

The background of the image is a dark blue and purple night sky filled with numerous white stars of varying sizes. In the foreground, there is a silhouette of a forest of evergreen trees. The overall aesthetic is serene and wintery.

# TOPIC OF THE WEEK

## JANUARY'20 (02 to 08 JAN)

## Being a global citizen still we are resisting

Global Citizenship is a way of living that recognizes our world is an increasingly complex web of connections and interdependencies. One in which our choices and actions may have repercussions for people and communities locally, nationally or internationally.

"An ethic of care for the world." Hannah Arendt.

First of all, people have been trading goods since civilization began. In the 1st century BC, there was the transportation of goods from China to Europe. The goods transportation took place along the Silk Road. The Silk Road route was very long in distance. This was a remarkable development in the history of Globalization. This is because, for the first time ever, goods were sold across continents.

Received wisdom today is that geography is irrelevant. No longer is a country's destiny tied down to its geographical location or its physical resources. In the era of knowledge-propelled globalization, it is possible for countries to overcome these handicaps by exploiting their comparative advantage in human resources. Globalization is a very visible phenomenon currently.

Most noteworthy, it is continuously increasing. Above all, it is a great blessing to trade. This is because it brings a lot of economic and social benefits to it. In simple words, we are getting multi-cultural and slowly grasping the diversity of human culture.

But unfortunately the recent scenario in India is depicting some other picture. India's Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which passed both houses of parliament on Dec. 11, 2019 led Protests erupted across India last week when hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets. The CAA intends to grant Indian citizenship to non-Muslim refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who face religious persecution in their respective countries – but excludes nationality to Muslims. The act struck a nerve in a nation where, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist agenda, secular freedoms, pluralistic principles and Indigenous rights enshrined in the constitution have eroded. The irony is that many of today's politicians from the ruling party have themselves been on the other side of the picket lines and police baton.

India is not new to State heavy handedness. This administration, though, driven by ideology more than previous ones, could trigger further social polarization. These protests cannot continue indefinitely, and probably won't result in the government conducting a 'rollback' with CAA. But the time in retreat could provide an opportunity to those opposing the law to broaden their concerns. Just as it happened with the anti-Emergency movement against Indira Gandhi in the 1970s, when issues kept being .Past history and a study of 109 countries over a period of 100 years show that religious fundamentalism has immense potential to hurt and derail economic development and India should be wary of it.

**For reference:-**

- <https://www.bcg.com/publications/2017/new-globalization-going-beyond-rhetoric.aspx>
- <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2019/jan/07/new-qanda-1921889.html>
- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/nrc-and-caa-muslim-leaders-appeal-for-boycott/articleshow/72628534.cms>

- <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/view-heres-what-govt-needs-to-do-to-fix-unintended-fallout-due-to-caa-protests/articleshow/72908965.cms?from=mdr>
- <https://www.pri.org/stories/2019-12-20/rage-against-india-s-citizenship-law-rooted-complex-history-nation-building>

### **Additional Readings:-**

- <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/fuel-to-the-fire-on-cabinet-announcement-on-npr/article30415099.ece>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/dec/30/the-guardian-view-on-the-gig-economy-stop-making-burnout-a-lifestyle>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/dec/26/the-guardian-view-on-car-culture-change-is-coming>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/dec/23/the-guardian-view-on-the-new-scrooge-a-charismatic-antihero-for-christmas>

- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-editorials/forests-are-us-but-dont-fall-for-fake-forests/>

**Suggested Refresher Book:-**

Making Globalization Work

Book by Joseph Stiglitz (Author)