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Section - A.

2.

Curiosity is the essence of our existence.

Once an Indian girl Samprati was told by her teacher that she is poor in studies and will end up just a housewife. Fortunately, Samprati didn't let this happen & with curiosity flew to America. Eventually, she navigated through cultural, economic & academic challenges and discovered 'Navier'. It

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was the first electric boat cum plane, which revolutionized the transportation sector.

Samprati's curiosity to learn and not to be bound by rigidity of circumstances, redefined her existence with an essential purpose.

Thus, Curiosity is that power which can add value in one's endeavours in life to create something meaningful. It can transform mere existence as per norms to realization of magic in mundane.

In this essay, we will explore this magical transformation of curiosity. Along with that, we need to examine the role of certainty in our existence.

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प्रश्न संख्या
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To illuminate our path, let us understand the basis of human nature. Although, it is complex to clearly define it. But Nietzsche, summarized it upto a certain extent as 'Will to Power'. We can say, we all are curious to expand our powers be it economic, psychological or power of love.

Due to this curiosity of untouched power, the humanity has progressed in various fields. The curious Napoleon increased his footsteps in Europe for political essence. Parallely, curious C.V. Ramana questioned the color of sky & ocean for scientific essence.

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Adding to the basic premise of human nature, there is an Essentialism school. According to which, the existence of human is for pre-determined purpose. Mohammad Ali, for instance, meets his essence as a great boxer. His greatness emerged when he was curious ~~enough~~ a lot to fight against a world champion.

However, there is another school of thought which is existentialism. As per this, there should be no limits to human endeavour. As per Sarte, 'Existence is prior to essence'. Here, Curiosity is significant to realize that one existence can have multiple essences.

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Thus, creativity becomes the synthesizer of Essence & Existence. It can be demonstrated by the example of Assamese girl, Paybahi Baruah. She became the first elephant rider due to her curiosity to expand her more empathetic bond with elephant to a mission to alleviate human-wildlife conflict.

Moving further, let us see how one behaves in a State of Curiosity. In this state, one is ignorant yet there is a desire to know. One wants to discover the truth. As we don't know our Sun & its complex structure, but we are curious to understand it with missions like Aditya L1.

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Moreover, curiosity is also the state of humility. Here, we want to learn without prejudices & biases. Swami Vivekananda upheld this as a principle at Chicago religious conference for inter-civilizations dialogue. And, if we fail to learn with curiosity, we fail as humans & jeopardize our living.

However, curiosity is the first step of our journey towards meaningful existence. It should be followed by learning, & application. To illustrate, in North-East, people have learnt that coexistence with Great Pied Hornbill is inevitable. Their discovery started in curiosity & peaked at certainty which helps them to be

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prepared.

We may have the power of proactive decision making. Sometimes, rather than curious, one must be attentive & aware for unfavourable circumstances. For example, post RCB victory stampede in Bengaluru ~~can be~~ might have been prevented if there were early preparedness.

Nevertheless, howsoever we prepare life always surprise us. Our capacity to predict or control future is limited. No one has predicted that Elon Musk & Donald Trump will become staunch enemies few months back.

It can be argued that

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upto a certain extent, we must be certain for our actions. As it is said, 'Right time to repair roof is when sun is shining'. Also, at the same time, we must be curious for what life holds for us.

Curiosity helps us to navigate at the ambiguities with a fresh & unconventional perspective. Like, for ~~all~~ many of us, discarded waste cannot be beautiful. But, the vision of Nek Chand, saw the beauty in the waste by building Rock Garden at Chandigarh.

To sum up, ~~our~~ our basic goal of life is to quest & seek truth with curiosity. As the universe

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is multidimensional, our essence is also diverse. The curious minds wander but they do not loose & mostly end up ~~do~~ creating & re-creating their higher self.

In contemporary times, we must guard our curiosities from the tech-algorithmic hunters. They are misusing our curiosities by Consumerism, doomsrolling & alienating us from our essence of being creative human.

We all are invariably the artists who can manifest those realities which are only imagined today with our curiosities. Let us redefine human essence with realizing creative freedom. Nevertheless, our

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creations must contribute to
 common good for mutual coexistence
 of all living species of this
 Cosmos. As Alfred Tennyson writes,
'To seek, to strive & never to yield'

Instead of limiting our
 precious lives in Ivory towers of
 outdated norms, traditions or customs,
 let us be curious to quench our
thirst with unlimited unknown.

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Section - B

You cannot simultaneously prevent
and prepare for war.

During the beginning of the
Mahabharat, Arjun was in dilemma.
His values of brotherhood were
overflowing with questions like
'Should he prevent the war?' But
Lord Krishna enlightened his vision
by showing that this dichotomy is
against the ethics of a warrior.

