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खण्ड–A / Section–A

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?

New Delhi is India's capital, and among the most populated cities of the world. It's a city bustling with activities and people. The economic lure of the city acts like a magnet for people across the country. Certainly when compared to the Delhi of 1947, most would say the city has developed so much!

Yet every year in the winter, air pollution grips the city's lungs. The atmosphere turns grey, people don masks, and millions are exposed to this toxic air. Where does the problem lie? For in 1947, the problem didn't exist!

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The Nature Of Growth

As we all know, the well known problem of Delhi's air pollution can be attributed to many causes. However, this example just serves as ~~an example~~ a reminder of how development often is accompanied with undesirable factors. This paradox of the nature of growth merits a deeper look.

A Rani came from a humble background, but her dedicated efforts to be a doctor paid off. She got busy in her work, and developed her clinic as a reputed one. However, irony hit one hard day when she herself had a ~~heart~~ heart-attack at a young age! Her neglect of her own health proved costly.

Where does the problem lie here? Often individuals, in their quest for development and progress in life, ignore things like health and relationships. Sometimes, we also lose sight of our morality and ethics. Unearthing of match fixing scams in cricket is all but one example of this. Reminding ourselves regularly of what is really important in life can help avoid such unhealthy off shoots of growth.

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Moving away from the individual level, societies too show such behavior. In terms of material wealth and technological progress, we have developed a lot. From internet to smart-phone to AI-powered chatbot, many science-fiction-like concepts have become the bread and butter of our existence.

Yet, many unhealthy aspects remain despite all ~~this~~ this remarkable progress. Crimes against women is on a rise, a child is shot at for wanting to attend school, and the environment is ~~a~~ tattered ~~from~~ providing for all our demands! Why?

Major chunk of such problems comes from having a narrow definition of development. We measure GDP, not how many women feel unsafe in walking alone on streets at night. We measure kilometers of highway built, not how many lives were uprooted to make way for our concrete carpets.

Also, all development comes at a cost. Some visible some not so visible. Sometimes the cost becomes apparent only later, like

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the cost of climate change that over 200 years of unbridled industrialisation is making us pay.

The Real Problems: What Are They?

Development is a complex concept, and having a growth with no unanticipated or unintended consequences is practically impossible. Thus, some unhealthy side effect is natural. A cost benefit analysis is the answer, and a positive difference between the two is usually our guiding compass.

However, most things have a cyclical nature. All the great empires of the world peaked and then declined, to make way for others. Humans too develop with age, but also surrender to that same age's induced weakness and diseases. There is no "problem" here per se, just an explanation of the natural order of things.

Another problem is how quickly we adapt to the new normal, and then forget the amount of progress made. Negativity bias is intrinsic to human nature. ~~Most people~~ Many) despair easily on seeing poverty or misery in the world, but are less sensitive to the growth that

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the world has shown in the last fifty years. News, by definition, talks about exceptional events, yet we extrapolate it to be the general affair of things. This leads to a misplaced belief that our development is more unhealthy than it actually is.

But not all such observations are misplaced. The growing inequality in the world is one such problem. Global growth, on the back of capitalism and globalisation, has led to the problem of inequality and climate change. The real problem here is unchecked greed of people. As Gandhiji had remarked, the earth has enough for everyone's need, but not for everyone's greed.

This adage also suits the eating habits of modern society. Here, we are literally growing unhealthy with development. Issues like obesity, diabetes, hypertension and more have become common, with a high degree of social acceptability. Problem lies with easy accessability of such food, their tastes ~~do~~ which are designed to be addictive ('bliss point')

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and rising income of people.

Another major lure of junk food is the instant gratification they provide, a trait shared with social media. The science behind development of social media is straight out of a science-fiction. Yet their unhealthy character is also a known-factor. Whether its Facebooks' data's role in influencing US 2016 presidential elections or the harassment women face in the comment section, the dark under belly of social media is a scary proposition.

The real problem here is the opaque nature of their ~~algo~~ algorithms, and lack of adequate policy regulation. Whenever such disrupting developments take place, the transition from old to new equilibrium is painful, for it takes time till society and regulation catches up with the technological development.

