VOCABULARY

1.INDIAN DEMOCRACY AT STAKE

India has failed to nurture individual and collective capabilities. There has been far too little effort in public policy to create spaces where citizens interact freely and peacefully. While India's economy has received periodic attention, mostly during critical moments defined by food shortages and foreign exchange outages, the workings of its democracy have received next to none. This reflects complacency.

Interestingly, the neglect is evident in every angle from which the country has been approached, applying to observers located both within and without its society. Thus while the rulers of the western world berate India for its deviance from the apparently superior norms of a free-market architecture, India's nationalist elite traces her pathologies to western hegemony. Both lose the narrative by refusing to see that its condition is related to the failings of its democracy, which in one dimension has remained more or less unchanged since 1947. This dimension is that the majority of the population has been left with weak capabilities.

Capabilities are what enable individuals to pursue the lives that they value. This, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has suggested, is true freedom and should therefore be the focus of all developmental effort. He had seen Indian Independence as an opportunity to build a "prosperous, democratic and progressive nation and to create social, economic and political institutions which will ensure justice and fullness of life to every man and woman".

Whatever may have been the vision of India's founding fathers, Indian democracy has not lived up to their expectations. As a matter of fact, it has done far worse. In the past year it appears to have added heightened violence towards the marginalised to its sedentary character. The incident of four Dalit youth being beaten in full public view in Gujarat is only the most recent instance of this.

Parliament reportedly heard accusations and defences the next day but it is not yet clear what impact it will have and how civil society will respond. India's middle classes are quick to be hurt when news of Indians subjected to racial indignity in the West is beamed into our living rooms. No one could have missed the irony of Prime Minister earlier this month travelling by train in South Africa where about a century ago M.K. Gandhi was thrown out of a first class carriage because of the colour of his skin.

Gujarat is of course not only one of the sites of violence against Dalits. It is important to recognise that it has been widespread across northern India and not absent from the south either, with Tamil Nadu featuring prominently. It is also important to recognise that acts of violence against Dalits are not of recent origin. Their oppression is systemic and deeply rooted in India. Non – Congress parties with leadership drawn from the middle castes have long ruled Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, among India's most populous States, all of which have witnessed violence against the Dalits for some time. When in power, middle caste – based parties have replaced their invective towards the top of the caste pyramid with suppression of those at its bottom.

So what can we do now? For those outside the corridors of power the task is to shape the discourse on Indian democracy. Its goal must now be redirected towards human development while ensuring the security of all vulnerable groups. This need not in any way conflict with growing a strong economy. In fact, a strong economy, including a vigorous market, is one element in furthering development as the expansion of freedoms.

Opposition to the market, which has in certain contexts come equally from the Right and the Left in India, misses this point entirely. Restriction of private enterprise does nothing to empower the marginalised in a society. Their empowerment can come about only via direct public action to build their capabilities.

The chickens have finally come to home to roost. India today hosts the world's largest number of the poorly educated and prone to poor health, a development disaster in spite of being the world's third-largest economy in purchasing power terms. One need only occasionally travel third class on the Indian Railways in most parts of the country, which, recall, Gandhi did, to comprehend the scale of the deprivation and estimate how close public policy today comes to addressing it. As a quarter century has been spent focusing on India's economic architecture in the name of 'economic reforms', it would be profitable to now devote the next decade to mounting an assault on human deprivation. The development of the capabilities of India's women and Dalits, by virtue of their being the most deprived, would merit the first draft of attention and resources thus expended.

For a democracy to be complete, however, something more than just focus on the individual, however deserving they may be, is necessary as members of a democracy must engage with one another lest we remain equal but separated. Here public goods come into the reckoning. Public policy should engineer spaces where Indians meet on the basis of a participatory parity. Widespread public services from schools and hospitals to parks and crematoria are one way to bring individuals together as they struggle from birth to death in this country. Repeated interaction in public spaces would make us realise our common humanity and enable us to see any residual identity for what it really is.

There has been far too little effort in Indian public policy to create spaces where citizens may interact freely and peacefully. Many other countries have done so. For instance, the provision of public housing in 'capitalist' Singapore comes with the proviso that it should be shared between people of all 'races', namely Chinese, Indian and Malay.

