



EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
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5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

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All the Best

Are we entering an era of deglobalisation?

2019 was an enigmatic year. For the most part of it, global experts were talking of a world that was moving towards an era of deglobalisation.

This was evident by the events of Brexit, US protectionism, trade wars and the like. Everyone was wary of the deglobalising trend and every country was preparing for it.

But towards the end of it, something rather strange happened which in the most fundamental way challenged the idea of a deglobalising world. From the infamous Wuhan city of China, a rather unknown virus took the world by surprise when it reached every nook and corner of humanity. From the slanty

Slums of Mumbai to the forests of Amazon, every human being was terrified of this disease. It travelled so fast, far and wide that the WHO had to declare it a global pandemic. What do these two contrasting views tell us about globalisation and deglobalisation?

In this essay, we are going to understand the meaning of globalisation, trend of deglobalisation in recent times, whether there is a silver lining and what can be done.

Globalisation is the phenomenon of integration of different regions of the world in political, economic and social sphere through the process of trade and commerce, travel and communication and through cultural diffusion.

Though a phenomenon that has continued from ancient world via the silk road, globalisation gained pace with the trend of scientific revolution and colonialism in the 18th century. Since then, the world has moved on a path of integration — from separated hamlets to a global village.

In recent times, with the coming up of digital age, globalisation has gained pace by leaps and bounds and turned humanity into a connected whole. But what trends in recent times have made the experts say that we are de-globalising?

The first and the foremost shock has come from the changing global economic order. World Trade Organisation (WTO), a body set up to sustain

global economic trade order by enforcement of rules has become toothless. This is because of the vacancies that have resulted in the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the WTO due to the American belligerence. This has rendered the global economic order susceptible to the whims and fancies of the powerful. This is not the only problem with WTO.

USA has declared several countries including India as 'developed' inspite of the fact that our GNP per capita is only around \$1000. ~~Per~~ ~~cap~~ This shows a clash in the ideas of what constitutes a developed country.

Trade wars especially between USA and China have disrupted the global supply chains and ensured that every country had to raise tariffs to prevent dumping leading to a

decrease in global trade. ~~But~~ It is not only ⁱⁿ the economic sphere, that deglobalisation is evident.

The protectionism of USA in every possible way is also a symptom of the deglobalisation. From increased tariffs to ban on immigration, USA seems to be retreating from its position of guardian of globalisation. The trend of ~~protectionism~~ protectionism is not restricted to American continent but Europe is also facing the same issue.

BREXIT — the exit of UK from European Union went on to show the disintegration of the idea of a politically integrated Europe — an example of globalisation. Protectionism of states is evident in every continent but people are also turning more and more protectionist.

Xenophobic attacks on immigrants like Christchurch attack in New Zealand are a facet of a deglobalising human mind. These attacks are the expressions of 'in-groupism' which is the antithesis of globalisation.

Other trends are apparent in the climate change talks where disagreements are the rule. Similarly, abrogation of multilateral or bilateral arms reduction treaties e.g., ICBM etc go on to show the trend of deglobalisation.

Last but not the least, Covid-19 as a pandemic has shown the lack of cooperation in the form of Covid nationalism of countries whereby every country wants to secure its own vaccine. All these trends ^{it might} seem, to will ultimately lead to a world of disparate nations. But there is

also a silver lining.

Though Covid had disrupted trade by disrupting supply chains but it seems that trade is again increasing as the world is moving from national lockdowns to managing the Covid. Covid has itself shown, in some ways, the resilience of globalisation.

Many countries and organisations have come together in the form of Global Vaccine Alliance Initiative (GVAI)

to try to discover a vaccine while also ensuring its availability to all.

Similarly, Russia has cooperated with countries including India to provide its vaccine, Sputnik V, to the world.

~~Also~~

In the social sphere, many countries led by New Zealand came together and issued the Christchurch call to defend the rights to immigrants and to denounce terrorism in any form.

~~Column~~

India is playing a major role in reversing the trend of deglobalisation. In the UN, India is trying to get a veto power in the UNSC in order to better represent the interests of the developing world. ~~The~~ Even in the Covid vaccine alliance, India has come forward as a leader. Companies of India like Bharat Biotech have informed the WHO that they may be able to produce generic vaccine and provide it to all.

Apart from doing these things, India needs to take leadership role in climate agreements, in the deliberations of WTO, and in the fight against terrorism which leads to retreat of countries from the global arena.

Though Covid as a pandemic has affected humanity and challenged

us but it has shown us that we are a family of one species, no matter where we are — Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. As Carl Sagan has beautifully said, "We need to learn to live together or we will perish together".

