that are used to stock foodgrains fall awfully short of production levels. Govt's lackadaisical approach to food management is compounded by leakages and pilferage that reduce the amount of subsidized food reaching poor via PDS.

Another front where food wastage is rampant is at consumption level - in marriages and parties with wastage usually proportional to wealth status. The food that doesn't get consumed goes down the drain. That instead could have more than satisfied poor folks who lead a hand-to-mouth existence in same town.

This colossal wastage amounts to more than 44000 Crore annually for India. Food security is no doubt still a goal over 60 years after independence. In contrast, China that comes a distant second world over after food wastage, has tried to cap wastage by laying thrust on infrastructure development to quickly transport the produce and minimize transit losses.

While middle and upper classes can fend off any emergency situation related to food, it is the poor who are at receiving end in case of any contingency. With already less at their disposal, food wastage per capita are found to be minimum for them.

Therefore, addressing this issue becomes urgent. While the emphasis in past 50 years on increasing food production via Green Revolution, it must shift to minimizing wastage in all forms now. As has been the case in past year, infrastructure development must be accorded priority. Mega Food Park scheme should be supplemented by foreign investment to augment funds for supply chain development. Cold storage facilities, sifting-sorting facilities, packaging equipment, humidity chambers, preservatives manufacture - all can help minimize transit loss of fresh foods. Road and rail connectivity will receive a boost with golden quadrilateral and dedicate freight corridor, respectively. With increase in supply, inflation figures will see a dip for good.

Uniform taxation policies across states will bring predictability for industry. Govt must act quickly on its plans for a national agricultural market reforming FCI and APMCs. Private mandis and direct selling can help farmers financially, ultimately reducing dependence on govt infrastructure and hence curbing wastage. FDI in multi-brand retail must be permitted with a prior balancing act vis-a-vis next-door kirana shops. That no int'l retail giant has entered India after relaxing FDI provisions shows apprehensions among investors, that the govt must address in timely manner.

Warehouse facilities must be supplemented by private silos to preserve the produce. NABARD Warehousing Scheme which envisages extension of loans to Public and Private Sectors for construction of warehouses, silos, cold storage and other cold chain infrastructure, is a step in right direction. R&D on producing climate resistant crop varieties must be supplemented by adequate govt and private funding.

Most of all, people's attitude towards food wastage must change. This can certainly begin from the school level itself. NGOs and volunteer organizations can help channelizing excess food from parties, marriages towards slums and hutments where hunger still rules. Right from our own plate, we must consume all on it minimizing leftovers. Avoiding impulse buys, planning meals will help buy only foods actually needed in first place. Food that is not likely to be used must be donated instead before letting it rot.

Vedas warn against wasting even a single particle of food. A night or two without food may be enough for those who waste food to realize its importance to the suffering millions, for it will give them a food for thought to spare a thought for food.

**25. “Attack is the best form of defence”**

The doctrine of, ‘Attack (offence) is the best form of defense’ is Known to world since ancient times. Sun Tzu in his ‘art of war ‘opined that "the only real defense is  
active defense", Chanakya’s Arthashashtra, describe it as ‘kutayuddha ‘and he used this philosophy to have single-handedly engineered the victory of the Mauryas by destroying the Nanda power.

In contemporary times the world is more volatile than it was ever before. Securing one’s national interest is of paramount importance. The traditional concepts of front is diluted and apart from other’s hostilities a country now face challenges ranging from politico- economic sovereignty, energy security to climate change .

In this essay we will discuss what has changed since, what is the new meaning this doctrine and how it is relevant in today’s world. We would begin by understanding the doctrine in traditional as well as in current sense.

The Doctrine:   
In crude sense it is primarily a military defence tactics meaning defence for the  
purpose of counter-attacking and taking the offensive. Often success rests on destroying the enemy's ability to attack. The U.S has used this in Afghanistan, Iraq and now against the ISIS to prevent any advent of conflict onto its shore. China too has been increasing its offensive capabilities in both Indian Ocean through ‘String of Pearls’ as well as in South China by building new naval bases.

The recent surgical strike by Indian paramilitary on Terror camps operating from territories of Myanmar show India’s inclination towards offensive measures to deal with problems like insurgency and cross border terrorism. This doctrine of striking first, surprising the enemy, taking the battle off the border has been proved very effective for physical defense of the country.

However in contemporary world to master military strategy is only a part of the doctrine. The defence cannot be understood in the narrow sense of defending only physical boundary. Defence now must include defending one’s interests and aspirations in spheres of polity, society, economy, technology etc., and the offence must be seen as proactive-ness and capability to foresee such problems thereby having a mechanism ready in place to tackle them effectively.

In the following part of the essays we will discuss how India can use this doctrine in defence of its various interests:

Defence of the Constitution:   
We have a parliamentary democracy in which the executive are responsible to parliament. Parliament has offensive tools such as non-confidence motion, censure motion etc., to defend the constitution from executive excesses. However in majority rule as we see in Emergency period, legislative s have tried to subvert the constitution.

It is only when we have built offensive capability in the name of judicial activism this  
legislative adventurism has been curbed. The SC through its subsequent rulings  
such as barring the people from contesting election who have been convicted and  
got imprisoned for more than 2 years and making mandatory disclosure of  
Information before contesting election etc., has asserted its offensive powers.

Now there is question of judicial overreach  
which may misbalance the power structure. And hence there is need to have an offensive capacity of check and balance to defend our constitution.

Defence of the Environment:   
A developing country like India often gets caught in the dilemma of promoting development and protecting the Environment. Climatechange is reality and it is going to affect India one way or the other, India is primarily dependent upon fossil fuels, nuclear and hydroelectric power. In former two case India lacks raw material and produces significant carbon emissions whereas later causes widespread destruction of wildlife habitat and alienation of tribal from their natural home.

Thus it can be said that India’s defence of environment is fragile. We ought to have  
some capability to achieve sustainable development. This can be achieved by  
building offensive (rather protective) capacity in terms of having proper laws  
to protect tribal and by giving impetus to green energy projects. The focus of  
government in implementing jawaharlal nehru solar mission (JNNSM) and building ultra mega solar power station is steps in right direction.

Defence From Disaster:   
South Asia region including India is highly disaster prone zone of the earth. 54% of India’s area is earthquake prone, 12% area gets affected by drought almost every year and close to 40million hectares of land are flood prone. According to UN report disaster cost India $40 billion annually thus India’s defence against disaster had been week.

Again the best defence is offence, in respect of disaster it is preparedness, having a forecasting technology (such as for adverse monsoon or Tsunami) and capacity to respond and mobilize quickly and extend relief in time. The potency of such offensive capacity can be seen in recent example of assertiveness showed in Phailin cyclone which saved thousands of lives.

Defence of Technical sovereignty:   
over dependence on the purchase of military equipment, import of capital goods which are necessary for infrastructure development ,and other critical service can  
jeopardize national interests. For ex the absence of domestic nuclear technology  
and industry has stalled the growth of this sector and India is mainly dependent upon investment by foreign companies which demands revocation of just  
Civil liability for nuclear damage act 2010.

The tradition approach of protecting domestic  
industry from foreign competition has failed to overcome the new challenges.  
That time has gone now. Today in order to protect its Technical sovereignty  
India needs to have an offensive capacity in terms of producing its own goods.

The impetus to MAKE IN INDIA initiative shows this resolve. Technological achievement of ISRO in having designed and successfully implementing MOM mission as well as building Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) is India’s offensive attack on its vulnerability to foreign government-controlled global navigation satellite systems.

Thus, today the concept of ‘offense is best defence’ is not only relevant but also necessary. The need is to understand it in aura of multi-dimensional problems a country faces. The offence should not be only towards those who hold hostilities to us but also towards our own weaknesses. We need to get offensive to the root cause of the problems. It is, when we show the assertiveness and preparedness to face challenges then only we will be able to defend ourselves better.

**26. “He who has never learned to obey cannot be a good commander.” —Aristotle**

Obedience is behavior that's respectful and mindful of rules and laws. Obedience is highly admired ,appreciated and valued everywhere. It is not an obligation ,it is a choice .Being obedient is not giving up one's choice or opinion ,it is humbling yourself to your superior figure .Obedience differs from compliance, which is behavior influenced by peers, and from conformity, which is behavior intended to match that of the majority.The satisfaction from obeying a superior’s orders can be self fulfilling and self disciplining; both of which make for a mature adult.And only a mature person can be a good leader because maturity helps in making good decisions , comprehend issues rightly and dealing with difficult situations effectively,all of which a good leader or commander must be able to do.

IMPORTANCE OF OBEDIENCE IN LEADERSHIP   
If there is anything common to every great leader in the world is that they all have been obedient in their life .Aristotle said "He who has never learned to obey cannot be a good commander".The statement means to highlight the importance of being obedient in order to become a good leader. No great leader in the world has become great without being punctual,honest,disciplined and dutiful ,all of which are the inseparable characteristic of obedience .The best of leaders are those who have learned to lead by taking on the strengths and characteristics of other great leaders.Obedience bring discipline in life which in turn makes a person dutiful towards his job .And dutifulness and discipline are the two key characteristics of a leader . The morale of the group led by a leader depend upon the leader it is led by.The decisiveness and dutifulness of a leader toward his job are the strength of his army or group. A leader can't lead his group or army without the submission of his supporters or people under him to his command and directions .A movement can't be successful without a good leadership provided by an individual , emboldened by the active support of his followers who restore their unquestioned faith and allegiance to him.And for that to happen, the leader must have a good connect with the men under him and must be able to instill in them the values of obedience to the supreme command.A rogue general or commander is likely to have a equally rogue army under him because his men would inherit the same trait of disobedience of their master. A soldier can never be a good commander if he has not followed the order of his commander while he was just a mere soldier .For an army to be strong, it's soldiers have to be submissive to their higher ranked commander and generals .There must be an unanimity among all of them in order to get the task completed and emerge victorious. Much of the fate of an army in the battlefield depend upon the kind of men it is led by. A indiscipline and disobedient soldier would become an abrupt, unpredictable and weak leader in future. He will be subdued by his own men ,who will work on their individual discretion . Swami Vivekananda once said ,"The work cannot succeed unless there is perfect obedience to the authority of the Order and sacrifice of individual views for the sake of the Order". A divided house can't be successful in achieving it's goal unless those belonging to it are ready to give up their individual opinion or view and unanimously speak under one voice ,the voice of their commander. An army lead by it's general will not withstand the assault on it in the battlefield if it is not operated by a disciplined commander .  
Following the command of a superior authority inculcates discipline in one's life .

HOW OBEDIENCE HELP IN DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP   
Consider an example of a very talented basketball player who is the leader and match winner of his team .But, he would not have been so good at playing basketball if he hadn't followed and restored faith in the advice and instructions of his coach/trainer who would force him to adhere to strict diet, daily routine practice and intense workout ,all of which were quite tiring and painful and sometime,his coach also used to go harsh on him for his mistakes during the practice or game for forgetting or not following things instructed to him . All the time while he was being trained , he showed deep allegiance to his coach that helped him become disciplined, punctual and dutiful,the three characteristic of obedience .Eventually,he became a very talented and renowned basketball player.

WHAT IF THERE IS NO 'OBEDIENCE' ?   
Imagine if nobody follows rules or if rules never existed or nobody cares even for a second to what their superior or the supreme authority says,one could only envision a world of riot ,complete lawlessness , unrest and chaos. Nobody will value or respect any relationship or anybody,parents,teachers, great leaders,god none.The precious advice of parents and respected figures will fall to deaf ears of everybody.The rule of law will cease to exist as no body will be abiding by it .The soldiers will be on mutiny and rampage as they would no longer be under the command on their generals .Their roguishness would lead to their defeat in the battlefield even though they would be high in number. The allegiance to one's nation , organization or cause will be lost in air .People will no longer be governed by any law or authority and hence not intimidated by consequences of any wrongdoing. Everybody will become his own master and be guided by his own wills and regulations.   
OBEDIENCE IS NO SLAVERY OR SUBMISSION   
Obedience might look to some as a facilitator of slavery or submission but it is actually not so.Obedience and slavery are poles apart .The former seeks to instill discipline ,punctuality, dutifulness in others while the latter is a means of exploitation that demand complete submission to personal authority .The latter is motivated by personal greed, benefits, and gratifications of social,economic and physical nature. It seek to derive pleasure and benefits at the cost of others good.It is forceful ,exploitative and inhumanly .The former is based on choice.A choice between good or bad, to be a good ,strong ,decisive , disciplined or dutiful person in life or to be indiscipline ,weak,rogue, unpredictable or master of own's will with no duty towards others .Obedience is driven by motivation to instill good values in a person so that he can be a good and caring family member, citizen and a good leader of a organization,army or nation if needed. Disagreement is welcomed by it and that disagreement is sorted out through consensus and mutual consultation so as to arrive at an unanimous decision or opinion.   
Conclusion   
Therefore, the Aristotle words , “He who has never learned to obey cannot be a good commander.” is aptly true with regard to the characteristics of a good leader and the importance of obedience in professional, personnel and public life.

27.Is the Growing Level of Competition Good for the Children?

In a fast-paced life that sees too many people vying for limited resources, competition has been the buzzword in the modern world. The pressure to perform well within minimum possible time keeps everyone on their toes. Much emphasis is laid on getting accustomed to competitive world. What better way to instil the competitive spirit than grooming a person right from his childhood, at least this is the popular thinking so far. The trickle-down effect of competition in adult life onto the innocent childhood has its own set of critics who cite excessive pressure on children and consequent breakdowns as unfortunate result of competitive zeal. Therefore, it becomes pertinent to examine the question whether growing level of competition is good for children in their formative years?

