

खण्ड-A / Section-A

उम्मीदवारों को
इस भाग में
लिखना पना है।
Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

Q.1 Gender Equality is not a "women's issue"-it's good for men too.
लैंगिक समानता सिर्फ "महिलाओं का मुद्दा" नहीं है - यह पुरुषों के लिए भी बेहतर स्थिति है।

Q.2 Is UCC, the unity that we aspire in our diversity?
क्या समान नागरिक संहिता वही एकता है, जिसकी हम अपनी विविधता में आकांक्षा करते हैं?

Q.3 Problems of 21st century are problems without passport.
21वीं सदी की समस्याएँ सीमाविहीन वैश्विक समस्याएँ हैं।

Q.4 The more we are developing, the more unhealthy we are getting. Where does the real problem lie?
हम जितने अधिक विकसित हो रहे हैं, उतने ही अधिक अस्वस्थ होते जा रहे हैं। वास्तविक समस्या कहाँ है?

~~THE MORE WE ARE DEVELOPING~~

PROBLEMS OF 21st Century ARE PROBLEMS
WITHOUT PASSPORT

A 5-year old toddler with head buried in
~~beach~~ beach's sand. This image shocked the
conscience of whole world as much as the
image of 2 men who travelled across Atlantic
on the rudder of a ship, starved & shivering,
just to escaped Niger's military regime. One is
a Syrian refugee who failed to survive while
crossing Mediterranean & these 2 men are Niger's
citizen who escaped atrocious military rule.
Both seemingly have no connection, but are the

Victims of same global problem : Refugee Crisis.

"We are same.... The great tragedy of our times is we don't realize that we are global citizens!"

These words of Woodrow Wilson aptly summarise the theme that, "in a globalised world, the problems & crisis also stand globalised". We will adopt Contemporary relevance approach where we'll look at contemporary issues ^{of} today, examine the global incidence & relevance & explore dimensions of our globalised society. Let us start by probing sociological dimension of this issue.

Grandhiji rightly said, "to judge a society, look at how it treats its most vulnerable sections", and perhaps the rising violence against women is a telling tale. There is no denial of the historicity of women's subjugation, subordination & exploitation. However, the issue lies in several

of gains made for women's empowerment. Rising
violence against women, clampdown of female
rights and invisibilising women from workspace
is a global reality today. For example, right from
ban on female education under Taliban rule, to
Mahsa Amini Protests in Iran to Roe vs Wade
reversal criminalising abortion rights in USA.
Rising patriarchal backlash is a global reality.

This mentality of violence is manifested
in the form of rising hate crimes, religious
fundamentalism & terrorism. Terrorism knows
no borders & instills fear worldwide. When
journalists in Charlie Hebdo attack were shot
point blank in France, where more than 150
lost their lives in 9/11 attack, to when the
whole world saw terror roaming free on
Mumbai streets in 26/11, whole world came
to a standstill & screamed that fear &

terror knows no nationalities.

Society shapes our political discourse. Let us examine the political dimension of this topic. Destabilizing forces & threat to democracy is on rise. World political order stands unstable today with rise of hardline politics coupled with shrinking middle grounds. For example, Capitol Attack in USA by pro-Trump camp was a challenge to oldest democracy. Arrest of Aung-San-Sue-Kyi & establishing Junta Government marked the death of infant democracy in Myanmar. Regions, politics & political systems all vary ~~are~~ from country to country but global destabilizing undercurrents remains same.

Russia-Ukraine war has been going on for over a year now. One side calls it imperialistic fanaticism and other side calls it caution

nationalism. Opinions might differ, but disturbed global supply chain, declining geopolitical consensus and shortage of foodgrains specially for Sub-Sahara are irrefutable evidences that "violence & politics may be local but implications are global".

Political opinions are often shaped by media. Let's examine how the topic is relevant in global media dimension. Fair Media and Biased Media are more norms than aberrations today. ~~But~~ Earlier, media was glorified as fourth pillar of democracy, today it stands as biggest threat to it. Even CNN admitted that it deliberately supported a candidate in 2016 US elections. Falling journalistic standards, increasing influence of corporate houses & political parties etc. worldwide can be understood from "falling trust of people

in traditional media.

Even new age media like social media sites are suffering from global common problems when opinions are formed, changed & cemented through a click or a tweet, the vulnerability stands exposed. Fake news, rumors & hate speech on social media are a new reality.

For example, Muzaffarpur riots & Delhi Anti-CAA riots were based on fake news articles, similar to how Italian riots of 2022 were based on faulty deepfakes. Social media definitely made communication easy, but they also made challenges common.

