

खण्ड-A / Section-A

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- Q.1 You can't serve data on a hungry man's plate.
आप किसी भूखे आदमी की थाली में डेटा नहीं परोस सकते।
- Q.2 AI is overcoming our mental limitation but not expanding our mental horizon.
ए.आई. मनुष्य की मानसिक सीमाओं को नियंत्रित रहा है, किंतु मानसिक क्षितिज का विस्तार नहीं कर रहा है।
- Q.3 We are using environment for politics, not politics for environment.
हम पर्यावरण का उपयोग राजनीति के लिए कर रहे हैं, न कि राजनीति का उपयोग पर्यावरण के लिए।
- Q.4 The worst form of inequality is to try to make unequal things equal.
असमानता का सबसे बुरा रूप है असमान को समान बनाने का प्रयास।

"AI is overcoming our mental limitation but not expanding our mental horizon."

A farmer in a remote village of Uttar Pradesh has been able to increase his agricultural productivity and production with the help of Artificial intelligence by being able to have advanced weather forecasting, providing the right amount of agriculture inputs and also ensure maximum output. Through AI generated e-platform, he has also been able to sell his produces at a remunerative price and prevent distress sale.

One day as he was sitting in the balcony of his

house, a thought came to his mind that whether AI has enabled him to be truly humane, rather than just a human being; whether AI has enabled him to attain his higher self in terms of his mental development. This questions were constantly pricking his conscience.

This is not just the story of a farmer but a rather pertinent question of how AI has overcome our mental limitations by enabling us to do tasks which were formerly next to impossible but has not translated into expanding our mental horizon.

In this essay, we will discuss the various aspects of Artificial Intelligence, how it has revolutionised our lives and has now become an integral part of us; how in the process has made us less humane and less thinking being; how we can ensure to truly liberate our minds and also the various challenges associated with it.

AI Overcoming our mental limitation

AI is an emerging technology where a machine mimics the intelligence of human and performs tasks required by humans. The limitations humans had earlier can now be performed efficiently and productively by AI machines.

For example, in the field of Agriculture, AI finds various applications in the form of precision farming, advanced weather forecasting, irrigation aspects, creating AI generated infrastructure facilities, agriculture marketing etc. The anecdote of the farmer in UP, as highlighted earlier is a prime example of what AI can do in this aspect. Had AI not been there, such changes in agriculture would not have been possible. In other words, it has overcome our mental limitation of intelligence.

Similarly, AI has also changed the way we look at things in the field of science and technology. For example, AI can handle huge sets of data such as blockchain technology. Also, the generative AI finds application

in management of passengers and ensure hassle free travel experience. The recent initiative of DigiYatra in airports of India through AI has also ensured the safety aspects of both law enforcement management and passengers themselves. Applications of AI such as ChatGPT has enable us to be truly much ahead of our own times in the way we think our intelligence could be.

AI has also add more teeth to our defence capabilities. As such, border surveillance which were earlier done manually have now been replaced with drones, UAVs especially in tough terrains and topography. The new and emerging challenges of cybersecurity, ransomware etc can now be done and deal with more effectively through AI. Thus, AI has revolutionised and overcome our mental limitations indeed in true sense.

AI has also reinforce our social infrastructure, growth and development such as in healthcare, education etc. For example, with the help of AI, early detection and diagnostic of diseases can be done. Complicated

Surgeries can now be performed and executed safely and efficiently. Similarly, AI has also had a long lasting impact in the field of education by making education more interesting and immersive. Regular and periodic review of a student's progress can be tracked and also suggest corrective measures if needed through AI. If we ask whether this is possible to the people borned in the 18th century, he or she would think that we have either gone mad or insane.

History and rediscovery of art and culture is also possible through AI technologies. For example, the lost civilizations of the world and their location then can be traced through AI enabled technologies. AI therefore is truly a time machine that has empowered us to go back to the past and also predict our future, while ensuring we live our present with much ease.

Various other examples such as in Disaster management, economy, security maintenance etc can be found where AI has been used effectively, helping us

to overcome our mental limitation of intelligence and knowledge. We can truly say with much confidence that AI has had a liberating effect in this aspect.