In Indian society, the spirit of competition is instilled right from childhood. Excelling the exam and topping the exam are completely separate scenarios for Indian parents - with unquenchable thurst for the latter. This urge to outdo the rest continues in every sphere whether it is playground or home where siblings get the thrilled by very sound of "first". Even if elders do not pump up kids with competition, the society and its environment exhibits quite clearly that the one with 98% in board exams hogs all the limelight, while the second one with a single mark less is nowhere to be seen. A child gets conditioned by such happenings to outdo all others as his sole aim.

There can be no denying the fact that competition has been the key factor behind world reaching such a stage of advancement. It has spurred companies to cut costs, focus on innovation, study customers well before a product is launched for them. At personal level, even among children, it brings in motivation to improve, go beyond the limits, and expand the frontiers of learning, skill and innovation. A child getting used to competition is expected to do reasonably well in his adulthood. The knack to succeed adds to problem-solving skills and helps him perform before a group of tough competitors. This may also boost self-confidence of the child. Competing and outdoing his peers, a child learns what it takes to succeed and if he does not he may learn from others' methodologies and success.

But what is worrying about this trend is that the intended benefits of competition have benefitted only a select few, quit expectedly the ones at the top. Others trying to reach the summit have slipped, stuck or even gone downhill, all because incapacity to handle failures. Peer pressure being common in kids due to parents' unrealistic expectations, they often become distraught when they are unable to perform on expected lines. It has often resulted in suicides, mental breakdowns at a very tender age unfortunately. In schools, rote learning and imitation has replaced creativity. In sports, podium finish being the dream, physical endurance is replaced by shortcuts to success like doping and cheating. That every child is unique as far as his learning potential and pace is concerned, no longer merits any consideration. Treating them like a herd of sheep that is flogged to stick to its path is having terrible consequences like anxiety, hurt self-esteem - diseases commonly associated with middle-aged persons. Demonizing failure means the child will tread the same old beaten track, stifling risk-taking and initiative. Overall, competition in children has developed a negative connotation due to cases involving young souls succumbing to pressure of performing.

Therefore, it is high time that young lives are freed from ignominy that is generally associated with working age population. Competition can't be simply wished away as limited resources should potentially go to the deserving. But this 'survival of the fittest' regime should be limited to adults. Childhood is the age when children are groomed to develop their personalities, identify and pursue their interests. The focus therefore should shift from 'competition' to 'problem-solving'. Learning by cooperation has more advantages over learning by competition. Cooperation helps better in understanding each other, promoting team spirit. The realization of importance of failure is equally important as success is, as those who have never fallen will never know what is to rise from ashes when circumstances are adverse. Instead parents should constantly encourage not to top, but to excel and aim for mastery. Competing with what oneself was in the past, is the best way to tread towards self-improvement because whoever may the person be, deep down he knows himself and his strengths and weaknesses. Working on them can surely lead to positive results. Parents may do well to avoid being overly involved in child's life and stop reliving their life through him.

Society is slowly realizing that the premium it is placing on the children being fierce competitors is overstepping the thin line between child's all-round development and his doom. The introduction of grading system and year-round continuous evaluation is a step in the right direction. Teachers and parents are only ones that children look up to in their formative years. It is their duty to motivate them to do well else the carrot-and-stick approach may bring results only in short term. Team activities and role-plays that are becoming popular for training in corporate world should be used for various activities in school. As in Geeta, Lord Krishna reminds Arjun the importance of performing duty without worrying about the results. Children must be instilled with love for what they do. Training them how to deal with failures graciously will be true life lesson for them.

Not competition, but adverse circumstances, excellence in their field and working for the love of it has inspired all great men.

**28. “Nuclear Weapons Ensure Peace on Earth”**

A  
world without nuclear weapons would be less stable and more dangerous for all  
of us - Margaret Thatcher

This line of neorealist thinking has its origins in the cold war period which saw  
proliferation of nuclear weapons technology ,both vertically and  
horizontally.After USA had conducted its nuclear tests in 1945,within two  
decades Russia,UK,France,china also joined the nuclear haves club.In the later  
decades india,pakistan and North korea too followed suit.While the nuclear race  
in the world gave rise to calls for non proliferation and destruction of  
nuclear arsenals ,the supporters of NWT argued that possession of nuclear  
weapons ensures peace ,which is coined as nuclear peace.

They claim that the cold war remained 'cold' because  
the two superpowers USA and USSR both possessed nuclear weapons.This  
acted as a deterrent against engaging into a full-blown out war.The development  
of second strike capability i.e. ability to strike back with nuclear weapons  
against the nuclear aggressor ensured that the 'deterrence of terror' is  
strong enough to desist any nation from engaging in nuclear adventurism.This is  
why even when war seemed imminent like during the cuban missile crisis of  
1962,the two superpowers realized the unimaginable consequences it would bring  
and chose diplomacy as the way out of crisis.

possession of nuclear weapons gives strategic parity to states which are  
weaker in conventional military powers .For example ,Pakistan has [claimed.to](http://claimed.to)  
have gained that parity with India ,even though in conventional abilities it is  
weaker than the latter.this ensures that bigger power doesnt threaten the  
lesser.This kind of realism prevails upon the European powers like France and  
Britain also,which have not done away with the weapons despite enjoying  
protection under the NATO umbrella.

Hence the supporters of nuclear weapons claim that its not the United  
Nations which has prevented the third world war,but its the nuclear weapons .

But,we need to define peace properly.How can we say its peace only  
because it has prevented the third world war.This seems to be a naive view of  
the world order.The basic assumption that nuclear fear ensures peace seems to  
be deeply flawed,an oxymoron in fact.The nations live in constant fear of a  
nuclear war.The theory of deterrence assumes that the international actors are  
rational.But during situations perceived to be existential threat ,they may  
resort to knee jerk idiosyncrasies.That is why in our case ,in India,there is a  
concern when passions are charged on both sides of Indo-Pak border.

The argument that cold war never became hot because of  
nuclear deterrence loses relevance in context of a number of proxy wars the two  
superpowers fought.The 1979 invasion of Afghanistan by USSR led to US aiding  
and arming Mujaheedins to fight Soviet forces.There were also other theatres of  
war in North korea,Vietnam,Georgia etc.

The notion that possession of nuclear weapons makes the powers be them  
to behave responsibly also lacks historical justification.The USA in the new  
millenia fought two major wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.Russia's adventurism in  
Afghanistan and in the recent past in Georgia clearly point out to  
this.Similarly,nuclear deterrence failed to prevent kargil war between india  
and pakistan,though both of them had become nuclear powers by then.So,nuclear  
powers become responsible actors should not be accepted as thumb rule.

The threat possesed by nuclear weapons is much more.The diffusion of  
nuclear technology poses an existential threat .the world lives in constant  
fear of the technology being acquired by the terrorist actors.If such  
unimaginable proves right then whole humanity shall be doomed ,because they are  
neither rational actors nor nuclear deterrence shall work against them.Even the  
possession by the states like North Korea which are isolated from the  
mainstream of international politics ,is seen as a grave threat ,given the  
autocratic regime it is ruled by.

The problem is compounded by another two factors  
.First,is the realibility of the technology to find out nuclear testing or  
proliferation programs carried out by any country.The world community could  
awaken to the North Korean reality when it tested its weapons in 2006.Second is  
the transfer of technology by the states which already possess that  
technology.It is said that China aided and supported PAk nuclear project to  
contain India in the south asian region.

The only solution is to get rid of it.There should be universal  
disarmament policy followed for nuclear weapons ,rather than any dicriminatory  
regime like NPT ,which divides the world into nuclear haves and havenots.The  
global consensus seems very difficult to reach.But rather than Thatcherian  
advocacy of nuclear weapons ,what should guide the world community is the  
following advice

"Japan  
learned from the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that the tragedy wrought by  
nuclear weapons must never be repeated and that humanity and nuclear weapons  
cannot coexist".-Daisaku Ikeda

**29. “Only the dead have seen the end of the war.”**

The cave paintings of Neolithic Era found in several Part of India depict scenes of small battles between tribes. Vedas mentions a ceremony called "Ashwamedha Yagya" in which king would release a horse, king of territories coming in path of war either had to accept suzerainty of Yagya conducting king or fight with the king. This gave rise to great kingdoms called Mahajanpadas. No historical text, painting, sculptures is without mention of war, it has been integral to human existence.

War in distant past were culmination of political and economic aspirations of ruler. The desire to expand influence over larger areas led to great invasions like that of Alexander, Chengez Khan, Mauryans, Cholas etc. Sometimes, depletion of limited resource and increased competition among groups led to war. New technological development after Industrial revolution led to war for control over new resources and new markets. Belief of superiority of one race over another too has caused wars, WW2 is an perfect example.

No matter what is the reason of origin of war. War creates situation conducive for another war. Growth in influence of ruler over alien land brew discontent among local populace as their culture and traditions are suppressed. The discontent finds expression in internal revolts and conflicts. Evolution of Rashtrakutas Empire in Peninsular India during 500AD, Marathas and Rajputs kingdom in 1000AD was also result of local revolts. In Europe disintegration of Austria-Hungary after WW1 was result of development of national identity among people with common culture. War also has severe effect on economy of countries involved, the period of war is marred with exploitation, shortage of food, illness, death in mass scale. Very often losing side is harassed by winner, their resources looted and several humiliating conditions are imposed on losers. Treaty of Versailles after World War 1 forced Germany to pay extreme reparation, and annexed Germany's territory. The humiliation, loss of self-respect, loss of dignity creates a feeling of hatred and urge to revenge and avenge such treatment. World war 2 was manifestation of such exploitation. Similarly, all battles of Panipat were to increase dominance or avenge past atrocities. Thus, no war end war but just leads to future wars. WW1 was believed to be war to end all wars but that was not the case. It created a breeding ground for even more devastating world war 2.

Yet, the period immediately after a great war is relatively peaceful as horrors of difficult times are fresh in peoples mind. As new generation comes up slowly the memory of war fades away. New generation is vocal about their support to war as result of all dispute resolutions. In past and to some extent even todays wars are glorified. People see a victory in war as ultimate assertion of country's  
power. It is seen as mean to prove military superiority of nation over another.  
Recently, celebration of 70 years of Russian victory over German was yet  
another glorification of past war. Instead of condemning the act of war, they  
glorify war and escalates the tension and hatred among communities and  
environment of conflict. Till glorification war is not put to an end,  
supporters of war as solution to all problems will continue to exist.

USA finds greatest acceptance among people for war, as a result America had been in war ever since end of WW2. But, as USA Iraq and Afghanistan expedition shows that war never end and they finally had to retreat. The war which started 2500 years backs still continues today. Hardly a generation of Human has passed without witnessing a blood bath and demonic side of humanity. Plato rights described the perpetuity of war in his quote "Only the dead have seen the end of War". Only, the time will tell how long the negotiated peace that exist today will last.

**30.“In the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.” – Abraham Lincoln**

"We live in deeds, not in years, in thoughts not is breath". Great words which suggest the real purpose of our lives. Human being is someone who is blessed with intellect and mind. We can think and act accordingly. And there comes difference between human (person) and animals.

Many times people say they are in their 80's or 90's but when they die people dnt judge them by their living years but their living deeds.   
When we remember shivaji maharaja, sant gyaneshwara, swami vivekananda these people had short life but beacause of the way they lived their life they are still alive in people's thoughts.

In our day to day life our acts are merely mechanical. We complete the task given to us and end the day. There is a lot of diffrenc between mere existing and living. We get disturbed or upset due to very less importantissues in our life. But those who live their life to the fullest never think of problems they just take breath and enjoy every moment. This is the life we only get once in which life in years matters.

Abraham Lincoln the 16 th president of America was one of the inspiring person who lived his life to the fullest. He was defeated in elections many times but he never gave up. He had learned every time from his defeat. And at the end he achieved what he want. He never complained about the difficulties instead he stand firmly in front of them and defeated them.

Life is not merely living mechanically and completing the day to day to activities. They will represent merely our existance but not our life. Life is all about how we lead it, what we do for society, for the happiness of people around us, what inspiration people get from us. At the end When we sleep the mental satisfaction of our deeds becomes proof of our healthy living.

Gandhiji said "live as if you were to die tomorrow and learn as if you were to live forever." I heard a story from my grandma that there was a man who always harm people, steal things and behave badly. Once he was told that he is going to die after a week. When he heard about his death he thought in his last days he should do something good for people. In those days he behaved properly and helped others. He felt very satisfied with this. And after a week he understood the worth of life and live rest of his life peacefully and helping others.

At the end the satisfaction of heart and soul matters a lot. We fear death because we never live our life in our years. When we live our life accordingly and truely there will not be any fear of death.

At the end the living tthought of the dead matters and not the dead years. As Robert frost said , "miles to go before I sleep aand miles to go before before I sleep. This miles are our living thoughts ,deeds for society, for others happiness and for our mental and spiritual satisfaction.

