

MANKIND OCCASIONAL PAPERS : 18

THE TRI-POLAR WORLD :
AN UPDATE TO
THE 2009 WORLD BANK REPORT

Vinayak Purohit

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CONTENTS

	Page
1. Introduction	1
2. Distribution of World Economic Power: 200 Economies/Countries	1
3. Arable & Forest Land, Population and GDP-PPP 2007	5
4. Concluding Remarks	13

TABLES

1. Distribution of World Economic Power: Tri-polar World	3
2. Arable & Forest Land, Population and GDP-PP 2007	6
3. National Population: 29 Countries	8
4. Countries with over One Trillion GDP-PPP in 2007	9
5. Population of Top 29 Countries 2007	9

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Vinayak Purohit

INTRODUCTION

For the first time, since its inception in 1978, the World Bank Report Series, has published comparative data based on the actualities of economic geography (*See World Development Report, 2009 (WDR)* subtitled "*Reshaping Economic Geography*" published by the World Bank, Washington, 2009) This WDR contains data on Total Surface Area, Arable Land Percentage, Forest Land Percentage, for 211 economies (Table A-1, pp 332-4).

As we know, geography is the basis of broad racial-linguistic, religious and economic exploitative relations in the world. We in *Mankind* were aware of this harsh reality of world political economy from the beginning of *Mankind's* revival in 1995. We published with our limited resources the earliest studies exposing the basic Tri-polar International situation in *Mankind* in November 1996., at pp.57-67. This gigantic table was copied without acknowledgement by the London *Economist* in those days and later by Rupa Purushottam in her Goldman-Sachs Reports. This has finally culminated in the *World Development Report 2009* of the World Bank referred to in the forgoing paragraph.

We are not terribly perturbed by the intellectual piracy indulged in by Rupa Purushottam, the London *Economist* and Goldman-Sachs. Though much is made of the supposed violation by the very same bourgeois institutions and individuals. For we are revolutionary socialists who openly proclaim our contempt for the sanctity of all personal property in productive resources and we have merely a sardonic laughter for the Capitalist Establishment that glories in the dictum "All property is theft".

Be that as it may, let us now re-focus on the *World Development Report, 2009* and its main findings.

We present herewith a series of tables which bring out the salient features of the tri-polarity of our real world.

We have accepted the Groupings of Economies / Countries which have been made by the World Bank at p.351 of the report with the caveat that the last two groupings, viz, Group 7, "High Income OECD" and Group 7 B&C "Other High Income" have been redistributed in the first Six Primary Geographical Groupings according to their true natural geographical positions.

Though the World Bank divides the 200 odd Economies / Countries of the world into seven main groups as explained above, the main text of the entire *2009 Development Report* confirms our analysis of the basic tri-polarity of the present day world. The difference lies in mere nomenclature. What we have called the Pacific Rim of Asia (PRA) has been identified by the World Bank as North East Asia (See Map 1 on p.4; Map 3 on p.16; Map 5 on p.17; Map 7 on p.28; Map 8 on p.3; Map 0.1 on p.35; Map 2.2 on p.76, Map 3.1 on p.97 and many more similar maps depicting the same economic reality.)

Distribution of World Economic Power: 200 Economies/Countries

In Table I of this monograph, we present a simplified picture of the Distribution of World Economic Power which plots the growth of the world economy in some seven broad groupings over the years 1960 to 2007.

We have displayed in Table I, the relative economic power of the seven main groups of economies/countries as it has changed over the period 1960 to 2007.

