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खण्ड-A / Section-A

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- Q.1 Reason has always existed, but not always in a reasonable form.
तर्क सदैव अस्तित्व में रहा है, परंतु हमेशा युक्तियुक्त रूप में नहीं।
- Q.2 The opposite of poverty is not wealth.
गरीबी की विपरीत स्थिति केवल दौलत होना नहीं है।
- Q.3 To forgive is to set a prisoner free and to discover that the prisoner was you.
क्षमा करने का अर्थ है अपने भीतर के एक कैदी को मुक्त करना और यह पता लगाना कि वो कैदी आप ही थे।
- Q.4 A man who wants to lead the orchestra must turn his back on the crowd.
जो व्यक्ति ऑर्केस्ट्रा का नेतृत्व करना चाहता है उसे भीड़ से मुँह मोड़ लेना चाहिए।

" A MAN WHO WANTS TO LEAD THE ORCHESTRA
MUST TURN HIS BACK ON THE CROWD "

To be an ideal leader, it is said that they must lead from the "FRONT". This holds true from an individual's perspective when they aspire to lead a group of highly talented and accomplished individuals

Such a person must be willing to look away from public glare in interest of leading and co-ordinating the efforts of many people in producing a "Perfect Synchrony" as in the case of an orchestra.

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This can also be reasoned that an individual who wishes to manage a collection of varied and strong interests, he must be ready to remain oblivious to reactions of general public, even if they are positive or negative.

An example of such a man who remained in the sidelines is Dr. Satish Dhawan who led the brilliant scientists of Indian Space Research Organization.

While he actively took the blame for failure of certain missions but on successful launch of SLV, he remained in the background. In fact, he made the chief scientist, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam conduct the press conference.

Such was his level of modesty that he attributed entire success to the brilliant minds that came together. India's space journey from underfunding to high output efficiency is linked to men such as Dr. SATISH Dhawan, Vikram Sarabhai, T. K. Shivan and the likes.

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Building on the ethical leadership of Dr. Satish Dhawan, it is important to probe why a leader in such a position must be ready to remain away from reactions.

Firstly, such a complex task of co-ordination with multiple individuals needs single minded focus. Panchatantra tales provide an example of "Bakodhyanam" or Meditation level concentration of crane in finding its prey.

This level of concentration can only happen when insulated from public reactions which may not always be the truth. For an example, Dronacharya while teaching archery to Kamavas and Pandavas asks each prince to shoot the "Eye of a bird".

He asks each prince right before their arrow on what is visible to them. Even after 104 wrong answers, Ajuna remains determined and shoots the "eye" because all his focus was centered on just the eye.

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Thus, this example shows the importance of remaining focused. Secondly, the focus must not get wavered by public reactions which are not driven by logic but emotion.

When Ambedkar led the Mahad Satyagraha where he provided leadership to marginalized in using public water tank, he shun the emotional responses of leaders, politicians because he understood that their responses were not on principles of RATIONALITY, EQUALITY and Respect for all.

Also, by avoiding touch with public responses, a leader is focusing inward on perfecting the resources, people and their talents to produce a PERFECT SYNCHRONY which is combination of everyone's efforts in one rhythm.

When India made a choice to stand by rights of Bangladeshi citizens or Eastern Pakistan in 1971 war, it moved away from Western criticism and threats of diplomatic isolation & economic sanctions.

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It spent the entire energy in optimally planning counter offensive under able leadership of Sam Manekshaw who won the war even before US warships could reach the Andaman Sea.

Also, as leader of highly talented set of individuals, one is also tasked to conduct self impartially to build team lust and spirit of working together.

An interesting insight on this style of leadership can be seen from Bollywood movie "Chak De India" where Shaहरु Khan is not afraid to antagonise entire team to build their camradrie, cooperation and respect for each other.

Thus, a leader who wishes to lead must use his focus, not get driren by emotion, optimally use all resources in interest of building the team spirit. All of this will not be possible when they are distracted in seeing reaction of others and seeking credit.

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Such a style of focused leadership comes with its own sorts of benefits that remain relevant for budding leaders of society in different spheres.

First benefit of leadership accrues to an individual in building their qualities of integrity and emotional intelligence.

By prioritizing the collective need of success over self need of recognition, leader learns to grow beyond their skills.

Second benefit accrues to the group of members who feel satisfied and recognized for their effort. For example, most successful teams are not one with high Intelligent Quotient (IQ) but one who are high on emotional quotient (EQ) and adversity quotient (AQ).

Thirdly, benefit in arts and pure science disciplines is the leadership style's significance on prioritizing purity of work over getting public adulation.

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When M. S. Subbalakshmi gave her first performance in United Nations General Assembly, one of the diplomats asked how she maintained to keep her eyes shut for 1.5 hours while her voice never broke a tone.

Her answer was on how her singing was directed towards to deities who she was devoted to which in turn help her focus on only her voice. This shows how mashti performers prioritise giving their best over checking how people are thinking and what they are thinking.