**31.  Farmer Suicide Epidemic: How Can India Stop It?**

Agriculture is a backbone of India. More than 60% of the people are directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture and its allied sectors and it employs around 49% workforce. However, it able to contribute hardly 14% in India GDP growth. In 2007, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana has set up the target of 4% agriculture growth in the 11th five year plan onwards. Though we did able to achieve 3.6% growth in the 11th five year plan despite that the phenomenon of farmer suicide has become epidemic.  
In the last 2 decades, around 3lakhs farmers had committed suicide by ingesting pesticides or by hanging themselves. According to 2011 census, the suicide rate in farmers is 47% higher than the national average. Last 2 consecutive years of meteorological drought has spiked the suicide rate among farmers because of the high dependency of farmers on the monsoon.  
Farmers in villages are mostly not well educated to understand the different phenomenon of climate, soil fertility, climate change, etc. Thus it is sole duty of local, state and central government to protect the interest of these farmers through various social sectors schemes.  
There are various schemes to improve the conditions of the farmers like agriculture produce market corporation(APMC), agriculture insurance, new seed policy etc. However most of them have either largely failed to show it impact or unable to reach to the farmers. This distress of the farmers can't be removed through any single policy. There is an urgent need to bring some short term measures to provide immediate relief to discourage them to commit suicide and, long term policies to make them self dependent and make agriculture as a viable occupation.   
Some of the measures are discussed below:

Short-Term measures  
a. MGNREGA - It has a notorious tag of raising inflation. However effective use of MGNREGA workforce in water harvesting and irrigation infrastructure development would help in reducing the dependency of farmers on the monsoon. At the same time, it can help to provide alternate mean of employment during the drought year.   
b. Cloud Seeding- This artificial mechanism of controlling amount of rainfall can help India to overcome the ill-effects of the changing climate. This can save the farmers from drought and also from floods and resist the farmers to take immediate life losing steps.  
c. Krishi Vigyan Kendriya- This scheme was introduced in 2003 to become the friend of the farmers and provide them information about climate, soil condition, seeds variety, irrigation methods. However, this scheme has failed to achieve the set target because of lack of funding and number of personnel. Each district is provided with only 1 kendriya having staff of 16 people. They wouldn't able to cover the each and every village in any one growing season. If each districts are provided with number of kendriyas proportional to the number of villages then they would able to guide the farmers on time about the crop growing pattern according to the  
climate report and soil condition.

Long-term policies  
a. Contract farming- This has been the most effective tool in various developed and developing countries to ensure the minimum and regular income of the farmers and their skill development. However, the reach of contract farming in India is miniscule because most of the states haven't adopt the model APMC act. Further, the states which have adopted it are not encouraging it because of pressure from APMC.  
b. Financial Insurance- Major reason of farmers suicide is the debt trap. Not having adequate bank facilities in the villages, farmers are mostly dependent on money lenders for loan. Money lenders provide the loan at interest rate of upto 36%. One crop failure throw the farmer into the debt trap and he wouldn't able to recover from it ever. Financial Inclusion can help the farmers to get loan under priority sector lending. Jan Dhan Yojana being a right step towards financial inclusion however farmers wouldn't able to benefit much until and unless number of branches in rural areas increases at par with urban areas.  
c. Insurance- India is providing the insurance facilities to the farmers since 2 decades. However, the recent study of ASSOCHAM found that only 19% of farmer reported ever having insured their crops. A very large proportion of 81% were found to be unaware of the practice of crop insurance. Insurance in farming can become a deterrent to suicide. Linking the crop insurance with jan dhan account can provide farmers to avail insurance facilities easily.  
d. Shift to Horticulture- India being blessed with a diverse climate has much scope to grow variety of crops. However, first green revolution and also the 2nd one encouraging the farmers to grow mainly wheat and rice. Fruits and vegetables being a good source of vitamins and proteins are becoming more popular in urban areas. Further they are less dependent on monsoon. So, shifting to horticulture can become the good source of income for the farmers. This change can be brought only when government discourage the farming of wheat and rice through MSP.  
e. Mechanization and cooperative farming- There is less number of suicide in Punjab and Haryana as compared to Bihar and WB. This is due to fragment of land as the generation passes. Owing to small patches of land, they couldn't able to adopt mechanised farming and hence, their productivity remains low as compared to other part of India. Cooperative farming can help them to adopt new technologies and mechanized farming to increase their income.  
f. National Market for Agriculture- APMC act, which was enacted to provide a selling platform for farmers, has now become a biggest source of exploitation of farmers. Cartelizing of traders and dealer in APMC mandi are exploiting the farmers in every possible way. Creating of national market for agriculture as provided in budget 2014 would induce the bargaining power in the farmers. Further, providing information about the rates of different commodities at commodity market through electronic display of mandi would enable the farmers to calculate the right price of their produce.  
g. Organic farming- Demand of crops produced through organic farming has been rising in international market. Crops produce through organic farming is less susceptible to pesticides and drought. It further doesn't require costly HYVS and fertilizers. The overall margin in it is much higher than the conventional farming. Converting the Arunanchal State, as declared by its CM, into a 100% organic farming state would increase the overall agriculture trade of AP and directly benefit it farmers.

These short term and long term measures would not only help the farmers to raise their income but also help India to move towards sustainable development. These steps would further help India to comply with the various international treaties like agreement on agriculture under WHO, moral compliance under UNFCCC to reduce GHGs as enshrined under article 51 of the constitution.

**32. “Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit.” ― Jawaharlal Nehru**

Consider a new-born child. A clean slate. The development of his character depends on what he experiences in the beginning stage of his life. His character would depend upon the kinds of experience he is exposed to till his cognitive ability reaches a certain level. Till the time this happens, the child would pick up the traits and habits of the people he is in contact with. After his thinking and cognitive ability reaches a certain stage, he goes on to build upon what he has incorporated in the beginning years of his life.

This analogy perfectly demonstrates how the development of the man-kind is impacted by the influence of his cultural history. The culture of an area represents the years of influence of the practices being followed in an area upon the individuals living in that area. The elements which constitute a culture keep on changing as the time progresses depending upon the needs and requirements at a certain instant of time. So, the new members of a society are effectively influenced by thousands of years of practices which have influenced the generations of that society. When Jawahar Lal Nehru says, "Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit", he means that these years of practices and rituals which influence us in our life now are important for the holistic understanding of the situation we are in. This is because we are provided with a head-start when we learn the basic structure of the method we need to follow in our lives. Imagine entering this world without knowing that we don't need to hunt for our food any longer. Instead, this process has been replaced by an easier and better method of cooking. We learn this because it has been known to our generation through years of 'widening of mind'. However, the development of the culture need not follow a linear path. The practices being followed in a culture might turn out to be regressive, in hind-sight, even though they were intended to be progressive.

Consider the Indian sub-continent. After the stone age, the earliest settlement which has been found in our culture is the Indus Valley Civilization. The civilization is deemed to be way ahead of its time and the effects of it on our civilization can be felt even now. The Indus Valley People lived a simple life and were followed by Aryans. The Aryan or the Vedic period saw the development of deities like 'Agni', 'Indra' and 'Varun' in attempts to describe the daily activities of our lives. In the later-Vedic period, this led to these gods were replaced by Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh. This period also saw the development of rigid caste systems which was done in attempts to ensure that people contributed to every section which was needed for human survival. Thus, this development ensured that the people always had someone to work in agriculture because the job was assigned to the members of 'Shudra' caste. Similarly, 'Vaishyas' constituted the traders and merchants. 'Kshatriyas' were supposed to guard the region from foreign invasion and 'Brahmins' were supposed to perform the rituals associated in our life.

However, this development which was thought to be progressive turned out to be highly regressive in certain respects. The caste system led to the differences in the society which in turn gave rise to problems such as untouchability. But this is the unique way in which culture allows the development of our minds and spirit. Leaders like Gautama Buddha and Mahavira Jain realized that these practices were doing more good than bad and opposed them strongly. This led to the development of Buddhism and Jainism. The development of these two religions led to the improvement in lives of a lot of people. This, in turn, had a positive impact on Brahmanism as well as they slowly showed some leniency in their rigid caste system. This development would not be possible had people not taken lessons from the practices which were being followed in our culture at that time.

Similarly, the ancient and medieval period saw regressive developments in terms of treatment of women. Women were not allowed to read the scriptures since the later Vedic age. The contribution of a women to the society was limited to her serving her husband. Her existence was limited to her husband only, This led to the development of practices like Sati. However, as we had experienced these practices in our culture and realized that they are regressive to say the least, we slowly got rid of it.

It is the observance of our culture and the ill practices associated with it which led to the development which does not allow "discrimination on the basis of caste" in our Fundamental Rights in the Constitution. The recent Supreme Court judgement which allowed a single mother to be the natural guardian of her child is a significant development in this respect. Similarly, the observance of the cultural developments led us to realize that the practices like untouchability had to be done away with. This led to the development of Article 17 of our Fundamental Rights which looked to work towards the 'Abolition of Untouchability'.

The lessons from our culture were not limited to the removal of these ill practices only. It was rightly realized that some sections of our society have been negatively impacted die to years of ill treatment and special laws had to be made to ensure their sustainable development. This gave rise to the concept of reservation for these sections of the society.

Thus, we can see that the development of culture need not follow a linear path in its development. However, our culture allows us to have a look at the right and wrong practices which have been observed in the past and ultimately work to lead our society in a progressive manner. Our culture imparts us with the best of practices of early years along with ensuring that the negative aspects of the society are worked upon and steps be taken to get rid of them slowly but surely.

**33. Capitalism is the Cause of Poverty**

Capitalism is not alone a cause of poverty. It played a good role in moving more people below poverty line.  
By my perspective over population is the main cause of poverty. Example: During industrial revolution times population growth increased which lead to increase in competition for living. For the huge population quantity of living essentials were low. So price of products rose and to supply for the huge population huge labour needed.  
The monarchy or Government also imposed huge taxes. The burden of wars and expenditure of aristocrats were imposed on small farmers, artisans, etc.  
People have to do something for their living. In the competitive world they volunteered to work for a fixed price below a capitalist.  
At present, An individual have to work under a capitalist even though he/she have skills. Because money is accumulated in the hands of few. Banks are giving loans to people who got money or assets. Then how could a person gets money to invest.  
Salaries gave by corporate companies are not sufficient for savings. Equal pay for equal work is not in practice. Huge money earned by the company because of the under most worker get into the top hand people.  
To eradicate poverty government don't need to help poor by offering things and schemes. It should take steps to give chance to individual based on his/her skills to live on their own by providing loans. Establishment of Cooperative companies should be encourages. Awareness must be increased about population control. Limitation should be set for individual income per annum. The pride is not in billionaires of world, it is in not one man lives below poverty line.

**34. Is The Indian Administrative Service a Steel Frame or a Steel Cage?**

Is The Indian Administrative Service a Steel Frame or a Steel Cage?

In a town not so far away, at a time not so distant, there lived two brothers, Rohan and Shyam, who happened to have different view on the Indian administration. Such view was based on their personal experience. While Rohan was all praise for the Indian administration system comparing it with a steel frame as he had witnessed the period of political uncertainty in the latter half of the last decade of the 20th century, Shyam considered the administration as a steel cage as his experience with the administration to get a agricultural loan was quite troublesome.

This topic had been part of their conversations for quite some time and often lead to heated arguments between them much to the agony of other family members. Luckily, their father, Ramu had come to visit them from village and decided to mediate between two brothers to end the debate once and for all. Each brother was asked to put his view forward on whose basis decision was to be taken as to who is more correct.

Indian Administrative Service as a Steel frame:

Rohan began by citing an anomaly between steel metal and Indian administration. He said, as the metal steel is highly durable, non corrosive, easy to use, easily available, necessity of the rich and poor alike, highly tensile and of utilitarian nature; so is the Indian administration.

In a nation of aspirational billions, the Indian administration is the one that provides with continuity to the system and keeps it on track to fulfil its mandate to broaden the horizons of the masses and to provide them with opportunity to live a life with dignity.

It was the steel frame of Indian administration only that supported the nation at the time of crisis. Be it the wars with China and Pakistan, the political instability periods of the 1970s and 1990s, the spread of epidemics, the dwindling faith of the people in government; the administration came to the rescue of the nation in every single event.

At present, when the nation is looking for a flight into prosperity and development, it is the steel frame of the administration, through its procedures, rules, objectivity and impersonality that is providing a strong base for the developmental rocket to be fired from. Had the steel frame of administration was not available the continuity in growth and development would not have been possible. In a democracy, where the governments come and go, it is the administration only that provides stability and continuity and lay the path for the development of the nation.

Indian Administration as a steel cage:

Now it was Shyam's turn to put forth his views. He began by citing the aspects of articles made from steel. He called the administration similar to the articles made from steel which are rigid, bulky, un-modifiable etc. According to him, the administration has failed to perform the mandate provided to it by the forefathers of modern Indian who perceived India as an equity based society based upon the socialistic pattern of governance.

The Weberian administration putting too much insistence to rules, regulations and procedures in order to solidify its steel frame has got itself locked up into the same frame by transforming it into the shape of a cage, getting trapped and unable to fulfil its mandate of developing a welfare state.

The Indian administration steel based features that Rohan had put forth may be essential to its own existence but have been the reason for pain and agony to poor destitute masses who get trapped into the steel cage as parrots, who can only shout but there is no one to listen to their voice.

Shyam gave an example of the poor lady living in his neighbourhood who had to run pillar to post in order to re-fix the electricity connection to her home. Her fault was just that she received the wrong electricity bill and taking no due cognisance of the fault the administration discontinued the electricity connection to her home.

Shyam thus concluded his side of argument and now it was the turn of their father, Ramu to deliver the verdict after listening to both sides.