TABLE I : DISTRIBUTION OF WORLD ECONOMIC POWER : TRIPOLAR WORLD

GROUPS OF ECONOMIES	NO	GDP-PPP 2007 Bln. US \$	% OF WORLD US \$	GDP-PPP 2006 Bln.	% OF WORLD	% OF WORLD 1960	% OF WORLD 1987	% OF WORLD 1994
Group 1 : East Asia & Pacific	30	16,170.06	24.81	21,109.56	28.70	14.24	19.39	26.27
China (Incl. Hong Kong)		7,388.60	11.34	10,421.00	15.65	7.39	5.98	9.98
Japan		4,420.60	6.78	4,229.00	6.35	3.91	3.25	8.45
Korea South		1,201.10	1.84	1,152.00	1.73	0.06	1.04	1.47
Taiwan		635.90	0.98	536.60	0.81	-	-	0.70
Indonesia		807.90	1.24	881.00	1.32	0.70	1.55	2.19
10 ASEAN Countries Including Indonesia		2,493.56	3.82	2,741.0	4.12	2.47	3.92	5.37
Group 2: Former USSR, its 15 Constituents & its 13 Ex-Satellites	28	4,633.93	8.93	3,991.52	6.50	3.01	10.72	9.68
Russia		2,039.10	4.05	1,656.0	2.49	8.25	7.84	1.90
Group 3: Latin America & Caribbean	37	5,223.15	7.72	4,872.20	7.44	6.86	8.69	8.50
Argentina		513.00	0.79	602.0	0.90	1.07	0.90	0.95
Brazil		1,795.70	2.76	1,661.0	2.50	1.54	3.10	2.75
Chile		209.00	0.32	185.0	0.28	0.36	0.28	0.40
Group 4: Middle East & North Africa : So- Called Islamic-Arab World	21	3,017.39	5.16	2,443.01	3.63	2.48	4.28	4.44

contd... (4)

contd from p.(3)...

GROUPS OF ECONOMIES	NO	GDP-PPP 2007 Bln. US \$	% OF WORLD US \$	GDP-PPP 2006 Bln.	% OF WORLD	% OF WORLD 1960	% OF WORLD 1987	% OF WORLD 1994
Group 5 : South Asia	9	4,624.40	7.04	5,687.68	7.97	6.24	5.36	6.49
India		3,078.70	4.72	4,217.00	6.30	4.06	3.17	3.74
Pakistan		417.50	0.64	398.00	0.60	0.58	0.79	0.86
Bangladesh		212.70	0.33	338.40	0.51	0.49	0.47	0.50
Group 6: Sub-Sakaran Africa or Black Africa	48	1,198.99	2.17	1,574.91	2.62	2.99	2.54	2.39
Nigeria		262.50	0.40	152.00	0.23	0.75	0.41	0.41
South Africa		454.80	0.70	555.00	0.85	0.73	0.72	0.66
Group 7 A: OECD & High Income								
Europe	25	13,500.97	20.73	1,3017.93	19.53	24.65	23.46	22.12
France		2,065.40	3.17	2,059.00	3.09	3.76	3.82	3.64
Germany		2,782.70	4.27	2,623.00	3.94	5.68	5.33	5.08
Italy		1,775.30	2.72	1,789.00	2.70	3.38	3.68	3.37
Spain		1,351.10	2.07	1,221.00	1.80	1.26	1.76	1.72
UK		2,097.90	3.22	2,148.00	3.22	5.15	3.64	3.35
Group 7B: OECD Australasia	2	812.00	1.24	811.00	1.23	1.40	1.21	1.21
Group 7C: OECD North America (USA and Canada)								
USA and Canada	3	14,993.20	23.01	14,360.00	21.57	29.90	24.01	23.42
USA		13,829.00	21.22	13,233.00	19.87	27.76	22.06	21.56
Total	203	\$64,174.09		\$66,596.00		\$6,497.88	\$22,862.99	\$31,280.21

Arable & Forest Land Population and GDP-PP 2007

We may now take up the second dimension of relative geographical spread of different economies / countries. That is the dimension of Arable Land Proportion and Forest Land Proportion of the largest 31 countries whose geographical extent exceeds 0.9mln kms² (Table II)

The caveats which relate to geographical extent are several:

1. There are unexploited mineral resources which lie beneath ice sheets, particularly in the Antarctic. We have separately analysed the ambiguous claims by various countries to different parts of the Continent of Antarctica. Whilst on the one hand, no internationally valid legal claims can be made in relation to Antarctica since 1958/59, nevertheless reputable Western encyclopedias continue to make large territorial claims on behalf of particular countries like Norway. (See our Mankind Occasional Paper no. 11 *Three Modest Geographical Proposals*, June 2007)
2. Apart from unknown mineral and hydrocarbon resources of the Antarctic, there are sizable resources spread over the ocean floor modules within the exclusive economic zones allotted to various countries that lie within 250 miles of the relevant coastlines of the concerned economies/countries. Recently, Brazil has discovered very large oil fields off shore in the Atlantic. India has found gas and other hydrocarbon resources in the Bay of Bengal. Some of these off-shore fields are already being exploited as we have pointed out in our *Three Modest Geographical Proposals*. Certain European powers have misappropriated North Sea Oil which lies in the High Seas, and should belong to the whole of humanity. Therefore, Arable and Forest Land Proportion to the total Geographical Area may not provide exhaustive parameters of relative economic strength.