In its inability to contain these forces, India's democracy can be seen to be flailing. Bertrand Russell had remarked that we can never guarantee our own security if we cannot assure that of others. Tired of oppression the Dalits have finally risen in what was once the land of Gandhi. They at least have recognised our common humanity.

1. Individual /ɪndəvɪdʒU:əl/ - Single/ Particular, separate, a person
2. collective /kəˈlektɪv/ - forming a collection or aggregate / combined
3. policy /pɔləsi/ - a cause or line of action adopted and pursued by a government, ruler/ political party.
4. complancency /kəmˈpleisənsi/ - the feeling you have when you are satisfied with yourself.
5. society /səˈsaiəti/ - people regarded collectively
6. berate /bəreit/ - to scold
7. deviance /ˈdi:viəns/ - deviant behaviour
8. archirtecture /ˈa:ketektʃə/ - the art or science of building/ including plan/ design, construction, and decorative treatment,
9. nationalist /ˈnæʃnəlist/ - supporter of nationalism
10. pathology / pəˈθɔlədʒi / - the science that deals with the origin/ nature/ and course of diseases.
11. hegemony / hiˈgeməni/ - leadership/ esply one state in a group of states
12. democracy /dəˈmɔkrəsi/ - government by the people. or by their elected representatives
13. prosperous /prɔspərəs/ - having or characterised by continued good fortune; flourishing; successful

14. progressive /prəˈgresiv/ - making change, improvement, or reform
15. expectation /ˌekspekˈteiʃn / - firm belief that sth will happen
16. parliament /ˈpa:ləmənt/ - assembly that makes the laws of a country
17. racial /reiʃl/ - characteristic of race
18. prominently /ˈprɔminəntli/ - importantly or easily seen
19. oppression /əˈpreʃn/ - treating (sb) with continual injustice
20. restriction /risˈtrikʃn/ - putting a limit on sb / sth
21. empowerment /imˈpauəmənt/ - lawful power or authority (to sb) to act.
22. comprehend /ˌkɔmpriˈhend / - understand (sth) fully
23. deprivation /ˌdepriveiʃn / - depriving or being deprived / State of not having the normal benefits of adequate food/ etc.
24. reckoning /ˈrekəˈniŋ/ - Calulation; estimation
25. parity /ˈpærəti/ - state of being equal; equality
26. widespread /ˈwaidsprəd/ - found or distributed over a large area
27. realize /ˈriəlaiz/ - understand; be fully aware of or accept (sth) as a fact
28. humanity /hju:mænəti/ - human beings colletively; the human race; people
29. capitalist /kaepitəlist/ - person who owns or controls much capital; rich man; person who supports capitalism.
30. proviso /prəˈvaizəu/ - Clause, etc that is insisted on as a condition of an agreement
31. flail /fleil/ - (cause sth to) Wave or swing about wildly

1. **Fill in the blanks with appropriate words from among those given at the end of the passage:**

While the rulers of the western world _____ Indian for its _____ from the apparently superior norms of a free - market_____, India's _____ elite traces her pathologies to western _____. (democracy, berate, parliament, architecture, empowerment, hegemony, deviance, nationalist, architecture).

2. **Create questions to get the following words as answers:**

a. Society b. empowertment c. Humanity
d. policy e. oppression

3. **Write a paragraph using following words:**

collective, expectations, prominently, comprehend, realize

4. **Write the transcriptions of the following words:**

a. nationalist
b. pathology
c. racial
d. parity
e. flail

2. DRAIN OF RESOURCES

Humans are depleting the earth's resources at an ever – increasing rate. This is the product of an increasing global population multiplied by an ever-increasing level of consumption per person. It is estimated that humanities' ecological footprint (a measure of consumption) is one and a half times the earth's capacity to sustainably provide the resources to meet that demand. The shortfall between the supply of resources and the demand for them is being met through the depletion (or degradation) of natural capital – things like fresh water, soil, forest land, wetlands and biodiversity.