From Unhealthy To Healthy

Every generation deals with its own set of unhealthy developments. A century or two ago, unbridled industrialisation also led to colonisation

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of many countries, but that is no longer a problem of today. Our forefathers dealt with it, and similarly the chain shall continue.

The world that we have inherited has shown excellent progress in healthcare, education, communication, technology, mobility and more. Yet, it is not without its problems.

First and foremost, our duty is to ensure sustainable development so that our future generation too can see this beautiful planet. Development at the cost of ~~des~~ environment is no development. Also, we share this planet with numerous other species, and thus need to treat it accordingly.

Second, social issues like gender equality and LGBTQIA+ ~~inc~~ inclusion need greater priority. We need to ensure inclusive growth, otherwise the very fabric of society may get strained. Division along social lines is suicidal.

Last but not the least, responsible Capitalism is a must if we want development without growing unhealthier. We need to

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design it such that structural deficiencies like market failures are provided for in an effective way.

To sum up, while it may seem that development is accompanied with so many ill-effects, we need to stay positive and futuristic. Delhi has the problem of air pollution but we are working hard to solve it. From government to NGO to individual, countless unnamed people are also doing their ~~bit~~ bit. And in a future not so far away, the problem hopefully will be solved, and new ones would have arisen!

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खण्ड–B / Section–B

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

"Aim for the moon. Even if you miss, you will land among the stars."

This timeless motivational saying is an example of the romance we humans have had with space since we learnt to open our eyes and look at the sky. The story of human evolution is closely linked to how well we understand space. The sighting of UFOs and quest for extra terrestrial life have raised the curiosity of every generation. Clearly, our tryst with space is very rich and complex, so lets' take a closer look.

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The Lure of Space

First things first, let us see why space has captured our imagination since millennia. Even before when we had the technological prowess to explore ~~cosmos~~ space, the curiosity was present. From "chanda mama" (Moon is ~~our~~ uncle!) to "the dead become stars", the quest to make sense of the sky had always gripped us. Why?

Humans had always been curious of their surroundings, and the omnipresent blue sky ~~omnipresent~~ was no exception. The cyclical nature of day and light and of seasons, the twinkling stars at night, the ever-reducing-expanding moon, the eclipses, rain from above and much more had to kindle our curiosity!

Religion filled this gap initially. The sky and beyond was the abode of Gods. Do good deeds and you too shall go there. Earth was all there is, and the sun & revolved around it. Stories and myths developed, some for ~~entertainment~~ entertainment, many for explanation.

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Soon, things began to change. Mathematics and geometrics developed. Many began questioning this model of earth-centric space, and proved that it was sun that was at the centre! The concept of time too emerged. Sun dials were built to measure time, and each religion ~~too~~ developed its own calendar based on movements of sun and moon.

The real progress came in 20th century, out of the USA-USSR Cold War induced space war. The two devastating world wars had ~~progressed~~ accelerated the development of aircrafts, and the next logical step was to launch into space. Till then, we only had theoretical models of space, backed by images as seen from telescope.

Lo and behold, first satellite was launched by USSR. USA got back by ~~landing~~ launching the first man to the moon. In their neck to neck rivalry, human's knight with space became the clear winner. Such was the importance

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of space that the two superpowers wanted to beat each other to it, only to establish their global dominance!

There was no looking back after that. We have launched so many satellites since then that the challenge of space debris has emerged. Many countries have launched their satellites since today; and a USA-led International Space Station is also up there since decades. If only our ancestors knew, that we would build a home in space (albeit a temporary one)!

From Tryst to Technology: The Benefits of Space

A misplaced question that India's thriving space sector is often asked, is whether it is justified for a poor country to spend resources on such things. What they miss is that space is not just fascinating, but also a solution to many problems.

Satellite television was among first such benefits. Movies and serials, news, government communication, educational initiatives, commercial

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advertisements all reached the comfort of sofas and halls in average households. The ripple effects of this development alone merits an essay of its own.

Satellites also generated high resolution images of the earth. From climate change to agricultural inputs to map making, their uses are many. GPS, and India's own IRNSS (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System) has redefined travel and logistics. Tourism without google maps is unimaginable now!

