

खण्ड-A / Section-A

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- Q.1 Gender Equality is not a "women's issue"-it's good for men too.  
लैंगिक समानता सिर्फ "महिलाओं का मुद्दा" नहीं है - यह पुरुषों के लिए भी बेहतर स्थिति है।
- Q.2 Is UCC, the unity that we aspire in our diversity?  
क्या समान नागरिक संहिता वही एकता है, जिसकी हम अपनी विविधता में आकांक्षा करते हैं?
- Q.3 Problems of 21st century are problems without passport.  
21वीं सदी की समस्याएँ सीमाविहीन वैश्विक समस्याएँ हैं।
- Q.4 The more we are developing, the more unhealthy we are getting. Where does the real problem lie?  
हम जितने अधिक विकसित हो रहे हैं, उतने ही अधिक अस्वस्थ होते जा रहे हैं। वास्तविक समस्या कहाँ है?

PROBLEMS OF 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY ARE PROBLEMS  
WITHOUT PASSPORT

Consider a tale of 2 girls - Seema and Anne. Seema is an Indian who lives in a small village in Haryana. Anne is an American who lives in California. Both Seema and Anne are dealing with the problem of climate change in different ways. While Seema is experiencing heavy rainfall and floods in India, Anne is witnessing forest fires in California. Thus, climate change is a problem that has entered both India and USA without passport.

Further, both Seema and Anne are struggling with the outbreak of a new pandemic. Pandemic originating in one nation is entering into other nation without any passport. Further, due to lockdown, industrial production has gone down, there is a global chip shortage due to which the manufacturing of mobile phones and automobiles has come down. As a result, both Seema and Anne are witnessing inflation in their countries.

Moreover, the misuse of social ~~violence~~ <sup>media</sup> has led to communal riots in Seema's state and gun violence in Anne's state. Both girls live in a fearful atmosphere. Both girls also use chat GPT to do their homework but the technology has robbed them of their originality and creativity.

The above story shows that problems of 21<sup>st</sup> century are not specific to any one country. They have spread to all countries. ~~They~~ without

a passport. They are global problems which require global solutions. In this essay, we shall delve into the problems that the 21<sup>st</sup> century is facing currently. Then, we shall examine the causes behind these problems. We shall then discuss - what will happen if we do not address these problems? Finally, we shall explore the strategies needed to deal with these global problems.

### 1. 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY PROBLEMS WITHOUT PASSPORT

Global warming and climate change is the top problem in today's world. It affects all countries without any discrimination. It respects no borders and -needs no passport to enter any country.

The second global problem is a ~~bes~~ global health problem. We have just survived the Covid waves. However, the way, we are treating



Our environment, is a clear indication of the fact that many new pandemics might emerge but we are not yet prepared to deal with them. Pandemic too, ~~is~~ is a problem, that enters all countries without any passport.

The third problem affecting the world today is that of terrorism, extremism, use of cryptocurrency for terrorist financing. Even this problem knows no borders and is spreading without a passport.

The fourth problem being faced by the world is the changing nature of wars. Cyber wars are being fought across borders. However, even conventional wars like Russia-Ukraine war are also causing problems like food shortage, supply chain disruptions and inflation. Inflation is a problem that has entered all countries without applying for a passport.

Finally, the most recent faced problem being faced by the world is the increasing use of AI, ML and ChatGPT. This technology revolution is affecting all countries without a passport. Thus, having understood the problems affecting countries, let us dive into the causes of these problems.

## 2. CAUSES OF 21ST CENTURY PROBLEMS

Man has always tried to conquer nature. We try to live beyond our means and thus our desires have increased. To fulfil these desires, we pollute the air and water. This has led to the problem of climate change and global warming.

However, we have not mended our ways. We continue to witness rapid deforestation and urbanization. Thus, environment has become a casualty.

Due to this, the global average temperatures have increased

and thus, many different types of viruses are emerging which are leading to new pandemics. These diseases spread from one country to another due to free flow of goods and labour, thanks to globalization. Thus, although men apply for a passport to enter other country, the disease or virus enters the country without any passport.

