

Q4 Competition is the law of the jungle, but cooperation is the law of the land.

Humans appeared on the face of earth during Pleistocene age some 1 lac years ago. According to Dr Yuval Noah Harari, that time humans were not very different from the rest of the animals. There nature was marked by violence, cannibalism for accessing those limited resources.

However, as the time progressed they realized ^{that} they are different from other living beings — they discovered the power of unity. This led to formation of primitive colonies, increased defence and hence the survivability. It laid the foundation

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for the future homo sapiens, to form great civilizations - from Egyptian to Mesopotamian and ultimately the modern world.

Indeed, competition was the law of jungle when the humans were no different from other animals. However, it is the cooperation that has built civilizations.

When we talk about jungle it doesnot only mean the animal habitation. In the present world, it can also refer to a chaotic place marked by lawlessness.

Similarly, a civilization need not be grand human habitation. It refers to a place which allows humans to flourish and grow.

The idea of 'competition' have fascinated humans since time immemorial. Even the scientific literature like that of Charles Darwin have written extensively about it. It is a phenomenon where two living entities try to establish their dominance over a given resource. However, in such a pursuit, both entities face severe losses.

While on the other hand, cooperation is a symbiotic relationship between the two entities - creating a whole greater than the parts. It benefits both.

Therefore, the law of competition can ensure the 'survival of the fittest' but at a great cost. It leads to a jungle rule in the complex societies of today. Whereas, the cooperation

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can flourish places of growth.

The question then arises why does competition facilitates a jungle rule in the first place?

There are number of reasons for that: -

Firstly, it promotes the rule of the might. The entity with the greatest strength wins. It can lead to loss of the latter entity.

In human world it can be correlated to the rights of minority where the dominant group becomes hostile, for instance, Rohingyas in Myanmar.

Moreover, competition leads to inefficient use of resources.

According to 'spaceship model' of Earth, there are limited resources on the planet. Inefficiency in usage

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of them will ultimately lead to our own demise. It is similar in a way to jungle whose destruction is often caused by itself.

Neo Cold war the world is going through presently also reflects the law of competition in action. It is creating conflict like that of in Russia-Ukraine or loss of thousands of lives like that in the Middle East. All leading to disruption ~~of~~ supply chains, high inflation and widespread misery all around the globe. No wonder, 'doomsday theories' are becoming increasingly popular.

This law also reminds us of the polity of India in the 18th century. At the fall of the Great Mughals, number of regional forces came in conflict with each other.

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to carve out their own kingdoms - the Marathas, Bengal, Hyderabad, Awadh and so on. This jungle rule of that time gave an opportunity to British leading to colonization of India - impact of which still cannot be shaken off.

On the contrary, cooperation paints a completely different picture. It helps promote teamwork and achieve which almost seems impossible. In the recent Olympic match between India and Great Britain - India won; with one man down - why? All because of intra-team cooperation.

Similarly, cooperation helps in solving global problems of human civilization. The immense

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success of Montreal Protocol in recovering the Antarctic Hole is a testimony to it.

"Children are our future", this have often been remarked by Great leaders including Dr Kalam. They are inheritor of our civilization. Thus, impact of cooperation and competition on them is of great significance. The UN Report suggests, that cooperation instill sense of self confidence among them and competition - mental health problems.

Dr Yuval Noah Harari, in his book 21 lessons for 21st Century has also talked on this theme. He acknowledges that competition is bad. However, he saws competition in moderate ratio helps. For instance, sports competition in school promotes

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the need of self growth among children.

At the societal level as well, we need competition in a small sense. ~~to~~ For example, competition among states to eradicate poverty, expand hygiene and so on.

However, we should be vigilant that this competition does not become an end in itself and cooperation forms the cornerstone of our civilization. To ensure this we can take following measure:

Firstly, positive socialization at home and school. The children should be given agency to explore their own talents

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At societal level, promoting cooperation among communities through exposure and positive interaction. A common binding thread should be explored.

At the international level, reformation of global institutions like UN, IMF etc is the need of the hour. We have to make sure each voice is heard and everybody is represented.

To summarize, competition and cooperation are two facets of interaction between two biological species. It has evolved into something greater in complex human societies of today. Competition can have negative consequences. But like ~~so~~ as

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everything ~~is~~ has something positive in it; similar is the case of with competition. In small doses it promotes growth. Cooperation on the other hand is the bed rock of human civilization.

In a world, which is facing immense challenges, it is humans that have to rely on each other. We have to shed our differences and join our hands together and remember the ancient wisdom -

66 Together we stand,
Divided we fall."

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(Q:) "Wisdom is to live in the tune of the changing world."