Then the quest for understanding the origin of life and earth is ongoing even today. From James Webb Telescope to ~~the~~ India's Chandrayan mission, every space project furthers humanity's knowledge on this timeless question. The likes of Elon Musk have even resolved to settle human colonies on Mars!

Space tech also has natural implications for a country's military power. The capturing of enemy territory images, launch of

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missiles from space, attacking Critical Satellites of enemy country are all active research areas of military R&D. Outer Space Treaty is one initiative to regulate such things, but it leaves much to be desired.

Benefits Not Without Challenges

The multi-faceted benefits of space exploration are not without challenges. As mentioned before, Crores of space debris exist in space, and even a tiny scrap of metal can potentially undo any space mission.

Then we also have the re-emergence of space wars of sorts, with China to planning to launch its space station soon. Russia has ended its collaboration with US on ISS, and India is also on track to launch its space ~~Sato~~ station by the end of this Further decade. Low-earth orbit internet by private companies like SpaceX, though a noble aim, also raises questions like space pollution and hindrances with other signals.

There is also an inequality in access to space, with US being the leader. Small countries,

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which arguably need space-based data input more, are ironically being left behind. India is playing a regional leader in this aspect, assisting many Asian and African countries in their space needs by sharing data and launching their satellites.

Humans & Space : An Unending Saga

Human's relationship with space has changed with time, mostly with developments in technology. From day dreaming about moons surface to taking its high resolution images, we have indeed come a long way. But then we are only just getting started.

Space tech development, till now, has been largely led by governments across the world. Now the role of private sector has begun. From India's SkyRoot to USA's SpaceX, the private sector is only just warming up. Many innovative breakthroughs can be expected to be seen in this century on the back of this development.

Space tourism is one such possibility. While exhorbitantly expensive currently, the cost is likely

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to come down. This would make the space accessible to many more. However, its effect on climate is a contentious issue.

Space based internet would also likely be solved. This would enpower us to access internet from anywhere on earth with minimal equipment. Its implications for remote work are huge. A tribal child would be able to stream line lectures from any university of the world!

Our tryst with space has no beginning or ending, ~~for~~ for it reflects our inquisitive nature. ~~Like~~ ~~that~~ We know much less about oceans than space, an amusing fact which has many reasons. Stars and moon used to guide us before google maps came along, but then, both are derived from space!

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Rough

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

→ for individual
→ for family
→ for schools
→ for society
→ for countries
→ for world as a whole

* inherent problem or always?
  → cyclical nature of things
  → great empires of world
  → tree, human age
* Not always true
  → advances in health
  → latest tech
  → women empowerment

intro. India ~~at 46.~~ CC? Delhi is among the most populated, capital, economic hub yet air pollution. Why?

Real Problems
→ take development for granted ✓
→ not developing all; inclusive growth ✓
→ unintended consequences ✓
→ cost of development ✓
→ transition time b/w new & old equilibrium
→ base line issue ✓
→ development of one, neglect of other aspects
→ shortsightedness ✓

conclusion : Delhi still developing. Actions take. Future better. Real problem was multifaceted.

economic inequality

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Space for Rough Work

Our Tryst with Space

Intro

Aim for moon, even if you miss...

Fascination with space since then...

Explore this tryst with space.

Main

* what drives this curiosity? Root of everything
  - → own origin, origin of life/death
  - → dead as "stars"
  - → questions like day, night, seasons
  - → ~~from~~ earth-centric to sun-centric
* development of astronomy
  - → eclipse, ~~&~~ time tracking via sun dial
  - → shooting stars
  - → concept of time
* Contemporary
  - → Cold war & space war
  - → development of computer, engineering, physics, material tech etc
  - → potential of space tourism
  - → solutions by pvt sectors like satellite internet.
* Benefits of space
  - → communication, agri, climate change, remote sensing
  - → photo of black hole, origin of earth
  - → search of extraterrestrial life

Challenges

* space debris
* space wars (Chin)
* Climate & effect of space tourism; megaliths
* space military