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# UPSC

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Q.1

Q3

'Problems of 21st century are problems without passports'

Thomas Friedman in his book 'Lexus and the Olive Tree' defined globalisation as 'inexorable integration of market, civil society and people to an extent never seen before'. This defines the characteristic feature of this new millenium where we see the world becoming cheaper and faster, closer and deeper in 21st century. It has led to emergence of a 'global village'.

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While this global society led to greater economic ties, food security for all, improvement in human development indicators worldwide, with dawn of 21st century new set of problems emerged. These problems were unique in their comparison from any previous century as they no longer were bound by national borders. The power of sea failed to limit them and that's why termed as 'Problems without passport'.

In this essay we shall explore what these problems exactly are, what led to continuation of these problems, the present efforts in dealing with them and the need of the hour. Let's begin with problems of 21st century.

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## Problems without Passport

IPCC 'AR6' report issued 'Code Red' for humanity as with current status we will reach 2°C by 2050. The climate change crisis is the gravest concern as sea level rise is leading to small island developing nations like Pacific Island Countries on verge of submerging. Countries were forced to shift capitals like Indonesia. The wildfires from California in West to Australia in east signifies the cross border extent of environmental crisis

Similarly the 'Clash of civilisations' and rising radicalism led to the 'biggest threat faced by humanity' in 21st century is Terrorism' (PM Modi). The collapse of a nation State in the hands of Taliban, rise of ISIS, JeM, LeT, etc.

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has given global dimension to Terrorism. Starting with 9/11 Attacks, Paris attacks, capture of areas in Syria, Iraq to fall of Afghanistan, Mumbai 08' attack to Christchurch lone wolf attack signifies how it extends from east to west and involves the humanity as a victim.

Similarly the issues related to internet usage in world of 4th Industrial revolution becomes core concern. The issues of cross border data flow plagueing economic growth. In addition the misuse of cyber space like Mumbai Power plant attack by Chinese Red Echo group or Russia shutting down Ukraine govt. websites highlight the cross border character of cyber space. Further misuse of dark web, AI, etc. doesn't require passport to

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affect other nation.

Even in Political Sphere we see the rise of right wing extremism around the world. Democracy Index 2022 points how in last decade democratic countries have come down from 49% to 45%. From Bolsanaro to Trump to Boris Johnson, all were promoted via internet (social media) and their ideologies spread across civil society.

The 2008 financial crisis showed the whole world that economic shock in one part of the world will create crisis across in today's interconnected economies. The recent global inflation due to Fed Tapering, US China trade war showed how fragile global economic system is.

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Biggest disrupting event of this century so far was 'COVID-19' crisis. Starting from a small bat market in Wuhan, China it within 3 months made the whole world come to a halt. The world's streets were empty, markets closed, beaches unoccupied. It shows the extent of health problem travelling across world without passport.

Space, the fourth dimension of warfare has emerged as another arena where issues of overcrowding of satellite, space debris, militarisation of space, the global race for minerals of extra terrestrial bodies, etc. makes of a part of problems specific to 21st century. Having understood in detail these problems let's delve into its causes.

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## Global Commons : Orphans of 21st century

All above discussed issues are termed as 'global commons' as they affect whole humanity. First cause for their continuation lies in everyone's liability becoming no one's responsibility. All countries are expecting each other to resolve them. The UNFCCC COP summits are golden example which has merely remained a 'talk shop' and still can't even mobilise $100 Bn annually for funding developing nations.

Second, the dilution of sovereignty of nations and emergence of borderless world has further aggravated problems. Technology is moving at much faster pace than the regulatory framework of nations. Whether it is usage of crypto

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currency for terror funding or spread of cyber crime syndicates like 'Anonymous Group' & States feel helpless to prevent issues.

Third and most important is hegemonic ambitions of major powers like US which perpetuates global issues. Whether it was rise of Taliban to counter Russia begining Terrorism movement by US or usage of anti satellite missile by Russia to China suppressing virus information, these global powers self interest have come at a great cost for humanity. Now, lets see the steps taken

## Global Response: A mixed-bag

The international community pressured by Civil society movements, the usage of social media trends, reports

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by NGOs have taken steps to prevent cross border flow of these problems.

The adoption of Paris climate deal making NDCs compulsory, completion of Kyoto protocol periods shows UNFCCC as leader in climate change. Further WTO, IMF have tried to ensure rule based international economic order. The formation of FATF - Grey list or UNSC's Taliban Sanction Committee have come down heavily on terror funding. Artemis accords shows attempt at sustainable, exploration of space. In similar manner G-20's Osaka dialogue aimed at creating global rules for cross border data flow.

However on the flip side

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of the coin, these efforts have lacked a coherent response. If few countries form a convention to tackle global challenge then others refuse to join it. Global North-South divide over climate funding, 'P5' nations refusal to join 'CTBT' to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons, China making UNSC a defunct body or USA's attempt to disrupt WTO appealate body highlights how nation's own narrow interest has made global problems travel everywhere without passport

## The long road ahead

Ban Ki Moon said, 'There is no plan B as there is not planet B'. This though said in context of climate change is relevant for all the above

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discussed problems. The global leaders have to come together to ensure survival of our species. In today's 'cob-web' model world, revival of global institutions to setup rule based international order should be priority. The UN has to create global consensus, UNSC should adopt a uniform convention to deal with Terror, UDP targets need to be completed in timely manner.