Water is critical to all life. Too little clean water can have enormous negative impacts. Water quality and conservation are acute issues that must be addressed. Water pollution is caused by a change in its composition due to human activity. The three major sources of water pollution are municipal, industrial and agricultural. The hydrological cycle is the cycle where water evaporates from the sea and is precipitated on land – rain, hail and snow – and is stored in the ground as groundwater (which is ultimately discharged into waterways) or if it cannot be absorbed it returns to the sea through run – off. Much of the pollution discharged – deliberately or accidentally – onto the land or directly into water ways will ultimately find its way to the sea where it will affect marine eco systems. All discharges, if they can't be stopped, must be treated or otherwise managed properly.

Fossil fuels are by far the largest source of energy in modern economies – coal and gas for electricity generation; and petrol, diesel and kerosene – type fuels for land, sea and air transport. Some two – thirds of the world's electricity is generated by coal – fired power plants, and coal is responsible for more than a quarter of global Co_2 emissions. Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel in terms of greenhouse gas emissions. For instance about 0.92kg of Co_2 is typically released for every kilowatt hour of electricity produced in a coal–fired electricity generation station. Gas is a comparatively less carbon intensive fuel – about 0.52kg of Co_2 is typically released for every kilowatt hour of electricity produced in a gas – fired station.

Unfortunately, we are not reducing our dependence on coal. In fact, coal emissions are set to increase hugely because of a tidal wave of new coal-fired power plants in the pipeline. In November 2012, World Resources Institute reported that 1,199 new coal – fired plants with a total installed capacity of 1,401,268 megawatts (MW) are being proposed globally. If all of these projects are built, it would add new coal power capacity that is almost four times the current capacity of all coal – fired plants in the United States. Burning petrol and diesel for transport also releases huge amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. About 2.3kg of Co_2 is released when a litre of petrol is burned and about 2.7kg for each litre of diesel.

Land use and land management practices have a major impact on natural resources including water, soil, nutrients, plants and animals. Land use information can be used to develop solutions for natural resource management issues such as salinity and water quality. For instance, water bodies in a region that has been deforested or having erosion will have different water quality than those in areas that are forested.

Soil contamination is the human-induced deposition of harmful substances which are not a product of natural accumulation or soil formation. Many human activities, ranging from mining activities, industrial and agricultural production to road transport, result in pollution that can accumulate in the soil or result in biological and chemical reactions in the soil.

Soil erosion is the removal of soil by wind and water. This natural process is intensified by human activities, such as deforestation for agricultural purposes, changes in hydrological conditions, overgrazing and other inappropriate agricultural

activities. Erosion can lead to soil degradation and eventually complete destruction.

Agriculture uses soils and water as a resource for food production, and at the same time impacts on these resources. The extent and causes of the environmental impacts of agriculture, notably by farm and crop type, vary significantly. Nevertheless, the continuing search for efficiency, lower costs and increased scale of production is resulting in substantial pressures on the environment, landscapes and biodiversity, particularly in the most intensively farmed areas. At the same time, agriculture remains essential to the maintenance of many cultural landscapes. Recent shifts to environmentally-friendly production systems are apparent, for example, organic production and conservation tillage systems.

In terms of resource conservation, the most important impacts of arable and livestock production are those relating to soil erosion and nutrient leaching, respectively. Soil erosion increases with the share of arable land of total land use, mitigated by physical background factors (slope, soil type, rainfall patterns) and farming practices. Nutrient leaching is caused where the application of livestock manure and mineral fertilisers exceeds the nutrient demand of crops. While agriculture can exert significant pressure on the environment, it is itself subject to negative environmental impacts linked to air pollution and urban development. Soil sealing by transport or housing infrastructure also eliminates hundreds of hectares of agricultural land every year.

The term "minerals" refers to a variety of materials found in the earth. It includes metals such as iron, copper, and gold; industrial minerals, like lime and gypsum; construction materials such as sand and stone; and fuels, such as coal and uranium. Mining by definition is an extractive industry, often with huge environmental and social impacts that persist long after the mine has closed. For example acid drainage (where sulphuric acid is created from rain falling on exposed tailings) is an especially long – lived problem.

Mining is highly inefficient. Based on figures from the late 1990s mining consumed close to 10% of world energy, it is responsible for 13% of sulphur dioxide emissions and it is estimated that it threatens nearly 40% of the world's undeveloped tracts of forest. Yet it directly accounts for 0.5% of employment and 0.9% of GDP.

