

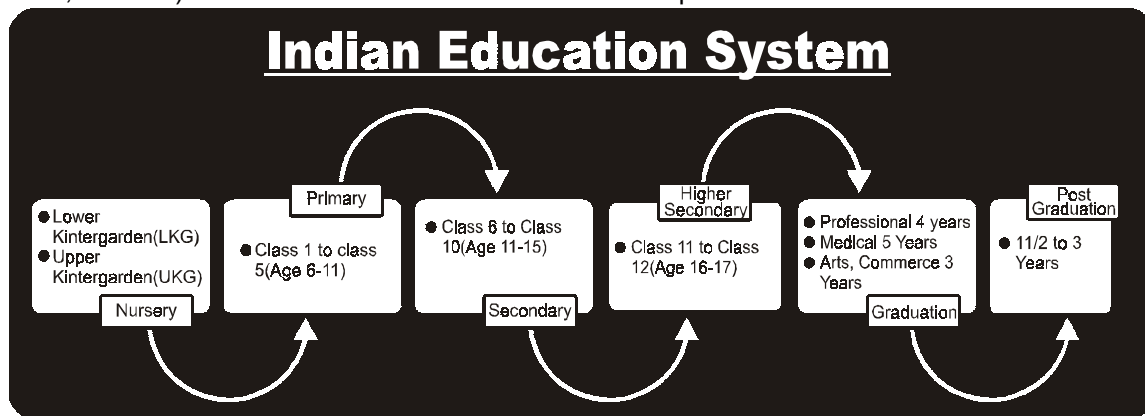
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1. SHOULD WE CHANGE THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF EDUCATION IN OUR COUNTRY?

Introduction

The history of education in India is as old as India itself. We have a rich heritage of the Gurukul system of education for the elementary level and outstanding ancient universities like Takshshila, and Nalanda. The educational system in India has kept pace with all the changes happening around like invasions, the advent of the Mughals etc. But the biggest turn around came when the British came to India. They believed that India was a barbaric country and that exposure to their religion, language and literature would make us civilized. In 1835, Lord Macaulay proposed minutes on education and that led to the change of the medium of instruction to English. The basic system of education started by him is still very much intact in essence. After independence the system accommodated many changes under the leadership of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. In modern times, Indian educational institutions (such as the IITs, IISc, IIMs, NITs, AIIMS, ISI, JU, BITS, and ISB) are well known in the world. The broader pattern of education in India as under:



Arguments in against the topic

- The biggest criticism that has come up is that our education system honours only merit. An intelligent student, merely on the basis of his academics, cracks the top most exams like IITJEE, CAT etc. to get the best of education and then also cracks the civil services exam to get a top administrative job. This is a serious issue for the HRD ministry because you can not honour *only* intelligence. Other factors which are equally important are normally ignored.
- The Indian education system also faces the problem of how to create quality manpower for the future demands of the Indian industry. Many surveys clearly show that we will have huge numbers of educated manpower in the next 10 years, but still we will have an enormous short fall of quality manpower. Our education system needs to address this issue.
- Modern education in India is often criticized for being based on rote learning. Emphasis is laid on passing examinations with a high percentage. Very few institutes give importance to developing personality and creativity among students. Recently, the country has seen a rise in instances of student suicides due to low marks and failures, especially in metropolitan cities, even though such cases are very rare. The boards are recently trying to improve quality of education by increasing percentage of practical and project marks.
- Many people also criticize the caste, language and religion-based reservations in the education system. Many allege that very few of the weaker castes get the benefit of

reservations and that forged caste certificates abound. Educational institutions also can seek religious minority (non-Hindu) or linguistic minority status. In such institutions, 50% of the seats are reserved for students belonging to a particular religion or having particular mother-tongue(s). For example, many colleges run by the Jesuits and Salesians have 50% seats reserved for Roman Catholics. In case of languages, an institution can declare itself a linguistic minority only in states in which the language is not official language. For example, an engineering college can declare itself as linguistic-minority (Hindi) institution in the state of Maharashtra (where official state language is Marathi), but not in Madhya Pradesh or Uttar Pradesh (where the official state language is Hindi). These reservations are said to be a cause of heartbreak among many. Many students with poor marks manage to get admissions, while meritorious students are left out. Critics say that such reservations may eventually create rifts in the society.

- Expenditure on education is also an issue which comes under the scanner. According to the Kothari commission led by Dr. Vijay Kothari in 1966, expenditure on education has to be minimum 6% of the GDP. Whereas in 2004 expenditure on education stood at 3.52% of the GDP and in the eleventh plan it is estimated to be around 4%. The “Sarva Shikshan Abhiyan” has to receive sufficient funds from the central government to impart quality education.
- The quality of teaching in government schools is pathetic. The reason behind it is that education is still under the purview of the state governments. They have a shortage of funds and also are not very serious about education welfare.

Arguments in favour of the topic

- The government has already taken many measures to revamp the education system in India. The “Sarva-Shiksha Abihyan” is doing very well. And we are close to achieving the same across India as we have done in Kerala.
- Many rational changes have been made by CBSE in its curriculum. Now there is no failure (read as exams) up to class 5th and hence students are free from all pressures.
- Many new updated courses have been introduced in senior classes which is directly in line with the updated requirements of the industry. Subjects like financial planning; computer programming, business studies, etc. have already been introduced.
- Many high level international schools have started imparting education of new standards.
- Many NGO’s with the support of the government are doing great work for providing quality education to kids as well as adult slum dwellers for example “Teach India Campaign” by Times of India etc.

2. “WILL THE NUCLEAR DEAL HELP INDIA TO DEVLOP FASTER?”

The Indo-U.S. civilian nuclear agreement is the name commonly attributed to a bilateral agreement on nuclear cooperation between the United States of America and India. The framework for this agreement was a joint statement by the Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and his U.S counterpart Mr. George. W. Bush, under which India agreed to separate its civil and military nuclear facilities and place civil facilities under international atomic energy agency (IAEA) safeguards and in exchange, the United States agreed to work towards full civil nuclear cooperation with India.

On August 1, 2008, the IAEA approved the safeguards agreement with India, after which the United States approached the nuclear suppliers group (NSG) to grant a waiver to India to commence civilian nuclear trade. The 45-nation NSG granted the waiver to India on September 6, 2008, allowing it to access civilian nuclear technology and fuel from other countries. The implementation of this waiver makes India the only known country with nuclear weapons which is not a party to the non proliferation treaty (NPT) but is still allowed to carry out nuclear commerce with the rest of the world.

Arguments against the topic

- Despite the best of the technical efforts the per unit energy produced by nuclear resources continues to be the costliest at close to Rs. 3.35 per unit energy compared to its other counter parts such as coal and hydro forms which cost us close to Rs.1.25 and Rs.2.5 per unit energy respectively. So, as of now, the nuclear deal is not something to go “high” about.
- The nuclear deal does not pave off instant development because even if the deal is okayed it will take nearly 8 years to get implemented and that’s an official verdict. Looking at the Indian scenario it might very well take a decade.
- The nuclear deal has been signed under the 123 agreement which clearly states as per the official norms that any “party” (word used with reference to the country) signing the deal cannot use the nuclear resources for defence purposes either directly or indirectly, which means that India cannot do any more nuclear tests.
- Even if the ‘by product’ of the deal (official word used for nuclear resources by the United States in the 123 agreement) gets available to us cheaply the biggest hurdle would be to get rid of the radioactive waste which would be left after the utilization of nuclear resources, unfortunately few have got the infrastructure to get rid of it.
- Looking at the current security status of our country “the biggest challenge would be to make sure the nuclear resources do not get into the wrong hands” which might not only prove to be the biggest security threat for our country but for the whole world as well.

Arguments in favour of the topic

- Looking at the way the population is increasing along with the effort of the Indian government to push the “LPG” reforms post 1991, the concerns of energy security cannot be neglected. The best way to secure the massive needs of infrastructure development is to shift to the next level of energy sufficiency, and nuclear energy is surely the way ahead.

- The ever expanding energy demand is expected to increase by 7 folds in the coming 15 years if we want to achieve the target set by the planning commission in the form of “vision 2025” it is a must to get rid of the dependence on non-renewable source of energy such as coal, and the “deal” surely will help us reach that higher level of self dependence.
- India has always advocated the fact that it firmly stands by its commitment of “non-proliferation” of nuclear arms and armaments, so the “deal” will send a positive signal to the international community which will further help us to increase international cooperation along the lines to international trade and hence developing the economy.
- The biggest competitor that India has faced in the race of development comes in the form of the neighbouring country, China, nuclear energy will surely help us compete neck-to-neck with China, and the stiff rivalries will indirectly benefit the consumers counting on the development of our economy as a whole.
- The deal will play a crucial role in the growth of employment in the infrastructure and the manufacturing sector, as massive infrastructure will be required for setting up nuclear power plants. With various other technical requirements, surely the Indian manufacturing, engineering and the real estate companies will be in for moolah.

3. WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL

The Women's Reservation Bill has been a political raw nerve for nearly a decade now. It has always triggered heated debates in Parliament and outside. Its advocates say that the Bill is essential for active political participation of women. Opponents argue that reservation would only help women of elitist groups gain political power, aggravating the plight of the poor and deprived sections.

The proposed legislation to reserve 33.3 percent seats in the Parliament and state legislatures for women was drafted first by the H D Deve Gowda-led United Front government. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on September 12, 1996. Though it has been introduced in Parliament several times since then, the Bill could not be passed because of lack of political consensus. The Bill reserves seats for women at each level of legislative decision-making, starting with the Lok Sabha, down to state and local legislatures. If the Bill is passed, one-third of the total available seats would be reserved for women in national, state, or local governments. In continuation of the existing provisions, already mandating reservations for scheduled caste and scheduled tribes, one-third of such SC and ST candidates must be women.

Arguments in favour of the Bill

- Its proponents say it would lead to gender equality in Parliament, resulting in the empowerment of women as a whole.
- The Bill's supporters say, women are deprived in India. Increased political participation of women will help them fight the abuse, discrimination, and inequality they suffer from.
- 33.3 percent seats in panchayat elections have been reserved for women already. A million women are being elected to the panchayats in the country every five years. This is the largest mobilisation of women in public life in the world.

Arguments against the Bill

- Various political parties have staunchly opposed it because they fear many of their male leaders would not get a chance to fight elections if 33.3 percent seats are reserved for women.
- The Bill has also been opposed by politicians from the socially and economically backward classes.
- They argue that reservation would only help women of the elitist groups to gain seats, therefore causing further discrimination and under-representation to the poor and backward classes.

Lalu Prasad Yadav says the Bill 'would deny adequate representation to other sections of society.' He favours 10 to 15 percent reservation for women. 'My party is not opposed to women's reservation, but the case of Dalits, backward classes, Muslims and other religious minorities should not be overlooked,' is his argument.

Mulayam Singh Yadav favours making it mandatory for political parties to give 10 percent of election tickets to women. His argument is that if inadequacy of representation is the issue, why not reservation for Muslim women as well (there are only two in the present Lok Sabha)?

If 33.3 per cent reservation for women is added to the already existing 22.5 percent for scheduled castes and tribes, more than 55 percent of seats in Parliament would be reserved. This would not be fair to other sections of the population, says the present Uttar Pradesh chief minister..

What is the status of the Bill now?

The law ministry has prepared two drafts of the Women's Reservation Bill.

The first envisages reservation of 33.3 percent seats for women within the existing strength of the two Houses of Parliament.

The second calls for increasing the strength of the two Houses by 33.3 percent. The existing 545 seats in the Lok Sabha will increase to 900 if this draft of the Bill is enacted.

4. IS MANAGEMENT AN ART OR A SCIENCE?

Management is a universal phenomenon. It is a very popular and a widely used term. All organizations - business, political, cultural or social are involved in management because it is management which helps and directs the various efforts towards a definite purpose.

One of the enduring questions in the field of management is to ascertain if it is an art or a science. Management is considered as both science as well as an art. It is a science because it has universally accepted principles, it has a cause and effect relationship etc., and at the same time it is an art because it requires personal skills, practical knowledge, creativity etc.

