खण्ड–A / Section–A

उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है।
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Q.1 Gender Equality is not a "women's issue"-it's good for men too.
लैंगिक समानता सिर्फ़ "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, the more unhealthy we are getting. Where does the real problem lie?

Yuval Noah Harari in his book, 'Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind" gives the description of development of humans since times of apes to the times of digital man and humanoids. While our homo sapiens was a hunter gatherer, the life was very basic comparable to any other animal. Men hunted, searched for roots, lived in small groups, worked to feed his family and one day he died. Simple.

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

Over time, he underwent Cognitive Revolution, giving ability to create intersubjective realities, Agricultural Revolution which allowed him to settle, have larger population and scientific revolution which gave the capacity to think logically. With each successive development came the new problems to overcome which there were new revolution, however, the vicious cycle of unhealthy issues were viewed to end.

Thus, the problems viewed to always exist - With every new discovery & invention like fire, Steam Engines, Capitalism and nation States, there came up new issues which kept up with time. However the real problem was never the inconvinience but the desire to acquire power and control which one never saw through.

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

Thus, in this essay we shall look into the perceptions about development and their healthy and unhealthy outcomes. We would further examine the subjectivity of the directions of development causing actual problems. Lastly, we would conclude by looking into identifying the problems and finding some real solutions to them.

Thus, the first question that emerges is that what does it mean to be developed. While scientists would argue that a state of complete technological integration like Lybong is, on the other hand an economist would call high GSP rate and social empowerment as development. To a politician, a well functioning democracy is development but for an artist, a state of complete freedom is. Thus, the definition itself is varied which causes differences among notions and divides.

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

Given multiple perceptions, we can safely say that despite differences, everyone is trying to develop but what is the driving force that compels us to move forward? It is popularly said, "Necessity is the mother of invention". After the fall of Constantinople in 1453, it necessitated Europeans to look for alternate route to East. Extreme poverty and inequality compelled Karl Marx to dive deep into structure of capitalism to understand it. Thus, Necessity creates a sense of purpose driving us to move forward.

Thus, with each endeavor to find solution to a necessity, we aspire and expect to find a way out and be happily and healthy ever after. However, knowingly or unknowingly, we tend to open the pandora's box of unhealthy problems.

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

After the dark ages came the Age of Enlightenment, Renaissance and Age of Enquiry. Equipped with a developed nationality, British explored the uncharted Territory of the East and landed in India. Where the developed man saw the social evils, he took upon the White Man's Burden but ended up creating the most unhealthy sequence of events full of exploitation, violence, shameless use of power and abandonment of all morality of Enlightment.

On a similar note, we developed our Capitalist system over that of feudalism to generate wealth. Today, it has turned into something entirely different where nations and people need to constantly and tirelessly work, produce, demand, consume and invest. The moment this cycle stops, the entire system collapses and nobody wants that despite constantly dissatisfied with unhealthy lifestyle.

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

There are instances of unhealthy development everywhere. Modern plastic surgery was developed in 1st World War by Harold Gillies who began treating facial injuries in a military hospital. When the war was over, doctors discovered that the same technique could turn perfectly healthy but ugly noses into more beautiful specimen. Today, its sole purpose is to upgrade the healthy and to make millions by beautifying the wealthy.

On a similar note Alexander Fleming accidently created Penicillin as an Antibiotic. No doubt that that it saved millions, however, the unhealthy mutation of bacteria into superbug has created issues of Anti Microbial Resistance. Today WHO has declared it one of the Top 10 global health emergency.

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

The broad picture gives us the view that despite best and noble intentions, we are still walking on a road to hell. Thus, it raises the question amid the vicious cycle of development and dissatisfaction with the unhealthy outcomes that why are we not really developing? And what the real problem is? Upon introspection, there are many actually.

The root of the problems is that despite the years of civilization, we are still guided by the Natural laws of survival of the fittest. The constant competition, greed to accumulate and to outpace the difficulties on all manifestation to survive and live an easy life. From this emerges the emotion of greed that drives us to be selfish and prioritize our survival over others. The consistent deforestation is a manifestation of this greed to expand land & increase production.