AI limiting our mental horizon

So as the farmer, discussed earlier, sat on his balcony and think about it, if we truly ask ourselves and introspect whether AI has expanded our mental horizon or not; whether it has made us humane beings rather than just human beings, a lot of our doubts and questions would remain unanswered. We will delve on this aspect as we move further in our discussion.

The process of self-discovery and self realisation has now been technologically outsourced and this happened the same with AI. Life is not just to live as human being but rather it is to discover the purpose and meaning of our existence. But technology

and AI has become a part of our lives so much so that we have become totally dependent on them. In the process, we have forgotten to be humane and the question to examine ourselves have remained unanswered. As Socrates lamented, a life without self examination is not worth to live.

Also, we have gotten confused of our needs with wants in life. Needs are our basic necessities but human wants are insatiable. The advent of AI has taken away the humane in us and in the process, we have become so much so greedy that we think only of ourselves and failed to be a compassionate being. In this aspect, thus, we cannot deny that AI has failed to expand our mental horizons. Our greed has come at the cost of others both living and non-living beings.

Similarly, AI lacks the ethicalness inherent in humans and has resulted into many ethical challenges. Robotics, machines of AI has not address this aspect

and us becoming dependent on them has also taken away the ethicalness in us. Our thoughts and minds have become self centred, individualistic and narrowed our outlook of life and the people around us. Now the four cardinal principles of life that is wisdom, courage, moderation and justice as propounded by Aristotle is missing in our lives.

The overdependence on emerging technologies like AI has also led to spiritual crisis in us. We have become too much materialistic aiming to get tangible things at the cost of our spiritual wellbeing and development. As a result, we are witnessing crisis not only at individual level but also at family, Society level. It has also led to geopolitical issues where nations are in the mad race of competition where there is no prize in real sense. In such cases, it wouldn't be wrong to say our mental horizon has become narrow and limited.

Ensuring we overcome mental limitation and at the same time expanding our mental horizon :

The reason such dichotomy and dualism of life arises is not only because of AI but rather the self-interest and greediness in us as Thomas Hobbes said. To overcome this, we need to introspect and analyse our mind and re-examine our lives.

Science in general and AI in particular is not necessarily bad. Rather it depends on how we use it, as a means to an end or an end in itself. If we do or think as a means to an end, it will result into science without humanity, one of the seven social sins of Gandhiji. It should be treated as an end in itself by adopting a humane and rational approach.

The question that arises is how do we do that?

The Golden Rule of Aristotle or the Madhyam Marg

provided by Buddha is the way out. AI cannot be done away with it now. It is there to stay with us and therefore, to truly expand our mental horizon, we must use it effectively and neither become too dependent on it.

AI will enable and has enabled to overcome our mental limitations and how we can translate this into expanding our mental horizon is to think out of the box and beyond just AI. For this, engagement of various stakeholders is needed. Educational institutions, society etc at large have a crucial role to play. If our education system only promotes career building and our society continues to be as it is, disaster is doomed to come but if we use it to develop our character, the change to let it go wrong can be minimized.

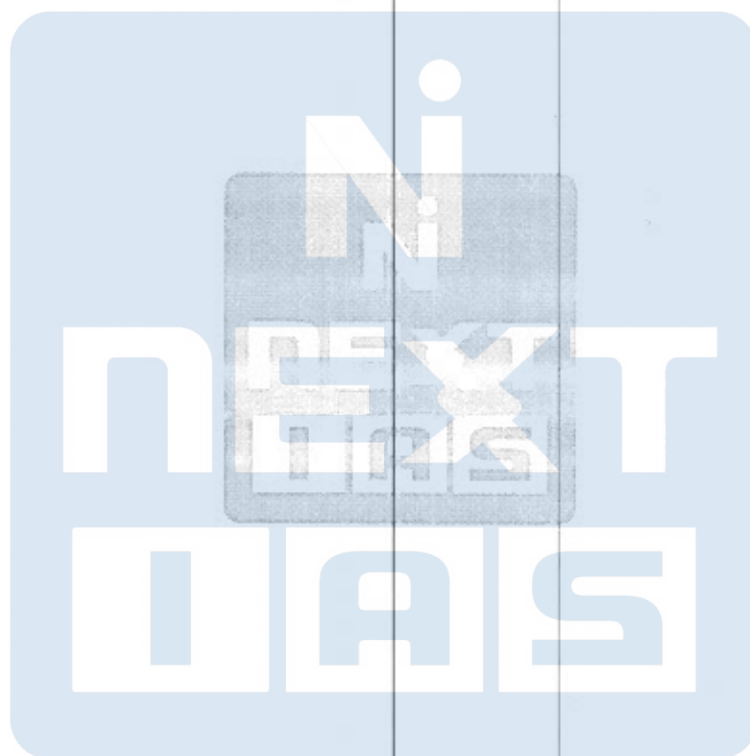
Lastly but not the least, simplicity is the

Ultimate sophistication and therefore the point is to make things simple and think in a simple way.