Art is defined as a “skill in conducting any human activity” and science as “any skill or technique that reflects a precise application of facts or a principle.” Those who believe in management as an art are likely to believe that certain people are more predisposed to be effective managers than are others, and that some people cannot be taught to be effective managers. Practicing managers who believe in management as a science are likely to believe that there are ideal managerial practices for certain situations. Management combines features of both science as well as art. The term ‘management’ today has several different connotations that highlight the different aspects of its nature.

Management as an Art

Management can be said to be an art since it satisfies the following criteria:

- A successful manager practices the art of management in the day-to-day job of managing an enterprise based on study, observation and experience. There is a lot of literature available in various areas of management like marketing, finance and human resources which the manager has to specialize in. There is an existence of theoretical knowledge.
- There are various theories of management, as propounded by many management thinkers, which prescribe certain universal principles. A manager applies these scientific methods and body of knowledge to a given situation, an issue or a problem, in his own unique manner. A good manager works through a combination of practice, creativity, imagination, initiative and innovation. A manager achieves perfection after long practice. Students of management also apply these principles differently depending on how creative they are.
- A manager applies this acquired knowledge in a personalized and skillful manner in the light of the realities of a given situation. He is involved in the activities of the organization, studies critical situations and formulates his own theories for use in a given situation. This gives rise to different styles of management.
- The best managers are committed and dedicated individuals; highly trained and educated, with personal qualities such as ambition, self-motivation, creativity and imagination, a desire for development of the self and the organisation they belong to. All management

practices are based on the same set of principles; what distinguishes a successful manager from a less successful one is the ability to put these principles into practice.

Management as a Science

We can say that management has some characteristics of science.

- Management has a systematized body of knowledge. It has its own theory and principles that have developed over a period of time, but it also draws on other disciplines such as Economics, Sociology, Psychology and Mathematics. Like all other organized activities, management has its own vocabulary of terms and concepts. For example, all of us discuss sports like cricket and soccer using a common vocabulary. The players also use these terms to communicate with each other. Similarly managers need to communicate with one another with the help of a common vocabulary for a better understanding of their work situation.
- The principles of management have evolved over a period of time based on repeated experimentation and observation in different types of organizations.
- Many early management researchers subscribed to the vision of managers as scientists. The scientific management movement was the primary driver of this perspective. They used scientific processes to evaluate and organize work so that it became more efficient and effective. Scientific management's emphasis on both reducing inefficiencies and on understanding the psychology of workers changed manager and employee attitudes towards the practice of management.

Conclusion

The old saying that "Managers are Born" has been rejected in favour of "Managers are Made". It has been aptly remarked that management is the oldest of art and youngest of science. To conclude, we can say that science is the root and art is the fruit. The practice of management is an art. However, managers can work better if their practice is based on the principles of management. These principles constitute the science of management. Management as an art and a science are therefore not mutually exclusive, but complement each other.

5. PREMARITAL SEX

“Is it OK to have premarital sex?” This is a common question among teens and engaged couples. In other words, in most of the cases if you are in a relationship, it is going to progress in that very direction only. In most of the times there is a question which is probably weighing the pros and cons of the premarital sex.

On the positive side we feel that it provides us acceptance from our peers, hope for pleasure and fulfillment of sexual desires, but on the negative side it carries the weight of morals, fears of pregnancy, catching diseases and moreover, guilt. The **BIBLE** refers to premarital sex as “**fornication**”. That’s a word which we don’t hear much these days.

Simply, fornication is a term which typically refers to voluntary sexual intercourse between persons not married to each other.

Premarital sex has marked its presence in every part of the world. According to the National Survey Data (1974), conducted on adults of 25 years of age: - 97% male and 81% females have had premarital sex in their life. In France, the survey of (1972) revealed that 72% men and 55% women had premarital sex. The facts about Sweden were most shocking, 99% of the population of the adults had experienced premarital sex in their life.

U.S (1974)	MALE 97%	FEMALE 81%
FRANCE (1972)	MALE 75%	FEMALE 55%
SWEDEN	MALE 99%	FEMALE 99%

In the Indian context

According to research conducted by an INTERNATIONAL N.G.O (**POPULATION COUNCIL**), **10%** of the young Indian women and **15-30%** of the young male have had premarital sex. (This report in Indian context was published in The **Times of India** on **24/Oct/06**).

Advantages of premarital sex

- Helps in the fulfillment of one’s sexual desires.
- Acceptance by peers.
- Biologically and medically permissible, if proper preventive measures are taken care of.
- Psychologically, with changes in our physique, we tend to have sexual desires which are natural and normal. If the desires are not satisfied, it will affect our work, learning and life.

Disadvantages of premarital sex

- 50% of the total population of H.I.V patients is between ages of 15-24. Preventive measures only reduce the risk of contracting H.I.V by 85%.
- Most of the people after engaging in premarital sex express feeling of guilt, embarrassment, distrust, tension, lack of respect for partner and much more.
- It leads you against ethics, religion and your parents.
- Chances of contracting S.T.D. become high.
- Chances of getting pregnant increase.
- Losing one’s virginity before marriage
- Totally against the Indian culture and moral values.

6. HOW TO DEAL WITH INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

There is no universally accepted definition of terrorism and even when people agree on a definition of terrorism, they sometimes disagree about whether or not the definition fits a particular incident. However, certain definitions seek to explain terrorism. The term “terrorism “means premeditated, politically motivated violence against non- combatant targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience. However, “world terrorism or international terrorism” refers to terrorism involving citizens or the territory of more groups practicing or that has significant sub-groups that practice international or world terrorism.

- September 11, 2001: Attacks on twin-towers 11, 2001: Attacks on twin-towers of the World Trade Centre in the US.
- October 1, 2001: Attack on Jammu & Kashmir Assembly building.
- December 13, 2001: Attack on the Parliament of India.
- July 7, 2005: Blasts in London’s tube stations.
- October 29, 2005: Terrorist attacks in the markets of Delhi.
- Attacks on Amarnath pilgrims, Madrid bombings, the recent terrorist attacks on Ram Janambhoomi in Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh) and in the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (Karnataka), etc.

Terrorism is the biggest menace faced by the international community today. It has been posing a serious threat to international peace and security and has made a threat to international peace and security and has made us helpless in the wake of the horrors of violence, bloodshed, destruction, cruelly and deaths.

It is not confined to one particular nation; most of the nations in the world are forced to put up with the scourge of terrorism whether it is cross-border terrorism, cyber-terrorism, narco-terrorism or any other form of terrorism. Narco-terrorism is the way by which the operations of terrorist groups are finance in various parts of the world, by smuggling narcotics and hence destroying lives of teenagers.

Terrorists can do anything. They can kidnap people or hijack aero planes to pressurise for the release of their militant accomplices detained by security forces of some countries. They can kill anyone at anytime. In fact, they are ready to die anytime, by becoming ‘fidayeen’ or suicide bombers.

History of this global threat

The origin of international terrorism can be traced back to the year 1948 when the partition of Palestine led to the formation of Israel. The Palestinian leaders refused to accept Israel as a sovereign entity and resorted to terrorism and destruction in the newly formed Israel.

During 1960s, Red brigades in Italy, Red Army Faction in the then West Germany and Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland started indulging in terrorist activities. During the Cold War period, intense rivalry arose between the US and the erstwhile Soviet Union. It led to an arms race, making the international system stressful, thereby resulting in local wars, ethnic wars, proxy wars and many other forms of terrorism. The intense arms race fanned violent activities in different parts of the world. Some of the nations started supporting, arming and funding militant groups to operate in their rival states. In the 1980s, a new form of terrorism cropped up which was termed as jihad or Islamic jihad. Its main motto was to establish a radical form of Islam all over the world. The jihadis called themselves the warriors of Islam and began using terror as a weapon for demanding the rights of Muslims all over the world. These Islamic jihadi groups came to thrive in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sudan, Egypt, central and west Asia and Middle East. The Afghanistan-Pakistan region turned into a grooming ground for jihadis and became responsible for introducing and spreading fundamentalism and terrorism in the Indian State of Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir. In the 1990s, China Saudi Arabia, Russia, South East Asia, India and many other nations became the victims of the monster called terrorism. Subsequently, the US and the UK have also joined the list. Can we forget how these militants used the sky for their crime when they hit the World Trade Centre twin towers or when they hijacked IC814?

According to a research study in 2004, by the London Institute of International Security, “about 18,000 potential terrorists are functioning in about 60 countries and there has been a terrifying jump in terrorist incidents – 175 in 2003 to 651 in 2004”. On October 17, 2005, 34 Karbi tribals were massacred by militants and 125 houses were torched in ethnic violence in Assam’s strife-torn Karbi Anglong district. The nefarious activities of terrorists have rendered people sleepless, be it in Jammu & Kashmir or Tamil Nadu; the North-Eastern States or Karnataka.

Terrorists are not born as terrorists but they are made so by those who want to establish their control over the whole world. Teenagers are kidnapped from the Kashmir valley and forced to hold guns. Militant training centres are run in the name of religious schools called madrasaas where innocent youngsters are brainwashed and trained to become militants. According to a study undertaken by the Strategic Foresight Group, there are 40,000-50,000 madrasaas, with the enrolment of two million students, which are being run in Pakistan. Every year about 15,000 men are recruited into these madrasaas. The 9/11 Commission Report says, “Some of the madrasaas have been used as incubators for violent extremism”.

The tenets of Islam do not favour the killing and slaughter of innocent people but terrorists interpret the teaching of Islam in such a way as would justify their heinous actions.

Today, the network of terrorism has become so strong that it can destroy any city of many cities in one go. The increase in the number of arms and development of weapons as well as explosives of various kinds, together with their easy availability has exposed the world to the grave danger of mass destruction. The thought of weapons and explosives like the AK-47 and RDX scare us. The other big danger is from nuclear bombs. These terrorists can obtain stocks of biochemical weapons, where the chemical agents will destroy more than bullets or bombs. These may be nerve agents, blistering agents, or choking agents. The terrorists can infect people with diseases like anthrax, smallpox, botulism or viral fever and no one would have an inkling that it is a terrorist attack. Iraq is said to have used mustard gas against Iranians and Kurds in 1980s. We have to deal with this problem quickly and effectively and for this we are increasing our weapons, holding joint defence exercises with other friendly countries and diverting more of our funds into defence today, India is one of the 15 largest spenders on defence worldwide.

All countries need to stand up and be united against terrorism as was seen in the SAARC Summit in Dhaka (Bangladesh) in November 2005. The European Union and India have signed a political declaration to fight against terrorism unitedly. Broadly, what needs to be done is to regain and retain the confidence of people in spite of terrorism and become bold enough to fight it with determination.

Efforts of United Nations: To settle disputes, we look forward to the UN to support the world community in the fight against terrorism, but it can solve only a part of the problem. By various conventions, articles and laws, it speaks against terrorism and the terrorists. On December 18, 1972, during the 2114th Plenary meeting of the General Assembly, the UN adopted a text on international terrorism whose objective was to encourage cooperation among member states against this menace. In 1973, a 35-member ad hoc committee was created to make a report on international terrorism by the President of UN General Assembly. The same Assembly appointed an ad hoc committee for drafting an international convention against recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries. This convention was adopted on December 4, 1989. In December 1998, the General Assembly urged the member states to bring about domestic legislation on a priority basis for implementing the provision of conventions aimed at meeting the crime of international terrorism. In 1999, a Terrorism Prevention Branch was set up in the Centre for International Crime Prevention, Vienna (Austria). In 1999, the UN also adopted a resolution and invited the members for cooperating against the growing menace of international terrorism and in the same year, a resolution came against the financing of terrorism.

There are many conventions, articles, laws, etc., but the real convention should be in the heart of every person. If each and every person stops getting terrified and starts resisting terrorism, the bloodshed of innocent people can be prevented. Let us ourselves become a threat to this global menace so that we can breathe cool and fresh air, free of the stench of burning dead bodies. The day is not far off when we will be able to see a wonderful environment where every one will live in brotherly affection. We will be able to hear the sweet chirping of birds in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility.