Further, the desire to spread fear, hate and one's ideology to other countries is leading to global problems like terrorism. And side by side, terrorism finances itself through other organised crimes like drug and human trafficking. These too have become global problems without a passport.

However, the desire to protect one's sovereignty and the need to defend one's own territory has sparked a global <sup>12</sup> nuclear race

## NEXT IAS

in the world. It has also increased Cyber warfare. And for the same reason to defend oneself, Russia and Ukraine are engaged in a war.

Finally, rapid technological advancement and need to improve the productivity of human race, has stimulated use of AI, ML and ChatGPT. The technology has helped companies to automate but it has also threatened the jobs of many across the world. Thus, it has now become a global problem without passport. To solve these problems, we must act now. Let us see what will happen if we do not act now and what prevents us from acting?

### 3. WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE DO NOT ACT?

Climate change will cause severe heatwaves, floods, agricultural yield losses which will threaten the

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existence of humanity. Frequent pandemics will overwhelm the health sector and the general administration. Lack of vaccines will increase the mortality rate considerably.

Further, violence, extremism and terrorism will spread its roots and radicalize the innocent youth if not stopped. Similarly, Russia-Ukraine war will threaten the global food security and cause inflation in the world.

Finally, chat GPT and AI will make many jobs less relevant. Unemployment will occur on a massive scale. Students will resort to plagiarism in their work and will never learn to think for themselves.

To stop these outcomes of these global problems, we need to nip these problems in the bud. But, we face many challenges that prevent us from doing so.



4. CHALLENGES FACED IN DEALING WITH PROBLEMS :-

To solve the problem of climate change, developed countries must provide climate finance to the developing countries and help them with technology related to renewables. However, developed countries have only shown lukewarm support.

Similarly, to effectively deal with pandemic, we must liberalise the Patent regime. It was visible ~~that~~ during Covid that developed countries practised vaccine nationalism and were unwilling to provide the licenses to pharma companies in developing countries due to patent protection. Further, countries are not united to dealing with terrorism. Countries like Pakistan still continue to sponsor terrorism.

Similarly, the UN and different countries have failed to mediate in the Russia-Ukraine war and have also failed in regulating <sup>15</sup> AI, due to which these problems persist.

## 5. STRATEGIES TO DEAL WITH GLOBAL PROBLEMS

To solve global problems which are borderless and passportless, global cooperation is required. Developed and developing countries must unite to solve the problem of climate change. India has pioneered the concept of International Solar Alliance to promote a global solar grid. Similarly, the Coalition for Disaster Resilience (CDRI) must be strengthened so that girls like Seema and Anne can cope with the disasters effectively.

Moreover, global R&D collabor-  
-ation is required in vaccine research. To promote this, India is using its Chairmanship in G20 to develop and discuss a patent regime that not only helps the developed countries but also the developing countries during health emergency.

To solve the global problem of terrorist financing, FATF must be strengthened and countries sponsoring terrorism and money laundering must be sanctioned heavily. Moreover, a framework needs to develop for cybersecurity like the Vienna Convention so that cyber wars are avoided.

Not just this, countries like China and India must help to mediate in the war and bring Russia - Ukraine war ~~in the~~ to an end. Finally, regulations need to be developed to regulate the pace of AI and the ethical issues arising out of its use.

The problems of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are really complex and thus, the best brains of the world must come together to solve them. United we can do such, alone we can do so little. Thus, the nations must ~~come~~ unite to solve these global passportless problems as global problems require global solutions.



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खण्ड-B / Section-B

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- Q.5 Our Tryst with Space  
अंतरिक्ष के साथ हमारा मिलन
- Q.6 Is Internal Security always an Internal Challenge?  
क्या आंतरिक सुरक्षा को हमेशा एक आंतरिक चुनौती माना जा सकता है?
- Q.7 Sports, the toy of humanity  
खेल, मानवता का खिलौना है।
- Q.8 Is Economy becoming the end rather than the means?  
क्या अर्थव्यवस्था साधन के बजाय साध्य बनती जा रही है?

