

Sectional Test 1. (Essay 1)

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FORUM IAS

The ultimate renewable energy is the human ingenuity

In today's technologically aware world, the human capacity to innovate is virtually unlimited. The most clear example of human ingenuity is observed in the electronics world. It's been roughly 150 years since Charles Babbage invented the first computers. But in 1950s, the computers like ENIAC, UNIVAC were too big to be comfortable? So what did humans do?

It utilized its ingenuity to discover transistors. Some more usage of this renewable energy (ingenuity) led to their miniaturization & development of Moore's law (doubling of transistors on a substrate every 2 years). However, with time it is believed that Moore's law will reach its limit. So what solution does the

Human ingenuity device?

Its nanotransistors, 2D alignment of wafers, superconductivity, Quantum Computation & many others !!! Thus, if other factors like people, labour, capital are growing arithmetically, it would be fair to call human ingenuity's progression as geometric.

Its source is the human mind ~~which~~ whose potential is limitless. As a result, geometric progression combined with infinite potential, makes human geniety as a renewable & ultimate source of energy for the human race and even the whole planet.

Meaning of renewable

The term Renewable energy gained traction post the disastrous

rise of climate change due to fossil fuel emissions. As a result, here also human ingenuity helped devise certain sources of energy which are very less polluting as well as inexhaustible in nature. These non-conventional sources of energy are called as Renewable energy. For eg. Hydro power, solar power, wind power etc. But why is human ingenuity the ultimate renewable energy?

The answer lies in the source - the human mind. Water can get polluted, sunlight fluctuates, wind reverses, capital is lost, land gets degraded and labour may not be skilled.....

But ~~it~~ Thus, just as Entrepreneurship is the most crucial factor of production, human mind is the most crucial source of energy powering one's own.

life & potentially the world.

Why innovativeness is ultimate?

In the political sphere, humans first organized themselves as hunter-gathers, then villages, towns etc. followed. As one got larger, a new form of government emerged and humans traversed through feudalism, divine right of King, Constitutional Monarchy & eventually democracy. So if democracy evolves into something else, it remains to be seen. It is just as Churchill said. 'Democracy is the worst form of government except all others we have tried'

The genius of human mind is that it is able to utilize all other sources of energy. The human mind's brilliance

is observed that despite the rigid natural limitations of the existing resources it is able to create wonders. Just as a chess grandmaster is able to create magic in the 64 squares while following the rules, human ingenuity enables man to go further, - break ~~the~~ & mould the natural rules of functioning. 200 years ago, mechanical transport was a dream & so was air travel 100 years ago. And 70 years ago space travel was impossible & today inter stellar travel seems possible. All this is possible due to the ultimate gift of human ingenuity, which is unlimited, inexhaustible & strives for perfect. In the words of Rashtrakavi Ramdhari Singh Dintar (Poem - Rashmirathi)

'What difficulty survives in front of human mind when the mind pushes, even the roots of mountains are uprooted'

Sharpening the mind

'Human mind is a gift that keeps on giving.'

Being renewable & inexhaustible doesn't mean quality of ingenuity will be forever preserved. It needs to be practiced conscientiously.

At individual level, one can attempt meditation, introspection & observation. Just as a sword needs a whetstone to be polished, human mind needs books and the open mindedness to read it.

But all this fails if the societal environment doesn't foster a culture of innovation & forgive honest mistakes. Thomas Edison needed hundreds of attempts to obtain the filament of the bulb but his investors did not back down.

It is natural to make mistakes when attempting new things & this scope is called by Hannah Arendt as 'love freedom'

However, if society postulates innovation, nations & globe must conserve peace & stability & reduce conflicts. Just as roasted food prepared with fire, increased the cranial & cognitive capacity of humans; peace will be the single biggest contributor to ingenuity. For example, the industrial revolutions & the societal development in Europe & rest of the world share a high correlation with times of peace & stability.

Ethics of Ingenuity

'Nothing is at least saved but the integrity of your own mind'

- Ralph Waldo Emerson.

It is good that external factors can boost ingenuity like peace but how does one decide the utility of ingenuity?

Here, the story of APJ Kalam & AQ Khan can be understood. Both wanted to develop their country's nuclear capability. One chose to do so in an ethical way of research & development while the other developed the 'AQ Khan network' of illegal nuclear proliferation. And that made all the difference in the destiny of the nations.

Just as nuclear energy can have positive (Universal Power) & negative effects (Nuclear weapons), Ingenuity too has positive & negative effects.