Ten steps that should be taken to battle terror: from rhetoric to impact

Create a network of surveillance cameras

Britain successfully fought terrorism with them. And they do not cost a bomb. A good quality four-camera system that will pan and take images from all directions for up to 60 feet costs just Rs. 11,500. Five thousand such cameras in New Delhi would cost Rs 57.5 crores. That is worth a single big Bollywood movie – that is the amount Saawariya and Jodha Akbar reportedly earned at the box office.

The cameras will be a deterrent not just against terrorists, but also for traffic violators, eve-teasers, chain-snatchers and killer drivers. And for places like railway stations and bus terminals, the same cameras will see in darkness as well – for Rs. 3,500 more.

“There is no demand of cameras for public safety. People think they are only for spying,” Ahmedabad-based surveillance equipment seller Mehul Shah said by telephone hours after the serial blasts in the city.

Pump money into forensics

India's forensic capability is highly inadequate. We do not believe in using science to tackle crime and terrorism, which is the most effective way and used worldwide. Apart from some centres of excellence, little attention has been paid to sprucing up our forensics laboratories in the states. In Jharkhand, it was actually running until recently in a cowshed. Investment in forensics would not just help get crucial leads in terror cases, but help solve other ordinary crimes.

Give more work to the RTO

Introduce vehicle tracking and identification systems at the time of car registrations across states, with a central database. Make them mandatory fittings; help out carmakers with tax breaks on the equipment. This is very doable.

Shopkeepers as sleuths

Low intensity bombs, the kind of which used in most recent bombings, were made from fertilizers and materials commonly available in the market. If we can make internet café owners more aware, vigilant and responsible, why not the hardware stores guy and the fertilizer seller? This is admittedly a tough task, but some regulation on sales of potentially deadly chemicals, and education of the sellers, could go a long way. Why is a person who looks nothing like a farmer or gardener buying ammonium nitrate?

National ID cards

More than 180 million Indians do not have even voter ID cards after Rs 1,500 crores have been spent on the project for 15 years. The question of a national identity card – once proposed by the BJP government – remained mired in politics.

Across the border in Pakistan, officials have done it seamlessly: The National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA) has issued 60 million ID cards, and is set to issue them to all 150 million eligible Pakistanis. Pakistan has also launched multi-biometric e-Passports with sophisticated security features.

National law on terror

Bring a national law to deal with terrorism. The 2002 Prevention of Terrorist Activities Act (POTA) was being misused in many areas, but what was needed was to fix those problems, not throw out the law altogether.

Create a Department of National Security

Dealing with terrorism is a state subject, and officers in many states find themselves at sea. A national organization – perhaps modeled after the National Disaster Management Authority — should be created that deals directly with terrorism and has specialized crack units all over the country, which seek help as and when required from state colleagues.

National database of suspects

If a terror suspect from Ahmedabad walks out of India through the land border with Pakistan, the security guard at the immigration counter has no way of knowing who he is. Create a national database of suspects connected in real time to the Interpol database.

Bring in the CBI

State police in India have a conviction rate of 20 per cent – compared to 70 per cent by the CBI. The agency's hands need to be strengthened and terror cases need to be handed right away to the CBI, not after evidence has been ruined, leads have run out and state police cannot do much.

Police the police

Last – and the most important – infuse life into the beat constable, and do not bog them down with work that has nothing to do with the police force. The beat constable is the person who will first spot the stranger in the neighbourhood, the unclaimed bag and the suspect late night buzz on the third floor – and possibly save lives.

7. SHOULD WE HAVE A UNIFORM CIVIL CODE?

The Supreme Court has once again set the cat amongst the pigeons on the matter of a uniform civil code. Gloating and breast beating has commenced on all sides of the Politico – social spectrum. Article 44 of the constitution, constituting part of the ‘Directive Principles of State Policy’ gives a clear and categorical direction to the government when it says, “the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India” Uniform Civil Code essentially means unifying all the “personal laws” to have one set of secular laws dealing with various aspects like marriage, inheritance, divorce etc. that will apply to all the citizens of India irrespective of their caste, creed or religion. One may ask why a common civil code has not yet been implemented. It almost looks as if there are some legal issues with that. The answer is NO. There are no legal issues. In fact, the apex court of justice in India, the Supreme Court has come out time and again urging the government to enact a unified civil code. For example, in the infamous Shah Bano case of 1986, the Supreme Court has observed that:

OBSERVATION : Article 44 of our Constitution has remained a dead letter. There is no evidence of any official activity for framing a common civil code for the country. A common Civil Code will help the cause of national integration by removing disparate loyalties to laws which have conflicting ideologies. It is the State which is entrusted with the duty of securing a uniform civil code for the citizens of the country and, unquestionably, it has the legislative competence to do so. A beginning has to be made if the Constitution is to have any meaning. In any case, these observations are not legally binding for the government to start legislating and enacting a uniform civil code and hence nothing has been done on this field so far.

A uniform code has been wrongly posited as an assault on religion and religious identities. It may be surprising to know that even the criminal procedure code and the civil procedure code are not uniform throughout the country as they have been amended and modified by various state Governments. Similarly, law pertaining to succession among Hindus is unequal in the way it treats men and women. Therefore, a truly modern , secular non-discriminatory and progressive Uniform Civil Code would therefore mean changes in all personal laws.

Arguments in favour of the topic

- India is a democratic country and to safeguard the terms of the Constitution we should have a uniform civil code. By this we will be able to integrate all the diverse cultures in our society into a united whole.
- Since different religious groups have different civil codes there is a sense of disunity among the people, which leads to disharmony. A uniform civil code gives no community, whether in majority or in minority, a feeling that they are being treated injudiciously.
- Our Constitution aims to eliminate all differences on the basis of caste, colour, sex and religion. A uniform civil code will bring about equality by doing away with the personal laws which are discriminating. e.g. the Indian woman, though a free citizen under the Constitution is denied her rights by the Muslim Shariat.
- The fundamentalist reaction that a uniform civil code will undermine the authority of the Shariat is hardly justified, as many countries and Islamic nations have amended their personal laws keeping in mind human justice. Pakistan and several other Nations do not give recognition to divorce affected by pronouncing the word ‘talaq’ thrice.
- Today, the Hindus are covered by the Hindu Bill Code, the Muslims under the Shariat, and the Christians have their own set of laws where women are not allowed to seek divorce on many grounds while her husband can do so in many circumstances.

- With growing education, migration, economic and social mobility, unknown and earlier socially prohibited relationships (for example, inter-caste, inter-regional, inter-community, marriages and divorce and the acquisition and disposal of self-acquired property by women) are becoming increasingly common. Under these circumstances there could be social breakdown, heartburn and strife, even among, couples without a uniform civil code.
- Personal codes do not accommodate emerging multicultural realities and aspirations. It is quite regressive that Muslims and Christians in India cannot adopt a child legally, for the lack of uniform code on adoption.
- A unified civil code does not actually infringe upon any religious rights. Ideal UCC would require the registration of marriage as well as divorce and should follow the very basic principles that are based on the human rights. There is nothing that stops two people from rejoining if they wish from a legal stand point, if they are divorced, they can go to the registrar and register their re-marriage. Whether Islam recognizes that or not is the private matter of the religion and the believers, government should not interfere with that. How the current laws suppress the rights of women, not just in Muslim or Christian personal laws, but also in the Hindu Law cannot be denied.

Arguments against the topic

- India is a land of diverse cultures and religions and having a uniform civil code in the country will definitely distort this cultural identity.
- Radical social and religious changes cannot be made in a hurry as it will only fuel tensions. A good amount of conditioning is necessary before we impose uniformity on different people. The change should be gradual.
- The Muslims consider Shariat inviolable. Any interference will fuel tension and we will have communal riots and meaningless killings.
- Where is the virtue in uniformity? It also has undertones telling us or rather imposing on us a definite mindset. Thus the code should be based on popular approval and be made optional till it is accepted by all.
- To implement one need to face a situation, to put it into practice there are other fields and castes to be considered which makes the civil law difficult to be unified. The British did not have a problem with caste and religion, but when we still practice them in a secular country like India the case for unifying civil law is in a major danger towards beliefs and practice of religion and rituals. After all, the situation is like a couple having to marry twice, in front of the mahall (the Islamic mosque priest and the committee) and the government staff to get registered. The idea is good, but has to see some black hands in some cases.
- The process of making a uniform civil code will antagonize different sections of India. Once approved, it will do well for integrity, but the process of approval will take its toll on the Republic.

8. LOVE MARRIAGES VERSUS ARRANGED MARRIAGES

Marriage, be it a love marriage or an arranged marriage is a gamble. There is a famous saying that Arranged marriage is a murder and love marriage is a suicide. Jokes apart, a marriage is a relationship of love, companionship and commitment and should be treated as such to produce the best result. It's a blessing that binds two individuals to be with each other for life. Marriages are made in heaven. We say that someone somewhere is made for you and the day you come across that person you feel that he or she is the one you have been looking for. A successful marriage is like a good recipe whose main ingredients are love, commitment, understanding, concern and togetherness. So be it a love or an arranged marriage the ingredients remain the same.

Arranged marriages are better

Most of us have the feeling that an arranged marriage is the concept of Indian society. But history tells us that arranged marriages used to take place even in the Victorian age. In India, arranged marriages originated when child marriage was customary in this country. Caste system gave birth to arranged marriages, as the upper caste families didn't want their children to marry outside their community and caste. The concept of love marriage was a taboo in ancient India as India always had a tradition of arranged marriages. In case of arranged marriages the relation starts when the girl and the boy get to know each other in a couple of meeting before the final commitment. Before deciding anything the parents check the family and financial stability which is also very important.

Arranged marriages offer more protection, security to the women as the parents decides on the family. Parents make use of maturity and wise decision making while choosing suitable spouses for their children. It is a well known fact that "Love is blind" and most people in love usually do not stop to consider whether the person they adore is also capable of making a success of the married life. In their case, passion takes an upper hand over sound judgment. Therefore, the selection of a life partner should be left to a more mature judgment.

Let us not forget that our fathers and grandfathers and their forefathers had all enjoyed arranged marriages and surely our culture and society is none the worse for it. This new found clamour for love marriage is merely the influence of western films and culture on our life. Therefore arranged marriages are best suited for our country. If you know somebody before marriage, it allows the partner to have more expectations from each other and you want your partner to act in the best possible manner. This leads to a lot of problems in the relationship. Hence, in an arranged marriage the couple is more inquisitive about each other and expectations multiply slowly and results in a healthier relationship.

Love marriages are better

After the World War II and Industrial Revolution, people's perception about Love marriages started changing and they became familiar with the concept of love marriages. In India, the influence of the British culture gave rise to love marriages. Education and media played a vital role in changing the perception of the Indian mind. People started thinking beyond the social

customs and traditions of arranged marriages. They realized that they have the right to choose their life partner without any kind of social pressure. It is after all their life.

They can decide without having to rely on their parents, relatives and matchmakers. This change in the mental setup of the people gave birth to love marriages. There are certain things which are found in love marriages and not in arranged marriages. Like spending time together and getting to know each other. Because when you have decided to spend the life together it is important you know the person. There should be mental compatibility and understanding between the couple.

So, love marriages offer more independence and freedom as compared to arranged marriages and since the couple knows each other the social pressure and family pressure is less. If you know somebody before marriage it allows partners to have better respect and understanding for each others needs and desires.

Social evils like dowry, caste system, matching of horoscopes and community issues prevail more in arranged marriages in comparison to love marriages. The love of the couple surpasses the boundaries of caste or community.

Conclusion

Love or arranged both are based on empathy, responsibility, commitment, love and concern. So it's not just about initial love and attraction it needs a lot of dedication and effort to sustain a marriage. So, there is nothing like an ideal marriage it's all about the way you perceive your marriage. After all you should be happy with your life partner irrespective of love or arranged marriage.

9. SHOULD SEX EDUCATION BE INTRODUCED IN SCHOOL?

The Human Resource Development Ministry of India (which is now responsible for the educational portfolio) has taken a decision to introduce sex education to school students from the primary level to the higher secondary level. Training of school teachers for this purpose has already started. This has become an educational issue in the national scenario.