Nevertheless, these 31 countries in Table II are indicative of relative possibilities of independent, self-willed actions by the countries concerned, either at present or in the not too distant future.

TABLE II : ARABLE AND FOREST LAND, POP AND GDP-PPP, 2007
(Large Countries: over 0.9 mln km²)

Country	Total Area Km ²	Arable Area %	Arable Area Km ²	Forest Area %	Arable Forest Area Mln Km ²	Rank As Per Total Area	Rank As Per Arable Land Area	Rank As Per Arable + Forest Land Area	Population 2007 (Millions)	Rank Within 32	National GDP-PPP 2007 S\$ln	Rank As Per National GDP-PPP
US (50 States)	9.632	19.0	1.83	33.1	3.19	3	2	4	302	3	13829	1
India	3.288	53.7	1.77	22.8	2.52	7	3	7	1123	2	3079	3
Russia	17.099	7.4	1.27	49.4	10.15	1	4	1	142	7	2039	4
China Including Hongkong	9.598	11.1	1.11	21.2	3.14	4	5	6	1327	1	7389	2
Brazil	8.515	7.0	0.60	56.5	5.40	5	6	3	192	5	1796	5
Australia	7.741	6.4	0.50	21.3	2.14	6	7	8	21	23	701	10
Canada	9.985	5.0	0.50	34.1	3.90	2	8	5	33	19	1164	7
Nigeria	0.924	33.5	0.31	12.0	0.42	31	9	19	148	6	263	17
Argentina	2.780	10.2	0.28	12.1	0.34	8	10	15	40	16	513	12
Mexico	1.964	13.0	0.26	33.7	0.92	14	11	11	105	8	1325	6
Indonesia	1.905	12.7	0.24	48.8	1.17	15	12	10	228	4	808	8
Kazakhstan	2.725	8.3	0.23	1.2	0.26	9	13	21	15	24	150	20
Sudan	2.506	7.2	0.18	28.4	0.89	10	14	12	39	17	73	23
Mali	1.240	13.3	0.16	3.3	0.21	23	15	23	12	24	13	29
South Africa	1.219	12.1	0.15	7.6	0.24	24	16	22	48	13	455	13

(9)

(7)

Country	Total Area Km ²	Arable Area %	Arable Area Km ²	Forest Area %	Arable Forest Area Mln Km ²	Rank As Per Total Area	Rank As Per Arable Land Area	Rank As Per Arable + Forest Land Area	Population 2007 (Millions)	Rank Within 32	National GDP-PPP \$ Bln	Rank As Per National GDP-PPP
Niger	1.267	11.4	0.14	0.01	0.15	21	17	26	14	25	9	30
Ethiopia	1.104	11.1	0.12	13.0	0.27	26	18	20	79	9	62	24
Algeria	2.382	3.2	0.08	1.0	0.10	11	19	27	34	18	259	18
Congo Zaire	2.345	3.0	0.07	58.90	1.45	12	20	9	62	12	18	27
Saudi Arabia	1.219	1.8	0.04	1.4	0.07	13	21	29	24	22	554	11
Venezuela	0.912	2.9	0.03	54.1	0.52	32	22	18	27	21	328	15
Peru	1.285	2.9	0.04	53.7	0.73	19	23	13	28	20	202	19
Chad	1.284	2.9	0.04	9.5	0.16	20	24	24	11	26	14	28
Angola	1.247	2.6	0.03	47.4	0.62	22	25	16	17	23	75	22
Bolivia	1.099	2.8	0.03	54.2	0.63	29	26	14	10	27	29	26
Columbia	1.141	1.8	0.03	54.7	6.27	25	27	2	46	14	306	16
Egypt	1.001	3.0	0.03	0.1	0.03	28	28	30	75	10	408	14
Iran	1.745	9.8	0.03	6.8	0.15	17	29	25	71	11	767	9
Libya	1.800	1.0	0.02	0.1	0.02	16	30	31	6	28	91	21
Tanzania	0.947	27.7	0.26	27.7	0.53	30	1	17	40	15	49	25
Mongolia	1.567	0.8	-	6.5	0.10	18	32	28	3	29	1	32
Mauritania	1.031	0.5	0.01	0.3	0.01	27	31	32	3	30	6	31

We may now take up the third dimension of relative economic strength. We believe that labour alone creates new wealth, whilst capital and raw materials merely transform goods giving them new shapes and uses. Thus, the countries of the world with population exceeding 40 millions are as follows.

