

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space) कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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A SHIP IN HARBOUR IS SAFE, BUT THAT IS NOT WHAT SHIP IS FOR

Comfort zone → missed opportunity

tackle challenges, explore, take risks

learn Program

A ship confined to the harbour has comfort and security, but its true purpose is to navigate seas, encounter storms and reach distant shores. Here, the ship can be perceived as a powerful symbol of human potential. It is only by stepping out of one's comfort zone, taking risks and facing challenges that one's ambition can be realized.

This realization is rooted in historical experiences, such as the discoveries made by European merchants during the age of Exploration. Christopher Columbus was a sailor who lost his way and landed up in West Indies instead of America. Learning from his journey, Amerigo Vespucci discovered the correct route to America. It was only because they had the courage to leave the harbour and step into uncharted territories that they achieved these milestones.

Let us now delve into this essay within the temporal theme, i.e.



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past, present and future, alongside various dimensions.

In the economic sphere, the ship of fiscal policies was once docked at the harbour of classical economists. The solution to unemployment was simply waiting till minimum wage demands subsided and labour unions weakened. It was only after the pitfalls of inaction were pointed out by Keynesian economists that the ship set sail through the waters of counter cyclical fiscal policies.

The present reliance on trickle down economics by many countries has also exposed the murky waters of inequality and concentration of wealth. To avoid this water from getting into the ship, the focus is shifting to inclusive growth and bottom-up development.

Looking beyond, the ship will inevitably come across new horizons like that of cryptocurrency, the decentralized alternative to traditional currency. Countries like China are sticking to the harbour by adopting hardline approaches like blanket bans. But India is open to

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explore these unknown avenues through
a classification of cryptocurrency as a
Virtual Digital Asset subject to capital
gains tax.

The steering wheel of the
economic ship is undoubtedly held by
organizations. On similar lines, they can
only grow by breaking the mould and
thinking unconventionally. For example, Tata
was at the verge of decline in 1990s
due to bureaucratic management and lack
of innovation. But by taking calculated
risks like the acquisition of Jaguar
Land Rover during the 2008 financial
crisis, it turned over a new leaf and
today has a revitalized global standing.

This flexible and adaptable approach
also reflects in the companies which
were able to switch to 'Work
from Home' during the COVID-19
pandemic. Even today, firms are
reaping benefits from the new 'hybrid'
mode of work, boosting productivity and
cost saving.

Such a liberal outlook to

venture beyond the harbour should be developed by future organizations as well. In order to thrive, they will need to adopt cutting edge technologies of the 4th industrial revolution and reskill their employees from time to time. This might seem like an intimidating investment but will yield huge returns. To support these organizations, the ship must be headed by educated youth. The conventional classroom education is like the safe harbour which has been the shelter of students over generations. But those who dared to challenge this system have also reached unimaginable heights through innovation and creativity. Einstein, Edison and Steve Jobs are some prominent examples. Presently, the education system is still plagued by issues like rote learning, exam-oriented assessment and poor foundational learning. India is one of the countries which has not turned a blind eye to the rust in the ship. It has introduced the

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New Education Policy, 2020, which aims to sail through the waters with a competency based curriculum, NIPUN Bharat for foundational literacy and gender inclusion fund.

The classrooms of the future, will also benefit from a continuous learning approach. The ship will only reach new destinations with regular updation of curricula, integration of new technologies like Augmented/Virtual Reality in education, and inclusion of soft skills.

Education has long been a weapon of liberation for women, hidden in the cabin of the ship. It was not easy to leave the harbour of societal restrictions like purdah, child marriage and caregiving; but a few exceptional women did it. Savitribai Phule, often a target of mudslinging by onlookers, still had the courage to open the first school for girls in Pune.

At present, the untrodden paths of STEM and space research are also

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being stepped upon by trendsetting women, despite being traditionally male-dominated spheres. In mathematics, we have Shakuntala Devi, the 'human computer'.

In space, there are leading women like Ritu Karidhal, known as the 'rocket woman' of India. In engineering, there is Madhavi Latha, the geotechnical consultant who designed the Chenab rail bridge.

The future will offer new icebergs for the ship to steer across, in the form of glass ceilings and dual burdens to women. It is only by refusing to accept stereotypes, and exercising autonomy in decision making that the new harbour of women led empowerment can be reached.

Thus women need to make their voices heard, and this brings us to the ship of free speech. For India, in particular, the captains of this ship were the oppressive British colonisers. They made numerous

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attempts to suppress freedom of speech, like the Vernacular Press Act, Sedition laws and censorship. But there were personalities brave enough to challenge these directives, reflected in bold periodicals like Sri Aurobindo's 'Vande Mataram' and Bal Gangadhar Tilak's 'Kesari' and 'Maharatta'.

At present, even the implicit Fundamental Right to free press is sometimes obstructed by legal intimidation, Internet shutdowns and harsh anti-terror laws. Yet we have the example of independent journalists who are stepping out of the comfortable harbour of established channels to deliver unbiased news. Ravish Kumar who left NDTV to open his own Youtube channel for reporting is a prime example.

The future era, often called the age of information, will throw up new roadblocks in the form of fake news, misinformation and disinformation. This again requires new solutions to be implemented in the form of fact checking.

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Despite the aforesaid arguments, it is also important to remember that some ships are better off in the harbour itself. Taking the example of nuclear weapons, it can be surely said that it is better as a deterrent than an actual deployment. India's nuclear doctrine of 'No First Use' reflects this caution, with the warning of mutually assured destruction. Warships themselves are also meant for the harbour, for if they set sail, they can only cause devastation and misery. It was after all the attack on Pearl Harbour that unleashed the deadly nuclear bombs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Japan. In another context, even the political provisions of Emergency are preferable to be left unused. The effects it has — in the form of suspension of fundamental rights, conversion of federalism to unitary nature and disproportionate power with the executive — make it undesirable for a democratic country like India.

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Now, it is important to encourage ships to venture out, but also provide them with safeguards against sinking.

Ambition for professional success is a virtue in itself, but it is not at all desirable for the ship to take too much load and capsize.

The tragic demise of 26-year old Anna Sebastian corporate employee thus highlights the importance of work life balance.

To ensure better employment prospects, the government is also encouraging the youth to become 'job creators' rather than 'job seekers'. Becoming an entrepreneur is fraught with risks, but schemes like StartUp India and SIDBI's fund of funds can become strong anchors for the ship.

Similarly, the field of Research and Development (R&D) requires both an innovative mindset and the courage to risk failed experiments. In this regard, the government's "Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)" can help by providing

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access to flexible long term funding.

In conclusion, we can consider the inspiring examples of Elon Musk. During the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, he was near bankrupt, with both Tesla and SpaceX teetering at the brink of collapse. In this pressure situation, he made the brave choice of investing his last funds into Space X's Falcon 1 rocket.

It witnessed a miraculous success, securing a critical contract with NASA. His risk-taking mentality can thus motivate generations to pursue audacious goals against all odds.

Therefore, it is only when we aspire for the impossible that we create wonders. After all, "The storm only comes to teach you how to skillfully sail your ship". Dreams will not be realised close to the harbour, but beyond the shore.

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(1) Intro is a bit basic.

↳ a ~~bit~~ Story would do good!

(2) → Conclusion is good!

(3) → Complexity in writing is

skill usable! (though lesser than happiness ~~error~~)

(Skill needs improvement)

50/120