Sex education touches upon the following topics

Human anatomy
Reproduction through sexual intercourse
Pregnancy
Safe sex
Birth control methods
Sexual orientation
Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)

The introduction of comprehensive sex education in schools on a regular basis still remains a subject of raging controversy. The existing education system in India is still much divided about conducting such workshops and programmes within the school premises.

Arguments in favour of the topic

- The so called information on 'the bees and the birds' should be imparted by a parent or a peer. However, most often this information is derived from books, magazines, pornographic websites and various other sources. When this happens it was not dispensed with in a methodical way which leads to misconceptions and does more harm than good.
- According to the WHO, sex education for children should be imparted at the age of 12 and above. It is estimated that 34% of the HIV infected persons are in the age group of 12 to 19 years, so with proper guidance this can be controlled.
- The growing incidence of teenage pregnancies and the rise in HIV has made this an important issue that requires urgent global discussion.
- Schools have a significant role in imparting effective sex education to adolescents. Research has shown that with effective sex education to young adults in schools, it is possible to push back the age at which adolescents experiment with sex. These programmes also have the potential to encourage youngsters to use protection during their first sexual experience.
- Schools in the cities and suburbs of India are coming up with innovative health and hygiene workshops that deal with issues like health foods and usage of sanitary napkins, and that are helping the youngsters in coping with sudden changes happening to their body at the right time.
- Research has shown that comprehensive sex education benefits young adults substantially. These programmes assist teenagers deal with peer pressure and teach them the art of communication and negotiation. It assists them with imbibing assertive skills, crucial in their dealings with peers.

- The US government, since 1996, had started a series of sexual health programmes that teach 'abstinence only'. The basic principle of these programmes advice individuals to maintain a single partner sexual relationship within the framework of marriage as a standard form of behaviour. The counselors for these programmes stress that sexual relationship with more than one partner can cause several adverse psychological and physical effects. These programmes had quite a few times censored the information related to contraception to exaggerate the success/failure rates.
- Parents in our country are not highly educated in India or else it's considered as Taboo in Indian houses, but the fact remains that somebody has to talk to them and the best possible solution is teachers only.

Arguments against the topic

- The representatives of 179 countries came to an understanding on the subject of reproductive health in an international conference held in Cairo in 1994. In the name of unanimous international understanding, behind the curtains of UN, the western nations imposed their decisions on the entire world. Several programmes were chalked out keeping the year 2015 as the target. One of the programmes was imparting sex education to young children. And this decision was taken bowing to the UN decision. We know that the foundation of capitalistic imperialism lies on shamelessness. It is preaching this life code by all means like cinemas, advertisements, internet, channels, art etc. The only powerful medium left is education. Destabilizing the holy institution of family is also an agenda of the imperialist forces. For this purpose, the education is going to be utilized. To combat AIDS, it's not sex education that the Govt. should provide, but moral education.
- Imparting sex education to the young students is like arousing hunger and then delaying food. It will generate disease not cure.
- The text book which is going to be taught consists of things like practical knowledge of sexual... The pictures of different sexual parts of the body will be demonstrated in the class room. In the teacher's guide, it is mentioned that there may be incidence that students shout out the colloquial names of certain organs. Don't feel bad! Just correct them!!! And there is an exercise where the student's eyes will be covered by a piece of cloth and the teacher (may be male or female) will slowly touch the student (may be male or female) and ask him/her whether it is a good touch or a bad touch & whether member in the family touches like this. (This is a clear permission to the teacher to do anything to the student).
- Education on sex is not something which should be taught to living thing. It is as natural as a new born baby sucking milk from the breast of its mother. Due to strong protests, the Governments of Kerala and Gujarat have decided boldly that it will not permit this to be taught in the state.

10. IS CHINA A THREAT TO INDIAN INDUSTRY?

The accelerated economic growth of both China and India in recent years has been the focus of significant policy discussion and analysis. China's economic growth has been led by manufacturing, while India's growth has been through information technology (IT). As both of these countries look to sustain their growth, China is striving to increase its presence in IT, while India strives to be a stronger player in manufacturing.

For China to increase its IT sector, necessary policy steps include: focus current IT industry on global exports; spur entrepreneurship and reduce dependence on central government; create a strong trade association to improve regulatory environment; and improve quality and approach of educational system. Conversely, for India to improve its manufacturing sector, it must increase its FDI inflows for manufacturing and improve basic infrastructure.

Indicators	India	China
Size of Population	1.1 Billion	1.3 Billion
Type of Government	Democracy	Communist State
GDP Growth (2005)	7.9%	9.3%
Manufacturing as a % of GDP	16%	53.3%
Services as a % of GDP	51.5%	32.2%
FDI Inflows (2005 – 2006)	7.5 Billion (predicted)	52 Billion
Remittances (2003)	17.4 Billion	4.6 Billion

Arguments in favour of the topic

- Sino-Indian trade last year soared 56 per cent to \$38.7bn according to Chinese data, and could reach \$60bn by 2010. But this is heavily tilted in China's favour, with the deficit more than doubling to \$9.17bn in the past fiscal year.
- As India begins its long-awaited infrastructure build-out, China's share of its trade is expected to grow exponentially on the back of an unprecedented surge in capital goods imports. India needs \$500bn in investment in infrastructure over the next five years, with much of this expected to be spent on power, telecommunications, and oil and gas infrastructure - all sectors in which Chinese equipment vendors are highly competitive.
- The trend is alarming some business lobby groups in the subcontinent, who fear Indian manufacturers will be overrun. Some sections where the pain is already felt are bicycles, locks, toys, textiles, umbrellas, dry battery cells and TVs. The Chinese set up world class manufacturing facilities and simultaneously kept labour costs low. Their expertise in large-scale quality manufacturing and high productivity is reflected in some of their products — TVs and appliances — closely matching Japanese and Korean companies in quality and price. Besides, the Chinese government has kept working capital interest levels and fuel rates low to ensure reduced product costs. Export subsidies also make the products price competitive in international markets.
- Assocham's second BPO Industry Confidence Survey identifies China as India's greatest challenge with 54.45 per cent of the respondents opining the sleeping giant would eat into India's share with its superior technological skills. The latest Gartner Inc research predicts a 25 per cent slide in Indian offshore business process outsourcing by 2007, a significant drop from the country's present majestic market share of 80 per cent.
- A large number of Chinese made goods are flooding the Indian local markets and have caused a lot of upheavals, and has dislocated the functioning of the Indian industry in their normal way. A lot of Indian small scale and medium sized industries have downed their shutters due to their goods being not sold and left lying in the 'godowns', this has caused

loss of employment to people who are dependent on the industry. Some of such industries have taken recourse to smuggling and selling Chinese made goods to sustain themselves.

- In 2004, very few customers were actively outsourcing IT functions to China. Today, six per cent of the customers in the U.K. and U.S. say that they are in China. When looking at where the outsourcing leaders of the next three to five years are likely to come from, whilst the U.S. and India remained the most popular choices, there is now significant interest in emerging markets, such as China. In 2004, only eight per cent of customers were expected to establish outsourcing operations in China over a three to five year period. Today, this number has grown to 40 per cent. Customers feel that the cost of sourcing work from China is lower than from India.

Arguments against the topic

- The Chinese manufacturers do not seem comfortable with products made using flexible manufacturing systems, complex industrial engineering, dependent multiple vendors or products requiring customization.
- Though the Chinese products are priced low, they may not be of reliable quality. So quality still seems to be an issue with Chinese manufacturing industry.
- The Chinese challenge needs to be addressed strategically. One option is to shift the production base to China, as Ajanta Clocks is now doing. Wipro and TCS are scouting for software partners in China. Indian companies have to follow the true principles of globalization — sourcing parts from wherever it is cost-effective, brand and sell it worldwide.
- As India has been very strong in some industrial sectors such as the pharmaceutical sector, Ranbaxy and Dr Reddy's Labs moving up from intermediates to bulk substances to branded generics to new drug delivery system and finally to drug discovery where the ROI (return on investment) is the highest, we need to maintain the same momentum. Only a few world class firms compete at the upper end of the market.
- There is no immediate threat to India from China in the short term till Beijing overcomes hurdles including proficiency in English language and the highly fragmented nature of the Chinese IT industry. Without adequate scale, Chinese players are unlikely to attract top international clients. Besides, there are lingering concerns about Beijing's ability to tackle Intellectual Property protection disputes though it has set up IP tribunals in various courts manned by judges with IP expertise.

We can sum up this discussion by putting forward the point that threats to each other can be neutralized by acting together and become a huge power in the world.

Let the dragon and the elephant dance together and not be separated by a 'Chinese wall'," wrote Amit Mitra, secretary-general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, in The Times of India, in a call for a more level playing field on trade.

11: WHY A BILLION STRONG INDIANS CAN FIND ONLY ONE PERSON WHO CAN WIN A GOLD MEDAL?

We have to discuss why a billion strong Indians can find only one person who can win a gold medal in the Olympic Games. Whereas, the other one billion of the world, the Chinese, find enough golds. Not just one – 51 of them!

Till 1980, we won the hockey gold many times. In fact, 8 times in all. So, what went wrong after the 80's? Why the dearth of medals? That defies natural statistics. If there are 210 gold medals and 7 billion people – every billion should get 30. Why do we fail ?

What are the possible reasons?

- The answer might also lie in the meta-physical thought of the blessed Indians some 3000 years ago. He, the perfect man is one who has no desires – said the Sages who wrote the Rig Veda. If you have no desires, how you motivate yourself to endure the grueling practice required for winning the medal. The Sages have answers for that too, “you only worry about the act of preparing and not about the result itself”. Fu Mingxia learned to swim in the river next to her village and enjoyed it. But it took the Chinese government sponsored training for years and an ambition to win the medal that made the child under 10 to dedicate her life to practice diving. She won the first gold at age 12 and 25 others after that. To win those many medals requires passion and practice. Why don't we let our children practice for life like the Chinese do????
- We don't have the money. This statement seems to be absolutely ridiculous as we all know in the same country we have a sports body called BCCI which is one of the richest sport governing bodies of the world. So the basic problem is about interest, in taking a sport as a career, as the money factor in the latter part of a sportsman's life is pathetic. The government has to take some measures to ensure that the sportsmen at the end of their careers get some pension or job security of a decent level so that they are not worried about their future.
- Another problem is democracy, the communists can coax there talented children to abandon their families and live in the coaching camps but the democrats cannot do that. That does not ring truth. Young parents in the cities in India are so overwhelmed with ambition that they pay money to train their children at everything they themselves are not good at. If there is a concerted effort at organizing an Olympic training programme by the government or other private organizations, surely the parents will be more than willing to part with their children's time.
- Another question that comes up is what happens to people with talent in India? Do they not have the passion or the practice? Let us take Badminton for example; of course we had Prakash Padukone. While we salute his family's commitment to the sport of Badminton in India, we have to wonder why our best never win the Olympic Gold. Now we have a new kid on the block Saina Nehwal or in tennis we have Sania Mirza. Why don't they reach to that glory? The answer is obviously the level of facilities and fitness training that they go through. Also a big culprit is the media. They put these new kids under the limelight and the scanner at a very early stage. This actually puts a lot of undue pressure on the new talent and exposes them very early to glory.
- Another area where we channelise our aggressive and the talented is into the powerful political positions. There is more competition to be the bureaucratic fraction of the Indian Olympic contingent than the athletic fraction. The political wing of the Olympic committee has become more powerful, more desired than the athletic wing. The parties thrown at five star hotels for celebrating election as the chairman on the Indian Olympic committee dwarf

the joy of selection to represent India in the Olympic event as an athlete. Why are we a nation that is sending the wrong message to our athletes? We are telling them we would rather them be movie stars or be the chairman on Olympic committee. Let's stop doing that.