Life is a journey between human being and being humane and therefore, we need to have science that is in sync with humanity.

If we follow this rule, we will not only overcome our mental limitation but also expand our mental horizon that will leave a legacy for ourselves and the purpose of our very existence and creation. //

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खण्ड-B / Section-B

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- Q.5 Existence is a science, living is an art.
अस्तित्व एक विज्ञान है, जीना एक कला है।
- Q.6 If the truth shall kill them, let them die
यदि सत्य से किसी की मृत्यु होती है, तो उन्हें मरने दो।
- Q.7 The only way to go beyond things, is to go through them.
हालातों से परे जाने का एकमात्र तरीका उनसे होकर गुजरना है।
- ✓ Q.8 Dream for the best. Be prepared for the worst. Enjoy life in between.
सर्वश्रेष्ठ के लिए सपना देखें। सबसे बुरे के लिए तैयार रहें। इसके बीच के जीवन का आनंद लें।

"Dream for the best. Be prepared for the worst. Enjoy life in between"

A wall in the ancient city of Egypt writes,

"The horse is made ready for the day of battle. But victory belongs to the one who dream for the best and is prepared for the worst. No victory is assured beforehand".

This writings on the wall is not merely an inscription but carries the deep meaning and essence of aiming for the best and preparing for the worst. It also carries an inherent message

that life is a journey not a destination ; a journey between human being and being humane.

Why do we need to dream? Why must we be prepared for any eventualities in life? And how do we enjoy life in the process? These are some of the questions we must ask ourselves and which we will be discussingⁱⁿ this essay as we delve further.

Why dream? why dream for the best?

The inherent nature of human being is that we do have mental limitations. Our understanding of the world both in objective and subjective terms is very narrow. But dreams as such do not have any limitations. We can dream back and forth, to and fro about life and even transcend life itself. Dreams are limitless and horizonless.

But why dream? And why dream for the best? The simple reason is that dreams gives us and provide a vision to us. When we have vision, our life journey becomes more directed without having to wander in the utopian world. We need to dream for the best because it sustains the vision of our dream.

For example, APJ Abdul Kalam once said, "dreams are not something which led you asleep but rather that awakens you". His life journey is a prime example of why we need to have dreams and the reasons we need to dream for the best. His pioneering work in the field of science and technology and him being called as the people's president is because of the dreams he had.

If we do not have a vision, we would be nothing less than a rudderless ship with no direction.

In other words, we would be aimless and without purpose in our lives. When we do not have dreams, vision and aim in our lives, we may be alive but can be compared to a dead man.

Why prepare for the worst?

Whilst it is true that we do need to have dreams, it is equally true that dreams do not necessarily translate into reality. The simple reason is that dreams or visions requires a lot of hard work, perseverance and never give up attitude. Therefore, if we are not prepared for the worst, it may demotivate us and set us back beyond recovery.

The journey of ISRO is an epitome of what having a vision and preparing for the worst means. As I write this, I am reminded of ISRO's success in landing on the moon through the Chandrayaan-3 mission. ISRO had a vision of

landing on the moon, attempted multiple times, failed a couple of times but finally succeeded in its third attempt. ISRO knew anything can go wrong and hence made every possible rectification to ensure the success of the mission.

Preparing for the worst also enables us to have objective assessment of the subjective reality. There is no absolute truth as highlighted in the Jainism philosophy. Thus, when we are ready for any eventualities, it means we have a clear understanding of ourselves, our visions and aims.

It also enable us to take failures, accept them with humility and make more robust plan. In other words, by doing so we are converting our failures into stepping stones for success. Success doesn't knock at the door easily, it has to be earned but the process of having to go through that makes it truly costful.