Ramu began by saying that the administration need not be either like a steel frame or a steel cage. rather, administration should be like Carbon, which is readily available, has the access of the poor, is soft-slippery and easily mouldable, which as Graphite is a good conductor which facilitates communication between the masses and the government and like Diamond, sparkles and attract people at the time of distress.

The administration should be value neutral, it must be able to change its characteristics as per the demand of the situation and must not become the prisoner of its own image. The qualities of steel to be develop into a strong, rigid and durable support in the form of a frame facilitates the administration to provide continuity to the various development programmes for the benefit of its masses but it must be careful to not to mould this frame into a cage which when situation demands prevents it from fulfilling its objectives.

The administration must ensure and remember its goal that is to work for the benefit of the masses and consider its structure as a mean to achieve that goal.

Ramu concluded by saying that, "administration is like river, when left uncontrolled may lead to destruction but when harnessed properly may bring prosperity". Similar is the case with administration, it is up to the people to harness its energy though their elected representatives as in a democracy it is the people who are the real sovereigns.

**35. Are Classrooms Irrelevant to Learning?**

Are Classrooms Irrelevant to Learning?

Education is the foundation of earthly existence. It involves a process of learning where a package of knowledge is transferred to  
learners. This learning makes a person capable enough to handle the diverse challenges of life. The process of learning has evolved over the ages. From Gurukuls of ancient times to the establishment of the global universities and mushrooming of public schools, the process of learning has expanded both in terms of range and diversity. Yet, the central and surviving theme of all the education schemes is a common model i.e. “Classroom based Education” where education is imparted by a teacher to a group of students. The survival of this model throughout ages, withstanding the heat of time, signifies its importance. But with the dawn of 21st century the advent of internet and its rapid expansion has casted a serious doubt about the survivability of classroom model of education. The question that often pops up is: “Are Classrooms Irrelevant to Learning”?

To look into this question we need to analyse the classroom model of education along the following questions: First: Is classroom model necessary? Second: What are the alternatives available? Third: Should the classrooms be replaced or else what should be the role of classroom in present context?

Is classroom model necessary?

Classroom played a pivotal role in educating masses. A teacher, who hold the repository of knowledge used to unlock its streams or a group of student eager to learn. This models success was based on certain preconceived notion. Firstly, the teacher is the only source of knowledge, one who makes the un-understandable of the books understandable and beyond whom there is no source of knowledge. Secondly, all the student were at equal learning level and from the same strata of society.

The first assumption of singularity of knowledge source has withered in the latest century. With internet at our disposal knowledge has not only diversified but also includes many hitherto excluded sources. Genesis of classroom model has its root in Gurukul model  
where princes joined to form a class. Thus their social status, upbringing and in effect intellect nearly matched with each other. The present classrooms are microcosm of the larger society and includes student from different strata of society and thus have varying intellect and capacities. These two changes have destabilised the deeply entrenched roots of classroom model. The one size fits all approach as well as the singularity of knowledge, on whose premises classroom model evolved is continuously losing its ground.

This brings us to the second question: “What are the alternatives available”?

The “one size fits all” is becoming redundant in the present world with diversity rather than uniformity becoming the mantra. Classroom model based on the one size fits all too is losing its sheen and utility in the same context. Internet based education is emerging as a challenge to established model of classroom education. From the elementary level to the higher education internet based education is expanding its roots. At primary level Flipped classes where teaching is shifted to home through pre recorded lectures and homework becomes a classwork is gaining currency. At middle level online courses, virtual labs and various online test series not only transfer the knowledge but also expands the competition. At higher education level collaborative platforms like MOOC etc have changed the nature of the way students used to study.

Internet based education’s popularity can be understood in terms of the vast advantage over the traditional classroom based education. Internet expands the source of knowledge from singularity of classroom to the plurality of the internet resources. The lectures and other source of knowledge are not time bound and can be repeatedly accessed unlike classroom that offers a single window of opportunity, are non repetitive and mostly monologue. Collaboration of students, their active participation and prompt answers by peer groups to clear doubts further enhances the utility of internet based education. Ubiquitous nature of internet, easy availability of internet accessibility devices, huge availability of digital content and its rapid proliferation and cloud services adds on the transformative impact of the internet on the education. Thus learning becomes an altogether different experience. All this is not just in vogue. Various studies have shown that the internet based education has far greater efficacy than the traditional classroom model. Students learning level have significantly improved and simultaneously it has reduced their dropouts and failure. Various experiments like “ Hole in the wall” where a computer was provided to slum children and helped to rapidly transform their learning level, or the SOLE i.e. Self Organised Learning Experience where student collaborate to learn on internet without the help of teacher, have time and again proved how worthy the internet based model is.

This brings us to the third question: “What should be the role of classroom in present context”?

With the popularity of the internet based education and the tangible benefits it accrues to the learning level of the students, it is often debated that should the classroom education give way to the internet based education. Or if we are still willing to continue with the school based education what should be its role?

No doubt internet has revolutionised the way we learn but it does not in any way replace the utility of classroom. Why? Because the class not only impart the knowledge but are also the 2nd biggest stage of socialisation after family. The class room helps us learn how to act without which the entire knowledge becomes meaningless. As it is said: “The great aim of education is not just knowledge but action”. Hence in any case the importance of classroom can’t be obviated. Rather the role of classrooms and also the teachers should be transformed.

The entire system of classroom education and internet based education should complement each other. Internet based education can become the prime educator while the classroom and the teachers can become the facilitator. A classrooms should become the centre of training on how to acquire knowledge while teacher should act as a coach, a trainer, an inspirer. Classroom and teacher should be utilised to clear doubt about what a student has learned over internet. They should guide and channelize the energy of student in right direction leaving the path travelled and the pace of travel entirely on the student. This way the true purpose of education will be achieved.

**36. Development Goals and Poverty**

As the clock struck 10 am, everybody can feel the extraordinary energy exuberating in the corridors of power in Delhi. The time was fixed for an exchange of MoU to establish one of the biggest Aluminium extracting plant in one of the remotest locations, somewhere close to the eastern coast of India. Before, nobody except few, were actually aware of where this place lie on the map of India. But today everybody from the top Secretary to the common man knew something about the place. The newspaper were flooded with the news, media houses repeatedly telecasting every single minute of the occasion and every eye glued to the screen. And why not. The moment was indeed one that needs to be celebrated as India was going to become the biggest Aluminium supplier, the economy was going to get a big boost and huge employment opportunities were opening up. It was indeed a gala, a celebration of the century. The development it promised to bring to the country was never witnessed in the history of nation. But the gala failed to bring a slightest streak of smile on the face of locals where the project was about to begin. Their eyes were anxious and as the news broke that MoU was signed, a tear rolled out of the eye of an octogenarian. Why the news that promised such a large scale development failed to evoke similar response among the locals where the development was about to start? Why the development was celebrated even by those having most indirect contact with the process but failed to bring even a single ray of hope to those having the most direct contact? Does development have different meaning for different people? And does it’s outcomes are different for different sections of society?

Let us first understand what development is.

Development is a process that alleviates a person out of his present state of helplessness, lack of opportunities and drudgery. Development is one that promises a future full of possibilities; possibilities to grow, to prosper, to realise our dreams, to have equal opportunities and to scale the heights that we ever dreamt of. To speak in a single sentence it one “that eliminate poverty of every type”.

So does the development of one ensures development of all?

I hope that this stands true and stands the test of time. But as the history tells us and based on the empirical evidences this hypothesis appears to fail on multiple counts. Let us take poverty as the sole criteria to evaluate the development process. But why poverty?Because it the mother of all deprivations and any development process can be evaluated by ascertaining the extent to which it was able to alleviate the poverty.

A Historical Odyssey

Development as a process is happening throughout the ages. It pace, intensity and location has varied. As a result different parts of the  
world developed differently, dividing the world into two groups: The Developed countries and The Developing countries. This pushed the developed nation to think beyond their development as the poverty of developing countries was affecting their genuine interest in an increasingly globalised world. The biggest push for development of developing countries came from developed countries and world institutions. The development process was conceived in terms of development goal/target. It was believed that the developing countries will develop and their poverty will be removed once these set of goals/targets were achieved. Initially the focus was on indirect removal of poverty. A set of reforms termed as structural readjustment were proposed. It ranged from administrative reforms to liberalisation of economy and so on. All these were pushed with a big promise that it will remove poverty. But as the events unfold the developing countries found that they were caught in vicious circle of poverty. Even the developed countries were amazed why their model was failing.

Present context

With the failure of indirect model of development, it was agreed upon to have a direct assault on poverty. The comity of nation agreed on a set of common development goals termed as Millennium Development Goals to eradicate poverty and its associated deprivations. These goals fixed quantitative targets with a timeline of 15 years. As we approach the end of term the question that pops up is “Have these targets succeeded in alleviating poverty”? Yes, to an extent the success achieved is commendable and the poverty has reduced. But again the question remains whether the poverty of all was reduced or some gained at the cost of others. And is this respite sustainable. The answer to first is that poverty was alleviated but it was not ubiquitous as some gained while the other suffered. But even if this happened can those who gained stay out of poverty for ever so that the next batch of poor can be targeted. To answer this the comity of nations have agreed on another set of development goal termed as Sustainable Development Goals. Now the target is to achieve poverty alleviation on sustainable basis.

The Future

If the alleviation of poverty has to come from the goal/target based approach then how should these set of Sustainable Development Goals be framed so that the future is brighter than the present?

For that the poverty needs to be understood first. Poverty is a multi pronged phenomena. It’s a hydra with multiple heads like poverty of opportunities, poverty of health, poverty of income, poverty of knowledge, poverty of food etc. And thus its alleviation needs development goals that target each poverty separately and in a sustainable manner. Education, health, livelihood, food security, quality of life all needs to be addressed so that the gain in one does not leads to slippage in other and the poverty retains only changing its face. Hence a sustainable effort on every front is required. But that will not be sufficient enough. We also need to ensure that the development of one is the development of all. To put it in simple words, all must enjoy the development unlike the locals of that remote Indian village that were deprived of development gains in their region but by default became the victims of displacement due to the projects.

Development of All

To achieve development of all we need to develop a development momentum where all are pushed towards betterment. This happens when the development is based on people centric approach, where people not the economy is conceived as the centre of development and outcomes are measured both qualitatively and quantitatively and not solely on quantitative parameters. It must have moorings in the socio-cultural milieu of the society and has an outlook that is modern. It has to provide the hand holding service to those that are left  
behind by increasing their endowment. It has to displace least and rehabilitate most. Then only the development goal based method of poverty alleviation will succeed.

If there is even a slightest doubt left on how the development goals should be fixed so that the poverty is alleviated on a whole then lets recall the talisman given by Mahatma Gandhi.

" Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and  
the weakest man [woman] whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him [her]. Will he [she] gain anything by it? Will it restore him [her] to a control over his [her] own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj [freedom] for the hungry and spiritually starving millions?

Then you will find your doubts and your self melt away."

If this talisman becomes the mantra of the new Sustainable Development Goals then we can be sure of a development momentum and that no octogenarian will moist his eyes when the development takes place in his region.

**37. Democracy is India’s Achilles’ Heel**

India is a colorful rainbow of different ethnic, religious and lingiuistic groups that are well knot together into a whole from millenias.  
Democracy provides people, a voice to raise, inner freedom to float, and the creativity to usher amidst various competing allying and non-allying tendencies. It is the reason of stability that india finds itself today, while looking at the bleak turbulent  
picture of the post independence period. However, certain sections have always debated the application of democracy to india’s society. Argument goes over democracy being india’s achilles’ heel.

IS DEMOCRACY REQUIRED IN INDIA?

Democracy has been india’s heritage from the past. india which we call today by the name is made not by the state india but by the  
various diversified groups living in different parts of india. The cultures of these groups is remarkably different from others. There are diversities in language, culture, ethnicity, religion. So naturally their development process will be different. Giving the rights to sovereignty to these groups ensures their proper development and fulfillment of their aspirations. This maintains  
stability and knits them together into a fraternizing society, where each culture is respected. Democracy ushers different movements that may arise due to correct various policies not suitable to the people, ex. The narmada bachao andolan. Democracy provides a platform for the movements like the anna hazare movement that are trigger for change in the society. Moreover, india possess  
various tribal pockets spread throughout the nation. They themselves have their own rights and way of living that does not gels with the modern way. Hence democracy allows them to preserve their culture and practices and traditions. It is the same democracy that has allowed for the formation of linguistic states post independence. Even now the recent formation of telangana is the result of  
widespread movement of people demanding a separate state. The unequal development of the erstwhile Andhra pradesh over the years led to separate state of telangana for better allocation and focus on those backward regions. Thus democracy assumes self correcting movements across india.

DEMOCRACY IN INDIA IN ITS PRESENT FORM

Ramachandra guha in his famous book, INDIA AFTER GANDHI said india is a 50-50 democracy. By it he meant that india was far from a perfect democracy. There are many loopholes. Indeed, if one looks at india’s democratic essence and machinery, one cannot but agree to him. Democracy is not just about exercising the ballot every 5 years. There are much more things even more  
important than the ballot. The fruits of development over the years have accumulated to the new middle class. The rich are going richer, the poor have seen slow growth. There are vast inequalities across the sectors. the poor finds itself devoid of opportunities in education health and to express itself. If one looks at the higher education of india, predominantly it’s the richer class that avails itself of it. Even the reservations that are given to the backward castes have resulted in them an elite and non-elite. The poor farmers are dying in the hinterlands of india. Despite their grievances nothing could be done.