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The war which has begun with inevitable preparations forced by circumstances ~~can~~ ^{can} rarely be prevented, but has to be fought. One can either be warrior or a peace broker.

It is our means which determines our ends. If we are taking steps to create mutual goodwill, peace & mutual respect, then the parties cultivate Empowerment. However, if the steps are taken with suspicion, hatredness then the outcome is violence.

Nevertheless, there can be a middle ground between peace & war making an anarchical society. Let us discover it.

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By Prevention of War, to begin with, we can understand, it is ~~the~~ similar to Dhamma Ghosha of Buddhism that inspired Ashoka to take U-turn from the path of war & violence. It is rooted in compassion & respect for individual dignity.

The steps required to prevent the war or violence comes with mutual respect. For example, In South Africa Society, Nelson Mandela's forgiveness and Black-white coexistence prevented any further social discrimination from either side.

But, Preparations for the War, on the other hand, is rooted in egoism, suspicion & survival instincts. In the

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World of aggressive competition, we all are struggling against each other. Today, the more aggression in student competitive exams like NEET, JEE, UGC Net are alleged as suicide promoters in teenagers.

At Global level, the same principle applies. If there is mutual respect for sovereignty & Territorial Integrity, then there is prevention of war as materialized in Pelindaba Treaty of Africa to make it Nuclear Free Zone.

However, if there is deep mistrust & miscalculations for each other's defence preparedness, it culminates into Preparation for war. It is

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explainable for West Asia where
Israel's technological prowess, Iran's
Nuclear prowess & proxies sponsoring,
all adds up to hotboil of war &
violence.

To dig deeper into the Phobic
relations of Peace & War, we need
to analyze it as Game of Perception.
As there is no overarching authority
to regulate the affairs of state, there
is anarchical structure.

This anarchical structure constrains
the choices of even those who want
to build peace. To illustrate, the
two World Wars of Europe emerged
due to Nationalization, Arms Races &
Alliances. All these forces were perceived

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Counter-peace by ~~and~~ anti-alliances.
Even in Cold War, between US & USSR,
the role of perception of threat,
reduced scope of engagement.

To end this security dilemma,
there must be focus on preventing
war by talks, dialogue & mutual
understanding. However, as in the case
of Indo-China, Chinese policy of
Fracturing Himalayas to weaken India
cannot go hand in hand with peace
talks like Mansarovar Yatra.

Moreover, to prevent the war,
there is need of shedding off
arrogant sovereignty in the pool of
collective security. This was done by
Europe post Second World War by

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Combining pieces into Peace as
European Union. From security
dilemma, it transformed into security
Community. With pooled sovereignty, there
are less chances of war against each
other.

Having discussed non-mutual
realities of war & peace, let us
discuss the flip side. We can simultane-
ously prevent & prepare for some
wars. Sometimes, Preparation becomes
pre-requisite to prevent war.

For example, Indian state is
against Nuclear Proliferation but it
acquired Nuclear Weapons, notwithstanding
its moral call for Nuclear free world.
For India, Nuclear weapons are not for

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offensive attacks on enemies but a strong deterrence against any threat to its peace, human security & existence.

In addition, for unconventional wars of contemporary era like Terrorism, countries need both preparation & prevention strategies. India's advocacy for UN-led Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism ~~is~~ ^{is a} preventive tactic.

Simultaneously, tough responses like Operation Sindoor against Pahalgam attack demonstrates calculated & reasonable war strategies. It can also be asserted that 'good war is better than Bad Peace'.

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Nevertheless, the ultimate goal must be promotion of Peace & Prevention of War. But Martin Luther King's statement put us pondering :-

'Peace is not the absence of violence, it is the presence of justice'

It necessitates that in our preservation & sustenance of Peace, democracy & justice are *sine qua non*. It can be used to argue that United Nation needs democratic reforms to really protect future generations from scourge of war.

If there is dominance of few powers in United Nation, how can it prevent the wars initiated

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or sponsored by these powerful nations. Multinational reforms at UN's security council may make it ~~more~~ more accountable in ~~present~~ checking preparation of unjustified wars.

Not only, global wars need to be prevented like in Middle East or Russia-Ukraine; the social cohesion is also need of the hours. We cannot simultaneously freely speak with our best faculty and tolerate hate speech & violence.

Let us be the torchbearers of love, peace, humanity & non-violence. By eliminating any root cause for war-preparations, we can create our

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globe, free from any fears.
Rabindranath Tagore also dreamt of
this cosmos where there is no
fear & true spiritual freedom.

War is an isolator. And
'To be isolated, is to be deprived of
action & freedom'. So, let us make
choices of peace & creativity with
mutual respect.

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Essay Edge by Farees Rahman