TABLE III : NATIONAL POPULATION

Country	Population (in millions in 2007)
1. Bangladesh	159
2. Brazil	192
3. China	1327
4. Congo-Zaire	62
5. Egypt	75
6. Ethiopia	79
7. France	62
8. Germany	82
9. India	1,123
10. Indonesia	226
11. Iran	71
12. Italy	59
13. Japan	128
14. Korea, South	49
15. Mexico	105
16. Myanmar	49
17. Nigeria	148
18. Pakistan	162
19. Philippines	88
20. Russian Federation	142
21. South Africa	48
22. Spain	45
23. Tanzania	40
24. Thailand	64
25. Turkey	74
26. Ukraine	46
27. United Kingdom	61
28. USA	302
29. Vietnam	85

In Table IV, we can list the countries with over one trillion GDP-PPP in 2007.

TABLE IV : COUNTRIES WITH OVER ONE TRILLION GDP-PPP IN 2007

	Country	GDP-PPP (In billion in 2007)
1.	Brazil	1,795.7
2.	Canada	1,164.2
3.	China with Hong kong	7,388.6
4.	France	2,065.4
5.	Germany	2,782.7
6.	India	3,078.7
7.	Italy	177.3
8.	Japan	4,420.8
9.	Korea south	1,201.1
10.	Mexico	1,324.6
11.	Russian Federation	2039.1
12.	Spain	1351.1
13.	UK	2097.9
14.	USA	13829.0

In the last table V, the top 29 countries of the world are presented in three groups on the basis of their populations.

TABLE V : POPULATION OF TOP TWENTY NINE COUNTRIES IN 2007

	Country	Arable Land in mln/ km ²	Population (millions)	GDP- PPP (2007 mlns)	%of World GDP- PPP (2007)
A. Over 1000 Million					
1.	China	1.11	1,327	7,389	11.34
2.	India	1.77	1,123	3,079	4.72
B. Over 100 Million					
3.	United States	1.83	302	13,289	21.22
4.	Indonesia	0.24	228	808	1.24
5.	Brazil	0.60	192	1,796	2.76
6.	Pakistan	0.02	162	418	0.64
7.	Bangladesh	0.09	159	213	0.33

8. Nigeria	0.31	148	263	0.40
9. Russia	1.27	142	2,039	4.05
10. Japan	0.002	128	4,421	6.78
11. Mexico	0.26	105	1,325	2.03

C. Over 45 Million

12. Philippines	0.006	88	328	0.50
13. Vietnam	0.09	85	328	0.50
14. Germany	0.12	82	2,783	4.27
15. United Kingdom	0.06	81	13,829	3.22
16. Ethiopia	0.12	79	62	0.10
17. Turkey	0.24	76	893	1.37
18. Egypt	0.03	75	408	0.63
19. Iran	0.03	71	767	1.18
20. Thailand	0.14	64	503	0.77
21. France	0.19	62	2,065	3.17
22. Congo Zaire	0.09	62	18	0.03
23. Italy	0.08	59	1,775	2.72
24. South Korea	0.02	49	1201	1.84
25. Myanmar	0.10	49	83	0.24
26. South Africa	0.15	48	455	0.70
27. Ukraine	0.34	46	316	0.49
28. Spain	0.14	45	1,351	2.07
29. Taiwan	ó ó	23	636	0.98

We can now put all the five tables together and reach the following conclusions :

The five Western European countries (UK, France, Germany, Italy and Spain) are inherently weak in terms of populations. Together with Japan, South Korea and Canada; they are incapable of long-term, sustained, independent action without aligning themselves with some other economic power which is large, populous and rich.

Therefore, in the long run, there are only United States, Russia, China and India which are capable of forming poles that attract affiliation that are self-sustaining and dynamically expansive.