The political system is equally nefarious. Dynastic politics is rampant in almost every geographic region. People are presented choices in the form different parties that put up leaders that are dynastic products. Criminlisation of politics was a huge issue, thankfully it is reduced to a certain extent. The low education levels in the rural areas leave them passively accepting the choices of candidates that are presented to them, even if all choices are ethically incompetent.

As gurcharan das has compared india and china – china grows due to the state and india grows despite the state- may be true after all. The democratic movements stall the various developmental projects; that is not the case in china. China acts on its state’s will and hence its pace of development is faster. This has been the main contention and weakness of india – according to  
many- the race to development between the two.

But, all is not bad. many reforms have been done over the years. The election commission has led the beacon of light in the political  
system. It has made several changes such as displaying the candidates criminal record, educational qualification. There has been strict action on corruption recently after the famous anna hazare movement, but its more due institutions reacting to pressure from the citizenry. The supreme court judgements have provided timely relief amidst non-functioning of legislature and executive. The concept of PIL, free legal aid to the poor as part of the DPSP, and various verdicts to eradicate the ills, lik the police reforms , the creamy layer concept, have been stellar. The legislature though have been slow and contentious still has responded to the societal demands, by the RTI, RTE, improvement in health and india gaining in HDI. There is more voice to the poor than there was ever before. The ushering of free media and press has become the fourth pillar of democracy. india is moving in the right direction, though the pace depends on the various ebbs and flows internal and external.

CAN ANY OTHER SYSTEM BE APPLIED TO INDIA?

Francis fukuyama in the origins of the state analysed india and china. China and india have eveloved on a completely different trajectory. China (except xinjiang and tibet) was a well knit uniform state throughout its history with one nationality –han- and predominantly one language. India on the other hand ahs never tasted single government of the Chinese sorts. It was a village republic with regional powers even in the times of great centralized powers like mughals and guptas and mauryas. So naturally single government comes naturally to Chinese and non to india. Democracy with regional sovereignty is the past heritage and is in the DNA of Indian blood. Indian people outrightly rejected the indira Gandhi government that imposed an autocratic style of  
government. J&K can be cited here. The non development of democratic structures post independence and denying them the right to choose; having various rigged elections have resulted in deep resentment against the government and  
also separatist movements.

SO IS DEMOCRACY INDIA’S ACHILLES’ HEEL?

With all its flaws and toothlessness democracy remains india’s inherent essence. Democracy is the mirror of india’s people. No other model can be applied to it. Its application will only result in its disintegration. It gives hope to the people to develop and create a liberal society. It gives hope to chart development course of the future. it serves as the guiding light amidst the darkness. It is the reason of india’s success in innovation and entrepreneurship. Amidst the darkness of various coloured revolution across the  
world specially in the middle east, india shines as the democratic giant. The world looks at india with awe and wonder, for its stability and development and unprecedented growth despite such differences. We need to accept we exist as Indians because of democracy, and effort should be to strengthen the democracy and fix the loopholes. Democracy is not an achilles’ heel but should turn itself into its strongest force.

**38. Is Scientific Temper Opposed to Superstition or Can it Cohabit Easily with Superstition?**

Is scientific temper opposed to superstition or can it cohabit easily with superstition?

Among many dualism that existed persistently with the human evolution , the dualism of scientific temper and the superstitious believes is the one that defies all ages. History has witnessed both the streams challenging each other’s competence and facing each other in an antagonistic way . This continuous state of tug of war between the two poses many questions in front of humanity like: What is scientific temper and what is superstition? Which among the two is superior one that an individual should strive for? Does the superiority of one demands obliteration of another? If not, what should be the terms of their co-existence?

To begin with let us have an elementary idea of what scientific temper and superstition stands for.

Scientific temper is a mental attitude based on rationality. This attitude originates from a body of knowledge called science. A scientific temper is one that is inquisitive, one that raises question on the existing state of affairs, one that demands a detailed study based on empirical evidences and accepts only that which is real, established by facts and can be verified time and again. On the other hand  
superstition is based on a system of believes. It has mythological and metaphysical foundations. It desists inquisitiveness and instead sustains on faith and servile obedience.

Going by their definition the two appears pole apart. Scientific temper promotes and propagates change. Change, as we all know is the basis of existence. Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change cannot exist. Superstition, on the other hand promotes status quo. It opposes change. It thus stagnates the society and obliterates them. Many ancient civilisation like Sumerians or the Mesopotamians, that failed to evolve scientific temper and stayed glued to their superstitions, have in fact died a painful death despite their grandeur.

This idea of change that the scientific temper inculcates gives it a position of superiority over superstition. It is only because of scientific temper that we are able to enjoy a quality of life much better than the past. A life where pestilence is no longer a hazard; where life threatening diseases like diarrhoea, malaria etc can be treated rather than leaving it to the will of god; where child birth is celebrated rather than apprehending over his life longevity; where transcending miles even oceans is a fun, an adventure and not a sin as propagated by the superstition. Realising the importance of scientific temper our constitution too declares in Article 51A: “to develop  
the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform” as a fundamental duty of every citizen. This establishes the ascendancy of scientific temper over superstition.

Development of a scientific temper automatically leads to the erosion of superstition. This is a post facto effect. So a question arises “Can we scrap of the superstition as a pre facto measure so that the scientific temper becomes a natural outcome?” To answer it the division of superstition into two sub groups is necessary (a) Private superstition (b) Public superstition. Among Private superstitions the  
biggest superstition is the existence of god. Other involve metaphysical questions related to internal being. A person have many other private superstition like colour of clothes to wear, food to eat, way of worship etc. These superstition are a part of mental attitude and hence difficult to erode by any legislations. The only way to tackle them is to bust these myths with empirical evidences like the way we proved that world is spherical not flat. Simultaneously these private superstition have marginal impact on society though their impact on personal reform and inculcation of scientific temper in individual is profound. Hence these should be addressed with the goal of reforming individual rather than reforming the society. These reformed individual will itself lead to a reformed society. The second category that is Public superstition are in fact the virulent ones that need immediate attention. These involves beliefs like untouchability, human sacrifices etc. As their impact on society is profound, these superstitions need an immediate check through legislative means and empirical evidences can be provided later to demystify their base.

Once we have established that the scientific temper is superior and how to deal with superstition, we are posed with question of their cohabitation and the terms of their existence. My own rationality allows me to support the existence of superstition. This might appear strange, in fact outrageous at the moment when we have established the ascendancy of scientific temper. Lets expand this idea.

Superstition per se are required because of three reasons: Firstly, private superstition provides a soothing impact. For e.g. internal peace which evades from metaphysical superstition converts into social peace and harmony. Secondly, it provides the base for scientific inquiry and development of scientific temper. If there had not been the superstition that the world is flat and we may fall down if we sail to the edge, we would not have discovered the shape of earth to spherical. We would not have known about the human anatomy if somebody was not challenged by the superstition that dilating dead body evokes curse of god. Thus the superstition provides the base to initiate any scientific inquiry. But these two are not worthy enough to support the idea of cohabitation. For cohabitation the third reason provides a much worthy ground. Superstition may not be totally worthless. For instance any ancient knowledge may have been lost and are there only in myths and superstitions like the knowledge of astronomy that existed in vedas but was discovered much later on scientific terms. Similarly the tribal knowledge about Neem was lately discovered and patented. In the similar fashion many superstitious believes still await to be verified by scientific discovery and become a part of scientific temper.

Most of the superstitions are based on a system of faith. Faith is nothing but a type of religion. Albert Einstein said “ Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind”. These word from the pioneer of the scientific temper elaborates how important is the  
cohabitation of both. But this does not supports the idea of blind adherence to the system of superstition. While private superstition need filtering and selective adoption, public superstition are despicable enough to be rejected all together. The process of rejection has to be both legislative and evidence based, legislative for public superstition and evidence based for the private superstition. This will establish a balanced cohabitation with gradual expansion of scientific temper.

“Universe is made of stories not atom. These atoms evolve out of these stories. Hence superstition should serve as the stories to gave birth to atom and the society must advance through these stories to inculcate an spirit of scientific temper”.

**39. Globalisation is Dead**

Noted journalist Thomas Friedman observed that in globalization 1.0 that began around 1492, the world went from size large to size medium. In globalization 2.0, an era that introduced us to multinationl companies, it went from size medium to size small. And then around 2000 came globalization 3.0, in which the world went from being small to tiny.

And it truly has. Globalization and free trade has accelerated world economic growth and trade volume by leaps and bounds. It has benefited both developed and developing world in any ways and negatively affected both in some ways too. But some recent development in the past one decade especially such as global economic crisis, poor result from WTO, growing migrant issues etc has slowed down globalizing trend. Increasing political opposition to many globalization out comes such as subsidy and trade barrier issue, hot money and its volatility have led to create a strand of opinion against globalization. So is globalization soon going to be a dead horse? Is the world moving back to its era of strong impervious national boundaries increasing the possibility of conflict? This essay’s endevour would be to investigate on this question of the future trend of globalization.

Globalization simply means free flow of goods, services, capital and labor across national boundaries across the world. Having learnt its lesson from the restrictive policies in pre world wars era, the world made a strong determination for free trade. This led to increase in trade volume by many fold in a short time; global gdp accelerated. Many east and south east Asian economies emerged as tiger economies. With the revolution on communication and information technology it got a further fillip. This encouraged technical innovation, improving management practices, developing and managing large organisations. It also helped nations to foucs on their strength and its large scale production benefiting from economy of scale and relying on import of other commodities which can be supplied from else where at a cheaper rate. To benefit from this trend, many nations opened up hteir economies including the communist china in 1978 and india in 1991-92. It seems to be win win for all.

Then why this talk of dead globalization?

In recent years, especially in past decade some of the global developments have created apprehensions regarding globalisaiton and an element of caution and conservatism is visible worldwide.

The deeply interlinked nature of national economies through globalization make them all vulnerable to any shock anywhere. The economic recession of 2008 started in USA and its spill over impacted almost the whole world sooner or later. And the world is still trying recovering from it. The resulting reaction of USA and now by EU by their quantitative easing and then gradual withdrawal is creating volatility and instability in the developing world. Although in a globalizes world, central bank of developed worlds are more concered about their national interests.

Instead of gradual lowering of tarrif, almost all countries are raising it directly or indirectly. Developed worlds have been reluctant to lower their huge amber box subsidy affecting the livelihood of million of poor farmers across the world. In contrast their demand of opening the market of other nations has brought strong reaction from developing world by raising barrier. This tit-for-tat policy has suffered global trade. In addition to this, dumping of products in huge quantity by some nations such as China has strengthened this protectionist tendency.

Even the global body to ensure free trade thus accelerating globalization i.e, WTO has failed to come out with an global agreement till now even after two decades of its existence. The dead lock over Trade Faciliation Agreement (TFA) has raised question over efficacy over WTO and efforts are being made for forming multilateral free trade areas. Trans Pacific Partenrship (TPP) by USA is one such attempt which will exclude a vast part of the world causing fragmentation of world into various free trade zone.

Not only free movement of goods is under threat but same is true for free movement of capital also. Reliance on foreign capital seems to be diluting sovereignty of nations especially of small ones. On the other hand, reliance on hot money by developing world are exposing them to uncertainity affecting their economy suddenly. This capital free flow also gives enough scope for stashing black money abroad, money laundering, terror financing and round tripping etc.

But the biggest issues that has been the off spring of globalization is the free flow of labor. USA and many European nations are pushing for stringent immigrant laws as globalization seems to be taking their jobs away to Indians and other Asians. Influx of migrants from east Europe and balcan to west Europe has caused much disenchantment. Now the strong and open anti-refugee stance taken by many European nations to manage the biggest refugee crisis after world wars speaks volume about their intolerance to these people and opposition to globalization.

All these are creating upheaval in political sphere too. This is feeding to the strength of many right wing forces and many right wing political parties are gaining ground. Instead of comingling of cultures, it has boosted the notion of cultural superiority, racisim, islamophobia and cultural isolation. Immigrants are refugees are seen as threat to the way of life of natives. All these are forcing the national government to restrict border and taking globalization a step back. Even now question are being raised on existence of EU and it is called the new sick man of Europe.

So is there no hope left?

Actually it would be too early to claim that days of globalization are coming to an end. The developing worlds badly need capital for their development. The developed world also in need of labour in face of an aging population and growing wage. MNCs need continue to expand their market. Everybody is aware of the benefit of globalization and the forces that it unleashes such as competition, innovation, creativity etc. It is impossible for any nations to self sufficient in everything and benefit of free trade still exists. Since all nations are not blessed with huge energy resource, trade of hydrocarbon will be an important driving factor for globalization. And of course with climate change concerns, security issues technology transfer has been essential for capacity building to fight these menaces and again without a globalized world it is not possible.

As former UN secretary general Kofi Anon once said, “arguing against globalization is like arguing against gravity.” Globalisation has both its beneficiearies and victims. Like any other phenomena it is still evolving and hence bound to throw up many problems. But solution does not mean ending up the phenomena itself. The answer to current problems are not ending globalization but having a more EQUITABLE GLOBALISATION. There has to be regulation and pace of gloabalisation needs to be taken care of as per the need of various countries depending on their stage of development. Such an inclusive globalization not driven by vested interest of great power and their MNCs will certainly minimize the negatives and enhance the positives for all. This will make this inevitable process more acceptable for all.