Like social media, other technologies too show similar sign. Rising challenges of Artificial Intelligence is a global problem, which is evident from the fact that

AI regulation is the primary agenda item of G-7, G-20 & even UN Assembly. Lack of governance structure or misuse through deepfakes, pattern monitoring etc. in absence of legal codification today present challenges to all government.

Even the issue of Data Privacy & Data Security is foremost global agenda. At times, when data can be used to manipulate people, change electoral outcomes or simply to be sold for non-legal aims, ensuring data security is paramount. Rising global partnerships for safe cross-country data flow & data localisation treaties are testimony to ^{this} global challenge.

Technology has widespread impacts, but perhaps the most close is on environment.
Let's look at global environment challenges

of 21st Century - Triple Whammy of Climate Change, Threat to Biodiversity & Rising Pollution level are rising vulnerability of whole globe. # UN General Secretary Antonio Guterres correctly said "Perhaps when we see small island states facing submergence threat we don't realise rising sea levels will be knocking our gates tomorrow". Rising extreme weather events like flash floods, Cyclones & flash drought are as much an issue in Chandoli (Uttarakhand) as they are in Florida (US).

Even our floral & faunal biodiversity face threat of extinction. Rising illegal animal trade, unplanned urbanization clearing forests, & rising global temperatures are threat to wildlife worldwide. ¹⁴ A Polar Bear facing

Snowcover loss & hundreds of Great Indian Bustard dying due to anthropogenic causes, we as humans have created global extinction of our biodiversity.

Recent pandemic of COVID-19 is also a telling tale of rising health challenges. It is irrelevant that Corona virus originated in a laboratory or in the wild but what matters is the two millions of lives it cost, the global health infrastructure on its knees & the wailing cries of people who lost it all.

But is it true that picture is as dark as it looks or there is a silver line to these dark clouds as well? There is no denial of the fact that problems of 21st Century are problems without passport. But we

must not forget the solutions are global too. When George Floyd was killed in Racial encounter, whole world united under the banner of #Black Lives Matter. Monumental Paris Agreement & Montreal Protocol are evidences that world ~~has~~ stands united in the face of global climate adversities.

Vaccine Martyr of India is a testimony that collective altruism & benevolence can still triumph global problems. All the governments today are collaborating to combat transnational crimes like drug smuggling, human trafficking etc. When India talks of "Vandhevi Kutumbham" we aim to implement local solutions to global problems.

For example, when Sonam Wangchuk used Ice stupas to solve water crisis of Ladak, all Central Asian countries took note too. When Mohale Yousafzai single-handedly stood against Talibani terrorism, whole globe stood in support of female empowerment.

Additionally, all these challenges we see today are rooted in human greed for more & gross individualism which always seek self-interest. The world may be divided by boundaries, but this gross hedonistic current runs worldwide. When world has been reduced to a global village, it is all but obvious that challenges will be global too.

But rather than fretting over challenges & losses, we should realise the opportunities

it brings. Rabindranath Tagore in his "Where
Mind is without fear & where knowledge is
free" rightly emphasize that knowledge
cooperation & collaboration can be employed
to counter any problem. Need is to realise
that "we are in this together" & "poverty
anywhere is threat to prosperity everywhere".
Need is to realise that despite global problems,
the will to solve them, to trump them &
to progress together is also global.

खण्ड-B / Section-B

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- Q.5 Our Tryst with Space
अंतरिक्ष के साथ हमारा मिलन
- Q.6 Is Internal Security always an Internal Challenge?
क्या आंतरिक सुरक्षा को हमेशा एक आंतरिक चुनौती माना जा सकता है?
- Q.7 Sports, the toy of humanity
खेल, मानवता का खिलौना है।
- Q.8 Is Economy becoming the end rather than the means?
क्या अर्थव्यवस्था साधन के बजाय साध्य बनती जा रही है?

OUR TRYST WITH SPACE

It's almost 20.35 p.m. . Right from people at barber shops to hustling crowds of market to political business in Delhi all have come to a standstill with eyes fixed on television & mobile screens.... 3, 2, 1... & take off of Chandrayaan-3 is successful. All erupt in joy, right from scientists in Satish Dhawan Space Centre to a 5-year old who is just happy because everyone around him are. It's not just the fuel which is propelling Chandrayaan-3 forward, but the ¹⁹aspirations, dreams &

hopes of more than 1 billion Indians". Our
tryst with space has not merely been a
journey to go & explore space, "it's a journey
of tryst with humanity". This essay will explore
the dimensions of our tryst with space, what
they stood for & what they really did.

