

खंड-A / Section-A

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इस भाग में  
लिखना मना है।  
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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 21ST CENTURY ARE  
PROBLEMS WITHOUT PASSPORT"

In February 2023, war broke out between Ukraine and Russia. It was initially assumed that conflict would be limited to territories of the two countries.

However, as the conflict intensified, it became problem of countries like Niger in Africa as they depended on Wheat imports from Ukraine. It became problem for Central Asian republics that depended on Russia for Fertilizers.

For India, problem for bringing home 15000 odd students who went to

Ukraine for a medical degree was a concern. For countries in Europe, problem was rise in energy prices and stream of Ukraine migrants.

For United States led NATO, Problem became territorial security of the military grouping. For countries like Finland and Sweden, problem was about re-evaluating neutrality as a Foreign policy.

This situation shows us how problems of 21<sup>st</sup> century are no more limited to borders of a Nation-state and they have ripple effect on entire world. Building on the instance, an attempt is made in the essay to see why 21<sup>st</sup> century problems have become trans-national in nature, in what ways such problems have repercussions for human race, if all problems of this century are problems without passport before concluding on need for paradigm shift in solution and problem solving.

## EVOLUTIONARY VIEW - PROBLEMS OF 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY

In "Homo sapiens", Yuval Noah Harari underlines the issues faced in hunter-gatherer societies of bounty theft, issues in agriculture society to protect the food produced and personal safety leading to emergence of a Political NATION state.

From philosophical standpoint, Thomas Hobbes and Locke gave reason of human nature and its shortcoming which led to a "SOCIAL contract" between an individual and state. PASSPORT is a document to provide basis for formality of relationship.

Thus, problems of societies prior led to creation of "PASSPORT" as one stop solution to protect an individual's safety and in turn create a collective identity.

T. H. MARSHALL has built on how  
"PASSPORT" has become more than a proof  
of INDIVIDUAL'S relation to state or  
citizenship. It has progressively led to creating  
duties on state to uphold civil, political  
and socio-economic rights.

Today, America's passport remains  
one of the most sought after because of its  
ability to answer problems on socio-economic  
dimension as per "AMERICAN dream" of  
Gunnar Myrdal. However, 21st century shows  
sharp distinction and departure from past.

DEPARTURE OF 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY PROBLEM  
PARADIGM - EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE AND  
ALL AT ONCE.

This departure arises from the fact in  
REVOLUTIONARY development witnessed in  
this century. Today, world has become  
one global village with innovations of  
Computers, internet, 5G connections and social  
media platforms like METAVVERSE.

This digital revolution has made scope of problem "universal" as more individuals are aware and have access to information. If policing was issue of locality in 20th century, today it is an issue of cross-border bullying, ransomware threats emerging from Anonymous locations.

Secondly, the spread of globalization has also led to "export of problems between societies". If Fundamentalism and radicalism were considered geographical threats, today they stand at our door with rising coverage, spread on websites like youtube to radicalise youth.

Thirdly, the architecture of "NATION-STATES" and fissures in between them has created loopholes for misuse. Afghanistan governance is an issue of global concern owing to its dependency on poppy and organised crime syndicate with repercussions of safety of neighbourhood and citizens.

From an economic point of view, globalization linked growth model has created "synergistic growth" with strong supply chain centralization. Hence a problem felt in one part has potential to impact so many others in the chain.

China's 2ERO-COVID policy and closedown of economic arena led to 6 to 8 month delays in Apple iPhone supply as per New York Times. This is the reason why "SUPPLY chain resilience" has come to central spot in the G20 debate.

From a historical perspective, we can also draw an analogy from Karl MARX's prediction "HISTORY repeats itself first as tragedy and then as farce". Thus, what might look like someone's specific problem, can become problem of entire world.

#MeToo started as a Tweet and created a ripple across societies leading to demand for designation of Sexual assaulter, legal action by state and call for women solidarity in no time.

