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Q1.

3

'We are using environment for politics,
not politics for environment'

'Fit for 55' initiative is
taken by European Union to facilitate a
green transition of its economy. In line
to implement this they proposed Carbon
Border Mechanism which ultimately
act as safeguard to prevent industries
~~from~~ with emissions above safe limit.

However this benar
-dent attempt to be 'champion of environ-

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ment' is filled with hypocrisy. European countries are one of largest emitters of per capita carbon emissions, largest buyer of Russian oil which they continued despite showing solidarity to Ukraine in ¹⁹¹⁵ ongoing conflict with Russia.

Such 'double-standards'

globally have plagued environmental initiatives to combat climate change or rising emissions, temperature, etc. Thus it is seen that 'we are using environ-ment for politics & not politics to solve environmental problems. In this interview we will learn why environment is biggest issue of our time, how issue started being politicised, the issues regarding politicisation and the solutions needed. Let's begin!

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Environment : Most exploited Global Common

IPCC AR6 report issued
'Red Alert' and held that with current
pace, we will reach 2°C level by 2050.

It explicitly for first time noted 'anthropogenic cause' as reason for this tragedy.

Today from western shore of America
seeing California fires to Australia facing
fires in east, climate change impact
is universal.

Rachel Carson in her book
'The silent spring' had noted that the
way we are poisoning nature, nature
in turn will poison us. The current
climate crisis has eroded the sovereign
borders of nations like Singapore Indonesia
forced to change its capital due to

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rising sea level. Climate refugees which IPCC report highlighted may cross 2Bn by 2050 impacting women and children the most. Also for past 10 years, we are seeing each year to be the hottest ever recorded. This raises the demand of making it an issue of politics.

[Politicisation of Environment]

Environment as a political problem began with Brundtland Commission Report and Stockholm 1972 convention. The subsequent Geo 92' summit brought countries around the world under one roof to discuss solutions for impending climate crisis under the aegis of UNFCCC COP Summit. It led to setting up of goals like Kyoto Protocol to name Paris goals of Nationally determined contributions.

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Similarly under the leadership of Sunderlal Bahuguna from Tehri village of Uttarakhand began Aipko movement which laid the foundation of environmentalism in India. It led to Forest Rights Act 1980, Environmental Impact assessment, etc. to mitigate Climate Crisis. These efforts highlight a 'shiny' image of leaders being conscious at national & global level, however the reality is different.

Environmentalisation of Politics

Garret Hardin in his book 'Tragedy of Commons' called issues like environment 'global commons' which everyone exploits but no one takes responsibility. Similarly we see that the main agency UNFCCC COP Summit

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have remained merely 'talk shops' as no substantive efforts done.

Leaders are using global platforms to polish their image and 'empty promises' has been the net outcome of these summits. The issue of climate finance which is central to efforts of 'Global North' is a point in case. Starting from 2009 Copenhagen Summit promise of Green Climate fund, it remained a rhetoric which was upgraded to \$100Bn finance fund in Paris Summit 2015. The tragedy lies in the fact that even till 2022 Egypt COP Summit, it hasn't been finalised and a new 'Loss & Damage fund' is promised!

International arena is seen to be run by narrow national

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interests of the countries with little to no efforts to bring substantative changes.

The Kyoto protocol which were to be finalised by 1998, took 10 years & in 2008 were implemented as developed countries, the prime cause of climate crisis keep delaying by politicising issue.

The worst impact of politicisation is seen with respect to technology transfer. The rhetoric of shifting to renewable energy is not possible until developed countries transfer the 'technical know how' to developing countries to develop e-vehicles, batteries, solar PV modules, etc. However guided by political interests, lobbying by OIL nations (Arab league), crony capitalism continuous

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refusal of technology is seen. Nigerian PM thus said '~~that~~^{solar} and wind brings poverty to Africa' as in ~~course~~ of environment neo-colonialism takes place.

Further as New York Times highlighted on conclusion of Glasgow^{COP} summit that, the stakeholders included in summit doesn't includes the one most likely to be impacted i.e. the 'youth' or 'future generation'; also the one most vulnerable i.e. 'women'. The highly patriarchal representation and lack of young demography also prevents effective efforts. Moreover the Small Island Developing States are the worst sufferers as due to lack of their geopolitical significance often face the burnt of negligance. Then, is there any hope for future?

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Path to Sustainable Development

Ban Ki Moon said, 'There is no plan B as there is no Planet B'. Politicisation of environmental issue is required for public mobilisation, raising public consciousness and making it an electoral issue. When Greta Thunberg, a young 16 year old started climate protests, she brought a revolution with her 'climate strikes' now gaining global support.

People need to be involved in social movements to raise the issues. The success of Chipko, Narmada Bachao Andolan, Save Aarey ^{protest} shows how politicisation of environmental challenges can force

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Governments to reform.

Further the countries of global north need to rally together to demand timely implementation of fund and technology transfer based on 'Common but Differentiated' principle of Climate Actions. With Climate Change, becoming reality, now as IPCC AR6 highlights efforts need to be made towards ^{not} mitigation but adaptation.

Multilateral Institutions can help channelise the politicisation of environment better. India's efforts like formation of International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure are ways that should be promoted for collaborative efforts on this global orphan 'environment'.

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To sum up, the
same environment challenge is biggest
crisis confronting global civil society.
Keeping this in mind, political sphere
has included environmental concerns
but the tragedy lies in using it for
own profits than common good. The
need thus lies in community led effort
to raise consciousness & nations taking
lead before it's too late!