"It is not the most intelligent of the species that survives, nor the most powerful but the one most adaptable to change."
- Charles Darwin

This quote by Darwin corroborates the law of nature that "the only constant is the change."

Hence, the human wisdom lies in the living with the tune of the changing world.

Our world is fast changing and evolving every minute. It has modified itself both for

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the better and the worse.

When we look at the positive side of this changing world we find the rise of humanism. The discourses on human rights, welfare of people are stronger than ever. This comes with the background of modern thought backed by rationality.

This change is not limited for the human world. The expansion in rise of consciousness for environment is also evident through like the works of Greta Thunberg. The new world has also raised the discourse on animal rights.

But as the grass is never green on the both sides, there

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are instances where world has evolved for worse. The rise of global temperature, pollution, international conflicts, proliferation of nuclear weapons are the few examples to quote.

Presenting this world view, it is for the best we adapt ourselves. By adopting the principles of change we can navigate this dynamism.

Change helps in the solution-oriented thinking for the problems at hand. For example, the rising temperature have forced us to rethink the way we generate energy. Moving from fossil fuel to renewable energy

ensures a sustainable future for tomorrow.

Similarly, it also promotes innovation and growth. It allows individuals and organization to stay relevant in a dynamic global village. Google one of the most valuable MNCs of the world was once asked about their consistent growth. Their reply was simple: - "Innovating for the changing landscape!"

Moreover, the principle of living in tune with the changing world helps in removing decadent practices of a society. It ushers cultural and social revolution for better. Decriminalization of homosexuality in India,

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for instance, embarked a new milestone for the Indian society.

On the other hand, those who reject change with dynamic world are put to a disadvantage. Infact their survival can be threatened. Companies like Kodak and Nokia learnt this bitter lesson by refusing to adopt 21st century digital tech. Once the global pioneers now they are just another loss making firm.

In addition to this, world is a very competitive place. This is especially true for the world of geopolitics. Any form inactivity in action by nation is severely

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punished. India's "contentment" with the relations with China in 1960s in form of "Hindi - Cheeni Bhai Bhai" found India unprepared for the Chinese invasion. This should be our reminder that dynamic world cannot be taken for granted.

Thus there is a wisdom in living in tune with the changing world. But is it always the case?

Let us take a comparative study of Bhutan and India. Both countries ^{were} ~~where~~ heavily forested till the start of 18th century. Both ~~were~~ faced oppressive policies of the imperial British. But since.

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the 19th century their path diverge.
By 20th century and with Independence,
India embarked on the path
of modern economy. Its forests were
destroyed. With spread of "modern"
education the adoption of "western"
ideas as well as taste became
widespread. The result? India
boasts most number of polluted
cities in the world, Indian
youth facing identity crisis and
impact of climate change costing
lives and money.

Bhutan on other hand
took a different approach. It
protected its forest and ~~for~~ rights
of its people. It is the only
carbon negative country in the

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world. It measures its progress by the "happiness" of its citizen!

So, the question raises which is better the fifth largest economy India - which evolved its itself with the tune of the dynamic world or Bhutan which valued its best unchanged heritage more?

India has benefitted a lot from the change - expanded women education, abolished untouchability through constitution, adopting modern technology which has increased labour productivity etc. But we should remember that change is a double edged sword. Change for the sake change can be harmful

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There should be an 'objective' for which change is ushered. If this is not the case, then ~~once~~ ^{ones} loses ~~their~~ ^{his/her} essence or what Sartre called the "you-ness" of oneself with the dynamic world.

To help resolve this dichotomy, ~~when~~ one can take following paths:

Firstly, identify ^{one's} ~~once~~ core value and principles. Any evolution should be through ^{this} prism. Gandhi ji once remarked "flow with the world but with unchanged principles."

Secondly, change at a mass scale must come through consensus with various stakeholders. The welfare of human beings should be at the core of such a decision making.

Moreover, "cultural appropriateness" is a key for adoption of dynamism. Any new idea, technique etc must not be ~~imitated~~ ^{imitated} blindly. It should be modified according to unique needs of the society it is intended for.

To summarise, we live in a fast & changing world. The change is visible both in positive and negative sense. It presents us with huge challenges. To overcome these obstacles

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it is pertinent that we change.. However, change is a double-edged sword. Thus, any evolution or change must be guided carefully.

We are at a crossroad where we decide where the world will progress: ~~to~~.

To conflict or to peace?

To welfare or genocide of people?

To a bright future or a dooms' day?

Let us all take a pledge for changing our ~~be~~ world for a better tomorrow. Let us change the fact ~~where~~ ^{that} millions are hungry, let us change the earth where millions are dying daily. Let us change the course of environment destruction. Let us live in the spirit of "One Earth, One family, One future."