Also, it must be seen that there is a building consensus on problems of entire world are same but differ only on scale of magnitude.

for example, PARIS Agreement, GLASGOW PACT, Sharm-el-Sheikh plan signify acceptance of climate change as a problem of utmost global cross border importance. Similarly, the demand for stopping "SPACE weaponization" or limiting transfer of "nuclear weapon" build on acceptance of repercussions for entire human kind.

## PASSPORT CONNUNDRUM - VITALITY OF PROBLEMS WITHIN Borders

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Even as we acknowledge that problems of current era are universal, transnational, crossborder in cause, impact and consequences, we see that not all problems are of same nature.

Even if Terror funding is a global issue, it is a country specific issue of countries like PAKISTAN who need to bring stronger laws, societal deterrence, transparency in Banking for choking terrorism globally.

Similarly, problem of Ageing in societies like Japan and South Korea need a solution which is specific to its historical and socio-cultural context of women's rights, providing flexible work hours and build a strong care economy for elderly.



Similarly, India is dealing with issues of NAXALISM, INSURGENCY and TERRORISM which impact India's integrity and territorial sovereignty through universalization of Basic needs, building deterrence and creating negotiation framework for long term social stability.

But each specific problem of a Nation provides a potential problem for another nation to avoid which clearly explains why problems of 21st century are indeed problems without a passport.

American gun violence, Russia-Ukraine conflict, Sudan's Army - Paramilitary tussle are all signals for INDIA to build its gun laws, prioritize diplomacy and build strong integrity of purpose in forces on long run.

PROBLEMS WITHOUT PASSPORT NEED

SOLUTIONS CROSSING NATIONALITY

The acceptance of problems that nations face is interlinked and this is "ONE-NESS in Problems" which needs us to prioritise Global and integrated approach in "ONENESS of SOLUTION".

At an individual level, there is need for acknowledging power of individual action to solve a global problem. "Lifestyle for ENVIRONMENT" or Life movement is a step in transpiring millions of individual actions to reduce global green house gas emissions and tackle climate change.

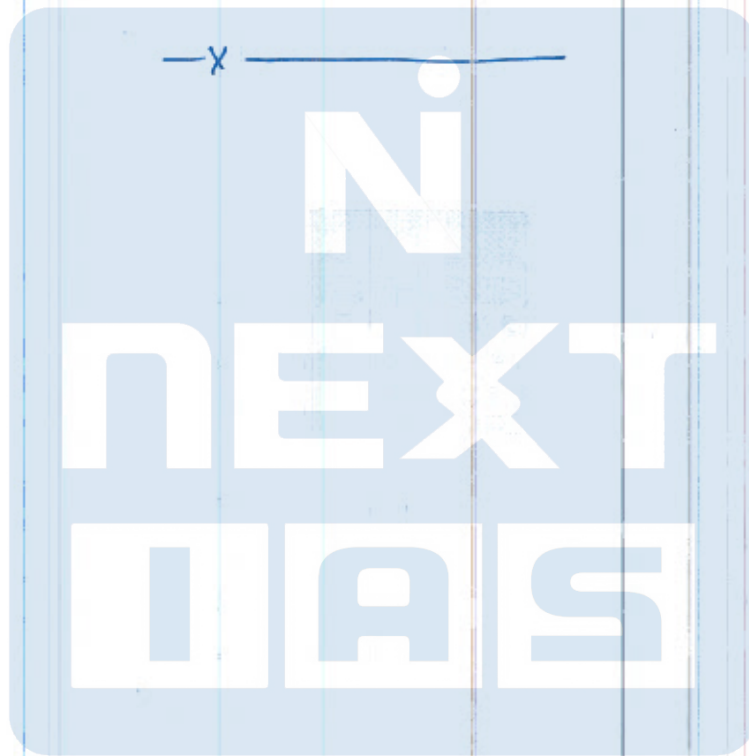
At a societal level, there is a need for building acceptance to best practices from different societies. Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have resolved border dispute of 24 villages under NAMSAI declaration by believing on concept of "Truth and reconciliation" commission of SOUTH AFRICA.