Tourism in India : a potential game changer

India, a country as diverse as ~~one~~ can be, is a country made for tourism. From the heights of Kedarnath to the coast of Mumbai, from the desert of Rajasthan to the rainforests of North-East, from the prehistoric caves of Bhimbetka to the colonial architecture, it is a country filled with sites — both natural and man-made — that produce the sense of awe and wonder in a person. But one is more perplexed when one hears that it is one of the least visited countries for tourism in terms of per-capita volume. Why this dichotomy, one begins to ask?

In this essay, we are going to discuss the different dimensions of tourism that can be used in

India, the potential benefits that would flow from such tourism, the potential problems that it might cause and the way forward.

India is what is known in literature as 'a continuing civilisation'.

In other words, it has continued since prehistoric times to modern era. This has provided the opportunity for humans to create art and architecture which has huge tourism potential now.

Prehistoric cave paintings like the ones at Bhimbetka are a potential tourism attraction for people who are interested in history. In the historic era, ancient temple architecture e.g. at Puri, Chola temples, Khajuraho, Ajanta and Ellora caves are an attraction. Medieval era architecture is as versatile as ancient with examples ranging

from Taj Mahal, Red Fort, Humayun tomb, Jamia Masjid, Golden temple, temples at Hampi and Lepakshi etc. Similarly modern colonial architecture is a potential tourist destination.

Culturally, fairs and festivals provide a cultural attraction. Examples like Kumbh Mela (largest religious gathering in the world), Kedarnath, Diwali etc are to be used for tourism. Tourism is not restricted to cultural sphere.

Geological tourism whereby tourists visit places of geological importance is also one of the options in India. Potential sites are: Kren Puri Caves in North-east, Columnar basalt on St. Mary's island off the coast of Karnataka, Kayals/backwaters of Kerala etc.

Flowing from the geography of a region, nature-bound tourism can

be exploited. India has a huge potential for such tourism due to geographical diversity. Examples are: wild-ass sanctuary Gujarat, Hangul in Kashmir, rainforests of NE North-east, Western Ghats, deserts of Rajasthan, Rann of Kutch and rivers and waterbodies etc.

In recent times, new types of tourism attractions have emerged. One of the most famous examples is of Health tourism. India has already

established itself as a frequently chosen destination for this kind of tourism due to speciality hospitals in urban areas, generic medicines and healthcare costs being low etc.

All these types of tourism provide a potential benefits which can flow from them from international diplomacy to economic to social and cultural.

The growth of tourism is a tool in the international diplomacy to create what is known as 'Soft power'. This will help India in establishing rapport with different countries as is being established through celebration of international Yoga day. Not only limited to diplomatic sphere, the benefits also flow into the economic sphere.

The first and foremost among the economic benefits is the development of the area and creation of employment opportunities. This will definitely help in poverty reduction both in such areas and others which are linked to them.

The transport and communication infrastructure to the area will improve as the by-product of finances from the tourism. This will lead to overall Socio-economic development.

From the perspective of the government, revenue will increase. This increased revenue can be used for providing the public goods both in quantity needed & the quality required, the foremost among them being health & education. Prosperity in the economic sphere is thus a given benefit but what we should not miss are the social and cultural benefits.

Tourism especially cultural tourism leads to exchange of cultural ideas and norms leading to tolerance, empathy & compassion for people who are from other cultures. Flow of modern ideas to these areas can lead to secularisation and building of scientific temper. In addition, tourists will take Indian culture far and wide in their countries.

Though there are many potential benefits but tourism may also lead to some harmful effects, environmental degradation being the most important example. This may manifest in the form of loss of local ecosystems and wildlife, plastic pollution, pollution of local surface water etc. This demands a tourism policy that can reap the benefits and minimise the bad effects.

The concept of ecological tourism can be explored. In this type of tourism, tourists visit the place to enjoy the nature without in any way affecting its quality. This leads to sustainable development of the area. Along with ecological tourism, other options can also be explored.

Regulation of tourism is a must especially in the current times of environmental degradation. Policies

should consist of use/throw rules, the kind of materials allowed to the site, etc.

In case of nature-tourism, no go Zones can be established in order to avoid disturbance to the natural habitat of animals in the wild. Proper registration policies should be ensured for the tourists so that no misuse of rules happens.

Tourism is an intangible resource that India needs to tap on its way to becoming a \$5 tr. economy. With our ancient notion of treating the guests (tourists) as gods, this can surely be a reality.