If we take a flip side, and imagine a leader who stands turned outward for decoding public views, they may encounter issues in performance of their team.

By drawing an analogy, Cold war era saw Soviet Union becoming outward oriented as a competition to the United States ultimately leading it to interfere in Afghanistan which led to ultimately ending the socialist bloc.

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In the span of the war in Afghanistan, Russia invested time, money, personnel and resources while situation was becoming alarming with high inflation, war time costs and public resentment in its constituents.

Also, when a leader is distracted, it impacts the much needed members of team on their efforts which creates hurdle in long term perspective planning.

One insightful example is how Indian Prime Ministers from 1971 to 1998 worked in co-ordinated and discrete fashion from MISSION SHAKTI to MISSION SMILING BUDDHA in interests of India's long term vision of being RESPONSIBLE Nuclear Power.

Thus, building on positives and consequences of focused leadership, we can ponder on two distinct insights of Consequence.

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First is that co-ordination of complex tasks comes with task of leader to remain detached from the responses to their work even while motivating others to give their best.

While leading the Operation Banga to evacuate young students from conflict zone of Ukraine, various ministers remained on ground motivating workers in faster evacuation efforts from border countries.

Second is that a person must use leadership position to learn the lesson of being INVISIBLE in times of credit while taking blame when situation demands it.

Both the above insights lead to ancient Indian knowledge from Bhagavad Gita which is "Dispassionate duty" or Nishkaam Karma where Lord Krishna spells out why one must do a duty without expectations of good or attach themselves to the result.

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However, it also is important for Man who wants to thread on path of ethical leadership to ask if it is important for leader to be dispassionate to public reaction.

It can be argued that a orchestra manager may be tuned away from audience, but views perception of audience through the reflection of eyes of the team and heightened sense of sound in the music hall.

This analogy can be used to explain that leader must be emotionally intelligent and grounded to understand without wavering. They must have their "ears to the ground" if they plan to prevent a disaster.

For enhancing this kind of thought and focused leaders in society, "Anonymity" becomes a central value that must be inculcated in school.

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Children of next generation must be taught value of anonymity through role play games and ethics education.

Similarly in age of mass following on social media, it is imperative for civil servants to shun public perceptions for doing their duty as envisioned by Constitutional foundation fathers.

At a societal level, Indian society must adopt the leadership style to sustain vision for Swachh Bharat through co-ordination and dispassionate work as "Swacchta Dhoots" (Service deliverers)

At a global level, India must use this leadership wisdom to remain undeterred by China-Pakistan nexus in pursuit of Safety and Growth for all in region (SAGAR)

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Thus, this line of wisdom must be implemented as per this knight, the author of "SHOE DOG" for building generation and generations of Empowered and Visionary leaders



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खण्ड-B / Section-B

- Q.5 International Trade is a good indicator of National Security.
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- Q.6 It is not that we use technology, we live technology.
ऐसा नहीं है कि हम प्रौद्योगिकी का उपयोग करते हैं, हम प्रौद्योगिकी को जीते हैं।
- Q.7 There is more to life than simply increasing its speed.
जीवन में केवल अपनी गति बढ़ाने के अलावा और भी बहुत कुछ है।
- Q.8 Nature is neither a servant nor a master, but a necessary partner.
प्रकृति न तो सेवक है और न ही स्वामी, बल्कि एक आवश्यक सहभागी है।

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IS A GOOD INDICATOR OF NATIONAL SECURITY

Kautilya in Arthashastra provides a valuable insight on international relations. He states that the "health" of kingdom and its future depends on the "wealth" it is able to generate for its "praja" / subjects.

Seeing this roughly two thousand years later, it can still be called a timeless truth in the context of economic ties of a nation both in value and diversity of relations is good judge of a country's territorial sovereignty and its hard power.

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It can also be understood as how larger are the shipment of goods and services from a country, greater will be its interests in protecting its borders and its people and also greater resources in achieving them.

This essay will explore why there is a correlation between international trade and national security; what are the various benefits of such strong international trade and if there are any pitfalls before concluding on Indian insights for 21st century trade prosperity and thriving national security:

WHY IS INTERNATIONAL TRADE A GOOD INDICATOR OF NATIONAL SECURITY?

International trade is built on exchange of goods, services, ideas between two NATION-STATES. For example, India's external trade with United States is at 119 billion\$ worth of goods and services.

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On the other hand, National Security refers to all encompassing factors of Internal and external threats to a Nation's UNITY, INTEGRITY and TERRITORIAL Sovereignty.

For example, India allocated 76 billion dollars for defence in Budget document for 2022-23. On a plain sight trade and defence amounts do not look Co-related.

But a closer examination of our Neighbour shows the link. China is largest trading partner for $\frac{1}{3}$ rd nations across the globe. Also, it is the second highest military budget in the world as per Stockholm Peace Institute.

