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India's fate is tied to the rest of the world(The Hindu, International relations)

Context:- India's fate has been closely tied to the rest of the world not only after independence but from ancient times. A newly independent, large, impoverished, and impossibly diverse country required active engagement for its survival, security, and development. But the international environment is constantly evolving and presents India not just with opportunities but numerous challenges.

An overview of problems:-

- India has many troubles that may seem plenty:-
 - It ranges from COVID19 pandemic and its adverse effects on economic growth prospects to intensifying competition with China and turmoil in Afghanistan.
- But India has some measures to tackle:-
 - it is by some measures the sixth-largest economy in the world
 - Boasts a well trained and professional military

- India has a growing network of international strategic and economic partners.

The long and winding road:-

- India adopted a foreign and security posture even before August 15, 1947.
- India initially received the bulk of development and military assistance from the West
- The Soviet Union extended support from the mid 1950s onwards.
- India also played an activist role in the decolonizing world, extending diplomatic and (in some cases) security assistance to independence movements from Asia to Africa, and India also sent military missions to Korea and the Congo.
- There were also important economic achievements which included the Green Revolution, undertaken with considerable foreign technical and financial assistance.
- The Indo-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation and the Bangladesh war altered India's relations with both superpowers and changed the relations and the rivalry with Pakistan.
- This period also saw security challenges
 - These are ranging from the peaceful nuclear explosion, the annexation of Sikkim, competition with Pakistan over Siachen, a standoff with China, an intervention in Sri Lanka to a countercoup in the Maldives.

After the Cold War:-

- The 1991 Gulf war outcome was a crisis in the balance of payments and this crisis was turned into an opportunity by the liberalization of the economy.

- The assassination of Rajiv Gandhi along with the 1993 Mumbai bombings, and the insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir gave new security challenges.
- Much things was done by P.V. Narasimha Rao:
 - The advent of the Look East Policy
 - India has sought to maintain close relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations
 - The establishment of diplomatic ties with Israel
 - India has signed a border peace and tranquility agreement with China.
 - Initial military contracts with the U.S., and preparations for nuclear tests.
- The Atal Bihari Vajpayee government:-
 - India conducted a series of tests in 1998 further negotiating a return to normal relations with most major powers within two years at the same time concluding an important set of agreements with China in 2003.
 - Efforts Were made at normalizing ties with Pakistan were frustrated by the Kargil war, the hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC814 to Kandahar (Afghanistan), and the 2001 attack on India's Parliament.
 - During these years a rapid growth also witnessed in the Indian economy.
 - A boom in information and communication technology companies coupled with the services sector, and a rising consumer market has reached a continuum high.
- After 2004, the Manmohan Singh government:-
 - We have worked to resolve the question of India's nuclear status.
 - India has eliminated barriers to 'dual use' technologies and equipment and acted as a host of associated export controls

- India established robust defence relations with the U.S. and its allies during this time and India also drifted to the same.
 - The global financial crisis during 2008-09 has pressed India to have a slight change in approach, whereby India sought to partner with China and other rising powers on institutional reform, financial lending, climate change, and sovereignty.
- From 2013:-
 - China began to test India on the border by asserting its claims through military.
 - China at the same time began to undermine Indian interests in South Asia and the Indian Ocean Region.
 - late 2014
 - A more competitive India-China relationship emerged.
 - There were Standoffs at Doklam and Ladakh between 2017 and 2021
 - India has opted to boycott China's Belt And Road Initiative, raise barriers to Chinese investment, ban some Chinese technology and at the same time consult more closely with other balancing powers in the Indo Pacific.
 - India has given a greater emphasis on neighbourhood connectivity.
- An international India:-
 - India's objectives have been broadly consistent:
 - Development, regional security
 - A balance of power in Indian Ocean region as well as around the world.
 - India's means to achieve its aim and the international landscape have completely changed so the domestic political factors.

- India had different approaches to international engagement between 1947 and 1962, between 1971 and 1991, and between 1991 and 2008 which can be clearly seen in the above paragraph.

Swarn Singh

**Every Experience is a lesson, every
loss is a gain**

(GS PAPPER4, Attitude

Source- The Hindu, pib, Indian Express)

The constitution of India is often called a living document. It has stood the test of times and kept our country united and democratic.