At a NATIONAL level, there is need for Proactive policies and progressive laws. As emerging technologies like Artificial intelligence (AI) and ChatGPT 4.0 emerge, India must create strong "AI for ALL" Policy and data privacy regulation along with global framework in GLOBAL PLATFORM for AI.

Today, India's Presidency in G20 is showcasing problems and also solutions that need global integrated action. Be it the push for GLOBAL green grid, universalising digital public infrastructure (DPI), push for reforms in Multilateral organisations like UN and World Trade Organization show India's solution oriented approach.

Thus, Problems of everyone at all levels must be solved with the motto of "VASUDAIVA KUTUMBAKAM - ONE EARTH, ONE WORLD, ONE FUTURE" for unity of action, word and spirit in making this place a better place to live.

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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 ?

Economy refers to the organization of production, consumption and distribution of goods and services in society as per noted Economist Joseph Schumpeter.

By applying this definition to the ancient hunter-gatherer society, economy revolved on hunting and sharing of food while the settled agriculturalist society, economy built on trading harvest for provision of services such as guarding, providing supply of water and so on

From simple economies emerged the complex global economy of today which is categorised as cross-border, trade driven "capitalist" or built on principles of supply and demand without state intervention.

One trend that emerges is how economy earlier was made to survival has today become bigger than purpose. Creating debate for "ENDS OR MEANS"

This essay delves into this debate through arguments for why it has become an end and if it can be re-oriented as mean before concluding on what role of economy is needed for a pragmatic society and global order.

## ECONOMY ON PATH OF BECOMING AN END IN ITSELF

Adam Smith outlined the principle of "economy" as orientation of society in pursuit of efficiency of delivery and effectiveness of demand for goods in a society.

Concept of "FORDISM" or effective and efficient assembly line of Ford car under HENRY FORD was to propel the method to meet demand for automobiles in society and consequently in globe.

Fast forward to 21st century American society where car density has risen to 2.6 cars per capita indicate that demand for car as a necessity has become demand for "car in itself", where it became an end in itself.

This trend doesn't stop here. We have seen the rise of "DIGITAL Economy" that transcends borders and has created networks of individuals of all ages, creeds, gender and ethnicity.

But the tradeoff of such connectivity has become vulnerability of privacy breach, commodification of personal data and misuse by monopoly Bigtech companies to enlarge their size in pie.

Similarly the recent report of Oxfam INTERNATIONAL outlines the rising social inequality emerging out of economy. It rightfully says that "INEQUALITY KILLS" where 10% of Indian society own wealth 77% cumulatively. Bottom 50% of society own 12% indicating stark divide.



Also, Mahatma Gandhi in his "SEVEN SINS" outlined COMMERCE without morality as a sin. Today's economic funds such as Punjab National Bank scam, Satyam Computers Scam or HARSHAD MEHTA Scam show that economy became an end in itself to fulfill self desire.

Taking sectoral view, we see the agrarian economy which is a backbone of our country is becoming polarised as "the rich take it all" while the poor are stuck in "VICIOUS cycle of poverty". This underlines the problem of recent TOMATO-INFLATION while poor farmers had to sell their produce for Rs 1 or Rs 2 per kg!

Similarly, we see stagnant labour growth in INDUSTRIES across world driven by automation, mechanisation and digitalisation. Production of goods for people has become "People-Free" in some plants which is crude irony.

Service sector's recent emergence of Generative AI as a boon is a threat for millions of low paying white collar jobs who have become "OBSOLETE AT A CLICK OF A BUTTON"

The Boom of startups and innovation was called "CREATIVE DESTRUCTION" to value addition and maturing of economy. But recent startup over-valuations, employee layoffs, harassment of workers make us question the very essence of these startups as "EMPLOYMENT ENGINES" of economy.