It can develop one's capabilities, conduct

the developmental work, make progress in science & development & uplift the people. But ingenuity which prompts dishonesty, personal profit, moral turpitude & exploitation of others is a sin. Gandhi's conception of purity of means & ends is very apt to determine the ethics of ingenuity.

Energy if controlled can lead to powering up of people, machines & cities & if left unchecked leads to floods, droughts & global warming & tornadoes. Human ingenuity is also described as ultimate energy because it can create ultimate progress or ultimate destruction. As a result, in the modern world of temptations, it becomes absolutely important to follow personal ethics and checks & balances on any imbalance.

in the system. Human beings understood the demerits that absolute power can corrupt absolutely. And if this perverted form of disunity is observed at leadership level, the country is doomed.

Democracy & Ingenuity

As Churchill remarked that Democracy is the best worst form of government, one can observe how developed is man's critical thinking. It went beyond Darwin's principle of 'survival of Fittest' to create a system which gives equality & opportunity to everyone. In India, Constitution was envisaged. But with India's challenges it was suggested to accommodate widespread amending powers with Judicial Independence to

check it.

However, just as it seemed that Parliament became too powerful, the doctrine of basic structure was independently developed by the Supreme Court. This human ingenuity preserved Indian democracy & even inspired other countries like Bangladesh to do the same. The creative nature of man, thus, developed democracy & the corresponding counterbalance together.

Thus, it is true that Human Ingenuity is contagious. But is it the ultimate resource to deal with global challenges?

[Global Implications of Ingenuity]

with increased, globalization, technological flow & interconnectivity, human race has more or less emerged

as a collective species. This cosmopolitanism has its own faultlines of coste, creed, religion, race etc but it has built more bridges than walls. So, humans now have the capacity to direct this hive mind to global issues of poverty, inequality, climate change etc.

When one saw the problem of pollution, it was seen to be insurmountable. But gradually corrective mechanisms were put in place - first was afforestation, next was conservation & today it is sustainable development. And the success of Kyoto Protocol, decreasing of Antarctic hole, increase of forest areas is a testament to the power of human ingenuity. Hence, there is a need to take this level of cooperative intelligence.

to the next level & emerge as the an
united planet.

'Only an innovative & sustainable system
can produce continuous growth'

- A P J Kalam.

Today, humans are able to pool
renewable energy resources into hybrid
energy patterns to create sustainable
growth. However, if it is sufficiently
completed by the ultimate renewable
energy of human ingenuity, it can
create results beyond of what humans
cannot fathom. This capacity to
complement & create synergy is the reason
why human mind is the ultimate
source of energy to human endeavour.

It's time for us to turn on each, not on each other

At present times, it is believed that childhood & youth are the 2 most important periods of one's life. Despite the vigour, passion & energy with plenty of enjoyment, they are critical for one's socialization.

People very soon observe that it is beneficial to be united & not divided. In gully cricket, they observe that if players turn on each other, the game is lost before the first ball. But if people turn to each other & play shoulder to shoulder with each other, they have higher chances. Thus, unity is timeless lesson & an acquired intelligence. If unity can have such a pronounced impact in a normal non-serious game, what

be its impact on a larger scale?

If 2 college roommates are not on good terms, then a simple matter of cleaning their room seems to be an impossible challenge. What could be the impact of such global disunity?

Turning to each other & not on each other is such a timeless advice that it appears common sense. As a result, this essay aims to deep dive into this old saying, and pick out the minute nitty-gritties of the common wisdom propagated from Panchtantra to the Jatakas of Buddhism.

Disunity & its reasoning.

Just as human unity has a long history, disunity also does. At the personal level, people are

disunited because of Egoism. The belief in self supremacy of 'I' is the fundamental reason. Diversity of thought and opinion is not taken kindly at the personal level.

¶ If the individual feels that he is the best on the personal plane, then he also believes that the identity markers of religion, race, ethnicity etc. is superior at the societal plane. This can be based on pseudo-scientific like Phrenology or social theories of White Man's Burden or Civilizing Mission or historicism and ideological interpretation of history.

It is also the fault of education system that building walls (Wars, conquest) is more glorified than building bridges (Law, social reforms). And this leads to the nature of animus Pomierandi in global level between nations to

increase influence & power.

Due to such conflictual feelings & emotions, humans often face disappointment. And in the material world of today, it acts as a feedback to boost conflict. Truly, it's a vicious circle.

Aftershocks of disunity

Surely, the utilitarian hidden in everyone might ask 'what is wrong in maximizing one's pleasure? Everybody has the right to be happy & do what he wants'. However, the long term impacts are disastrous to everybody.