This has been possible due to the knowledge and wisdom of our constitution framers who learned from their struggle during the freedom struggle and used that experience to create a solid constitution for the benefit of the country.

It is often said that failure is the best teacher and those who refuse to learn from it often fail to gain.

Similarly, experience is the best guide, be it of self or of others. Such valuable lessons should never be wasted if one has to move ahead and be happy in life.

This world is filled with examples of people who have used experience and failures as a stepping stone to their success.

Our late President Dr. Abdul Kalam is one such example, in his early years at DRDO while developing the missiles he used to face continuous failure, criticism day in and day out. But he continued to learn from such failures and also documented all the reasons, shared his experience with others, and took advice from others. In the end, the result was the astonishing success of DRDO in developing various missiles such as Prithvi and Agni.

Today, Dr. Kalam is remembered as the missile man of India.

A similar example is of Gandhiji, who learned from his experience in South Africa, Champaran satyagraha and Ahmedabad Mill strike, and Kheda Satyagraha. He used this lesson to create a larger pan India movement and launch Non-cooperation movement in 1919, the Civil Disobedience movement in 1930-31, and the Quit India movement in 1942.

Gandhi also never wasted a chance to convert loss into again. When British judges ordered Gandhiji to leave the Champaran district in order to make the movement a failure, Gandhiji disobeyed the court orders thus gaining more popularity and widening the movement.

Internationally, the example of Rwanda is often discussed that how a country that was torn 25 years ago today has one of the highest human development indexes in Africa.

The reason is simple, after the experience of decolonization from Belgium and facing failures such as poverty, hunger and civil wars. The leaders of Rwanda began to create a society that was based on merit, respect the rule of law, and free from corruption. They did all this due to their experiences and lessons from the past.

A similar example has been of Indian military planners. After a humiliating defeat by China in 1962 and the suboptimal performance of the Armed forces in the 1965 war against Pakistan.

The Indian military went back to the drawing board. The military reduced its vulnerability, increased the jointness of all three wings (land, sea, and air), and optimized itself. The result was shown in the 1971 Indo-Pak war, where within 14 days India was able to obtain the unconditional surrender of East Pakistan forces, and hence a new nation named Bangladesh was born.

Actors such as Rajkumar Rao and Nawazuddin Sidique are living examples of people who have come from top to bottom because they had the patience and courage to learn from their experience and to convert their loss into gains.

The present Covid-19 crisis presents to us a similar situation where we have to make sure that every experience becomes a lesson and every loss is converted into a gain.

The government has brought a series of reforms in sectors of labour , agriculture and banking to ensure that India emerges much stronger and resilient from this crisis of Covid-19.

Because if we do not convert this crisis of Covid-19 into an opportunity then we will be making the same mistakes we have been making in the past, such as over-reliance on subsidies for growth or government spending-led growth rather than investment-led growth.

History is ripe with examples of people, communities, and countries who do not learn from experience and do not use mistakes as a stepping stone to gain success.

The communal violence present in our society is one such glaring example, where we as a country should have emerged more united, but with each clash, we become more divided as we don't learn from the past and don't care about lessons we have suffered.

A similar experience is of traffic accidents where every accident must provoke thought in society, where more than 3 lakh deaths per year on roads must call for stricter laws and better building procedures. But rather what we have is a greater number of minors on the roads, more and more pot-holes on the roads, and an increasing number of youths who are over-spending on drinking and driving.

The same is the case with urban planning, year after year a crisis is wasted to learn something new and the crisis repeats itself. The best example is the regular flooding of Mumbai during the monsoon.

Internationally we can see USA which has invaded one country after another be it Vietnam, Iraq or Afghanistan and it has failed in its original objectives due to the simple reason that it has refused to learn from its experiences and has

not properly assessed its failures so that it can use them to better its experience.

Pakistan is also a basket case, the country has used hatred for India, terrorism, and drug smuggling to fight its proxy war. But in the end, it has only destroyed itself. Today it has become a global outcast and has been grey-listed by FATF, but still, the country continues to engage in these uncivilized measures thus going further down with time. Because the country has not learned its lessons, be it from the attack on Peshawar school or various bomb blasts in the country.

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Khyati Khare