The whole journey begins in Ancient
Greece where a famous philosopher asked,
"what is this universe made of?" was it a
scientific question or a philosophical enquiry.
Perhaps this will remain a debate forever but
it kickstarted the saga of our journey with space.
This continuous curiosity of humans, the
unquenchable thirst to know what lies beyond
boundaries is what have propelled both our
human civilizational history as well as space journey.

Probably the major push came 2000 years later when Kepler first discovered the laws of planetary rotation. Galileo's heliocentrism to Newton's Gravitation all were fundamental cornerstones to know about space & universe. But these were not mere scientific formulae or a physicists gibberish, they represented the working of Enlightenment, the beginning of scientific era where reason & rationality trumped mysticism & obscurantism.

These equations guided scientists worldwide, including two Indian stalwarts Vikram Sarabhai & Satish Dhawan. When India was facing issues of poverty, hunger & threats of multiple wars; these men saw dreams which no one believed in. When India first announced its space program in

1960, American newspapers mocked us with the cartoon of "Poor Milkmen seeing impossible dreams". But it was their moral courage & conviction which led to the establishment of ISRO - a world renowned space organization today. Had our scientists not carried parts of sounding rocket on bicycle in scorching heat of Thumbar, gigantic machines such as Chandrayaan-3 would still be a distant dream. Our thrust with space has been one of unwavering courage, dedication & fortitude.

But this has not been without hiccups or failures. When our first PSLV launch failed, lot of questions were raised. Former President APJ Abdul Kalam in his "wings of Fire" mentions that Vikram Sarabhai took complete responsibility of

failure & faced all repercussions attached to it. Leadership when it's able inspire millions & our tryst with space has been tale of such able leaders only be it Sardar, be it Kalam or be it current ISRO chief S. Somnath.

But obvious questions are raised that isn't space missions nothing more than wasteful expenditures when we still have the highest number of poor & hungry population in the world? Kalam Sir beautifully answered it, "Space is not about knowing outside, it's about knowing that human ingenuity has no bounds. It's about inspiring young kids to take to education, to dream, & to make those dreams come true". Perhaps this is why he used to reserve front seats of on space launch day for school students, a tradition which continues till date. ~~the~~

less than 600 years ago, we hadn't even mapped out whole globe. It has been rapid progress of humanity which is truly reflected in our space achievements. When Neil Armstrong remarked, "this one small step on moon, is a giant leap for mankind" he was not wrong, for it stood for the continuous pursuit of humanity to push our limits, to persevere till we succeed. When first Indian Cosmonaut Rakesh Sharma remarked that India appears "Saare Jahan Se Accha" from space we all felt that pride & we stood united ~~the~~ disregarding differences of caste, sex or religion. "Journey of Space has been nothing short of Journey of Human Virtues"

But these also entailed as much sacrifices as it had success. The failure of

Columbia Mission & death of all crew
missions including Kalpana Chawla, just
because a screw became loose, served as a
~~Hot~~ stark reminder that this must come
with own cost, consequences & failures.

Space technologies are also about
discovering solutions to human problems.
Right from earth imaging satellites providing
climatic, agricultural & geospatial data to
navigation systems like GPS and IRNSS,
we have used space as a medium to solve
day-to-day ~~issues~~ issues.

Even high end missions like Voyager
missions beyond solar system or James
Webb Space Telescope or space gravitational
laboratory like ELISA²⁵, all of these aim to

discover possibility of extra-terrestrial life or to ~~answer~~ answer questions of solar system formation & planetary evolutions that can be used by scientists to develop futuristic technologies.

Recent missions like Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) which may appear sci-fi fiction at first is manifestation of scientific cautious attitude to possible problems of future.

Even in this domain Indian Space Journey has been a global example. Mars orbiter Mission or Mangalyaan Mission was successfully completed at cost less than the cost of movie Interstellar!! This is nothing short of telling tale of efficiency and effectiveness.

Even the Composition of scientific team which had more than 10 women scientists is a reflection of social progress of India. Perhaps, our space journey is nothing but a reflection of our human journey.

But it's not like our tryst with space is without challenges & issues. Rather the beginnings of global space program was itself due to Cold War between US & USSR. It were not scientific ambitions which made USSR launch first satellite of sputnik of USA to have first manned moon landing, but a geopolitical race to become global superpower.

Issues like space debris have resulted due to unsustainable space programmes globally. Expandable launch vehicles, anti-satellite

tests (China) & no ~~slow~~ post-launch recovery
has multiplied the problem of space debris
which endangers space sustainability
today.

Even rising space competitiveness has
divided space faring nations in two blocs today.
On the one hand USA & members are promo-
ting Artemis Accords on the other hand
China-Russia are planning separate space
stations. Failure to enforce Outer
Space Treaty is testimony that space
resources which are global commons are today
site of geopolitical contestation.

