

## WORLD PROBLEMS AND INDIA'S ROLE.

**We learn about the following in this chapter:**

- Denial of Human Rights
- Economic inequality
- Terrorism
- Arms race
- Racial discrimination

The post-war period has witnessed the total collapse of Colonialism and Imperialism. Out of the womb of old world new world has emerged. By 1945 the dawn of new era has taken place with the birth of United Nations Organization. But still, the world has come under the clutches of various problems like that of human rights, armaments race economic inequality, racism, and terrorism. India as one of leading members of the Family of Nations is contributing positively to solve those World issues.

**1. Denial of Human Rights :** Human activists throughout history have upheld birth rights of human beings. But, unfortunately human rights have been denied for a pretty long time for majority of the people of the globe. Discriminations based on religion, race, gender, caste colour and nationality persisted resulting in oppression and denial of human rights.

A number of landmarks like American War of Independence in 1776, Russian Revolution in 1917, the French Revolution of 1789, the struggle for independence in India and of many other Countries during the first half of 20th Century, have upheld the struggle for human rights. The

**Do you know this:**

*'Human Rights' are those which have been guaranteed by the Indian Constitution and International Conventions. They are: Right to Life, Liberty, Equality and Individual Dignity.*

Declaration of Human Rights on December 10th 1948 by UNO can rightly be hailed as the turning point in our struggle against the denial of human rights. India has always championed the cause of

Universal Human Rights. She has provided for fundamental rights in the Constitution itself and thereby played a vital role in throwing light on this issue. Even in U N General Assembly India always upheld the cause of basic rights of human beings all over the world. Evils like slave trade, trafic in human beings, child labur, and exploitation of women are prohibited by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Right to life and liberty, to security, right to equality, freedom of religion, cultural and educational rights etc are constitutionally sanctioned in almost all the democratic nations. But, under dictatorships and totalitarian regimes, we still find the denial of basic human rights. India is against genocide, all sorts of exploitation and oppression. Even through UNO and other International forums India urges for the protection of human rights.

**2. Race of Armaments :** There is a famous saying “ We have to end war; or else war will end us.” Armament race seems to be the most dangerous symptom of the present day world. Disarmament as such is the need of the hour for the very preservation and continuation of our globe. Disarmament seems to be the only solution for the arms race.

Disarmament means the reduction or elimination of certain or all armaments for the purpose of ending armaments race. Armaments lead to evils like global level fear, insecurity, tension and even to war. In order to overcome all those evils disarmament has been placed before the world as the need of present day world. It is a fact that arms and ammunitions are economically wasteful. American President Eisenhower once expressed - “This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its labourers, genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children.

The question of arms control as well as disarmament has become all the more prominent with the advent of nuclear era. India as a

peace-loving country is for restraining arms race. However, for the future safety of the world serious efforts are needed to avert wars. Since 1963 the USA and USSR had entered in to a number of bilateral agreements. Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty{ SALT}, Partial Test Ban Treaty, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Non-Proliferation Treaty are some of the landmarks to check the nuclear arms race. Thus, all the nations including India have to strive to create a favourable situation against 'Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD).

**3. Economic Inequality :** The present day world-family is has a very big issue of economic inequality among its members. This situation is partially the historical legacy of colonialism and exploitation. Europeans powers have established their colonies in Africa, Asia and even in Latin American Countries. Owing to this policy of imperialism those countries who suffered alien Colonial rule have remained economically backward. Their progress has been hampered till the first half of the 20th Century. After independence, those countries especially African and Asian did endeavour to achieve economic progress. But lack of sufficient capital to develop agriculture, industry, transport and communication, science education, health etc. Such underdeveloped countries had to depend upon foreign aid.

After 1945, in the bipolar world American bloc and Russian Communist bloc started assisting these backward countries But at same time this economic inequality situation has been exploited to serve the national interests of the advanced countries.

At this situation, India has launched the policy of non-alignment. She advocated for the economic assistance to the needy countries by rich nations without any tag. Thereby India has championed the cause of national pride of the economically weak countries; but at the same time India stood for the smooth flow of capital investment by affluent nations. Thus, India is a pioneer country to oppose neo-imperialism of America and other countries

who could exploit the situation of poor nations. The very concept of "Third World" is indicating the backward countries. They strive to free themselves from the shortage of food, capital, technology, medical facilities, lack of higher educational amenities etc. Likewise, International trade policies like dumping, free trade, unhealthy competitions, globalization adversely affect the poor nations. In order to set right situations of economic inequality among the nations UNO and all the advanced nations have to respond positively, India as one of the emerging nations is always voicing in favour of economic justice and equality in the Family of Nations.