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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है।
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This had now created the values of materialism which compells us to believe "The more, the better". It is driven by our primal urge to accumulate as much as we can like today, we not just satisfied with our wealth and there is an urge to accumulate, to the point where Oxfam points out that in India, Top 1% controls 40% of the wealth.

Next is the intolerance which views Others as a threat to our survival. We have today social media which have given ability to socialize with millions. But on same virtual platform there are views, ideologies different to ours. Thus, to suppress others, it has led to fake news, Echo chambers, filter bubbles and misinformation leading to unhealthy trends of Communalism, Regionalism and Extremism.

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उम्मीदवारों को इस मार्जन में लिखना मना है।
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Despite such negativities, we must not forget the developments with healthy outcomes too. Democracy was developed which today is dominant political paradigm giving way for people's aspirations. The discovery/invention of aeroplanes today has allowed us to land on moon and the polio vaccines have saved lives of millions of children. Thus, it seems that the real problem is not always the development but the intent and the moral attitude of society.

Despite the narrations, there are also instances that raise questions if we are really developing? Despite having democratic systems there persist issues of child marriage and violence against women as seen in case of Manipur. Like Medieval times, society still is guided by traditional morality as seen witnessed by its opposition to same sex marriage. Thus, there exists deep hypocrisy beneath facade of Development.

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

With such mentalities there are doubts about notion of development itself. Today an individual, society or a nation is considered unhealthy if it is not developing according to standards of others. while in reality, the actual development lies in harmony, peace and stability of politics, economy and society.

Given the unhealthy outcomes for us, we need to ask ourselves if it is the development that is making us unhealthy or something else to it. After looking at the real problems, it is the lack of satisfaction and a mindless rat race that is creating such outcomes. Yuval Noah Harari says that today the modern human is far more likely to die from binging at McDonalds than from drought, ebola or an Al Qaeda attack. Therefore we need to slowdown.

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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है।
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Aristotle once said, "An unexamined life is not worth living". Therefore to overcome the problems of unhealthy Outcomes, the first thing we need to do is to introspect. Ellen Langer through her idea of Stop and go Determinism suggests that like a traffic policeman stops and regulates the traffic, similarly we need to sometimes halt our development, pause and assess if that is what we really want.

Rather than a mindless pursuit, we can learn from the philosophy of Wabi Sabi of experiencing things how they are, rather than how we want them to be. We must understand that despite our countless efforts for development, things are eventually impermanent. No matter how much plastic surgeries we get, we are still going to age, no matter how long we live, we still would die. Thus, there needs to be an acceptance

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

forwards life to break from this vicious cycle of development and unhealthy outcomes, and to conquer the real problem out there which is winning over our animal instincts in 21st century

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खण्ड–B / Section–B

उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है।
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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?

Is Economy becoming the end rather than the means.

In January 2023, we witnessed a civil disaster. More than 500 houses were vacated and families rehabilitated due to land subsidence in Joshimath. Upon conducting an enquiry, it was found that despite warnings of Environmental Impact Assessment, there was large scale construction of Homestays, road widening and even an underground tunnel for a hydropower plant. What started as a vision to secure livelihood of locals, turned into a disaster.

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

Thus, the above case study is only one of many such instances where economic objectives have overshadowed social, economic and environmental objectives.

Rather than being a means of development, empowerment and growth, it has become to embrace ends of profits at all cost. It has almost like forgot like what its original intent was and the changing dynamics seems to have created economy into a creature that consumes all.

Thus, in this essay, we shall look into what the means and ends of economy has been so far and how is economy becoming an end rather than means. We would then look into its consequences and conclude by looking into what sort of economic model we must have.

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

According to Yuval Noah Harari, he defines the purpose of economy in his book - "Sapiens" that since 'Cognitive Revolution', humans found a way to more creatively exchange goods. It was through creation of Money, which was nothing more than an intersubjective reality. It allowed the Unification of Humanity as if it facilitated global and local trade. All this was done to create a balance of surplus and deficit which created demand and supply.

At a more basic level, economic systems allow us to fulfil our basic needs to live a comfortable life which is the foundation of 'Ends' of economy. Overtime, we found different ways and means to achieve that in form of silk route trade, Taxation, Capitalism and stock markets.