- One more reason may be cricket. But now Cricket is more of spectacle than a sport. With the entire match fixing scandal and the twenty20s new spot on summer night time television it has arrived at its right place among the entertainment events. The real sportsmen and women can now turn to be Olympic athletes (hopefully).
- We also need to put a right talent hunt programme in place. Lot of tribal communities in India have got tremendous athletic talent which can be trained and exploited to generate many medal potentials in India. The concentration on sports like shooting, archery, boxing, wrestling etc. can ensure more planned efforts and hence higher chances of winning medals.

12 : BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING

Business process outsourcing (BPO) is a form of outsourcing which involves the contracting of the operations and responsibilities of a specific business function to a third-party service provider.

Traditionally, BPO is undertaken by manufacturing firms, for instance Coca Cola, where almost the entire supply chain is outsourced and the company is essentially becoming a marketing organization. More recently, it is also used by service oriented businesses, such as the Bank of America, who outsourced their entire Human Resources function to the BPO firm Exult Inc.

BPO is often divided into two categories: back office outsourcing, which includes internal business functions such as billing or purchasing, and front office outsourcing, which includes customer-related services such as marketing or tech support. BPO that is contracted outside a company's own country is sometimes called offshore outsourcing. BPO that is contracted to a company's neighbouring country is sometimes called near shore outsourcing.

Use of a BPO as opposed to an application service provider (ASP) usually also means that a certain amount of risk is transferred to the company that is running the process elements on behalf of the outsourcer. BPO includes the software, the process management, and the people to operate the service, while a typical ASP model includes only the provision of access to functionalities and features provided or 'served up' through the use of software, usually via web browser to the customer.

BPO is a part of the outsourcing industry. It is dependent on information technology; hence it is also referred to as **information technology enabled services** or **ITES**. Knowledge process outsourcing and legal process outsourcing are some of the subsets of business process outsourcing.

INDIA NEEDS BPO

India has revenues of 10.9 billion USD from offshore BPO and 30 billion USD from IT and total BPO (expected in FY 2008). India thus has some 5-6% share of the total BPO Industry, but a commanding 63% share of the offshore component. This 63% is a drop from the 70% offshore share that India enjoyed last year, despite the industry growing 38% in India last year, other locations like Eastern Europe, Philippines, Morocco, Egypt and South Africa have emerged to take a share of the market. China is also trying to grow from a very small base in this industry. However, while the BPO industry is expected to continue to grow in India, its market share of the offshore piece is expected to decline.

The top five Indian BPO exporters for 2006-2007 according to NASSCOM are Genpact, WNS Global Services, Transworks Information Services, IBM Daksh, and TCS BPO.

According to McKinsey, the global "addressable" BPO market is worth \$122 - \$154 billion, of which: 35-40 is retail banking, 25-35 is insurance, 10-12 is travel/hospitality, 10-12 is auto, 8-10 is telecom, 8 is pharmacy, 10-15 are others and 20-25 is finance, accounting and HR. Moreover, they estimate that 8% of that capacity was utilized as of 2006.

It also generates jobs for the youth.

Within 6 months of training a person becomes able to work in some of the processes of the BPO and some processes take experienced and skilled professionals so a job is generated for every kind of person.

Most services provided by BPO vendors are offered on a fee-for-service basis. This helps a company becoming more flexible by transforming fixed into variable costs. A variable cost structure helps a company responding to changes in required capacity and does not requisite a company in investing in assets and hereby making the company more flexible. Outsourcing may

provide a firm with increased flexibility in its resource management and reduce response time to major environmental changes.

Key employees are herewith released from performing non-core or administrative processes and can invest more time and energy in building the firm's core businesses.

Over the past few years, the exponential growth in the BPO sectors has provided high-income jobs with minimal educational qualifications.

Generally people confuse BPO with call centres and therefore they are reluctant to join them, but there is also technical outsourcing which is handled in India.

INDIA DOESN'T NEED BPO

Outsourcing of an Information System, for example, can cause security risks both from a communication and from a privacy perspective.

The odd working hours in some of the sectors are very difficult for persons to cope with.

Then there is concern about security of the persons, especially girls returning home at late hours.

The impact on health is also bad

It also leads to problems in social and family life as there is not enough time for persons working in late shifts to attend to their families.

The youth who work in call centres do not pay heed to their studies and therefore sometime are not able to finish their studies.

The BPOs pay the kids but do not care about the way they spend it, sometimes due to availability of fund the kids end up in bad company and disrupt their future as well as the hopes of their families.

The intellectual capital that India has proudly proclaimed itself to be for many years now is merely servicing technologies developed in other parts of the globe. The opportunity cost which India is bearing is the lack of enough young minds engaged in innovations for the future.

13 : THE ENTIRE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN INDIA IS FAULTY

No one commits a worse justice than when it is done in the name of justice - Plato

The fair and effective administration of justice is the corner stone of a free society and an essential component of public confidence in the institutions of the government. Recent developments in technology have helped to catalyze re-examination of many long established practices in the field of criminal justice and have led a number of thoughtful practitioners to consider the need for reforms. Revamping the criminal justice system is a holistic exercise and requires wide-ranging measures, which include formulating changes in laws, streamlining procedures and developing new techniques for the management of the problem of crime.

Criminal Justice system was devised more than a century ago to protect the rights of the innocents and to punish the guilty. And one of the major indicators to determine the quality of the criminal justice system is the rate of conviction in criminal offences. The latest official report, Crimes in India-2008, reveals that there has been a steady declining trend in the conviction rate. From 64.8 percent in 1961, the rate of conviction has declined to 62 percent in 1971, 52.5 percent in 1981, 47.8 percent in 1991 and 40.1 percent in 2008.

This shows that the present system has been suffering from certain maladies resulting in a wide performance gap on persistent basis.

Favour-[maladies of existing criminal justice system]

- "accused oriented system"- It is an accused-oriented criminal justice system where the victim has to prove that his rights have been invaded. The accused is the best source of evidence but the accused is kept away from the system and then the entire circus is enacted to prove the case. The victim is treated badly in the system. He has no role to play in the investigation. He cannot cross-examine the evidence or the accused. Instead, the accused can cross-examine the victim through his counsel.
- "faulty and slipshod investigation" - It is time-consuming, frustrating, and often counter-productive to try to reconstruct an incident or correct a slip-shod investigation [an investigation deliberately aimed at misguiding the counsel]. It's a very normal practice in the Indian judicial system which very often results in a wrong judgment and thus the frustration of the victim.
- "time consuming legal process"- Over three million cases are pending in India's 21 high courts, and an astounding 26.3 million cases are pending in subordinate courts across the country.
At the same time, there are almost a quarter million under-trials languishing in jails across the country. Of these, some 2,069 have been in jail for more than five years, even as their guilt or innocence is yet to be ascertained.

This has been revealed by official figures emerging from the home ministry's department of justice, under a Right to Information Act application placed by a citizen. It has also been found that over a quarter of all pending high court cases are at Allahabad. In subordinate courts, Uttar Pradesh, again topped the number of pending cases (4.6 million), followed by Maharashtra (4.1 million), Gujarat (3.9 million), West Bengal (1.9 million), Bihar (1.2 million), Karnataka (1.06 million), Rajasthan (1.05 million), Orissa (1 million) and Andhra Pradesh (900,000).

- "lack of coordination between police and prosecution"- The 14th Report of the Law Commission observed that it would not be possible for PPs to exhibit the degree of detachment necessary for fair prosecution if they were part of the police organization. Consequently, the prosecution wing was separated from the Police Department and placed

under a Directorate of Prosecution (Sections 24 and 25 Cr.PC). The Supreme Court also reiterated this position and directed the States to place the prosecution wing administratively and functionally under the direct control of the State government (AIR 1995 SC 1628).

- “over crowding in jails”- NHRC reports claim that Jails in various parts of the country are plagued with the problem of overcrowding with a total prison population of 3,24,852 against the total authorized capacity of 2,34,462.

AGAINST

- Time and again the central and state governments have appointed a number of commissions, committees and other official bodies to look into various aspects pertaining to reforms of the different segments of criminal justice system, namely police, judiciary and correctional administration. The focus is on two main bodies, i.e. National Police Commissions (1977-81) and Committee on Reforms of Criminal Justice System (2000-03).
- Some strict laws have been introduced ranging from making confessions to the police admissible to courts, to making matrimonial cruelty a bailable offence; they include placing a police officer as head of the prosecution and adding provisions from the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) into the regular penal law. Although “pota” was removed by the current Congress govt. but it still made sure that judicial reforms are well on their way in India.
- On the 14th of December a “national investigation agency act” was introduced in the parliament which paved the way for a centralized agency against criminal proceedings and terrorist outfits.
- Initiatives such as is a law enacted by the parliament of India giving citizens of India access to records of the Central Government and State Governments. The Act applies to all States and Union Territories of India, except the State of Jammu and Kashmir - which is covered under a State-level law. Under the provisions of the Act, any citizen (including the citizens within J&K) may request information from a “public authority” (a body of Government or “instrumentality of State”) which is required to reply expeditiously or within thirty days. The Act also requires every public authority to computerise their records for wide dissemination and to proactively publish certain categories of information so that the citizens need minimum recourse to request for information formally.
- We have always believed in the notion that “justice delayed is justice denied”, but looking in hindsight it won't be wrong to believe that “justice hurried is justice buried”.

14 : ELEVANCE OF GANDHISM TODAY

On 2nd of October, we celebrate the Birthday of a man- a common man who established his own empire against the British Empire and defeated them. But more importantly, on this day there is a national holiday as well!!!

And if you have some extra time in your hands you can even go to your local Khadi stores and get 25% discount on this special occasion. And if you are lucky they will even throw in a pair of goodies with foreign labels which Gandhi would have burned in the streets.

Today, politicians will garland Gandhi's ubiquitous golden framed photos and will give speeches on non-violence to the contract audience, but more importantly, will distribute sweets!!... And if we are lucky we might even get specials in our lunch!

So, Gandhi was a good man...fine. Gandhism established itself as a form of revolt...fine. Gandhism is one of the most ethical and strong form of non-violent protests...very fine. Will you practice it..? Ahem...

Or the question is ...Will anyone listen to you if you adopt Gandhian methods?

So the question is -Is Gandhism relevant today? ...or even feasible? Would Gandhi himself have succeeded in the current world? Gandhi's principles assume that the oppressor will feel guilty at some point of time...is this assumption valid in today's world?

FOR THE MOTION

Gandhism can never be outdated no matter what people may say and believe. In this world torn by violence and corruption, Gandhi's philosophy is the only hope that keeps the human race going.

Even the comic sequel Lage Raho Munnabhai emphasises the eternal spirit of Gandhism while depicting the fallacies of our system.

The teachings of Gandhi may be confined to textbooks today, but we all know that force never works in the long run, as is seen in the flick.

Whether it's the Kashmir imbroglio, the Iraq takeover, or the recent Lebanon-Israel crisis, violence has never resolved an issue, but only created further conflicts.

It's only the path of ahimsa that can survive all the upheavals and yet emerge stronger. Gandhi alone was responsible for the independence of our country.

All great people such as Albert Einstein, Martin Luther King Jr., the Dalai Lama, praised his peaceful movements and have followed in his footsteps.

Then how could such person and his philosophy be wrong? Every day, we read about incidents of violence in the paper, sometimes the cause is justified and sometimes it's not. Therefore, it's important that schools preach the value of ahimsa and Satyagraha to children and mould them into good human beings.

Gandhism is fully capable of resolving all kinds of problems, whether they are individual or social in nature. Moreover, through Gandhism, struggles and conflicts can be transformed and a sustainable culture of peace can be created through it successfully. Today, problems have become common and complex. Therefore, their solutions can be feasible through collective efforts; especially the problem of terrorism can be controlled through a concrete international

understanding and cooperation. The Gandhian technique of non-cooperation can also be applied at an international level. Thus, this principle of non-cooperation is one of the most fundamental aspects of Gandhism, which is relevant even today.

AGAINST THE MOTION

Gandhism's relevance is lost in the eyes of today's generation which is loathe to accept it as a relevant way of life. For this opportunistic generation, truth, self-sacrifice and non-violence are anachronistic. Take a little example. Ask yourself, will you ever sacrifice a good job for the person who is needier? Is it possible to silently tolerate embarrassment? Or, readily offer your face for another slap? Well, the answer is a big "No" for most of us. And, who cares about truth and non-violence as far as the purpose is getting served?