Second, the role of civil society becomes central as people have to demand accountability by leader. The success of Greta Thunberg & her friday climate strikes shows how citizens can play active role in ensuring governments became conscious to resolve global problems.

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Third, the major powers need to take their responsibilities to ensure global peace and harmony. Fourth, international collaborations will allow greater success as 'United we stand, divided we fall'.

This 'G-20' summit is thus a golden opportunity for India to emerge as global responsible player on all these global problems. Thus guided by the theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', we will together prevent these global commons from crossing the national borders!

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Q2.

6

'Is Internal Security always an Internal Challenge'

The idea of nation States, we find today is based on concept of 'Sovereignty' given by Thomas Hobbes. Hobbes held that the sole aim of State is preservation of life of Citizen. In 21st century this idea expands to preserving economic, social health, fundamental rights, etc. by State to ensure it does not face 'legitimation crisis'.

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Maintaining Internal Security in this regards become the core criteria for State to remain sovereign and enjoy obedience by citizens. However today, countries across globe are faced with complex internal challenges which harms their existence.

When Mohamed Bouazizi self-immolated himself to protest against corruption & poverty, it led to Arab Spring with West ~~Africa~~ Asia North African regions going under series of attempt by civilians to overthrow governments. It brings into light the curious case of internal security ~~challenges~~ which leads to internal challenges ranging from State's to individual's security being threatened.

Let's explore internal security.

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## Internal Security as external challenge

Starting from nation's borders, the cross border infiltration are mainly due to poor border management. This was main cause behind Trump's initiative to construct wall on Mexican Border. The lack of modernisation has made it easy for refugee influx as seen in India's case with Rohingyas or Chin refugees coming from Myanmar.

The rise of drug addiction across the globe is due to police-politician nexus. Their failure to prevent this trade has led to countries losing their demographic dividend in the hands of addiction. This drug economy gives rise to organised crime syndicate as seen in case of Pablo Escobar of Colombia which

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challenges state's capacity and its ability to respond to internal threat.

The secessionist movements are biggest internal security threat as they challenge 'territorial boundaries', the core of sovereignty of State. Whether it is Nagorno Karabakh region or demand for greater Nagalim, it lead to internal challenges as it has spill over effect on other demands (Bodoland demand). It threatens lives of people, their livelihood due to actions by seperatist groups.

Red Revolution promoted on basis of Mao's ideology and Marx's communism is a global internal security threat. The narrow gains of capitalism & rising inequality has further aggravated the Naxalite challenge. The aim of

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Naxalism is to overthrow government through means of violence. The Red Corridors of Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Telangana, etc. present this challenge. It even spreads to urban areas in form of urban naxalism which creates counter hegemony & questions State's legitimacy.

2019 Christchurch Attack where a person live streamed killing of muslims in mosque of Peshawar's bombing highlights rise of lone-wolf Attacks. The gun violence culture seen in US, Denmark represent the 'lone-wolfs' as major external challenge. They are difficult to track, with high internet access, use of dark web they question & challenge State to prevent them from committing crime as seen in Copenha-gen shooting where shooter was uploading

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the warning video for 5 days before going on rampage in mall.

The recently released TV series 'Farzi' became a hit & was revolving around issue of 'fake currency'. These are one of greatest challenge to economic security. It harms the value of currency at global level, weakens people's assets and used to fund illegal activities. It hampers decision making by central bank and gives rise to parallel black money led economy.

Similarly internal ~~security~~ security issues like human trafficking leads to challenges of 'missing women', prostitution, child labor, organ smuggling syndicates, etc. as internal challenges. However all internal security issues do lead to, external challenges as well

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## External challenges of Internal Security

In today's globalised world no security threat that seems "internal" has only internal challenges. We should avoid monocausal explanation. The cross border infiltration of drugs, money, ammunition is often sponsored by State. The 'Hamas' group in Yemen creating civil war is sponsored by Saudi government. The Kashmir insurgency is similarly sponsored by Pakistan through borders.

Location of the countries also make their internal security susceptible to external challenges. The golden crescent & golden triangle for India and Mexican cartels for USA have led to

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drug smuggling across borders of both democracies.

The advanced countries use their technologies to create internal security threats in today's world of 5G. relations. The use of drone to kill Iranian military commander or Israel's attack on Russian cyber security, recent AIIMS attacks from foreign group shows technology's double edge sword effect.

With rise of social media, external challenge include the ideological warfare via dark web, social media trends leading to internal security issues like ISIS recruitment via dark web leading to radicalisation. The recent Khalistan issue is promoted by Canadian and UK based terrorist outfits through social media.

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Thus though external security has deep internal causes of poverty, illiteracy, socio-economic, political, etc. but the external dimensions of challenges also become important especially in 21st century's fast paced globalised world.

## Strategy to fortify nation

An wholistic 360° approach is required to emb internal & external challenge. Starting from borders, infra upgradation, collaboration with leading powers is required. Israel is a successful case study. Further improving intelligence network, using AI and ML for crime prediction, collaboration with intelligence agencies like MOSSAD, CIA is required for nations like India facing internal threat

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To prevent internal Ideological support, poverty alleviation, good grassroot governance, regional equality is required. Strong legal framework and upgrading police capacity will go a long way in curbing crime syndicates. A regular monitoring of public space, banning extremist outfits like PFI, will prevent proliferation of anarchy among masses.

The internal security challenges of 21st century thus requires States to step up their capacity so that they ensure the 'sovereignty' idea given by Hobbes is upheld by them and State emerges as a 'Yogakshema' state (Kautilya) which ensures welfare of all.