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The Annals of History demonstrate that how with passage of time, adjusting to the structure and needs of society and political systems, Economy too adjusted its ends. While in ancient time it was a means to fund wars and construct elaborate Temples like that of Cholas. In medieval time elaborate Taxation systems were developed to strengthen polity and in Early modern times we saw the ends of Industrial Revolution giving birth to Colonial Economy.

Given its flexible nature, it was a useful tool to create and achieve political ends of ~~leaders~~ rulers, however, in present times, rather than pursuing ends of society, we are pursuing ends of economy itself.

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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है।
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The economy is turning into an 'end' of consumerism and materialism. Rather than fulfilling needs of people, corporates have modified the objectives of capitalism and after a prolonged campaign of ~~mobification~~ psychological modification has ingrained a 'Just do it' mentality. To pursue that end, all sorts of violations seem permissible. The famous beauty products, expensive shoes and leather purses are flaunt, have a dark background.

In a documentary released by BBC, they revealed Mica, a key ingredient used in facial products of brands of France, were mined in India. It involved large scale child labour working in hand dug mines with no safety and under collusion of local administration. Such is the extent of economic ends now.

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

Apart from that heart watching story, there are many such instances where economic agendas are achieved by any means necessary. The popular fast food brands like McDonalds, Burger kings, despite knowing the health consequences, target the young children between five to fifteen in their marketing strategy. Manipulating through advertisements, they are able to generate enormous profit but at cost of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular issues in young children today.

Similarly, fitness industry in order to boost the sales of protein shakes and muscle supplements have created a narrative of mindless consumption. Today there are issues of liver and kidney failure due to unregulated steroids being adulterated and marketed globally, but the companies are making millions in sale

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

When people were suffering from covid pandemic, the economic greed finally unmasked itself. Given incapacity of poor countries in developing vaccine, the developed nations like France and UK did not extend any support because they would lose out on investment in creating the formula of vaccine. At grassroot level, shopkeepers artificially inflated price of paracetamols, essential medicines and protective kit taking advantage and pursuing ends of profit.

As a consequence of pursuit of selfish ends, economy has created divides in our society that cut across Gender, Place, Caste and class. According to Oxfam's report "survival of the richest", in India, the top 1% holds 40% of the wealth while bottom 50% hold merely 3%. Thus, it breeds social instability also.

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

The consequences are worse for the environment. Ever since Economy got to the point of Industrial revolution, the degradation has not stopped. The Amazon lost 1,100 km² of forest last year, the Mithi River of Mumbai is worse than a sewer, the corals of Great Barrier Reefs are just half of what they used to be and today microplastics are found in the food we eat. Pursuing the ends, we may have forgot that "We do not inherit Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children".

Having looked at consequences, we need to ask ourselves, What made us like that? It is the system of capitalism that has created a "vicious cycle of production, investment and consumption" that it drives entire nations today. If it stops, the growth of economy stops and we do not want that.

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

Despite all the drawbacks, Economy even in present time have been a means to good ends. It has been a boon for social empowerment of women. SHGs like Sewa had been started by women like Ela Bhat who have given financial independence to homemakers. The rural region has developed through initiatives like digitization, connectivity with urban centres and investments in MSME. Infact the whole White Revolution was based on using economic means which created prosperous ends.

Thus, we understand that despite selfish ends economy can be a means of good ness too. This leads to the fact that economy is actually "value neutral" and depends upon the moral and ethical alignment of its participants. While the corporates may indulge in extreme profits, people too create a demand for it.

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~~Hen~~ Given such nature, it is necessary to understand about how can we realign the means and ends of our economic systems? Gandhiji in his book 'My Experiments with Truth' suggests the Trusteeship model where the owners of wealth must have a sense of gratitude and humility towards the less fortunate ones. He also suggests the value of 'Sarvodaya' which can be achieved by grassroot economic development.

In the present time, Economists such as Dr Amartya Sen suggests the Human development approach which apart from GDP growth focus development towards health, education and standards of living

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

Amartya Sen also suggests his capability approach where the presence of rights and resources are useless until people are not empowered enough to utilize them. Beyond that approach we also have Sustainable Development approach that combine the ends of Economy, society and Environment based upon the principle of Intergenerational Equity.