The millennials think and act differently. For them, non-violence is a word confined to the dictionaries only. This was proved by the recent beating of Professor Sabharwal of Ujjain, who was manhandled by unruly students, allegedly belonging to the ABVP, after college union polls were cancelled following allegations of irregularities. They chose the path of violence over non-violence.

There is yet another very good example. The movie *Rang de Basanti* was appealing, fantastic and amazing... But it was staunchly supporting violence. This movie impressed the youth and also managed to derive their sympathy for the four revengeful youngsters who ultimately used the weapon of violence as a means to reach their aim.

Doctors of AIIMS and thousands of students adopted a non-violent route to protest against the reservation regime proposed by Arjun Singh. Protests went for weeks including hunger strikes and included lathi-charge and use of water cannons against the students. And what was the Result? - OBC reservation was implemented.

Gujjars turned violent asking for OBC status. They went on rampage damaging railway tracks and nearly isolated a whole state from rest of the country. And what was result? Within few days Indian Government bowed to Gujjars and gave them the backward status.

So we can conclude that the complexities of contemporary life and environment leave no other alternative for people but to secure victory at any cost. We won't claim that values have lost their significance, but would rather say that these have been replaced by a set of new values in which Gandhism doesn't find a place in today's world.

Conclusion

The emerging social and economic scenario in India demands much more than what Gandhiji could have possibly offered if he were alive now. The philosophies and working strategies have long been changed after Gandhiji. And Gandhiji himself had to pay the price with his life. Gandhiji, if born in the contemporary times, would certainly have had evolved different philosophies to tackle the situation. The debate is not whether Gandhiji would have been able to solve the crisis or not, the point is to understand the character of the man, the rectitude and truthfulness, which reflected "Indianness". And whether the principles he propagated still exist or not?

15: “COMMERCIALISATION OF HEALTH CARE: GOOD OR BAD?”

Health care, is the prevention, treatment, and management of illness and the preservation of mental and physical well being through the services offered by the medical, nursing, and allied health professions.

The words “Commercialization of health care” implies running of health care as a business. From the meaning itself we can know whether it is good or bad.

Healthcare is a fast-growing sector which is developing at a very fast pace. People are becoming health conscious and are demanding better quality healthcare measures. Many hospitals have been formed for the purpose of providing quality healthcare to the people. Huge investments are being made in R&D which has led to development of new and better life saving drugs and equipment. This attitude of people provides the platform for the commercialization of health care.

The Major Players in India are Wockhardt Ltd., Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited, Max India Ltd. and Fortis Healthcare Ltd. etc.

For

The commercialization of healthcare definitely leads to the technological advancement in the field of medicine. The medicinal field is as diverse as human ailments can be. Hospitals, Pharmacy, Nursing, Treatment, Medicine, etc. are the different areas of healthcare where commercialization can take place rather we can say has already taken place.

The innovations and technology really helps the patient a lot. For e.g. patients may be able to monitor chronic conditions such as diabetes and asthma in their own homes using modified mobile phones to access and process their data, which may give better convenience and better management of their conditions and reduce the need to visit their local health care centre. The competition leads to the obligation for a particular businessman to provide better services and facilities.

The medical professionals devote so much of their time and effort to this noble profession and commercialization helps in earning a better living for them.

The government of India is of the opinion that by marketing India as a global medical tourism destination, it could capitalize on the low-cost, high-quality medical care available in the country and thus help in raising the revenue for the country. Medical costs in India are a fraction of the costs in the US / Europe. For instance, a heart surgery costs \$6,000 in India as against \$30,000 in the US. And of course to attract medical tourists, we required a world class infrastructure along with the best of services.

Health care commercialization also leads to outsourcing and thus providing the desired placement for the youth. The contract research services segment has the potential to generate 50,000 jobs in the next five years with a revenue realization to the tune of \$5 billion per annum. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has launched Tata Bio-Suite, a portable, versatile software package for life sciences and drug discovery. Only this role of commercialization brings in IT to healthcare.

The Health insurance scheme has been envisaged as a potential and pertinent mechanism of health financing in the developing countries. Overall, the prospects appear very bright and reflect the old adage ‘health is wealth’.

The other advantage is that private healthcare offers an alternative to the moral decline seen in the public health sector over the last 15 years. The Indian government is at the bottom of the

league with respect to economic allocations to health. In this situation, it seems unlikely that palliative care will be covered. Privatization and commercialization of medicine seem to take over where the public services are fading out. In this situation, several commercial healthcare centers also offer a healthy alternative in terminal care.

Against

Medical practice has a crucial moral component: The commitment of the doctor is to the patient, to place the patient's interest above his own, and always to do what is in the patient's best interest to the best of his ability. But commercialization leads to the doctor's interest over the patient's interest. Thus we can say that the commercialization of healthcare is as wrong economically as it is morally.

Do you regard the health care system as just another industry and physicians as just another group of businessmen? Where profit is the ultimate criterion to work on? It wipes out the cross-subsidies that regulated healthcare used to provide for medical research and education. It encourages insurers and providers to limit their services to healthy people. "The logic behind commercial healthcare tells practitioners to stop treating sick people," the NGO'S argued, "It's the same logic as that followed by the hotel where we're staying. The hotel won't take guests who can't pay the price of its rooms. That's okay in the hotel business and other endeavours, but in healthcare it makes no sense."

The healthcare consumer is not sovereign. For one thing, most consumers lack the medical knowledge necessary to choose among possible providers. For another, most of the actual choosing of health plans is done by employers, not the consumers themselves and the obvious fact is that the employer preferably goes for profits rather than charity.

Physicians should be adequately compensated for their time and effort, but not as businessmen. Unfortunately, too many physicians nowadays are succumbing to the lure of easy profits and are becoming entrepreneurs. There are many dealers in the market who dupe people by selling outdated medicines.

The doctors become more and more rapacious and thus play with the values of this noble profession.

The Medical professionals then feel reluctant to get transferred to remote areas where they are actually required and thus don't want to be a govt. doctor Rather aspire to get a job in some commercialized institution as Wockhardt and Apollo Hospitals.

The repetitive use of diagnostic techniques is not very good for health but hospitals tend to earn more and more profit as any business from it and emphasize their widespread use which may degrade the health just for the sake of mere profit in terms of revenues for the business.

16 : IS PROFIT THE ONLY BUSINESS OF BUSINESS?

Business is defined as “an occupation, profession, or trade” as well as “an assignment or task; chore.” Business is a broad term for something one does. An example can be, “John is taking care of his business” where business can be anything in the world. Knowing this, there are two basic types of business organizations: For Profit and Non Profit. Non profit businesses motives, well, are not concerned with profit. Take a look at FIFA: The Federation International de Football Association. They are a non profit sporting organization, whose mission is to “Develop the game, touch the world, and build a better future”.

But what about For profit businesses? Is their only motive to be in business in profit?

FAVOUR

There are two kinds of organizations in today’s world-those that have ethics, and those that don’t. Words that are synonymous with business are buying, selling, money, commerce, trade, and yes, profit.

Profit is income a company earns in a certain period of time. After all, what is a business that does not make a profit? Traditionally, businessmen in India formed a clear stereotype, their only concern was making money, and shrewdness ran in their blood. They knew the rules of the game well, and also how to bend and weave around them. A business is set up to fulfill some primary objectives of the people setting it up. It doesn’t matter what business you’re in: Retail, manufacturing, service, resale, wholesale, etc. You must make \$\$\$\$\$. Money is the lifeblood of the company. It is essential for survival, growth and well-being. For obvious reasons, food comes first, and then ethics. So profit is definitely one of the larger goals in the minds of the businessman. And everyone knows that an ailing business finds no takers. Businesses that don’t make profits don’t stay in business long.

The Social work done by the businessmen is minute as compared to the investment it is taking from the society. The fundamental behind running business is Capitalization.

Capitalization is based only on profit and Profit is like oxygen, food, water, and blood for the body; they are not the POINT of life, but without them there is no life.

Against

In this highly competitive scenario that is today’s world, customers are well aware of the policies adopted by different companies, thanks to an active media and interest on the part of the people. Customers now want to know what goes into the food they eat, the fairness cream they use, or the drinks they consume. And companies can no longer be complacent with the quality of their products, because the Indian consumer has certainly developed a discerning taste. For example, after the recent case of pesticides being found in Coca-Cola and Pepsi drinks, the companies will find the going very tough if they keep flouting standards. With the opening of the Indian markets, the customers are really spoilt for choice, and brand loyalty doesn’t go too far in today’s world. So the customers can definitely not be taken for granted.

It is this factor that has changed the way businesses are run today. Companies today are no longer just profit-making machines, they also have a social responsibility to consider, and it is the humanitarian causes that some companies promote that remains etched in the minds of the people for a long time to come. Bill Gates called it “giving back to the people what you have earned from them”.

Humanitarian issues apart, it is also the service offered to the customers by a company that can build or tarnish its image. Since products from different companies are nowadays becoming convergent, with very little to differentiate between them, factors like customer-relationship

management have begun to play an important role in formulating public opinion. And it is a well proven fact that the Indian consumer once bitten, is twice shy. If a company doesn't maintain a good relation with its employees and customers, it doesn't really last long in the rat race.

To conclude, profit has definitely ceased to be the only business of business. Core capitalization is now no more there because organizations are now managed by more than one person.

CONCLUSION

Business is definitely a profit making enterprise but the benefits society is getting out of it is also considerable. So the companies are reinvesting their profits in society. Due to businesses only the human life is getting better and safer.

17. DEMOCRACY IS HAMPERING THE PROGRESS OF INDIA

It is hard to escape the impression that market interests and democratic principles are uneasily aligned in India today. The two are not inherently contradictory, but there are tensions between them that India's leaders will have to manage carefully.

Our country does not have an extensive welfare system, although it has made a greater effort to create one of late. And, defying democratic theory, a great participatory upsurge has marked Indian politics, a phenomenon that is only beginning to be understood by scholars and observers: since the early 1990s, India's plebeian orders have participated noticeably more in elections than its upper and middle classes. In fact, the recent wisdom about Indian elections turns standard democratic theory on its head: the lower the caste, income, and education of an Indian, the greater the odds that he will vote. The ruling United Progressive Alliance (UPA), a coalition with the Indian National Congress at its core, counts on the lower social orders as its most important voting bloc.

India's development experience is likely to be distinct from East Asia's. South Korea and Taiwan embraced universal-franchise democracy only in the late 1980s and the mid-1990s, two decades after their economic upturn began. Other economically successful countries in the region, such as China and Singapore, have yet to become liberal democracies. Periodic renewals of mass mandates through the ballot box are not necessary in authoritarian countries, but they are in India. Democratic politics partly explains why, for example, privatization has gone so slowly in India in comparison to China. In India, workers have unions and political parties to protect their interests. In China, labour leaders who resist job losses due to privatization are tried and jailed for treason and subversion, something entirely inconceivable in India's democracy.

So far, the reform process of the last 15 years has had positive results: by most conventional standards, India's economy is booming. After registering a 6 percent average annual growth rate for nearly a quarter century, the Indian economy has picked up even greater speed. Over the last three years, it has grown at over 8 percent annually, and forecasts for the next few years promise more of the same. Investment as a proportion of GDP has been steadily climbing, exceeding 30 percent lately and raising hopes of an investment boom like that which propelled East Asia's economies. Total foreign direct investment for the current financial year is likely to exceed \$10 billion (compared with \$100 million in 1990-91) and is rising. Exports are growing at a fast clip, with India's trade-to-GDP ratio more than doubling in 2006 from its 1991 level of 15 percent. The manufacturing sector, like the services sector, is becoming a key engine of the economy, and India's world-class information technology sector continues to grow exponentially, employing less than 0.5 percent of India's labour force but producing about 5 percent of the nation's GDP. Corporate dynamism, rarely associated with India in the past, is fast changing the business map of the country, and India, in turn, is rapidly becoming an important factor in the global strategies of the world's leading international firms.