Perhaps, "ECONOMY as an end in itself" is the root for BLACK economy which includes tax evasion, illegal wealth generated through activities of drug peddling, human trafficking, counterfeit product sale. Afghanistan's poppy drug economy is a prime example of economy becoming an end to nurture terrorism.

Major scholars have seen the need for understanding impact of economy becoming a goal in women exploitation. Today women are relegated to poorest wage jobs called "PINK Collarisation", rising women driven agriculture and consequent FEMINIZATION of POVERTY.

From an Indian context, Caste exploitation has led to economic exclusion of dalits which is prime factor for 97% of current day sanitation workers coming from Dalit class. Analogy to American society is racial discrimination and profiling of Blacks in economy creating it a "VICIOUS cycle of EXCLUSION".

A global level analysis of Wallerstein shows that GLOBAL economy is exploitation of "CORE" Western countries by "PERIPHERY" least developed countries for EXTRACTIVE minerals and exporting EXPENSIVE end products.

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All these points of view show that economy at different levels is prioritising Quick gains, STATUS QUO, exploitation of people while it was designed for efficiency, progressive change and development of all.

HAS ECONOMY ALSO SERVED AS MEANS ?

Be it the Great economic depression of 1930s or the Global financial crisis in 2008 - they have shown why Economy must not be an end in itself but be a means for INCLUSIVE GROWTH

the rise of Keynesian economics and duty of state for regulating economy are to ensure economy performs its role without deviations. This is the reason for INDIA'S COMPANIES Act, 2013, COMPETITION Act, 2002 and policy on Foreign Direct Investments to regulate the economy.

An interesting facet of INDIAN legal framework has been CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY which is mandatory for certain corporates to recognise that they can be means for sustainable development.

Today, Mahindra & Mahindra runs "NANHI KALI" initiative of educating 12,000 girl children as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility, indicating "means and ends" in tandem.

The rise in "ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL GOVERNANCE" norms to rate a company's trajectory is providing importance to means over ends. Gone are times where companies like VOLKSWAGEN cheating in pollution tests but sustainable accountability taking front seat in economy.

Similarly, economy built on collectivism and for collective vision is being promoted through Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), Self help groups (SHGs), one district one product scheme. (ODOP)<sub>27</sub>

## "ART" IN ARTHA - SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY FOR ALL

Ancient Hindu wisdom called "ARTHA" or economic desire as one facet of 4 LIFE GOALS which must be balanced for individual life and in turn societal prosperity. This is also core to ISLAM'S WAQF donations, Christianity's protestant ethics or Buddha's Madhyamaya.

Role of economy in a society is to perform "ADAPTATION" to social goals as part of larger system. It is to be used as a tool to fight inequality, poverty and hunger of each individual.

'Economy' is a tool to bring EQUALITY of opportunity and remove systemic biases. Recent steps of HUNAR HAATS for minorities in INDIA and "TRIFOOD" initiative for mainstreaming tribal economy are case in point.

Similarly economy must prioritize representation "of all" and "for all".  
 global representation initiatives for women, elderly, Persons with disability (Divyang) inclusion are to be built on vision of SAFE WORKSPACE for all.

Also today's economy must utilize co-operation & tackle issues of terror funding, climate change, global tax havens and technology monopoly with strong policy, laws and co-ordinated approach.

In this context, 6-20 with INDIAN presidency is outlining importance of "STRONG and RESILIENT economy" for our common future through uniform tax laws, public investment in social sectors and regulation of cryptocurrency.

Thus, BANDHI's view of economy as "self sustainable" and "demand conscious" productions have never been

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more relevant. Today, economy at all levels needs re-orientation for SUSTAINABLE & INCLUSIVE development of societies, nations and world which in turn can help us achieve.

“LOKA SAMASTA SUKHINO BHAVANTU”  
(or True fulfillment across all mankind may be achieved)

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