India can thus as Papua
New Guinea PM held, can emerge as 'voice
of Global South' promoting a just and
fair environmental global order.
Further to ensure a 'green future'
for our children, we need to adhere
to PM Modi's call of 'life': lifestyle for
environment'!

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Q2.

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"The only way ~~to~~ go beyond things is to go through them"

Young Bhimrao was excited to learn Sanskrit in his new class. Taking blessings from parents he went to school with great urgency and joy. To his shock, he was made to sit outside class as peas from lower caste can't read Sanskrit. This was just beginning of life long discrimination for this Banarasi who graduated from London but still no one approached him in Bombay Court and made to drink water

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from separate pot.

However these things, the social, economic and political discrimination didn't deterred him as he went on to become one of most learned men in South Asia & the Father of Indian Constitution.

Thus Dr B.R Ambedkar's life shows us that 'the only way to go beyond things is to go through them'. Let's understand this adage in detail in this writeup.
By beginning with the need to go beyond things.

The need for new beginning

At every point in our life, we are stuck in particular situation referred as 'status quo'. In order to break this monotonous sphere, we

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need to go beyond things to live a good life.

“Hold onto dreams,
For if dreams were to die,
Life will be broken wing bird,
That cannot fly.” — [Ms Moem]

Dreams and goals are oxygen to life and ensure continuous improvement. India defines Aurobindo Ghosh was under the status quo of being under ‘British imperialism’ and believed that ‘India as a nation is merely a geographic expression’ (Valentine Chird). However in his ‘Theory of Nationalism’, Aurobindo highlighted the need to go beyond this false discourse aimed at promoting British hegemony. Thus he inspired Indian nationalism, ‘idea of Swaraj’ and it led ~~to~~ to success of nation & a new beginning.

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Going through: The key to go beyond

This path to new beginning or success is always laid ~~to~~ with challenges which forms the 'things' we get stuck at. It can be economic issue in terms of poverty, gender based ceiling or discrimination, caste structure of society, the lack of technical knowledge in world of 4th Industrial revolution and many other impediments.

Going through these things highlights the character of a person. In the movie 'Manghi', the lead character was continuously discouraged but still manage to pave way through mountain to help his villagers by using only his own hammer and nail. Going through this highlights our inner strength.

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It builds fortitude or resilience in a person, which make him victorious. India only when adopted green revolution was able to resolve the problem of famine & food crisis and went beyond a status of 'food insecure nation'. Going through opens new gates for future & only by living through these adversities, success emerges.

Coal becomes diamond only when immense pressure is applied on it. Thus going through will be stressful but it will make a shining and bright final product. Jack Ma, Alibaba founder was rejected by several companies & in one McD interview he was only candidate rejected among 24 applicant. Still his grit and determination remained

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strong & he became one of richest man
on earth.

Each individual, society or
nation will have different obstacles
(things) to go beyond in order to
lead a good life. Going through becomes
a learning journey and allows them
to succeed in our way. The journey of
India to \$5 trillion economy or Japanese
society being one of most civilised, law
abiding or Sachin's path to become 'God
of Cricket' has each different 'ways &
means' to achieve 'ends' of good life.
~~So, does it mean that success is~~
~~guaranteed?~~ So what if going through
doesn't ~~is~~ seems plausible & is ridden
with failures?

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It's okay to lose sometimes!

The journey of going through things will be riddled with failure and have to be accepted as reality.

'I have ~~lost~~ missed 9000 shots in my career, lost our 300 games, 26 times I have been responsible for winning shot & missed. I've failed over and over again in my life, and that's why I succeed'

These words are from Michael B. Jordan & tells us that failures are inevitable & had to be used as stepping stone. India's dream to go beyond earth & land on moon dealt a severe blow when Chandrayan-2 was crashed; however learning from its mistake, ISRO increased surface area of Vikram lander and controlled its speed

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to make India the first nation on
Moon's South Pole.

Change is a permanent
feature of life. The only thing that
doesn't change is change itself. Thus
temporary success will in future lead
to 'occasional setbacks in going beyond
things'. The fight against 'patriarchy' or
'casteism' in India is one such example
and reformers like Jyotiba Phule or
Raja Ram Mohan Roy faced many failures
in their path to improve social
conditions. So, the setbacks are
~~inevitable~~ inevitable, but how to
manage them?

Road to go beyond things: Building Material

In the movie Karate
Kid, Jackie Chan says, 'Life will

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always kick us down. It depends upon us whether we decide to get back up or not? Thus resilience forms the core to see things through as seen with Malala Yousufzai who despite being shot by Taliban went on to become champion of women rights.

'If you think you'll lose, you have lost.
For out there in world you will find,
Success begins with a fellow's will,
It's all on the state of mind'
— Walter Wintle

A strong will and determination forms the base of journey to go beyond. Yuvraj Singh despite being diagnosed with cancer went to play final match & made India lift world

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Cup cricket after 26 years.

We need to learn from our mistakes & remember of plan 'A' fails there are still 25 other letters. Having a long vision will allow us see beyond things & pave the way to go through. Elon Musk, the richest man on earth envisioned the potential of e-vehicles, self driving cars or space missions to make him so successful.

In the end just like Young Bhimrao, we all should be focused on goals & not get afraid of surroundings.

Nelson Mandela, who was in prison when released after 27 years was asked by reporter on what kept him going. His reply should be the guide for all.

He recited lines of his favorite poem

'Invictus' - 'I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul!'