But how long will the boom last? That depends on India's democratic politics, where economic growth has fed pressures for the redistribution of wealth. Mainstream economic theory about markets and human welfare holds that markets will benefit all in the long run. But long-term perspectives do not come naturally to democratic politicians, who must focus on winning elections in the short term. Accordingly, a low-income democracy such as India, must nurture the energies of its entrepreneurs while, in the short run, responding to the reservations and resentments of the masses. How well India's politicians walk this tightrope will determine the outcome of the country's economic transformation.

It was within this thicket of protectionist policies that, in July 1991, reformers in the Congress-led government began to push hard for economic transformation under the looming prospect of a balance-of-payments crisis. Some reforms had already been put in place by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in the mid-1980s, but the big thrust came in 1991-92 as a result of that looming crisis. The

finance minister at the time, Manmohan Singh (currently India's prime minister), argued that the macroeconomic stabilization necessary to stave off a crisis was not enough; it had to be reinforced by reforms to make the decision-making and operational environment of firms more market-based. Thus began a series of incremental reforms, which the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) continued after it came to power at the head of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) coalition in 1998.

A great deal of progress has also been made in reforming India's trade and exchange-rate regimes. India now has a flexible exchange-rate system. The average tariff on imports has come down from over 100 percent to just under 25 percent today, and all quota restrictions on trade have been lifted.

Progress has been limited, however, in five areas: fiscal policy, privatization, small-scale industry, agriculture, and labour law. India's fiscal deficits continue to be high. Large agricultural subsidies for inputs, grain, and power are some of the main contributors to these deficits, and almost every attempt at lowering the subsidies has been met by political protests on behalf of farmers. A start toward privatization was made in 2001, but unions and some political parties have vigorously resisted it. To help millions of small producers, many manufactured products continue to be reserved for "small-scale investors" (a status that caps investment at \$250,000 per industrial unit), although in 2001, garments, toys, shoes, and auto components were finally removed from the reserved list. No proposal for a complete dereservation of all industries has yet been seriously entertained, hampering the ability of many Indian companies to compete with their counterparts in other developing countries, notably China. And labour laws have not been reformed, meaning that no company operating in India employing more than 100 workers can fire any without government permission — and permission is almost never granted.

Democracy does not hamper the progress of India

- Democracy is the only reason of India's progress. There is no greater system for a country than a vibrant democracy. There may be problems, but then what system does not have the problems. There will always be problems in any system, but we have to overcome that and keep trying to do so. No system can ever be foolproof because no two men always can think alike. Just look to Pakistan for a reference. Or if you have China in mind, their bubble will burst one day like USSR's did.
- The largest democracy on earth!! Everyone we've seen there seems happy to express themselves. Self-expression breeds progress because it makes ones ideas more welcome
- No we don't think so. The Indian Government has brought in the Right to Information Act under public pressure. Now they want to repeal it, but, look at the public pressure that they are facing? Do you think people would have that freedom to criticize the Govt. policies but for democracy?
- Progress without freedom is useless friends.
Just heard it on TV that the Government of India has bowed to public pressure and decided not to go ahead with the amendments to the RTI Act. That's the power of Democracy. Is progress not possible when you has such freedom?
- At the time of Independence, the average income of Pakistanis was higher than that of Indians. Today after almost 60 years of democracy in India (bloody and violent democracy at time one will admit) and 60 years of dictatorships, military rule and religious control in Pakistan, the average income of Indians is about 300% higher than Pakistan and India is now in the process of becoming a genuine world "superpower."

Democracy does hamper progress

- As all can see from the TV news and reading the papers, everything is being moulded according to the wishes of the so called protectors of democracy. 8 years and 4 times salary, along with countless benefits,
- Why all the matters regarding salary and allowances for all the employees are not decided by one and only one authority? Why separate scales are being used for same kind of work/service?
- The way the system is built, a lot of regulations and formalities come into the picture. The bureaucracy leads to delays. And a lot of other stuff. But for one thing, we play safe.

18. ARE MINORITIES SAFE IN INDIA?

When we talk in terms of majority-minority it creates an impression as if the entire majority or minority community supports one particular point of view or one particular political trend. A large number of Hindus fight against the Sangh Parivar and a large number of Muslims opposed Muslim League politics in pre-partition days. Thus, while using the term majority or minority we should be conscious of this fact.

It is important to note that after partition Muslims have been reduced to a small minority and cannot afford to be very aggressive. A section of Muslim leadership took an aggressive posture during the eighties on questions like Shah Bano and Babri Masjid and launched aggressive movements. The result was strengthening of the Sangh Parivar, which began to get more Hindu support. However, realisation about negative outfall of aggressive postures by a section of minority leaders came after the demolition of Babri Masjid and consequent communal riots in Mumbai, Surat, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Bhopal and other places. Since then the Muslim leaders have been sobered down.

It is also important to note that the majority tends to be arrogant and assertive not only in India but in all countries including those of the West. Thus Majority-minority conflict is almost universal. It is not specific to India. The Majority feels arrogant on account of numbers and political power. In some countries the minority may wield political power as the Alawis in Syria over Sunni majority or Sunnis in Iraq over Shia majority. But this is possible only under dictatorship and not in democracy. In Iraq today it is the Sunni minority, which is using violence in protest against loss of power and prospects of Shias and Kurds ruling over them under democracy.

In all these countries usually those who are supporters of democracy and inclined towards left tend to be more sympathetic towards minorities. Thus we see in India the left parties are very sympathetic of Muslim minority. It was the Left which consistently opposed the NDA rule and helped Congress form the government to keep NDA led by the BJP out of power. Also some caste -based parties like RJD, SP and BSP have taken sympathetic view of Muslims. But this is more on account of compulsions of minority votes than on ideological grounds as in the case of the left.

But nevertheless such alliances, though not ideological, are nevertheless important to keep communal peace. Thus Bihar has seen communal peace in last 13 years largely because Lalu Prasad needs Muslim votes. However, in West Bengal the left has maintained communal peace in last 23 years not simply because of compulsions of vote but ideologically it is against communalism. And this is an important difference.

Besides arrogance of the majority there are other factors like class, caste and race at work. In this connection the example of communal and racial violence, which has been going on for last 20 days is quite important. The police in the suburbs of Paris was chasing some North African youth and two of them got electrocuted while running away from the police and the violence against police and subsequently against others broke out.

We can give example of the Naxalite violence in India. The tribals and dalits who belong to the minority in the Indian society, tend to be quite intense as it is the result of centuries of oppression and exploitation. Similarly the LTTE also tends to be very vicious in its attacks though Tamilians are in minority in Sri Lanka. Thus, it will be seen that much depends on concrete situations and it is very difficult to generalise. In many cases the minority can be very vicious in its attacks on the majority or on the government constituted by the majority community.

If the minority is poor and illiterate it may tend to be less aggressive but if it is facing intense exploitation the situation might change. In the case of India, its secular democratic political structure becomes a cushion against more intense violence. The Muslim minority tends to benefit from democratic secularism and hence it does not resort to violence as minorities do in other authoritarian countries.

Indian Muslims were also traumatised by the partition experience and soon realised that democratic secularism is for their benefit. In this connection it is important to note that in India; most orthodox ulama support secular democracy as against the ulama in Muslim majority countries who denounce secularism as against Islam. The ulama feel empowered in Muslim majority countries through assertion of religious dogmas as majority of people follow Islam.

However, in Muslim minority countries like India, such assertion does not bring political empowerment but arouses suspicion of the majority and hence such assertion for political empowerment is avoided and instead it is acceptance of secularism which brings more acceptability and so the ulama tend to support democratic secularism.

Thus, to understand majority-minority dynamics, one has to understand the political dynamics of the country. One cannot understand it in a political vacuum. It certainly cannot be understood only in terms of religion, as usually we tend to do. It is not a religious but a political problem. If it is a tiny minority like the Parsis it will not create any problem but if it is a sizeable minority like Muslims, it will give rise to majority-minority problem. The tiny minorities like that of Parsis cannot influence power dynamics while a sizeable minority like that of Muslims can.

Minorities are safe

- Many of us don't know what the role of so called minorities in Gujarat is and elsewhere in the world.
In Gujarat or in India the minority is safe but criminals are not. Sorabuddin was a terrorist and a gangster also. The Media and the court are misguided by anti Modi elements.
- Encounters by trigger hungry police have been taking place in all states all the time, for a variety of reasons, religious affiliation being the least cause. The victims belong to all castes and creeds. Some cases get highlighted by fluke and most of them are consigned to oblivion. Minorities are as safe as the rest.
- A number of crimes are committed by politicians against innocent people. It may be you, me, next door neighbour... any one.

But it is highlighted only when the minorities are affected because politicians want to derive political mileage from the incidents. Minorities will always be safe.

- Encounters are prevalent in the entire country. But when it relates to Gujarat it gets nation wide publicity
- It is not bad to kill terrorists & gangsters to relieve people from the gunda raj. Terrorists are not from the majority or the minority.
- The Minority population is the safest in India when compared with the world. Killing the criminals, although in fake encounters, is not as bad when viewed from public safety. Gujarat is targeted for mean political reasons which the majority of Indians understand well.
- Everyone, be they minorities or others, are relatively safe in big cities where the press keeps an active watch on the wrongdoings of the powers that be. In small places, as one reads almost daily, many atrocities take place without getting exposed. This happens in all states. Mostly it is for the perpetrators economic gain, disguised as minority attacks. Gujarat is unique because of the specially created mind set that is anti minority. The Hindustan Times had analyzed this very well in an earlier article. In the interests of humanity, let us hope that the Supreme Court takes a very pro active stance to curtail "encounter" killings in all states, once and for all. Let us also admit that unless all of us Indians change our mindset which is predominantly caste and community oriented, nothing will really change.
- Minorities are kings in India! Just try getting into IITs and IIMs!

Minorities are not safe

- People killed in fake encounters are to be called innocent people and should not be labeled as Muslims or Hindus.
- There is no safety for a common man whether in Gujarat, Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh or Bihar or Uttar Pradesh. Daily we live under the shadow of a gun or a sword of the terrorists, police and mafia.
- In 2002 Gujarat riots almost more than 2500 Muslims were killed by the Modi Government. WE DON'T BELIEVE MINORITIES ARE SAFE under the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Mr. Narendra Modi. Modi should hang for his act.

- Look there is no word as 'safe' in war. Therefore you can never say that India is a safe haven for terrorists.
- Our jawans are trying their best to eradicate terrorism but some have to suffer while others prosper. Therefore, henceforth there is no word as safe when it is the matter of war or battle.

19. SHOULD THERE BE JOB RESERVATION IN THE PVT. SECTOR? OR RESERVATION IN THE PVT. SECTOR, A SOCIAL NECESSITY

To remove imbalances and enhance job opportunities for SC/STs, the Manmohan Singh Government has announced in its Common Minimum Programme (CMP) that reservation will be extended to them in the private sector through affirmative action. Academics and administrators in the private sector soon joined the chorus of opposition against this policy. This generated a new debate in the country. No political party has opposed the idea of extending reservation in the private sector. The captains of industry, however, fear that if reservation is extended to the private sector, the industry will lose its composite culture, profitability and become inefficient. THE government's basic objective of providing reservation to the Dalits has been to uplift them socially and economically. This has been partially achieved as far as jobs in the government and public sector are concerned. However, with the beginning of the disinvestment process, jobs in the public sector for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are receding. This has given rise to the demand for reservation in the private sector. The private sector is the dominant sector in the Indian economy. Till 1999-2000, of the 1, 31,558 companies, 1, 09, 131 (or 83 per cent) were in the private sector. The private sector has thus been bestowed with greater social responsibility of developing the depressed classes. The present debate is the culmination of the ideas of the anti-reservationists and their hostility towards reservation. The Indian upper caste middle class is becoming restless because of the reservation issue. It feels that private industry is exclusively its domain and others should not be allowed to enter this sphere. It perhaps thinks that it has the exclusive rights for employment in the Indian industry and that the SCs/STs are untouchable even though they are equally qualified and competent. It overlooks the fact that the private sector is thriving today mainly because of the creation of infrastructure by the government. The Indian industry has essentially remained conservative and casteist. Prior to Independence, Dalits were not employed in some of the departments of the textile industry on the ground that their presence would pollute their units. Therefore, they were given jobs in factories, if any, outside the factory premises. The Indian industry encouraged employment of those from the elite Swarn castes. The SC/STs were never given their due share of the cake for which they were eligible and competent. Studies prove that the SC/STs and the OBCs are more loyal, committed and honest as compared to others. Had the industry been more socially sensitive, it should have opened schools, colleges and training institutions exclusively for the former so that they could compete with the latter and occupy senior managerial positions. Unfortunately, no such affirmative action has ever been taken up by the industry. As the private sector has not contributed anything worthwhile for the social transformation of the country, it should extend job reservation to the depressed classes voluntarily and contribute for the economic development of the country. The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been stressing the need for the private sector to extend reservation voluntarily. A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted to look into the vital question. The Prime Minister has made his intentions clear on the subject and emphasized that the private sector should provide more employment avenues to the SC/STs.