**40. India’s Foreign Relations and Their Effect on Its Peace and Security**

Let's turn to an age old story. This involves a father and his two sons. The father gives a bundle of sticks to each of his sons. And, he asks them to fold and thereby break them. Each of the son easily manages to do it. But, this was not a test of physical strength. The father then joins the 2 bundles into 1, and then asks them to break it. None of his two sons managed to do it, this time. But, why?Becuase strength lies in unity; in constructive engagement. The father uses sticks as a methaphor to drive home this point

What holds true at the personal level, is also completely relavant at the international level. Constructive Foreign Relations between countries is absolutely vital for their own peace and security. India is no exception, either. To appreciate this point, let's walk through the pages of Indian history. Let us also see the old and the current examples from the world. And perhaps unsurprisingly, the message that old story delivers,  
will hit the target in the foreign relations part.

Let's start with the Indian history of foreign relations. It can be divided into 4 phases. Phase 1 talks about the ancient times. Phase 2 covers from independence to the 1960s. Phase 3 includes extends to the 1990s. And phase 4 covers that time onward to this day.

In the early ancient times, leaders like Ashoka the Great gave us a Pan- India rule. Missionaries were sent abroad. Buddhism became the tool of foreign engagement. And, at home, peace and prosperity prevailed. This continued for some time. Slowly, however, the 1 nation state disintegrated into various small parts. The engagement with the world was replaced by the in fighting within the country. This paved the way for invaders like Muhammad Ghori and Mahmud Ghazni to attack India, and to steal its wealth of peace. A similar result came when the Mughals disintegrated. Foreign relations was at its nadir. The soverign power was beseized by the colonial British.

Fast forward to the second phase; that of Post Independence India. The world now saw a completely different India, under its charismatic leader, Pandit Nehru. India cocooned out from the dark colonial times to engage with the outside world. Nehru led India at the forefront through institutions like NAM, which he co-founded. India's dreams of Peace and prospesity were broadcasted through the ideologies of Pachasheel and slogans like Hindi-Chini bhai bhai. Unsurprisinglly, the result showed on the domestic front, especially in the first half. USA, UK, Russia and Germany were now helping build a modern India by investing in the Institutes of National Importance; the IITs and the steel plants and the gigantic dams. The only problem with the ideology was that it was too soft. China backstabbed. US and UK did that more openly by supporting Pakistan. Amidst this softness of foreign relations, peace and prosperity faded. India had to suffer from twin wars in the 1960s, which included the shambolic defeat in the war against China.

This experience led India to cover itself from the world in the next phase, the Phase 3. Foreign relations were now mostly on paper. India followed only limited engagement. The rewards were indeed found on the strategic front. No major wars took place in this period. Yet, chaos prevailed in the front of economic security. And domestic peace goes in vain in such times. The images of political turmoil during emergency is still afresh in our minds.

Move on the final 4th phase which roughly began in the 1990s. The economic shell which prevented foreign relation was broken by the reforms of 1991. Globalisation was now allowed. The aim of foreign relations now  
tilted back, as in the times of Ashoka, towards constructive engagement with the world. The Look East policy was framed to harness the skills from the Tiger economies. The Gujral Doctrine attempted to create a base for rise by more oopening og hearts towards ourneighbour countries. At the same time, unlike the softness of approach of the post independece, this phase was also marked by a strategic hardness. The nuclear tests of the 1998 announced the world of India's rise and the desire to open up in the foreign affairs on India's terms. The crest was marked by US, the world leader embracing India by the Indo-US nuclear deals. And, in this phase except the war of Kargil, peace prevailed. Economic security followed. In fact, today, discounting the minor cross border firings, the possibly of war looks least likely. In terms of socio- economic security, India today is growing at the fastest rate in the world, and poverty is on its way to rock-bottom

So, what do we learn from this history of foreign relations? One, it highlights the importance of foreign relations. The periods of greatest strategic and socio-economic peace were correlated with the years of highest constructive interaction of foreign relations. Two, it necessitates the creation of a minimum deterrence so that India is not bullied in the sphere of foreign relations.

The power of engagement can easily be seen in the examples of other countries. Europe is a prime example. During the two world wars, millions of people list their lives. Many, many more lives were indirectly affected. Economy was down. But, once wars were over, the importance of building foreign relations was seen. Europe, especially France and Germany, the 2 bitter rivals engaged to create the Euro, the most successful example of foreign engagement till day. Not only, did it put wars in the region to a complete stop, but also economic security magnified . "United we stand, Divided we Fall" is epitomised here

Similarly, the importance of foreign relations can be seen by taking China's example. In the periods of no or negative foreign relations, China lived a troubled time. But, once it opened up and engaged with the East and the West, relative peace and prosperity followed.

Thus necessity of active foreign relations is omnipresent. Foreign relations promotes peace and prosperity by stopping wars and replacing them by economic growth. In fact, the need today is compounded by the spread of terrorism. To stop their barbarism, the world needs to come together. And the success of that depende on how well the nations collaborate together. Until recently, US and Russia were on opposite spheres, and therefore the war on terror had limited success. Now, when some cooperation is being seen, results have been more positive. India's need of engagement is even more expanded due to shared boundaries with the affected regions and Indian vulnerability to terror in the past

Thankfully, the Indian government is understanding the correlation between the foreign nations and peace even more. And, that is why, endeavours have been stepped up to launch SAARC satellite. Project Mausam is being worked to engage with the Indian Ocean economies. India has stepped up the initiative to be included in the UN Security Council, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, APEC, etc. SImilarly, we are working to create together international organisations like NDB bank, AIIB bank and RCEP. At the same time, to provide a minimum deterrence to ensure peace, India is also looking for defence collaborations, notably with the United States.  
India is one of the few countries with growing relations between the two building poles, that of US and the west , and China and Russia on the other side. Hopefully, each of them would lead to greater peace.

The need now is to exapand the domain to cover Pakistan, our troubling and troubled neghbour. Peace and security can't truly come unless we sit together and engage with them. It does not mean giving up to them, but by mutually respecting each other. It may even mean that the big brother in us, needs to take the initiatives.

The world is looking up to India today. India has forever been a champion ofpeace and security. Its upto India to take the drivers seat, promote active foreign relations and thereby, peace and security. Hopefully, we can make the old aging saying of "Vasudhaiva Kutumakam" or the Entire world is one place, a reality

**41. Privacy vs Transparency: Transparency is for Government, not for Citizens**

Privacy and Freedom are the two sides of the same coin.If one is curtailed other gets impacted adversely. Privacy in earlier times was there and with the evolvement of the human civilization it got strengthened. And accrued as one of the basic rghts f a citicitizen.We have examples of four -walled homes for families in in Harappan period and public places ,public bath. It can be concluded that people were aware of the private and public sphere of the life.

Intellectuals of the world have advocated and fought for the transparency in the governance. With the evolvement of the city-state theory into nation -state theory people demanded mre and more transparency in the governance. Taxation transparency was foremost amongst them. In India we have Ashoka's Dhamma inscribed pillars, can be taken as an example of the transparency on the part of rules of Kingdom.

Privacy emboldens the mind of an individual to think creatively and uniquely without any fear. Not everyone is Galileo or  
Da-Vinci who can go against the tide and think and live on his own terms.Even in Nature's state(eg Animal world) we find certain degree of privacy in the lives of the animal(eg-Lion's Pride).So privacy can also be interpreted as a natural need for the humans/citizens too.

Right to Privacy(Art. 21 of Indian Constt. though implied) ensures the privacy right as one f the fundamental rights for the citizens,and courts have defended it whenever the need has arisen.Recently too when the issue was being discussed in the SC courtdidn't entertain the argument about the limits o the privacy and stood by almost 'absolute' right to privacy provision .IPC 124 A's arrest provision was recently struck down by the court, though it can be said it was a move for granting rt to freedom of speech, but as pointed out earlier Rt to freedoms have also the essence of Rt to privacy.

PRISM project of US where mass surveillance were carried out not on the US citizens only but the on the world's citizens. Several cases of illegal tape recordings has surfaced in the public domain and some were found gross exaggeration by the court. Eg-Ratan Tata's case.

Having pointed that privacy is a sacrosanct sort of issue , we should not forget that giving effective governance to the people is also a sacrosanct duty of the government. Govt. cannot let anyone to indulge in corruption(occurs in private sphere too),hoarding, immoral activities[like taking dowry, suicides,dmestic violence etc. ] in the name of privacy.So there is a trade off b/w the right to privacy and duty of allegiance, to the state. People do resort to tax-evasion, black money piling.To resolve such things we have mechnism estd. by law and the effective execution of the same is still a matter of concern for the government.

In the era of Information Technology privacy has been compromised to a great extent. We come across many examples of password stolen cases, Patents issues, MMS leaks and many other things related to IT world. Companies resort to tracking the activities of Internet users to optimize it's investment and maximize the profit.

Transparency is undoubtedly directly proportional to the corruption-FREE, Nepotism-FREE and accountable governance environment. With the advent of 24\*7 electronics media, social media the urge of transparency is increasing exponentially. Prime work of a govt. is to give effective governance to the people, and to ensure that the trust and faith o the common people remains enact with the establishment. Transparency works as a great fuel to achieve this aim of the government.

Govt. area of working is very wide especially of the central govt. in India from domestic schemes to defense, International relations etc. In such cases absolute transparency is not feasible or desirable too. Official secrets act we have in place to look after such confidential and sensitive information. Here the larger national interest issue comes into the picture. One thing can be easily visualized that the more people centric schemes ,programs requires more transparency on the part of government, citizen's charter given the govt is said t be a very effective move in this direction  
which ensured about the transparency in the working inside a govt. office. RTI is revolutionary step taken by the govt. and it helped to unearth many scams in the country Coal Block , CWG scam , spectrum scam etc. Though government at times cites section 8 Of the RTI for not giving the information. Nevertheless the present course and the activism of the court's, civil society keeps proper checks and balance.We have seen the Anna's movement it was youth's anger  
against the corruption and lack of transparency in the system. It would be better course on the part of the society and govt. to nt tinker with stride of evolution and should adopt better and better practices from across the world to  
have an effective governance in India.

There is no water-tight separation and which supports the analogy that Govt. is to transparency WHAT Citizen is to privacy. Each needs to have some of the elements of the other. Government also requires privacy in it's operation and  
strategies. Citizens are also expected and required to be transparent as far as public-duty(Tax /income filing etc) is concerned.

Absolutism of anything leads to exploitation and is detrimental to the individual, society and nation at large. We have proper systems in place to ensure proper checks and balances on the excesses.GREY AREAS gives the opportunity to loopholes to exist, which can't be removed henceforthly, discretion of citizens,courts,Govt. is expected . It is rightly said that a Nation's future depends on how it's citizens' take care of other's freedom and how intimately state's and citizens' faiths are intertwined.

**42.Should Women be Allowed to Fight in Combat, Including in Infantry?**

“She was the only man among the rebels.” So spoke General Hugh Rose of East India Company about the valor of Rani Laxmi Bai in the Revolt of 1857. More than 150 years have passed since that fateful year, and we are still engaged in a debate whether women should be allowed to participate in a combat role or not.

In this essay we will see the reasons why women are perceived not being fit for active combat positions. Is this position based on  
sound scientific judgment or it is a reflection of our societal biases? We will discuss the constructive leadership role that women are playing in various fields of society. And lastly we will make a case for the inclusion of women in full combat positions.

In a position submitted to the Supreme Court, Indian Army said that women were not suitable candidates in the leadership role because most of the soldiers who come from the rustic village backgrounds may not see them fit to be their role models. Other issues include frontline trauma and war hazards. Another significant problem is ‘what if women are taken as prisoners of war’. Indian Army may have to look after the requests of choice postings for the women officers, which adversely affects the morale of the male officers who have to serve in difficult terrains compulsorily. Women also have specific anatomical issues including pregnancy and menstruation periods when they are not in a position to actively pursue a combat role. Physical strength and stamina are other gender related issues.

Although the above arguments sound rational and based on sound logics, they reflect the patriarchal mindset of our society in general. The discrimination against women in Permanent Commission in Armed Forces is just an extension of the general discrimination prevailing against them in the Indian society at large. The above arguments assume that combat skills are the result of physical strength. In an increasingly mechanized warfare, physical strength has been left redundant. Women being unable to cope with frontline stresses, is a position not rooted in scientific facts. The soldiers not enthusiastic about the women leadership is also a flawed argument since in armed forces the only thing that matters in the rank. The chain of command is absolute and discipline is the hallmark of forces. Hence the question of male soldiers not obeying the commands of their female officers is untenable at best. The issues medical condition are genuine but they can be looked with a sympathetic outlook, rather than down rightly rejecting women for such roles.

The women have displayed exemplary leadership skills in a plethora of fields of social endeavors. In fact the nation was led by a woman Mrs Indira Gandhi during the most glorious moment of its war history in the 1971 Indo-Pak war. Women are playing  
roles like doctors, engineers, business leaders, and entrepreneurs and so on. In the corporate world they have shown their mettle to the fullest. Examples can be found in Pepsico global CEO Indra Nooyi, ICICI bank chairperson Ms Chanda Kochar and Arundhati Bhattacharya of SBI etc. This shows the respect that the corporate world shows for the competence of the person rather than their gender.

In the government sector also, women are playing a range of leadership roles. For example women have occupied the top positions of the IAS entrance examination on a regular basis. Post their admittance into the Civil Services, these women discharge their duties most efficiently in all kinds of regions including the most backward ones. Their gender does not affect their work competence. Also they evoke obedience from their staffs in the different positions that they hold. Male staff defying their authority on account of their gender is not an often heard phenomenon.