At the moment, it is a tri-polar world, with USA forming one pole to which Canada and the Latin American entities, Mexico and Brazil are loosely affiliated.

The second pole is being formed by European Union (EU) which is gradually assuming the contours of a United States of Europe. As yet, Russia is not a member of the EU; but in many matters, it finds itself in alignment with the EU.

The third pole is formed by China which possesses the fastest growing economy of the world. It is relatively rationalized with a state capitalist orientation which the Chinese call "Market Socialism". Naturally, it is more advanced than the overwhelmingly private capitalist economies of USA and Europe.

The socialist alternative is muted with the trail being blazed by tiny Cuba and a little more formidable Venezuela-Bolivia-Ecuador alliance.

In the larger and long-term interests of humanity, and if world peace is to be made lasting, an alliance of India, China and Russia is the ideal to be striven for. But of this, there seems to be no easy possibility. As a matter of fact, there are several Indo-Chinese, Sino-Russian and Indo-Russian conflict zones.

The future is difficult to predict, but revolutionary socialists and nationalists of India can only strive for a peaceful world that is not on the brink of committing environmental harakiri; and which is evolving into a universe that is free from exploitation and oppression.

The world today, in 2009, is the end product of its own geography and history. As we have noted elsewhere, geography provides the world its people and their economic compulsions. These in turn lead to concentration in politics and "politics by other means", that is, wars; which determine sociology, psychology, anthropology and culture. (See the three Masters Charts at the end of our Mankind Occasional Paper 2 for human history from 8000 BC to 2000 AD; Indian Pasto-Feudal history from 8000 BC to 2000 AD contrasted and compared with European Slavo-Bourgeois history from 1098 to the present.

It is a world chock-full of inequalities, man-made, and of oppression and exploitation. It is the final result of capitalist triumph, whether individual or state.

In the *2009 World Development Report* of the World Bank subtitled *Reshaping Economic Geography*, the total 200 odd

entities have been divided into some seven groupings (see Table I) called economies or countries. In the main, these divisions are based on immigration-emigration laws enforced by racist imperialist-capitalist national laws of the last 150/300 years, when the world completely split into "spheres of influence and rule" by Great Britain (1/4 th of the world), France, Spain, Holland, Italy, Germany and Russia (1/7 th of the world), and USA and Japan.

The labouring masses of the world stand divided into some 200 entities which are brought into existence by enforcing national immigration and emigration laws. The populations of these counties or entities make them productive. We may divide the Top Twenty Five (over 45 millions). We have added Taiwan as the 29th entity or country, since it may be merged with China in the foreseeable future. These 28/29 entities absorb nearly 80 per cent of the world GDP-PPP in 2007.

Just the other day, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) of Pakistan has revealed that Zardari who had illegally amassed assets worth 1.5 billion during his wife's rule, earning for himself the epithet " 20 per cent man" has been booked for this massive misappropriation. Zardari was one of the 8,000 people who were amnestied, but obviously he must have been the biggest offender. (At Rs. 60/- Pakistani Rupees to the American Dollar, the defalcation by Zardari totals something like Pak Rs. 90,000 crores! *Times of India*, Pune 12-12-09)

India possesses the second largest population in the world, and the second largest arable area mln km² in the world. But its disastrous comprador leadership has provoked all-round hostility from almost all its neighbours. The period ahead for India is extremely critical and dangerous. The task of overthrowing its comprador leadership is, therefore, all the more urgent.

India is passing through an extremely difficult period. Its comprador leadership has aroused extreme jealousy and hostility from its erstwhile colonial ruler. Miliband, the British Foreign Secretary, has openly come out in support of the US-Pakistan alliance which has shed its last hesitations and openly proclaimed increased financial and military support to Pakistan. Not only has the amount of financial aid from US to Pakistan been tripled to 1,5 billion over the next five years, but the former military dictator , Pervez Musharraf has been emboldened to secure an amnesty from the Pakistani judicial system.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

History is long-distance race. It is a race of stamina and staying power. It is to be won by a people with long memories.