Indian Approach to Space
should serve as global ²⁸ examples. We recently
established Space Debris Monitoring Centre

2. Project Netra to solve space debris issue; we have provided satellite launch service to 50+ Countries at nominal cost & have pioneered open-sharing of data through new Geo-spatial Policy. Inclusivity & Codvelopment should be the guiding values for any space mission, lest it will fail miserably in long-term.

Today, our tryst with space is guided by search for extra-terrestrial life, develop solutions for daily life & to expand space horizons for humanity. This journey has been long, demanding & perhaps we are still not halfway there, for human imagination & curiosity knows no bounds. We embarked

on this journey not knowing where
this will lead to or how we will
perform but a single zeal of "Moving
Forward" perhaps very similar to how
Chandrayaan-3 moves forward at more
than 1000 km/h piercing the dark
clouds, & carrying the shining hope &
symbol of human ingenuity. "Our trust
with space is truly our trust of humanity".

"Our Trust with Space"

⇒ It's nearing upon the launchtime of Chandrayaan 3. The whole nation is ~~so~~ witnessing the countdown → 3..2..1.. & it takes off. It's not just the rocket which takes off, but the dreams, aspirations & hopes of millions that propel it. Ancient Sage → "What is the universe made of?" → the saga of knowing the space began. Perhaps from there it took us more than 2000 years ~~but~~ but this journey had many facets & implications which we'll explore today.

① Kepler, Newton, Galileo → Laws & knowing space → Quest for Knowledge & reflection of curiosity.

② First attempts → launching satellites → Ex: Sounding Rockets.
→ Humble Beginnings but higher aims.

③ Satish Dhawan & Vikram Sarabhai → examples for all.
↳ Leadership principle ↳ imagination & courage.

④ SSLV → PSLV → GSLV → RLV → Idea of Progress & continuous upliftment

⑤ Kalam Sir → Space & Education
↳ Development of scientific temper.
↳ Inspire others

⑥ Humans in Space
↳ Neil Armstrong → One small step on --
↳ Yuri Gagarin → First man in space
↳ Kalpana Chawla & Columbia
↳ Courage & Attitude to win

⑦ Voyager Missions → even at the edge of solar system
↳ limitless possibilities

⑧ DART Mission, Juice → Unimaginable

⑨ MoM → efficiency & ingenuity; Competing with less resources
↳ Gender Inclusivity.

⑩ ~~Space~~ Space reflect world reality → Space war → Cold war
US / USSR

⑪ Space Debris → Global Challenge

⑫ Exploring new possibility of life → Solution to global issues.

The more we are developing, the more unhealthy we are getting. Where does the real problem lie? Need to Global

"The problems of 21st Century are problems without passport" ^{Space for Rough Work}

⇒ Syrian Boy - as washed on shore & Rohingya ^{elderly} ~~terrorist~~ shot dead at Bangla-Myanmar Border → Refugees → Global Crisis

⇒ ~~Also~~ ~~He~~ ~~lost~~ all his savings Brazil Rode Torino vs Punjab's youth ^{→ Drug Addiction}

⇒ The greatest tragedy of our times, global citizens ... don't realize we ^{Global Issue}

⇒ Globalised world → global problems → Multiscale approach

⇒ Sociological → women violence → same → Mahsa Amini to Roe vs Wade to Kuki Zomi women

Religious Funda-mentalism → ~~Social~~ ~~Crimes~~ → ~~hate crimes on rise~~ → ~~Appellate~~ ^{George Floyd}

⇒ Political Issues → Election Manipulations → 2020 Capitol Attack to Myanmar's Junta Government

Geopolitical Contention → War → Spillover Effects → Interconnections

⇒ Economic → Fed Tapering → Business sustenance difficult

Businesses → Neo-liberalisation → Informalisation & worker's security

⇒ Journalism → Paid Media → En: CNN & ~~For~~

Social media → Manipulation → ~~For~~ Cambridge Analytica

⇒ Climate Issue → Pollution, GW & BD loss → ~~For~~ Cambridge Analytica

we are the causing agents → unabated Pollution → self-interest

⇒ Ethics → Rising Individualism → Theft, Deal, Crimes ↑

↓ → Decrease in moral control → Suicide rates rising worldwide

⇒ Tech. → AI Issues

↓ → ~~Addiction & Dependence~~ → Issue of Data Privacy

Scientific collab. → Rising militarisation

⇒ ~~Health~~ Health → Covid Pandemic

Rise in lifestyle diseases

⇒ Counter View → Global Solution too

↓ → Localised Problems too

Many of these are not 21st Century Issues → long term