IS ECONOMY BECOMING THE END  
RATHER THAN THE MEANS

This is a story of a beautiful place called Mussoorie. It is a famous tourist spot. And hence, its economy is booming due to <sup>opening of</sup> multiple hotels, cafes and other shops to cater to the growing population of tourists. However, the authorities pursued the economic growth of Mussoorie as an end in itself.

They failed to see that tourist hotspots and hotels had led to widespread deforestation, changed the livelihood pattern and culture of its residents,

and caused air pollution and water pollution. Besides, a growing population of tourists created the problem of accumulating garbage of plastics. Further, the number of people visiting Mussoorie exceeded the carrying capacity of the region and this led to long traffic jams.

The above story is a testament of the fact that authorities are primarily focused on the growth of the economy of a region. They pursue growth as an end in itself and do not use it as a means to better the lives of the people in the region. Sometimes, in the pursuit of growth, they make the lives of people miserable.

In light of this, we shall discuss the ways in which economy is indeed becoming an end rather than a means to improve the lives of the people. Then, we shall discuss how economic growth is a means to an end. Finally, we shall suggest a strategy to utilize economy for the benefit of our nation.



## 1. IS ECONOMY BECOMING AN END?

There is no denying the fact that economy is indeed becoming an end in itself rather than a means to achieve an end. This can be seen in the lofty goals that we have set for our economic indicators.

First, we have set target of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2025. But, we have set no targets for lifting people out of poverty or for reduction in inequality. This shows that we are ~~not~~ more focused on the outputs, rather than the outcomes.

Similarly, we have set a target growth rate of 7% and a target for fiscal deficit at 3%. Not just this, we have set an inflation target of 4% to ensure that the common man does not have to suffer from inflation.

But using monetary policy to control inflation has become an end in itself. We have forgotten to focus on other ways of controlling inflation like reducing dependence of farmers on monsoon by providing them access to irrigation facilities. We have just chosen to focus on economic policies like monetary policy to control inflation.

Similarly, reducing NPA is banks has become an end in itself. There is no policy to ensure that banks are indeed lending to people who need credit. Thus, ~~the~~ ~~at~~ although the objective of maintaining a healthy banking system is to increase credit and investment in the economy, however banks just focus on the economic side of their existence i.e. reducing NPA's.

Similarly, economy is becoming an end in itself is being witnessed all over the world. Increasing industrialization and urbanization are

leading to massive deforestation, mining, land, water and air pollution. The infrastructure projects displace the natives and tribals without adequate compensation and rehabilitation. However, these projects continue unabated because they have become an end in themselves.

Similarly, the problem of consumerist economy has enlarged to such an extent that we generate record amount of waste which leads to build up of garbage disposal problem. Moreover, the desire to make profits is so high that a few pharma companies sell defective medicines without any quality checks. All this has happened because we have prioritised economy as an end in itself rather than as a means to bettering the lives of people.

However, let us now try to understand how economic growth can be a means to an end.



## 2. Economy IS A MEANS TO AN END :

A sound economy ensures that we are financially capable enough to deal with our problems. For example, a high GDP ensures that we increase our budgets on health and education.

Thus, a high economy enables us to increase our expenditure on social infrastructure creation. Not just this, a healthy economy ensures that governments spend more on capex and build infrastructure like roads, railways so that the logistics costs come down from the present 14% to lower levels. This enhances the ease of doing business and creates more jobs, higher incomes and thus better health and education affordability.

A high growth of our economy enables it to spend more on overcoming problems like undernutrition,

stunting and wasting. Thus, economy can become a means to improving nutrition. Thus, if we have more funds, we can provide fruits, vegetables, milk alongside rice and wheat through the PDS.