1. depleting /diˈpli:tiŋ/ - reducing greatly the quantity, size, power or value of (sth)
2. global /ˈgləubl/ - Covering or affecting the whole world; world - wide
3. consumption /kənˈsʌpʃn/ - Using up of food, energy, resources, etc.; quantity used
4. ecological /ˌi:kələdʒikl/ - of ecology (scientific study of the relation of plants and living creatures to each other and to their surroundings)
5. capacity /kəˈpæsəti/ - ability to hold or contain sth
6. Sustain /səˈstein/ - bear (weight) without breaking or falling; support
7. demand /diˈma:nd/(v) - ask for (sth) as if one is commanding or as if one has a right to do so
8. resources /riˈsɔ:siz/ - supply of raw materials, etc which bring a country, person, etc wealth.
9. wetland /ˈwetlænd/ - marshy place
10. biodiversity /baiəudaivə:səti/ - The diversity of plant and animal life in a particular habitat
11. critical /ˈkritikl/ - looking for faults; crucial; decisive
12. enormous /iˈnɔ:məs/ - very large; immense

13. conservation/ˈkɔnsəveiʃn/ - prevention of loss, waste, damage, destruction,etc;

14. pollution /pəˈluːʃn/ - polluting or being polluted (make sth dirty or impure)

15. municipal /mjuːˈnisipl/ - of a town or city with its own local government

16. hydrological /ˌhaidrəuˈlɔdʒikl/ - pertaining to the study of water on the earth and in the atmosphere

17. precipitate /priˈsipiteit/ - hasten; throw with force; seperate into solid form;

18. deliberate /diˈlibərət/ - done on purpose; intentional

19. waterway /wɔːtəwei/ - route for travel by water

20. marine ecosystem /məˈriːnˈiːkəusistəm/ - ecological unit consisting of a group of plants and living creatures interacting with each other and with their surroundings in a sea.

21. energy /ˈenədʒi/ - ability to work or act with strength.

22. electricity /iˌlekˈrisəti/ - form of energy occurring in certain particles (electrons and protons); supply of such energy in the form of electric current for lighting. heating etc;

23. generation /ˌdʒenəˈreiʃn/ - production

24. dependence /diˈpendəns/ - trust in sb/sth;reliance on sb / sth

25. emission /iˈmiʃn/ - discharge; sending out (of light / heat/ fumes. matter etc.)

26. accidentally /ˌæksiˈdentəli/ - happening unexpectedly or by chance.

27. hugely /hjuːdʒli/ - enormoustly, very, much

28. tidal wave /ˈtaidlweiv/ - great ocean wave. eg one caused by an earthquake

29. atmosphere /ˈætməsfiə/ - the mixture of gases that surrounds the earth

30. management /ˈmænidʒmənt/ - control and organisation of a business etc.

31. salinity /səˈlinəti/ - containing salt; salty condition

32. deforest /ˌdiːfɔrist/ - remove forests from (a place)

33. contamination /kənˌtæmiˈneiʃn/ - contaminating (making) sth / sb impure by adding dangerous or disease – carrying substances.

34. deposition /ˌdepəˈziʃn/ - dethronement: removing from power

35. harmful /ˈhaːmfl/ - Causing harm

36. accumulation /əˌkjuːmjuˈleiʃn/ - gathering together an increasing number or quantity of (sth)

37. biological /ˌbaiəˈlɔdʒikl/ - of or relating to the scientific study of the life and structure of plants and animals

38. reaction /riˈækʃn/ - response to a situation, an act, an influence/ etc.

39. intensify /inˈtensifai/ - cause sth to become more intense or severe

40. substance /ˈsʌbstəns/ - particular type of matter

1. **Fill in the blanks with appropriate words from among those given at the end of the passage:**

Soil _____ is the human _____ induced _____ of _____ _____ which are not a product of natural _____ or soil formation. (destruction, harmful. critical, contamination, substances)

2. **Create questions to get the following words as answers:**

a. consumption

b. biodiversity

c. hydrology

d. electricity

e. tidal wave

3. **Write a paragraph using the following words:**

global, demand, resources, emission, reaction

4. **Write the transctiptions of the following words:**

(a). capacity

(b). energy

(c). sustain

(d). pollution

(e). deliberate