The rise of White European Christian Capitalists has been only recent, since the dozen Crusades of 11th to 14th centuries (1098-1320 AD). These were attempted through the busy caravan routes of the Fertile Crescent (Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Mesopotamia and the straits of Bosphorus and Dardanelles), the Near East and the Middle East (the same countries listed above as Fertile Crescent with Thrace and Byzantium). This was the strategic area of the tri-junction of three continents, Africa, Asia and Europe, which became the birthplace of three middlemen's religions -Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

All three were originally subjects of the Persian Empire of the Achaemenis (*Hakhamanish* in original Persian) of 535 BC - 230 BC, The 8 Perso-Macedonian Diadochoi (230 BC to 200 AD) and the Partho Scythians (220 BC to 250 AD). All three religions descended from Abraham, the Founding Father.

Every conceivable crime against humanity was committed by these three middlemen's religions and was sought to be covered up and camouflaged as soothing triple opiate of the camel drivers and caravansary owners and slave exporters.

The land route at the tri-junction of continents was blocked by powerful Asiatic feudalisms led by the Caliphs (620-1498AD), Saladin, the magnificent (1137-93 AD) and the Seljuk-Scythians (1055-1153 AD). Therefore, the sea route from the herring, cod and mackerel fisheries of Baltic, North Seas and the Atlantic coasts of Denmark, Holland, France, England, Spain and Portugal round the South African Coast was breached in 1498.

The weak, divided, poverty-stricken and working feudalisms of Europe were shattered in two ways. Geographically, they were convulsed by the search for the routes to the fabulous wealth of the Indies (Columbus, 1492 AD and Vasco de Gama 1498 AD) and socio- politically by the transition from Feudalism to Capitalism (see Mankind Occasional Paper 2: Master charts 1,2 and 3 at the end, also Mankind Occasional Paper 3: *Emergence of the Tri-polar World and No.10: Growth of Fisheries, Expansion of Sea Power, and Rise of Europe*)

Finally, the Planetary Land Grab by White, Christian Capitalists was halted in the mid-20th century by the Asiatic and

African nationalist freedom movements. Ottoman Turkish, Asiatic Empire was dismembered in the 1920s and 1930s. The British, French, Dutch, American and Japanese empires in South and South-East Asia were partitioned and freed in the 1940s and 1950s.

Today, the world stands divided tripolarly. We had pointed out the 14 Trillion Dollar Economies of the world in Table 4 of the Mankind Occasional Paper 12: *Distribution of World Economic Power* and are now carrying forward the task in this paper no. 18.

These 28/29 entities display their arable land, their populations of 45 mlns and over, and their national GDP-PPPs in 2007 as percentages of World Total.

This is how the world's peoples have chosen to live and confront one another. The arable lands and international trade and thievery have caused individual industrial break-throughs and created the national GDP-PPP proportions as dynamically depicted in Tables I and III. We hope that the Tri-Polar World of today ends in a series of revolutionary, nationalist convulsions opening into a World Confederation of Socialist States that ensures Peace for All and an end to all exploitation, oppression, inequality and environmental degradation.

Vinayak Purohit

- b. 1927, Kolkata
- Freedom fighter, 1942 August Movement; compound fracture of the skull due to police lathi, 9.9.42 at Shivaji Park, Mumbai; thrice arrested : once on charge of attempting to burn a policeman alive; again for production, distribution and possession of illegal literature; third time detention without trial, Worli Jail, Mumbai. Trade unionist, 1948-52, as General Secretary, Bombay Press Employees' Union; rejoined Socialist Party, 1956, as Lohia founded the party in Dec. 1956.
- Graduation in B.A. (Hons.) with History, Economics and Politics, Mumbai University 1948; Ph.D for *Arts of Transitional India, 20th Century*, published by Popular Prakashan, in 2 Vols, 1986-88; Senior Fellow, ICSSR and UGC 1976-80; Visiting Professor, Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, 1976-85; Visiting Professor, Punjab University, Chandigarh, 1980-82; Visitor, Arts Council of Great Britain, 1981-82; Visiting Professor, Chalmers Institute, Gottenberg, and Royal Technical Institute, Stockholm, 1982; Visiting Scientist, CSIR 1980-82; Consultant, ILO Project, Maharashtra, 1983-85.
- Art, Architectural, Music, Dance, Drama, Film and Literary critic from mid-fifties for *Sanskriti, Design, Times of India, Free Press Journal, Hindustan Standard, Dharmayug, Samakaleen*, etc.
- Revived Lohia's Mankind from Pune 1995-2000.

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