Similarly, better disaster preparedness and response becomes possible if higher budget is allocated to it. The same holds true for defence and security. The higher budget these items are, the more safe and secure our nation is.

Finally, economy is a means to achieving environmental conservation. Economy enables companies to invest in renewable technologies and thus, lower carbon emissions. Thus, economy can be utilised to make lives of citizens better.

### 3. UTILIZING ECONOMY FOR OUR BENEFIT:

Focusing on economy as an end is sometimes beneficial. Economy is the backbone of all sectors. If we focus on high growth, we can be assured that we will have more budget for all sectors. Whether higher budget translates into better outcomes, it all depends on the governance and our system of implementation of schemes. However, economy undoubtedly benefits the nation.

Similarly, if we focus on controlling inflation, it automatically helps the poor. Similarly, if we focus on NPA reduction in banks, it automatically enables banks to lend more credit. Whether banks really do it or not, depends on their governance mechanisms.

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Thus, it is important to recognise that most problems in India — be it female infanticide, dowry, regionalism, inefficient policing — are a result of <sup>poor</sup> economics. Thus, it is fitting and proper that we make every effort to enhance our ~~our~~ incomes and focus on economic growth.

However, growth is ~~not~~ not sufficient for development. We need to revamp our governance mechanisms and change the attitudes of people so that growth translates into developmental outcomes and makes India a developed nation by 2047,

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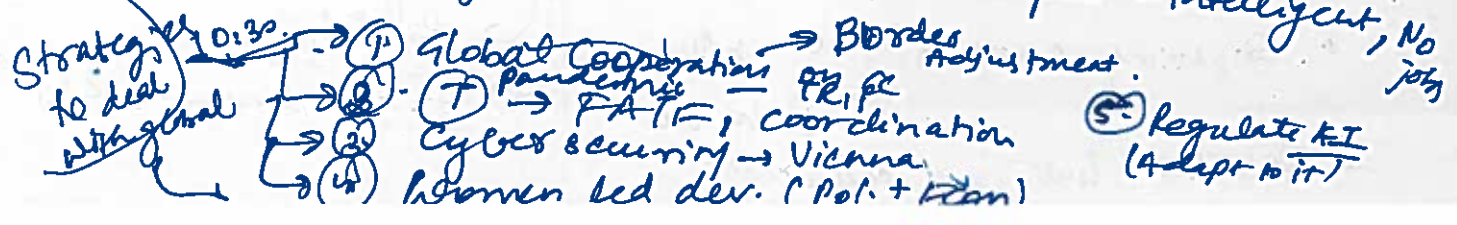
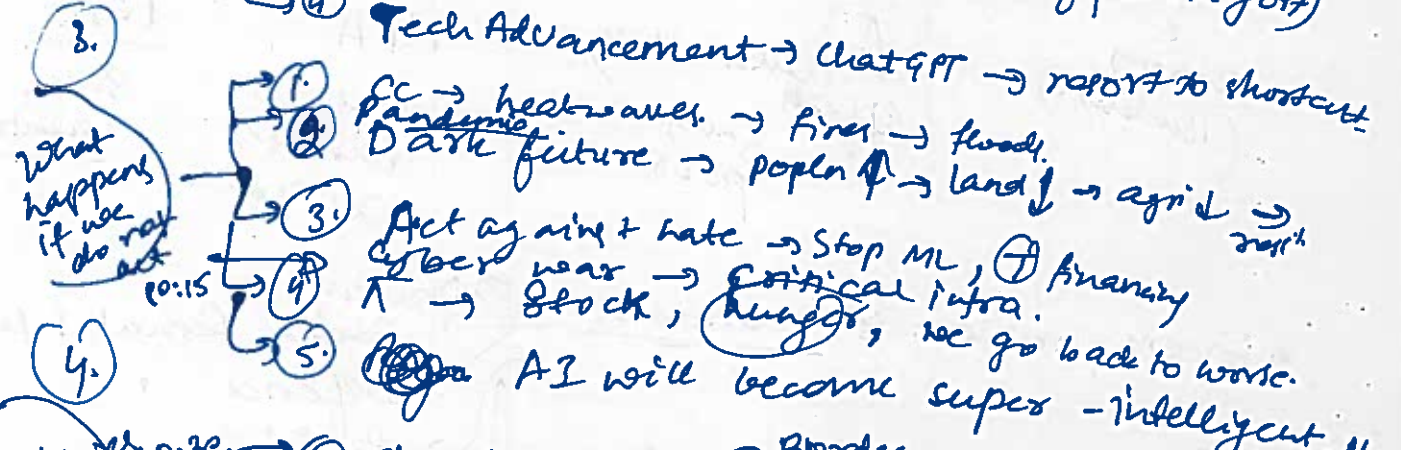
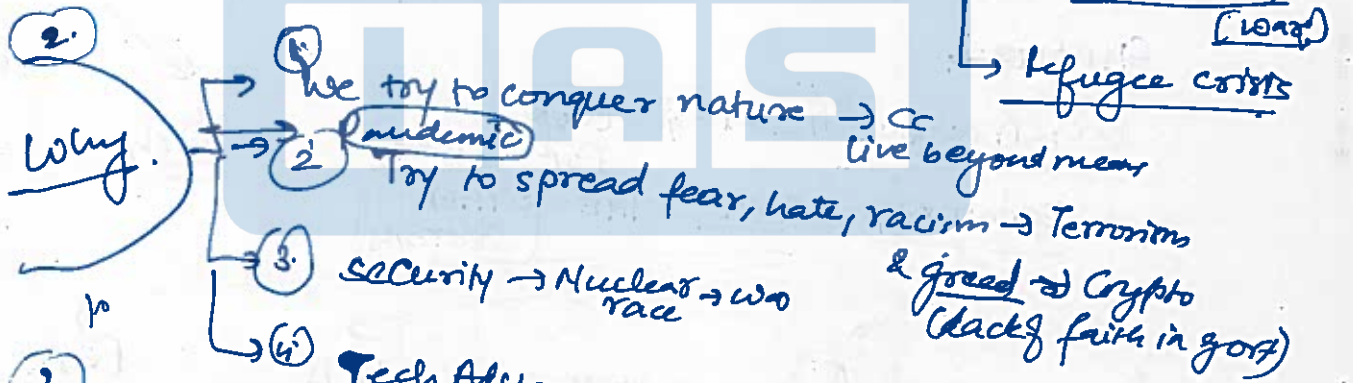
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PROBLEMS OF 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY ARE PROBLEMS W/O PASSPORT