There should be reservation

- At the outset, the main purpose of the reservation policy was to ensure social and economic justice; thereby realize the goal of the empowerment of the dalits and tribals. It can address certain social inequalities that pervade the Indian society for so long. For, these social inequalities leave the so-called low castes deprived in everything from education to economy. Thus, the policy of job reservations intends to bring about proportional representation, as it is a mode of distributing benefits based on the proportion of population i.e. 15 percent for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and 7.5 percent for Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- Thanks to Dr. B R Ambedkar's instrumental role in the constitution making, the governments are bound to implement them on the basis of the principle of distributive justice and compensation for past disadvantages. But then, that was confined to only the public sector that had been shrinking over a period of time. At a time when the number of

- educated among these unprivileged classes is increasing in geometrical progression, their share of jobs in the public sector is dwindling on end. This is more so since the last decade and a half, all in the name of so-called globalization and till date.
- This concept of 'Reservations' aimed at ensuring the betterment of underprivileged and deprived sections of society was sabotaged from 'within' in the initial days. Thus, these reservations were being renewed decade after decade.
 - Even though constitutional obligations are binding upon all the government departments, not more than ten percent of reservations were ever implemented. It is only in the last few years, owing to the efforts of some dalit leaders and their movements that there was some improvement in this direction. The fact that several governments both at the centre and in states and public sector units were found to be advertising, the 'backlog vacancies' in the name of special-drives, so as to recruit members from these reserved categories vindicate the above proposition.
 - Even then, none of the departments could ever claim that required vacancies were filled up. More than the case of lack of availability of suitable candidates in these communities for the prescribed positions, it is the employers' biased attitude against such candidates that is largely responsible for the prevailing situation. However, except in the top-level central services, the jobs in the other categories are still unoccupied by the dalit candidates.
 - This is a long awaited measure and of course it should be welcomed by all sections of society. Obviously, even a section of the business class is willing to implement it, how so difficult it may appear to be as far as its feasibility is concerned.
 - By doing so, the industry will become more humane and professional. It will also become more competitive and profitable. The social image of the industry will improve and its acceptability will increase in society. The industry must prove that it is open to all and everyone should share the responsibility of uplifting the depressed brethren. It should change its perception that by providing reservation to weaker sections, it would lose its competitiveness.

In any case, this concept of private reservation cannot be considered as charity, but a right from a government that exposed its hollowness. Further, it is a necessity as the government failed to create jobs to its qualified aspirants. In other words, the nature of private job is such that there is hardly any guarantee (in terms of pay and period) to that job! It is so insecure that one should continue searching for jobs as usual; of course till a government job is secured. Then, why should there be such hue and cry about the 'reservations in private sector'?

There should be no reservation

- The Government's focus should be on making entrepreneurs out of large segments of civil society, especially those belonging to Scheduled Castes/Tribes or Other Backward Classes, rather than providing limited job opportunities in listed companies. This will go along way in enhancing the economic and social status of these segments.
- Whenever, private sector is mentioned in our polity and in discussions among the metropolitan elite it is assumed to be the listed companies of the private corporate sector. Visibility and hyped exposure in the electronic media may have contributed to this impression. Private corporate sector constitutes, relatively a small portion of the national income, of 12-14 per cent.

Looking at the employment statistics pertaining to the private sector, we do not have separate statistics on the number employed by the private corporate sector and proprietorship and partnership (P&P sector) forms of organizations. Many companies do not provide information on the number of people employed by them as they are not required to.

Table 1 (Lakhs Persons as on 31-03--)

Employment In Government					
Year	1981	1990	1995	2000	2002
Central Government	31.95	33.97	33.95	32.73	31.95
State Governments	55.75	69.79	73.55	74.6	73.84
Quasi Government	45.76	61.73	65.2	63.26	60.2
Local Bodies	20.37	22.23	21.97	22.55	21.75
Total	154.84	187.72	194.67	193.14	187.74

First the facts: Table 1 provides the number of persons employed in government and semi-government organizations for selected years.

We find that the employment in government and public sector has stagnated in the 1990s and shown a decline in the last two years. The reasons are two fold. One is the non-expansion of governmental activities particularly pertaining to public sector compared to the socialistic approach of the 1960s when bread to rockets were made by the government. Two, the Government is broke, especially at the State level.

Salary wages and pensions constitute more than 50 per cent of the revenue of many State governments. The dependency ratio (namely, the number retired to that on rolls) is increasing at an exponential rate for most governments/departments. Hence, the opportunity for employment in the government is significantly reduced and it impacts SC/STs also.

Table 2 (Number in lakhs)

Employment in private sector					
	1981	1990	1995	2000	2002
Manufacturing	45.45	44.57	47.06	50.85	48.67
Construction	0.72	0.68	0.53	0.57	0.56
Wholesale, retail trade	2.77	2.91	3.08	3.3	3.35
Transport, storage	0.6	0.52	0.55	0.7	0.76
Finance and insurance	1.96	2.39	2.93	3.58	3.91
Community, social services	12.22	14.6	16.03	17.23	17.42
Total (including others)	73.95	75.82	80.58	86.49	84.32

Source: Economic Survey - 2003-04

Note: Refers to establishments in the private sector employing 10 or more persons.
Coverage in construction, particularly, is known to be inadequate.

The above table provides the employment data for the private sector for select years. According to the *Economic Survey*, 3.3 lakh persons were employed in trade activities (wholesale and retail) in 2002. This presumably includes hotels and restaurants also since separately they are not provided and they come under trade category in our statistics. The number of people employed by the construction industry is 56,000. But in a city like Bangalore itself, there may be more than a lakh people working in construction activities. In transport, storage and communications, according to the Government, there were 76,000 workers in 2002.

- The Government and the private organized sector have only a small share (8-9 per cent) of the total work force of the country. The organized private sector employs a total of 84.32 lakh persons which is less than 3 per cent of the total work force (of nearly 350 million). Under the circumstances, even if the entire organized private sector is reserved for the SC/ST/OBCs, the gains from employment will be very meager.

Table 3 (in %)

Social group of owners of enterprises			
	Rural	Urban	Combined
SC	9	5.8	7.7
ST	5.2	2.3	4
OBC	36	29.1	33.1
Total of above	50.2	37.2	44.8

Source: Economic Census

The above table gives the salient findings pertaining to ownership of the enterprises. We find that nearly half of all enterprises are owned by SC/ST/OBCs in the rural areas and the same is nearly 38 per cent in the urban areas. This encompasses manufacturing, construction, trade, hotel/restaurant, transport, finance and other services.

- The increase is sharp in the urban areas, from 2.37 per cent to 12.24 per cent. This is interesting. The reasons for such growth also need study by planners for replicating those cluster efforts. There are inter-State variations in terms of industry focus among these social segments which also require a closer study to encourage and enhance entrepreneurial activities by these social groups in different States.
- Incidentally, one of the arguments given is regarding enhancing the "Social Status" of these segments. Social backwardness, it is pointed out, as a valid reason for caste-based reservations compared to reservations based on say economic criteria. In today's context politics, cricket and cinema/TV provide substantial social status and hence the demand should be in these areas, compared to corporate keyboard punching.

Those who oppose reservation in the private sector do not realise the fact that the Indian industry at no point was socially responsible. Though the SC/STs and the OBCs constitute the major group in the country's population, their share in the industrial ownership is negligible. The Indian industry needs to be progressive and shoulder the responsibility of ensuring equitable development of all sections including the depressed classes. They should wake up to the call of the day and offer reservation to the SC/STs voluntarily to fulfill the socio-economic obligations.

20. SHOULD CAPITAL PUNISHMENT BE BANNED

Capital punishment, also called the **death penalty**, is the execution (putting to death) of a convicted criminal by the state as punishment for crimes known as *capital crimes* or *capital offenses*. Historically, the execution of criminals and political opponents was used by nearly all societies—both to punish crime and to suppress political dissent. Among countries around the world, almost all European and many Pacific Area states (including Australia, New Zealand and Timor Leste), and Canada have abolished capital punishment. In Latin America, most states have completely abolished the use of capital punishment, while some countries, however, like Brazil, allow for capital punishment only in exceptional situations, such as treason committed during wartime. The United States (the federal government and 36 of its states), Guatemala, most of the Caribbean and the majority of democracies in Asia (e.g. Japan and India) and Africa (e.g. Botswana and Zambia) retain it.

In most places that practice capital punishment today, the death penalty is reserved as punishment for premeditated murder, espionage, treason, or as part of military justice. In some countries sexual crimes, such as rape, adultery and sodomy, carry the death penalty, as do religious crimes such as apostasy (the formal renunciation of one's religion). In many retentionist countries (countries that use the death penalty), drug trafficking is also a capital offense. In China, human trafficking and serious cases of corruption are also punished by the death penalty. In militaries around the world courts-martial have imposed death sentences for offenses such as cowardice, desertion, insubordination, and mutiny.

Capital punishment is a very contentious issue in some cultures. Supporters of capital punishment argue that it deters crime, prevents recidivism, and is an appropriate form of punishment for the crime of murder. Opponents of capital punishment argue that it does not deter criminals more than life imprisonment, violates human rights, leads to executions of some who are wrongfully convicted, and discriminates against minorities and the poor.

The latest country looking to abolish the death penalty for all crimes was Gabon which announced on September 14, 2007 that they would no longer apply capital punishment.

It should be banned

- DEATH penalty is the symbol of terror, cruelty and irreverence that mankind must reject.
- "I cannot in all conscience agree to anyone being sent to the gallows. God alone can take life because He alone gives it" – Mahatma Gandhi
- According to Justice P.N. Bhagwati: "Death penalty is barbaric and inhuman in its effect, mental and physical upon the condemned man and is positively cruel. Its psychological effect on the prisoner in the Death Row is disastrous."
- There are cases where it has been possible to show subsequently that the convictions were erroneous.

It should not be banned

- To justify death sentence is to accept that there comes a stage in a human being where we can conclude that this man is now beyond repair, beyond learning, beyond transformation or reformation, beyond the hope of doing anything that will be of any use to any member of society.
- Society may punish the criminal "any way it deems necessary so as to set as example for other would-be criminal".
- Those opposing capital punishment say that the lex talionis (eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth; retributive justice) retribution is anachronistic and repugnant to human values and a citizen's right to life. However, these arguments are weak and flawed. There is no reason why capital punishment should not be retained in the country as the Supreme Court has time and again reiterated that death sentence should be given only in rarest of the rare cases.
- Though modern society abhors death sentence, capital punishment is needed in the case of terrorists and those who have committed heinous crimes.

- Political scientists and philosopher J.S. Mill held the view that if a person does not show regard for human life and commits an act depriving one of his right to life, he forfeits it for himself.
- Utmost judicial circumspection and scrutiny is required while awarding the death sentence. The impossibility of correcting an error once committed by a judge renders the courts of justice to be more scrupulous in requiring the fullest evidence of guilt.

With Best Wishes,

The Career Launcher Team