Here, the example of Gandhiji, can be an apt one. He received initial setbacks in the struggle for freedom of India from the Britishers such as the one that happened in the chauri-chaura incident during the Non-cooperation movement. However, that didn't deter him but instead took it as a lesson in his attempt to set India truly independent.

Why enjoy life in between?

"Life is a journey between human being and being humane". Therefore, life's journey is not a destination but a journey in itself. If we do not enjoy the journey, it takes away the purpose of our existence and our life itself. By enjoying the journey, we will not only discover ourselves but also fulfil our duty to help others especially the needy and all people alike.

For example, Mother Teresa had a dream and a vision to help the destitute people. For this reason, she came to India and started the Missionary Charity, touched by the plight of poor children and people. She knew it wasn't going to be easy so she was emotionally and mentally prepared. In her initial days, she received setbacks but didn't get discouraged, even gave more than her best effort. Today, she leaves us with this wonderful legacy of compassion and empathy.

Enjoying the journey in between also enables us to have constant introspection and assessment of our life. When we realise that our life is an end in itself rather than a means to an end, it keeps us grounded to reality and the need to rectify, correct and change our ignorance and adopt a more objective and examined life.

If we do not enjoy life in between and continue to be ignorant of what is happening around us, we can be compared to the life of Buddha before he attained nirvana. He led a lavish life during his early days, he thought the world was his and everyone was living a life like his own. But as he began to realise the nuisances of life, his mental wellbeing was constantly in the state of turmoil.

But his encounter with the real life beyond the wall of his house changed him and that made him the Buddha who had attained nirvana. He leaves the wonderful legacy of the four noble truths and the need for work for upliftment of self and people at large. His life journey is one between human being and being humane.

Why we do not enjoy life? How can it be rectified?

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We failed, in most cases, to enjoy our life journey because we think of ourselves only. And when we ourselves are self-indulged and greedy, our mental horizon becomes limited and being unable to look at things beyond our view point.

As a result, we are witnessing spiritual depriveness, increasing violence, intolerance, hatred, exploitation of nature in an unmindful way and many more. Thus, our life journey has become more of a burden and this has led to not enjoy our life journey.

We are increasingly having dreams and visions which are for ourselves only, not for the greater good. We have also failed to be prepared for the worst, we do not accept failures. Our wants have become insatiable and unending.

The question that arises is how this can be addressed and in what ways can it be done.

The answer to this is not as simple as one would think and thus the journey crisis continues.

Our mental horizons need to expand beyond ourselves and one which has a liberating effect. Humility and perseverance, values, virtues etc need to be inculcated by the family, society and educational institutions.

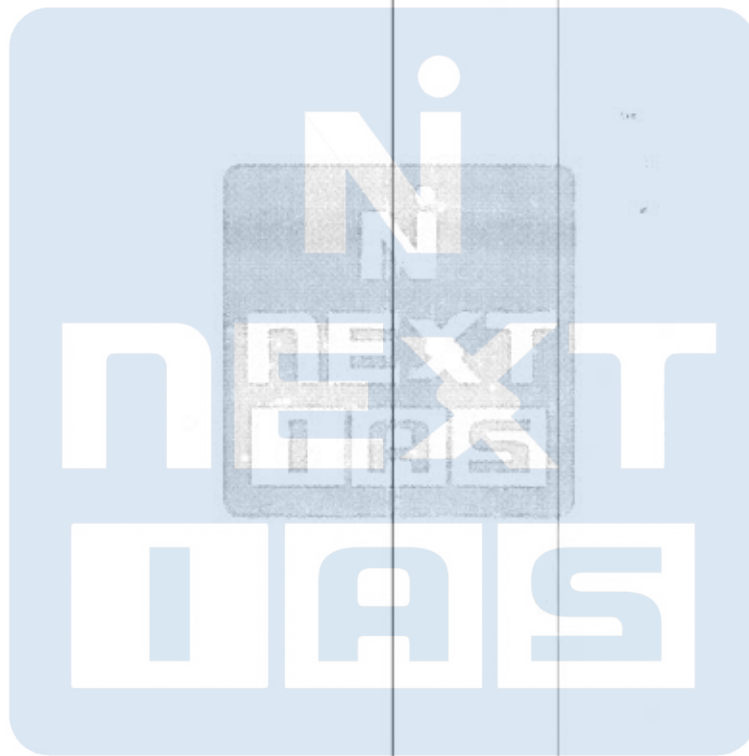
We have to think beyond our viewpoint and be able to incorporate and tolerate other ideas. In that way, our dreams, visions can be for the greater good of the society and one which reinforces the idea of social wellbeing and social capital. When there is a strong network of social capital with right values and virtues, the realisation of

dreams of individuals and those of others can be done in a much better way.