Space for Rough Work

Is economy becoming the end rather than the means?

→ We target \$5tn,  $rog = 5\%$ ,  $FD = 3\%$ ,  $\pi = 4\% \pm 2\%$ ,

forex = -500bn\$, Stable ER,  
Low CRR, NPA < 5% of BA.

Industry → Deforestation  
Eco-tourism → Joshimath  
GST Tax collection  
Trade Barriers

Air Pollution (Health sacrifice)  
Water pollution  
Mining → child labour  
Consumerism (wastage)  
Displacement of tribal.

What will u do with this growth  
Never set target for use in poverty, use in hunger, stunting, use in gender ineq. rising forest cover

ECONOMY / GROWTH IS A MEANS FOR ~~DEVT~~ TO AN END.

HEALTH

EDU

NUTRITION

ENV. CONSERVATION

SECURITY

→ cyber.  
→ Forex  
↳ debt cover for impy  
↳ Speculation

2.

CHALLENGE

BALANCING UTILIZING ECON FOR BENEFIT  
ECONOMY AND THE OTHER SECTORS

DM

Economy (Backbone)

$\pi$  automatically saves poor

NPA frees up banks' capital.

Forex Save country.

- Every problem is economic
  - Downy
  - ~~China~~ female infanticide
  - Defence
  - Policying
  - Env. (Renewables)
- Getting econ right will solve all
- Necessary but not sufficient