Also we have examples of Rani Laxmi Bai and Rani Chenamma in the past where they led their men diligently and inspirationally. In the recent times we can see the example of Captain Laxmi Sahgal of the Azaad Hind Fauz that shows that merit alone mattered in the past as well when it comes to leading of men.

As we have seen above women not being fit for leadership roles is a flimsy proposition at best. Also combat roles are not necessarily defined by the physical strength. Hence they deserve to get permanent commission and combat roles as well. And the nation also stands to gain by awarding the equality of status to women in the armed forces as they bring a lot of general as well as gender specific advantages to the armed forces. At a time when Indian forces are plagued with the shortage of officers, leaving a large pool of women candidate outside the selection criteria is not a wise proposition. Women are arguably better adept in soft power which can come in handy in the border areas to diffuse tensions among our own populations. They can also extract critical intelligence from the interaction with the local women of border areas which a male officer cannot do for the sensitivity reasons.

At a time when nations such as US are already allowing their women to engage in active combat duty, we should also recognize the right to equality of our women and allow them to pursue a career of their choice. Tides of change are already visible. Indian Air Force has started to recruit women as fighter aircrafts recently. The judicial activism shown by Supreme Court in the issue of Permanent Commission in the army is expected to bring positive developments in future.

Lastly a soldier should be judged by quality and not by gender. If a soldier shows the character required for the active combat duty, her/his gender should be irrelevant. As Napoleon famously said, “The tools to him who can handle them.” We also need to instill a culture of meritocracy and competence in our armed forces and should not be swayed by irrational considerations like gender, caste or region of a soldier.

**43. Progress and Growth are Linked to the Environment of Tolerance and Mutual Respect**

Progress is the outcome of an ecosystem created by peaceful political environment, transparency in governance, balance between economy and environment and government’s commitment towards the equitable regional growth for all classes. If any of the above are missing, uncertainties and doubts start creeping in about the general environment prevailing in the economy. India is going through a similar phase in the recent times when incidents of intolerance are on a roll. The world has taken note of the situation prevailing in India and now Moody has warned that India may lose its global credibility. This effectively means that the growth prospects of the country will suffer if the rising tide of intolerance in the country is not checked.

Let’s first talk about intolerance. Voltaire had famously said, “I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to death your write to say it.” Intolerance is the exact opposite of Voltaire’s view. It's a phenomenon when a person does not respect the views that are contrary to his own and actually tries to curb the dissenting voices through social persecution. And this dangerous phenomenon is on the rise in the country. A few glaring examples of recent times include the lynching of a Muslim man over eating beef, killing of two Dalit children by upper caste men, murder of rationalist Mr Dabholkar and writer MM Kalburgi and so on. Let’s not make the mistake of restricting the meaning of intolerance to religion only. Intolerance has multiple dimensions including religious, regional, gender based, caste based and tribal rights based. Essentially intolerance strives towards creating a homogenous society and hence a grave threat to the diversity of our country. This in turn poses a serious internal security threat to us.

The worsening atmosphere of intolerance adversely affects the economic growth opportunities of the country. Any kind of social or political turmoil subdues the investor confidence in the economy since they become apprehensive about the safety of their investments. Direct and indirect FDI inflows suffer because of the tensions fermenting in the society. This in turn hampers the economic activity across different sectors. Dampened economic growth ultimately results in lower growth and progress for the country. The worse part of it is that it hinders the socio-economic indicators such as education, health and employment which create fertile grounds for breeding further intolerance in the society. And thus completes the vicious circle of intolerance and slowed progress.

Let’s take the example of Bihar. Bihar was for a long time an epitome of Jungle Raj. This jungle raj became possible because of the various fault lines separating the society of Bihar into different caste groups, religious groups and even regional groups. Politicians championed the cause of one group at the expense of the other, ensuring that a popular perception prevailed that interests of one group are directly in conflict with another group. Such lack of mutual respect plunged Bihar in chaos for many years and was demonstrated by low socio-economic indicators accorded to it by different national and international agencies. Bihar could never prosper despite the large workforce and mineral resource of present day Jharkhand, because investors never found the courage to invest in Bihar. A special term BIMARU states was coined to show the poor infrastructure and investor sentiments in Bihar and some likewise states.

At the same time states that have been respectful of their diverse fabric have also been the ones that are the leaders in various socio-economic parameters. Kerala is one state that is cited as a model state every time we are discussing about a socio-economic parameters. Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have consciously tried to create an atmosphere of tolerance, which in turn has attracted the investors to these states.

In the history also, the golden period of our country coincides with period marked by respect for diversity. Two great rulers of India—Ashoka and Akbar—were great champions of religious tolerance. Accordingly trade and commerce flourished during their times. The periods of religious conflict such as around 11th century were marred by decreased economic activity as well. Thus it’s evident that the business environment in a country is a function of political stability which in turn is directly correlated to the mutual respect and tolerance in the country.

We need to understand that if we do not arrest the growing incidents of intolerance in our country, all the progress made in the recent times would be wasted. The 10 places that India gained in the ‘Ease of Doing Business’ Index of World Bank would be gone before we know it. The ambitious Make in India program will suffer to no ends and that will mean that the ‘demographic dividend’ that we were hoping to exploit would become a ‘demographic burden’ to bear.

It will also adversely affect the social harmony of our country and have tremendous consequences. For now India is one of the few countries which has remained relatively aloof from IS propaganda barring some small incidents. But if we continue to trudge this path, we will encounter IS in our own backyard as Bangladesh experienced recently when some foreigners were allegedly killed at the behest of IS. That obviously further lessen the chances of foreign investments in the country.

It’s time that we identify the responsible actors for fostering intolerance in the society. The first of them all is the lack of an educated mind. Though we have been educated but we were not taught to challenge the establish precepts or values of ethical and rational thinking. There should have been a subject to sensitize our children about the importance of appreciating different perspectives, faiths, genders, regions, castes and so on. The lack of an unenlightened mind makes us easily mainpulable by the political actors in their pursuit of power. Also the irresponsible role played by media and social media has also harmed the diverse fabric of our society. The agenda based publishing of reports by 24\*7 media channels is polarizing the society into different directions. Lastly we need to understand that a large section of the society is not interested in the growing intolerance in the country. They are busy in their own lives and don’t have the time for this political hate-mongering.

Now is the time to rise above the propaganda machinery of different political ideologies and refresh the ideals that our founding forefathers included in our Constitution. We need to promote a feeling of fraternity among the various communities of our society and revitalize the atmosphere of peace and mutual respect. Let us not allow the fringe elements to highjack the agenda of development. Then only we will be able to trudge the path of progress.

**44. The Role of Civil Society in Good Governance and Strengthening of Democracy**

Tunisia was the first nation to witness the Arab Spring that ousted the dictators and brought with it much hope. This hope however turned into hype when orthodox parties wrested power subsequently. It was pro-active contribution of Tunisian civil society groups (nicknamed Quartet) as mediators that brought back the country from brink. No wonder this role was awarded by Nobel this year. This demonstrates how strong civil society has become and how it can be used to bring in reforms at various levels. The endeavour of this essay will be to elaborate on the role civil society can play in strengthening democratic governance.

WHAT IS CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil society, as a term, refers to the part of society except State and market. It comprises of both unorganized and organized groups like NGOs, social collectives, religious groups, think tanks, universities, mass media, etc. In short, the traditional 'subjects', beneficiaries, 'the ruled' in a democracy constitute civil society. Their mandate is defined by their expertise or affiliation - and is usually related to specific causes. Eg. an NGO serving Mid-day meals in rural areas is focussed on child health and education. Because of their limited mandate, they can thoroughly work on those aspects and provide insights that can easily go into policy formulation, implementation and evaluation.

ROLE IN GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY

A well-functioning civil society is a boon for today's multi-stakeholder-led paradigm of good governance. Good governance refers to inclusive, consensus-oriented, rule-bound administration that is responsive to citizen's pressing needs. By virtue of its expertise and goodwill, NGOs can help govt improve quality of governance.

Civil society groups perform advocacy role by highlighting specific demands of the interest groups they represent. Lobbying with govt and legislators on such issues increases the chances of their concerns finding place in upcoming laws and executive decisions. Pro-active participation of women's rights groups has forced govt to rethink on many policies. The rights of trafficked children have been highlighted by groups like Bachpan Bachao Andolan, whose founded Kailash Satyarthi received Nobel Prize for his efforts. LGBT groups have won rights of transgender in India via SC's progressive judgments. Minority groups whose voices may drown in majoritarian rhetoric can effectively gain due limelight if represented by able interest groups at highest level of governance. This assures equity, a vital parameter of good governance.

Civil society is an important means to keep proper checks and balances on State who exercises power with public resources at its disposal. In many cases, activism has forced govt to backtrack on its hastily conceived legislations like the recent land bill. Also, when politicians try to misuse the electoral provisions, NGOs such as Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR), PUCL, etc have optimally utilized PIL and judiciary route to control them. Because of these efforts only, an electoral candidate has to disclose his assets, educational qualifications, past convictions (if any) - helping voters make an informed choice. Elections being the start of a democratic cycle have been reformed by strident efforts of such NGOs and pro-active mass media.

In internal functioning of administration, thanks to reforms like RTI by Mazdoor Kishan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) of Rajasthan, an element of transparency and accountability has been brought. Many scams and diversions have been exposed by this progressive legislation that completes 10 years of enactment this year. Govts can no longer afford to function as secret societies as colonial laws provided for. An era of open govt has ushered in that has laid foundation for good governance.

Today, NGOs have become important channels of implementing govt schemes like Mid-day meal, MGNREGA, etc. This, because of their widespread presence, especially in far-flung areas and their expert and non-corrupt credentials that are absent in govt agencies. They educate citizens on their rights and entitlements. Social audits for govt schemes are conducted by civil society auditors in close coordination with panchayats in rural areas. In a way, this can help transform representative democracy to participatory democracy. Not only implementation, also evaluation of govt schemes is receiving due support from NGOs. Pratham foundation has brought out its Annual Survey of Education Reports (ASER) measuring parameters of educational performance at school level. These inputs help administrators re-calibrate their policies where they may be going wrong.

Civil society can persuade govt to prioritize certain pressing issues that may not feature in its calculus. The case of human rights, climate change has seen widespread advocacy from international NGOs like Greenpeace, IUCN, Human Rights Watch. Govts across globe have been forced to cut down on their emissions, self-impose deadlines for emissions cuts and restrict the use of polluting fossil fuels.

Being 'civil' society brings civility into its methods. Broadly, NGOs stand for all the ideals mentioned in the Preamble to India's Constitution. Of late, India is witnessing a debate on secularism and tolerance. NGOs can play an important role in strengthening these noble ideals of democracy by grassroots activism in making people aware of vested interests and divisive forces that seek to capitalize on cracks in social harmony for electoral gains. A diverse society as India is, can only be stable when dissenting and contrasting viewpoints are given due space.

CHALLENGES BEFORE CIVIL SOCIETY

Despite its promises, civil society needs to overcome challenges that have at times, marred its legitimacy. In India, Greenpeace has been accused of receive unaccounted for donations that were utilized for reasons not stated. Of over 30 lakh NGOs registered with Registrar in India, only 10% file annual returns. An intelligence report recently blamed them for stalling development projects using external funds. Many NGOs are formed merely to promote vested interests of a select few and for grabbing funds provided by govt. Many religious groups have been accused of carrying out clandestine conversion activities among tribals in central India.

Civil society needs to better organize itself and use social media effectively for advocacy. Using ICT for ensuring compliance to regulations must be encouraged by govt. NGOs themselves have to be transparent so that they can promote the cause of transparency at societal level. Govt also on its part has to be shed its image of hounding specific NGOs and eliminating them. It has to distinguish between interference and interventions. While former should be avoided, the latter will only strengthen the public interest, benefiting democracy in return. It needs to simplify its complex laws like FCRA for better compliance. NGOs are already fund-starved, govt's apathy to it as something obstructing progress is a highly monopolistic view of growth, an attitude that existed prior to 1991 and dragged down the country with Hindu rate of growth.

Democratization, as India's own history shows, is invariably a slow whose success is depends on the strength of civil society organizations, legitimacy of political organizations, and forbearance and foresight of exceptional individuals who are willing to look beyond the immediate and expedient.

**45. Will the Third World War be a Fight Between Terrorists and Nations?**

Salem was a young boy, aged 17, from Kashmir. He wanted to be a software engineer, be a big man and hence support his father financially. He joined a University in Delhi, and while he was in the hostel, he was usually bullied by his fellow classmates who used to call him a "terrorist","traitor" and a "Pakistani". Salem was baffled. Since childhood he had supported India in the cricket matches, and never thought of himself as a boy from the neighboring state. He was in depression as he wondered why he was called so. There was a kind of volcano ready to burst in his heart, because of the rage he had been nurturing within since days now.

One day he found an online forum which he found fascinating. It claimed of showing him a way of "Jannat"(heaven) if he followed their path of Jihad. Before his parents and the police could verify the suspicion rowing towards him, he had already left for Iraq. He had joined the ISIS.

Who are these terrorists? What do they want? Unfortunately till now, elite groupings like the United Nations has been unable to come up with a proper definition of the word "terrorism". A terrorist is someone who is a betrayer to his own existence, a traitor to the word "humanity". There are certain groups who in the name of religion do the work of brainwashing young minds, who hence become intolerant towards their own origin, the mere reason how they are born with, they turn against humans.