Whatever models we adopt, in essence, it all boils down to the individual. From the supply side, the producers need to be responsible for the consequences on society and on demand side the consumers need to be aware about their consumption habits. It is through such collective effort that the economy could follow "eight means for eight ends".

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The more we are developing, more unhealthy we are getting. Where does the real problem lie.

Space for Rough Work

Real problem
- Greed.
- Satisfaction/Contentment
- Realization about purpose of life.
- Materialism.
- Extremism - Right/Left
- Intolerance
- Distraction Today
- Limits to Growth
- Don't know the destiny

(1) Why are we developing - purpose.
- Necessity mother
- Cause of purpose.
- Comforts.

(2) What does it mean to be developed
- Perception
- Glass ceiling of happiness.

(10) Solution - ~~too~~
1. Take a pause (An unexamined life)
2. Introspect
3. Stop & Go Determinism
4. Stop Theory of Wabi-Sabi

(5) Are we really developing - or going back
- Women issue - same sex marriage
- Democracy → Majoritarianism
- ~~Modern plastic weapons~~
- ~~Capitalist system~~
- ~~Anthropological Revival~~ - COVID Wuhan.
- ~~Entitlement → White Man's Burden~~ - Colonialism
- Environment → IPCC Report

(3) How are we getting unhealthy why.

(4) Why are we not actually developing
- Eg → World IR - Strategic concern
- Perception
- Real problem.

(7) We are getting healthy also
- Radiotherapy / Genome sequencing & Technology / Poverty alleviation.

(8) Notion of not developing = Unhealthy

Human Index

(9) When will we be fully developed. → Why new problems continue to emerge. → We have created such system.

Intro - Yuval Noah Harari
Cognitive / Agri / Scientific Revol.
→ Human more complex

(6) Is it really the development that is making us unhealthy → or is it ourself.

World has enough for everyone's need but not greed.

Lords
- Slow down the pace
- Sustainability
- Gandhi - Sarvodaya
- Aristotle - Golden Mean.
- Buddha = Middle Path.

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Is economy becoming an end rather than a means? = Kant

(1) What is the purpose of economy – the end that we want
- L fulfilling our basic needs, providing food, water, shelter, clothes, etc.
- L Dignification, Cooperation, Harmony.

(2) How is it a means? – to fulfil our demands
- L means of upliftment (Indian Revolt)
- L Social, political, cultural (Ancient Temples)

(3) What kind of 'end' is it becoming?
- L Money → keeping the system running
- L Consumerism, materialism, consumerism

(4) Why is it becoming like that?
- L Survival, competition
- L Narrative of Development (China's issues today)
- L Capitalism – psychological

(5) What are the consequences of that
- L Urban Rivers
- L Brazil Deforest
- L Great Nicobar
- L ~~Lifestyle – marketing – psychology~~
- L Disparity
- L Inequality
- L Economic wars.
- L Advert targeting children – McDonald's.
- L Exploitation during disaster – COVID.

(6) How we can correct it?
- L Capability approach
- L Ethical Capitalism
- L Trusteeship, Sarvodaya, Antodaya
- L Behavioural economics.
- L Human own approach.

(7) How it has benefited? – India 1991, Social change for women.
- L Philanthropy – Bill & Melinda Gate
- L World Bank funding. L Rural-UPI
- L Comp. Social Resp.

(8) What we need to be cautious of
- L Greenwashing

Uttar-Jo Shimath → Kant

Money can't buy Happiness
Greatest wealth
Earth has enough for →

Colonial economy → British → Greed

(2) Economy breeds innovation

(3) Purpose – protestant capitalism

(4) Economy of Harappa
- L Ist Urbanization.

(5) Health industry
- L COVID from animal market

(6) Monetizing everything

(7) Gig Economy

(8) e-Commerce.

Growth pole
Growth Centre
Cumulative causation
Dispersal

(7) If economy is value neutral
Depends who are running it.

(8) Planning Comm"/NITI
- L Public Centric
- L Economy Morality – Commerce w/o Morality