It can be inferred that stronger economic ties with many countries make for strong link of cooperation and possible dependency. This dependency leads to CONSTANT stream of money and resources.

For example, in era of COVID-19 we saw developed countries facing shortage of supply chains which was called WEAPONIZATION by the United States of America.

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The constant stream of resources help country to invest in making its defence and internal security system robust.

If we were to take a counter example of Afghanistan today, we can see that it has virtually no legal trade with other nations. Also, it is seen that there are issues of law and order and harboring of many terrorist groups such as JEM, Al Qaeda, Tehreek-e-Taliban

Contrast of the two examples leads us to see that some level of relation exists between economic integration and national security:

Building on the level of ^{possible} co-relation, we can view the relationship of ASEAN or grouping of 10 countries who came together via Bangkok Declaration for economic integration

What was seen is that, the closeness in economic ties not only led to economic and cultural integration but also saw impact in terms of enhanced political stability and in turn NATIONAL security

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Also, centrality of current day trade philosophy is no more on colonial era MERCANTILIST policy of "Zero sum game" but a POSITIVE Sum game for all players

For example, in era of Russia - Ukraine conflict, the instrument of Sanctions must be utilized against Russia to "Bleed it with a thousand cuts" of export value.

United States believed that Sanctions on trade with Russia will lead to higher costs which will lead to other countries moving their trade channel. This will impact Russian producers.

This impact will also make Exports to Russia costly making Inflation an issue of the masses. This could channelise into dissent over long period leading to repeat of history i.e. Russian Revolution like scenario which is a high level NATIONAL Security Threat.

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But what happened in reality was that all countries pursued their Priority of self interest in trade by prioritizing cheaper goods, cheaper oil of Russia and found local currency trade to counter sanctions.

This in turn has helped Russia sustain the 16 month ongoing conflict, even after a plausible and averted coup of Wagner group. It shows that trade is good indicator on stability and order of a Nation.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF GOOD INTERNATIONAL TRADE TIES ?

In an era of globalisation, international trade builds on concept of EFFICIENCY and EFFECTIVENESS of trade partners leading to creation of high level of economic interdependency.

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Take for example, a pair of globally supplied LEVIS jeans are made of cotton grown in India, sewn in Bangladesh, zip made in China and final quality check and design patent with Europe and mostly worn in United States.

What this example showcases is SPECIALIZATION of task by different nation in interest of sustaining and exponentially growing supply chain through co-ordination and integration.

This is beneficial to countries in ensuring availability and affordability of goods to its people which in turn ensure virtuous cycle of demand.

As a consequence, countries also invest more in enhancing value addition to supply chain creating more infrastructure, human capital and investments which need to be defended.

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Thus, a trade component leads to rise in defence component from external threats and internal defence component to counter any internal threats.

For example, prior to 1991 economic reforms, Indian trade was miniscule and our defence budgets were land border focused.

Post the reforms that ushered in Liberalization - Privatization - Globalization, we saw Indian trade touching new heights and we also see that today India is investing on land borders, maintaining blue navy, strong air force, tri command for space and cyber threats and also building readiness to counter all elements together in case of HYBRID WARFARE.

Thus, good international trade ties ensure that its benefits are not cornered by a country but percolate into society in form of cheaper goods, more employment and stability of society.

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HOWEVER IS TRADE ALWAYS A GOOD INDICATOR OF NATIONAL SECURITY?

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We have example of Japan that counters the idea. It is the second largest Asian economy with one of the highest Auto exports by Brands like Toyota.

But Japan until 2022 was bound by Constitutional Principles to not invest in OFFENSIVE capabilities. Post the disastrous impact on Nagasaki & Hiroshima, it stuck to no nuclear weapon principle.

We also see the example of Island Nation of Singapore. It is an important transshipment hub, but has limited investments in National Security, perhaps owing to its remote location.

Secondly, question of whether National Security is necessary factor for trade becomes pertinent. We see examples of Resource rich countries like Congo, Uganda building trade even as their international image or national security are in contention.

This leads us to see that SUSTAINABLE and DIVERSE international trade is good factor to judge a Country's order and national security.

As an example, Cholas in the Past showcased importance of strong Navy to guard the state while ever enhancing potential for international trade.

This valuable insight must be utilized as pointed out by S. JAISHANKAR in "INDIAN WAY". He says India is in an era of energetic diplomacy where it must pursue international trade in upholding National Interests.

This in turn through avenues of Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) or FTA/Free trade agreements have scope to tackle Pakistan on Western Border and China on Eastern Border.

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2 Front war has never been more stark for India and its preparedness will be judged by how and how much it invests in building strong ties with countries that are adopting "DE RISKING" and CHINA+1 strategy

Thus, India's rise in time of AMRIT Kaal will depend on building on the interconnected prongs in interests of SARV-SIDDH Bharat or an India that is reliant in all ways.