At personal level, one may not be happy with such competitiveness with others. Turning on others at societal level leads to a decline of social capital, communal riots, social unrest. And at international level, it could.

lead to wars & even nuclear war..
 For eg. Second World War killed 80 million people. Some affected economies took decades to recover. Russia has still not overcome the demographic loss even though it won the war.

Thus, disunity is the state of nature as described by Thomas Hobbes.

'In the state of nature, a man's life is nasty, poor, brutish & short. --- If there is no security of life, there is no question of good life'

Dialectics of Unity

A very good example of alternative histories is the speculation of a united India during the advent of Europeans. It is possible that Indians, if they turned to each other instead on each other could have defeated the Company &

refrained from the 200 years of humiliation & \$45 trillion of economic loot. How ~~can~~ better could be the future of India if those narrow walls had not divided us?

Unity is virtue, disunity is sin
— Swami Vivekananda

Within the political sphere, if one turns to each other, democracy is born. It is a social contract that states that despite the mutual differences, the citizens will not fight & resolve differences peacefully.

In the legal-institutional level, one could gain the benefits of stability & remove the historical burdens & injustices of caste, religion, ethnicity, race. The singular problem

of racism continues to affect USA today. India's religious faultline lead to its partition and Sri Lanka's 'Sinhala Only' position led to a decade civil war.

Within the socio-economic realm, turning to each other builds on equitable economy & prosperous civilization respecting dignity of each individual. Unity binds, disunity unwinds. There's a direct relation between India's progress & the communal rioting. At peak of rioting in 1970s-80s, India grew barely at 1-3%. At their lowest in 1990s, India grew at 8% and post 2014 at 6%. Such scientific understanding of benefits of unity should motivate people to come together as one.

How to turn to each other

'Everybody unites with the One after the death. Thus, hurting others hurts oneself.' - Swami Vivekananda.

The philosophy of Advaita & Oneness propagated by Vivekananda stated that all humans originate & emerge, merge with the Universe. So if at the spiritual level they are united, they should also be united at the material plane. The spirit of 'Thou, not I' is the most important ethical guideline in this endeavour.

At the time of Covid, despite the Vaccine Nationalism by global powers, Global South helped each other through this spirit. But can only global crisis unite human species?

The answer is a emphatic No! ~~to~~
Leaders, governments & societies should
 attempt to change the attitude of people.
 Just as King Ashoka used Dhamma &
Lord Krishna used Dharma, Turning
 to each other should be the new Dhamma
 or Dharma.

At the family level, one should
 be encouraged to help others, even if
 it is a small deed. APJ Abdul Kalam
 had stated that 'What can I do'
attitude of people can produce large
differences.

Additionally, people can be given
material & non-material incentives to
 act as further inducements for unity.
 The global rating agencies, thus, use
political stability & social cohesion
 to ~~come towards~~ give ratings which

directs investments leading to economic growth. Similarly, responsible leadership which plays the politics of unity should be encouraged & not those who play politics of disunity. Identity based politics is the biggest threat to liberal democracies as per the noted social scientist Francis Fukuyama.

Why the time for unity is now?

'A House divided against itself cannot stand.'

Post the 2008 Global financial crisis, the golden era of rising together has seen a decline. It saw its Nadir in 2020 Covid Pandemic, accompanied by it is the Russian Ukraine Crisis, Era of majoritarianism.

coups & riots

In our haste, not only did we turn on the fellow human but we also turned on the environment and the Mother Earth. The ravages of climate change are just the beginning of Mother Earth turning on humans. Thus, in this era of global disunity & strife, can the potential 'Vishvaguru' India do something?

Bharat & Unity

'Every nation has a spirit. India's rise is world's rise because of 'Universal Spirit' residing with India'

- Aurobindo Ghosh.

India has been a civilizational state since at least the last 10000 years. This was the result of spiritual,

cultural, ethical & material unity:

Even in present times also, India has the ideal of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and has abided by it. It supports a Panchsheel foreign policy, Universal & verifiable nuclear disarmament, no military alliances, a thriving democratic welfare state. Thus, even when India contributed 33% to global GDP, and even today, the philosophy of 'Thou, not I' still remains intact.

If the only thing that the world could pick up from Bharat apart from the mathematics, sciences, philosophy, and others, it is this spirit of mutual tolerance & mutual respect and boundless compassion to bind the humanity together. This evolved mentality

of 'Karmayogi' is the need of the hour.

Just as clapping needs both the hands, the world must be receptive to this idea of building bridges & not walls. With the rising polarities, the time is very less to respond & adapt to the upcoming shocks. Turning to each other may at first glance show negative results. But upon closer study, it will have the better result than turning on each other.