Be the terrorist activities in Mumbai, the twin tower in USA or the recent terror attacks in Paris, all of them have one thing in common, all of them are against humanity.Switch on TV or turn the pages of the newspaper, not even a single day goes when we don't find some terrorist activity or the other. It lets us to think that is the next world war going to be fought between terrorist and the nations?

There are a lot of chances that this may turn a reality. The recent visits of our honorable PM to USA say joint statements from both the nations about their joint efforts to eradicate terrorism in all form. The troops sent by Russia for the removal of ISIS from Iraq and Syria, statements by Pakistan after pressure from USA to deform terrorist groups in Pakistan are the recent activities. Many bilateral agreements have been signed between countries, and UNGA are almost flooded with speeches from the elites about how they are taking steps to eradicate terrorism in all form. But what are those forms?

Countries like Pakistan have been known to flaunt their nuclear weapons and have been accused of not forming any barrier between the military and civil usage. This puts a big question mark on them if they are really gonna support a war, if any, if is fought between terrorist and nations. No wonder how most of vulnerable groups have been known to have their foundations in Pakistan. The cold war is no more prevalent between USA and Russia, but the clashes between them is well known, with Russia using China as a counter against the growing US influence on the world. So if these big powers have conflicts between, the question of fighting war against terrorism as a whole is always seen with suspicion.

Moroever, USA itself is accused of being the main reason behind the formation of groups like ISIS. According to a general definition, terrorism ,terrorism is defined as political violence in an asymmetrical conflict that is designed to induce terror and psychic fear (sometimes indiscriminate) through the violent victimization and destruction of noncombatant targets. To sum it up in simple words, a terrorist activity is something that causes deaths of individuals who donot possess weapon to counter against. By this definition, what will we say about massacres of the innocent in Afghanistan and Iraq by the troops from USA? Is it not inhuman? Isn't the drone killing of thousands of innocents in Pakistan, or mass destruction of innocent homes in Syria by the Russian troops terrorism? Of course it is! So our definition of terrorism needs to be looked into. The assemblies and groupings all over the world need to come up with the good definition about what terrorism actually is first.

There are many factors that fuel these terrorist activities. Stereotyping is on of them.After the 9/11 attack on the twin tower, most of the Muslims in USA had to suffer from neglect and humiliation. Muslims had to leave USA in plenty, because they were regarded as terrorist. Why this stereotyping? Salem in the story above was a victim of this stereotyping. There is a preconceived notion about terrorist being from a particular religion is inhuman in itself. It is like compelling people to be terrorist. Terrorists have no religion. There is surely a need to check for this stereotyping, and let go of this notion.

The other factors to have a check on being online activities and suspicious migrations from countries to vulnerable nations. Most countries have took several steps for the same. Cyber cells, employing ethical hackers are a few. A check on online activities is a need of the hour as most of these groups are known for to be active online.

No country can be part of an initiative against the terrorism until and unless the countries let go off the differences between them. However, since most of the countries have been targets of few major attacks by terrorist groups, it stamps on the possibility that these countries may come together and work collectively to act against a common enemy.

The topic about a third world war against terrorism is surely a burning issue. But the thing is, aren't we already fighting terrorism? Aren't most of the people fighting terrorism everyday? Some people against them and some against being called terrorists. The way people have stood together on how they won't break by these inhuman acts is surely commendable. But the foundation of these lies within our approach. Until we let go off these discrimination between people, unless all the people are seen as being equal, unless the superpowers around the world stop their domination over smaller nations for there own profits to maintain their hegemony, we cannot think of seeing terrorism eradicated.

**46. ‘India Will Help Shape a New World Order in 21st Century’**

It’s a bustling Monday morning in a large slum area of the national capital. One can spot little children defecating in the open around the railway tracks and their mothers rushing to work as domestic helps. The children are oblivious to school, and spend their day picking rags and playing.

Will this India help shape the global order in the 21st century?

A lot of things seem wrong with our country and paradoxically, a lot more things seem right. We are a population of 125 crore people, and most of us are in the working age cohort, beaming with potential to add to the GDP, shining with new ideas and full of energy. We are today the fastest growing economy of the world.

Seven decades ago, we started as a meek economy, a stratified society, and a naive democracy. Under the aegis of our first prime minister and other visionary leaders as well as diplomats, India made its existence and perspective felt globally ever since she became independent. In a bipolar world, she stuck to the principle of Non-alignment, thus challenging the existing world order.

We adhered to the principles of justice and fair-play, and our devotion to integrity and freedom inspirited us to stand against pressures from the powerful nations.

India has been an active participant in all international organizations, a significant contributor to the UN peacekeeping force, a powerful advocate of the rights of the devoting world in th various world fora.

Step by step, we built a healthy democracy, strong institutions, overpowering the world with our rich heritage, spirituality, culture and literature.

What’s in favor of us?

Our demography, our polity, our culture and our bilateral as well as multilateral ties with other nations of the world. Nations are eager to invest in India, with growing ease of business , cheap labor, pro-investment policies and thriving a economy.

“ India is too big to be ignored”.

India has a striking foreign policy and a predetermined role in emergent multilateral institutions such as AIIB and NDB. We have a significant role and potential in developing African nations and a strategic role to play in the South China Sea.

Being a victim of terrorism, our intelligence and understanding of terror is far-reaching to tackle the growing power of ISIS. India is a critical link in combating international money laundering, organized crime, drug and human trafficking.

With millions of young minds, we have the ability to embark on the journey of innovations and discoveries, only if the ability is given the room to maneuver.

What’s impeding us?

On the surface , the foot-dragging by the developed nations to give India a permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council is certainly impeding our capability to shape world order. The flawed structure of organizations such as the IMF, the issues related to food subsidy in WTO, the reluctance of the developed world to accept their fair share in the climatic responsibilities.

But there are many other inherent issues that handicap India’s potential, like the slum mentioned at the start of this essay. India is home to the largest number of poor in the world. We performed poorly in achieving the Millennium Development Goals such as reducing the Maternal and Child Mortality Rates, improving nutrition and removing hunger, improving sanitation facilities.

Without a strong economy, we can’t dream of becoming a strong world power. Even though our GDP outlooks remain enthusiastic, our economy faces infrastructure bottlenecks, non performing assets of Public Sector Banks, deteriorating export performance, a bleak agriculture sector, abysmal levels of skill development, rotten urban infrastructure and wanting rural infrastructure.

We can’t possibly shape the world order before shaping the order in our own country. But we have begun our long journey towards setting things right. Our focus is on “ empowerment and not entitlements" and “minimum government and maximum governance”. Myriad of reforms, policies and programmes have been unleashed, such as the Skill India campaign, Start up India, Digital India, AMRUT, Smart Cities Mission, Swachh Bharat, the JAM trinity. Many other such as the Labor Code on Industrial Relations Bill, the GST bill are likely to be passed soon.

We need to fill up the crevices in our vibrant society. To promote our concept of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”, we need to show to the world that our girls are not discriminated against, no tribe and no caste is prejudiced, everyone gets an opportunity to study and work, the religious minorities are not threatened, and our India is indeed one family.

We need to reform our police force, our judiciary, strengthen our administrative apparatus, empower the women and create a pro-poor state. We also need to address the supply side bottlenecks and invest more in R&D.

Conclusion

What India does will impact the world beyond question. The global targets of reducing poverty, combating climate change and environment protection, reducing hunger, fighting terrorism are hanging on India’s performance.

We could increase the unemployed army manifold, or we could take-over the world with our insightful policies and serious implementation.

15 years into the 21st century, the world looks forward to the Asian charisma, with India and her people gaining the long deserved place.

As Mark Twain put it, “ India is the cradle of human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend and the great grand mother of tradition..”

And now, she is all set to shape the new global order of 21st century.

**47.  Poverty and Pollution – Interrelationship**

Poverty and Pollution Inter relationship

Before the colonisation of India by the British , India’s GDP was believed to be 25% of the world’s GDP. That was the time when the mughals ruled the nation .Rulers like Akbar ,Jahangir ,Humayun were not just able administrators but patrons of Art. Their art form widely depicted nature which included plants, trees, animals etc.

Likewise in the later medieval age ,the nation was ruled by the mighty Vijayanagara empire ,the great Arabic scholar Abdur Razzak was fascinated by the kingdoms riches.Vijayanagar empire brought back hindu rule in southern India ,Like all devout hindus ,the Vijayanagara worshipped nature via devouring respect to Tulsi ,Neem,Peepal Mango and other plants.

These were greats kingdoms where their richness were not at the cost of nature.Yet in todays time ,the super powers of the  
world be it the USA, China,EU are the biggest culprits to climate change.It is not that ,these nations have achieved tremendous progress in the monetary terms.Yes a cursory look at the GDPs of the nation will throw light that ,these nations figure in top three in GDP on PPP(purchasing power parity )basis. But in the real test of development these nations fail to deliver. America also called the Land of Opportunities ,has one of the highest numbers of hungry people ,in this oldest democracy ,the blacks haven’t yet found a justful place in society ,they also constitute the poorest of society .The racial violence at Baltimore,Ferguson or the recent shooting at California are only manifestation of poverty in violent forms. While Great Britain where the world first witnessed the Industrial revolution ,is still reeling under economic depression ,it is infact looking for its once colonised state India for investments..These  
nations instead of alleviating poverty through growth , have embraced poverty and yet making the world a more polluted place.

In the above examples one sees the west having both poverty and pollution ,while the ancient/medieval India having neither of it, highlights the relation between poverty and pollution, which is ofcourse is very complex.

One should not deny that poverty has no role to play in increasing pollution one witnesses in the world. The recent Paris talks will certainly look to address the issue. Since the days of Stockholm convention(1972), economic development---pollution angle has been dealt with .There are innumerable examples to prove this direct relation. For example-in villages ones uses charcoal instead of electric stove for cooking, huge area of forest have been cut down to make use of those land available for agriculture ,the cultivation of paddy , rearing of cattle release immense amount of GHG. Illiteracy and lack of knowledge of family planning had resulted in ballooing of population .Greater population implies greater carbon footprint.To overcome poverty , the first prime minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru considered ,dams, heavy industries as temples of modern India which would wipe out every  
tear from every eye. The destruction of forest on account of these mega projects ,only justify the Poverty –Pollution angle.

But the above examples do not mean that pollution is caused only by poverty ,the worlds most polluted metropolis Delhi, Beijing etc have polluted atmosphere not because of poverty but because of exuberance of riches be it in the form fuel guzzling vehicles ,air conditioners, energy sucking malls, poorly planned towns, buildings ,roads etc and have nothing to do with poverty. .Per Capita income wise ,Bhutan is one of the poorest nations, but when it comes to other life indicators like heath ,basic education ,quality of life if would make its richer neighbours , hang their head in shame.

Then the question is ,is there a solution to end poverty and pollution before it consumes us all.The solution is not as shown by  
Bangaluru municipality where the city land fills are dumped at the outskirts by the Mahanagara Palike,claiming Bangaluru to be clean and prosperous .The solution lies elsewhere

A city like Bangalore was a land of 1000 acquifers ,this city could have been developed as horticulture heartland of India ,instead  
it was made the Silicon Valley of India ,real estate mafias destroyed the city ,While the north eastern states where the English is most commonly spoken language ,It could have easily become the IT capital of the nation. In a way there underdevelopment could have been reversed ,left wing extremism could have been exterminated . Smuggling of forest produce curbed.

A nation like India with over 400 million people not having access to electricity cannot be only talking of green heart ,they want there stomach full,but instead of polluting thermal energy government could have sought he usage of decentralised solar panels as shown by the TERI’s initiative if “Lighting thousand Lives”. We can also fiddle with wind, nuclear energy.Hence technology can provide solution to the Poverty-- Pollution tangle.

The honourable prime minister also talked about 175 GW of renewable power by 2022 in the Paris Talk. We give subsidy to polluting diesel vehicles while the cleaner water transport has to pay for the cess/surcharge. Hopefully the Inlands water  
ways bill 2015 is bound to usher a new beginning.

So rational planning is important , getting clearance from the environment ministry ,NGT should not be an afterthought but an inclusive part of planning process. A better planning would curb pollution problem

Another aspect that needs to be stressed is education ,earlier people believed that bigger family means more hands at work  
,hence greater income for the house hold. This misconception is almost put to rest now, thanks to massive literacy  
campaign,if there are more men then burden to feed them increases ,causing not just poverty but pollution. But it doesn’t mean that smaller family means less pollution ,china became the largest emitter of GHG in last decade when it had One child norm. What education does is that makes people aware of environment problems.

Poverty and Pollution ,Poverty or Pollution is not a debate that is going to die soon. Earlier it was said ,the poor are more affected than the rich by pollution ,but flooding in cities like Bangalore, Mumbai, Chennai , Katmandu clearly show that nature doesn’t distinguish between men, rich or poor. There are lot many things which are not in our hands, Like the MoEF rightly said the heavy rains in Chennai were caused on account of nature’s vagaries ,but it is also equally true that the flooding of the city was on account of poor civic planning , which could have been avoided. It is no time to give excuses that ,we were not responsible for present climate change ,or argue that the rich /poor people are more responsible for climate change .

History tells us ,the great urbanite civilisation namely the Indus Valley perished on account of natures curse. This could happen  
again .The reality is unlike man ,nature is very impartial to both rich and poor ,developed and developing nation, which can be clearly ascertained by the Chennai floods, Nepal earthquake or Hurricane Katrina striking US coast. Every individual owes his existence to nature and hence everyone needs to do his or her bit in safeguarding nature. Finger pointing will take us nowhere....