Lastly but not the least, the writings on the wall of Egypt city through our discussion is not an exaggeration but a reality.

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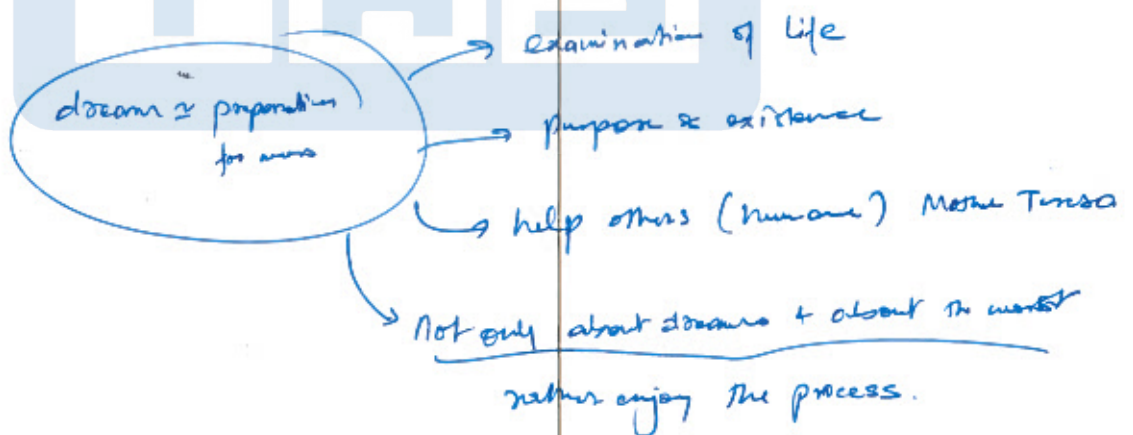
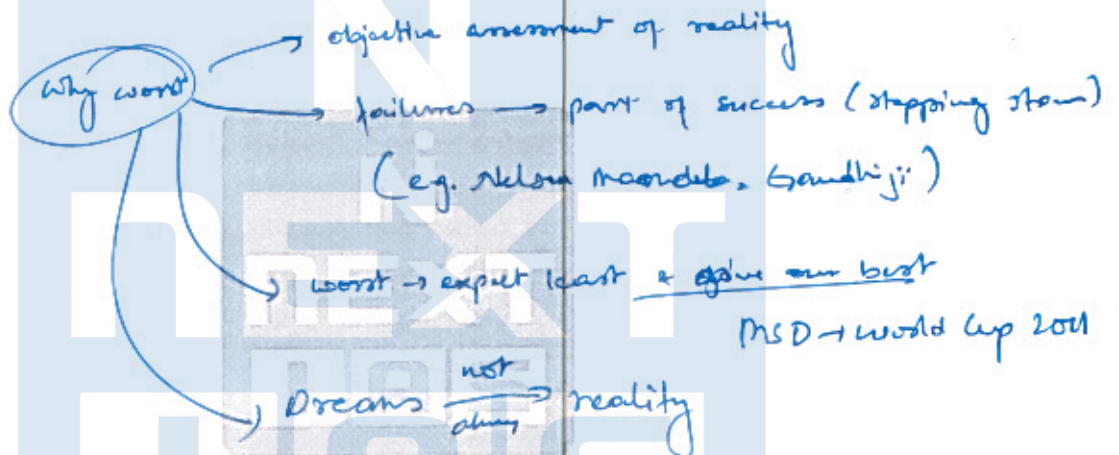


Space for Rough Work

⑧

Quote →

HH → HD → GH



How

Space for Rough Work

AI { mental limitation ↑ (-)
mental horizon ↓ (x)

S w/o H

Simplicity → without sophistication

Intro → farmer → AI
↳ & ? → mental horizon