**4. Racism :** (Apartheid) Racial discrimination and inhuman treatment of non-white races have been considered. A bane on World civilization. Europeans who travelled across the world after Renaissance through the newly discovered sea routes established their colonies. Later, they started building vast empires on the eastern and western parts of the Globe. Thus, the so called races mainly brown, black and even yellow hailing from African, Asian and American countries were looked down upon by the White race. The Europeans even started coining the phrase "White Man's Burden" to civilize the World. But, this type of racism was basically inhuman and un-ethical. However, this Racism or Apartheid Policy persisted for a long time in the world in spite of many reforms. Great personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Nelson Mandela championed the cause of racial equality.



**Nelson Mandela**

**Think:**

*If Apartheid is an international problem, caste system is an internal problem of our country. It is a social evil.*

With the end of World War II by 1945 drastic changes have taken place in the global socio-political scenario. A good number of nations won freedom from alien rule. Consequently racism too had its unceremonious demise along with the downfall of

Imperialism and Colonialism. Still South Africa and Rhodesia in Africa did not implement racial equality for a longtime. As retaliation measure Government of India did not give recognition to these two Countries till they abandoned racism. Right of Man includes equality based on race and this principle has been upheld by the Indian Constitution.

**5. Terrorism :** Terrorism means the systematic use of terror as a means of coercion. It refers to those violent acts which are intended to create fear. Such acts are based on religious, political or ideological goal causing heavy damage to men and materials. Apart from these, terrorism creates heavy psychological impact. It causes negative impact on civilized society and governments. Terrorism is a political tactic which creates fear complexities and glorifies the ideology of the Terrorist Organizations. Such acts of organized violence are fully unlawful and antisocial in nature. The collapse of world Trade Centre in 2001, series of blasts in U.K. Iran, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Indonesia etc show the alarming magnitude of global level terrorism. Terrorism might have fuelled by religious, fundamentalism, separatist ideologies, Leftist thoughts, liberation motives, racialism etc. Even a state can sponsor terrorism by funding terrorist organizations. It may be aimed at civilians, armed personnel, and a linguistic, religious, racial or ethnic groups of a state. Terrorist acts are often targeted to maximize fear and publicity, usually using explosives or poison for mass destruction. Terrorist Organizations usually plan attacks methodically in advance. They train participants and even plant secret agents, raise funds from supporters. Modern transport and telecommunication means are used by terrorists. They are intended to gain mass publicity for their set goals and organizations. Road transport, railways, aeroplane, government offices, highly populated areas, market places are some of the vulnerable targets of terrorism. Propaganda is normally accompanied with terrorism. It is in the form of unconventional warfare. Suicidal attacks, hijacking, gun-battles, bombing, keeping the targeted persons or innocents as hostages are some of the heinous technique of terrorists.

India is considered as one of the soft bases for terrorists. Kashmir, Nagaland, Mizoram, Assam etc have been chosen as the targets of terrorism in our Country. Terrorist attacks have taken place in many places like on Taj Mahal hotel and railway stations in Mumbai on 26 November 2007, the Parliament in New Delhi as also in places in Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, Bodh Gaya and others. Even Naxalism has created havoc by fanning terrorism. Neighbouring countries like Pakistan and China have been accused many a time for their role in terrorist activities in our country.

India's policy is totally against terrorism of all kinds in and around our nation. Our Central Government as well as state Governments are continuously venturing to control terrorism and thereby protect men and property. Anti-terrorist forces are set up specially trained to combat terrorism. Many a time our Defense Forces are pressed into action to throwout terrorism. India has even assisted the neighbor countries like Srilanka to restrain terrorist activities. As a peace loving nation India is against terrorism.

The history of mankind brings home one truth. Violence and terrorism have achieved little whereas truth, non-violence, compassion and sacrifice have achieved a lot. The assassinations of Mahatma Gandhiji, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi did not create new history. On the contrary, Buddha, Mahavira, Jesus, Mohammed Paigambar, Basava, Gandhi, Nehru, Ambedkar, Martin Luther, Nelson Mandela spread enthusiasm, new light and peace to the whole world. The effects of peace and compassion are greater than those of violence and hatred.

## **EXERCISES**

### **I. Fill in the blanks with suitable words:**

- 1 Human Rights Day is celebrated on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 India is consistently championing \_\_\_\_\_ Human Rights.

3 \_\_\_\_\_ has fought against African Racial Discrimination.

4 Human Rights include \_\_\_\_\_ equality.

## II. Discuss in group and answer the following questions.

- 1 What were the main problems faced after second world war?
- 2 Explain Indian role in favour of Human Rights.
- 3 Arms race will lead to world destruction explain the effects of arms competition in this background.
- 4 What are the features of economic backwardness of nations? What are the reasons for this?
- 5 What are the reforms to have economics equality in India?
- 6 'Racial discrimination is against humanism' Justify.
- 7 What are the effects of terrorism?
- 8 What are the measures taken to curb terrorism in India?

## III. Activities :

- 1 Collect the information about the Human Rights Commission.
- 2 Prepare a list of the welfare projects of Karnataka Government for poor people.

## IV. Project :

- 1 Read the biographies of great people who fought against racial discrimination.

