

खण्ड-A/ Section-A

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

- Q.1 Reason has always existed, but not always in a reasonable form.
तर्क सदैव अस्तित्व में रहा है, परंतु हमेशा युक्तियुक्त रूप में नहीं।
- Q.2 The opposite of poverty is not wealth.
गरीबी की विपरीत स्थिति केवल दौलत होना नहीं है।
- Q.3 To forgive is to set a prisoner free and to discover that the prisoner was you.
क्षमा करने का अर्थ है अपने भीतर के एक कैदी को मुक्त करना और यह पता लगाना कि वो कैदी आप ही थे।
- Q.4 A man who wants to lead the orchestra must turn his back on the crowd.
जो व्यक्ति ऑर्केस्ट्रा का नेतृत्व करना चाहता है उसे भीड़ से मुँह मोड़ लेना चाहिए।

A MAN WHO WANTS TO LEAD THE
ORCHESTRA MUST TURN HIS BACK ON
THE CROWD

In 1860s, civil war was going on in America, between Northern (Anti-slavery) and Southern States (Pro-slavery). Abraham Lincoln the then President of USA and leader from Northern States, was facing the threat of losing Southern states from USA as they were on the verge of ~~Coalition~~ defeat.

Then, he came up with an idea of abolishing slavery, to add a social cause

NEXT IAS

to the war, which would raise the motivation of their side and will garner Black American support. But his party members did not support his idea and further said that Respective Amendment can lead to dissolution of the government.

At the same time, Lincoln also lost his dear son, adding up to his mental pressure. Amidst all this he turned back on the crowd which were his ministers, his mental anxiety, family members. And controlled and composed his senses, took the call of slavery abolishment. What happened next is history. Lincoln won the war, abolished slavery and became one of the best president of United States.

This brings us to the question that Orchestra is only about senses. Then answer to it is 'no'. It is much beyond that. Orchestra has different meaning for different manifestation of man.

As for an ~~As for~~ individual, orchestra could be his/her own values, attitudes etc. while for a society or community, it could be their ideals or members. For a nation, it could be their government or constitutional values. Hence, as our definition of man changes, their 'orchestra' changes too.

From the framework mentioned above, significance of orchestra for a man has been understood implicitly. Let uncover this understanding explicitly. For an individual, their values and attitudes are reflection of their personality. A person with highly reinforced valueset will ~~get~~ transform their attitude which can be seen through their behaviours. And our behaviour is our identity. Gandhiji during freedom struggle never deviated from values of 'Ahimsa' (non-violence) and 'Sacrifices', even Britishers were being violent through their repression methods.

This shows the strong character of the man.

In fact, if we look at Government level, then Government's orchestra is minister, Executives, civil servants. By properly fanning on them through better Accountability, transparency etc, efficiency of the Government increases just like harmonious music of orchestra. Indian Government push for minimum Government and maximum Governance (by digitalization of services, simplifying the laws is manifestation of orchestra.

moving ahead, now let us understand what is crowd. In simple words, if a person, community or an entity are a system then anything outside of this can be called as crowd. For example to classmates for a student, other social groups for a particular group etc.

But the point is how
cloud is related to man. Then,
cloud plays a crucial role in functioning
of man. They do so through various
methods like socialization, pressure
and reinforcement methods, by gradually
making dependent on one another.

In fact, our own mind's 'desire'
acts as cloud for our 'peace' (an
orchestra). Gautam Buddha turned
his back on 'desire' to lead himself
towards enlightenment.

Just like Buddha, every
form of man has to turn their
back from the cloud. Because,
cloud has potential to shape our
attitude negatively through negative
emotion like media showing only bad
news shape our attitude for poor
development and law and order
situation.

Further crowd destructs our own moral faculty and ability of rational and analytical thinking. As a result, we start seeing things from other's eyes. Like continuation of obsolete religious practices like triple talag just because it is being in continuity for generation.

Not only this crowd compels us to act in certain way just to be socially acceptable. Like person has to abide by the rules of khap panchayats in order to live in the village. Nonetheless, At international level, one country puts pressure on other through various tactics to force them to act in certain way. As China did to Sri Lanka to take Colombo Port on lease.

Hence, there is dire need to move turn our back on the crowd to lead the orchestra. As since ancient

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

times, women were told by their male counterparts about false empowerment notion i.e., as a role of mother, wife and daughter. But once they turned back on this manly crowd, they started focussing on Education, Nutritional Empowerment and Employment opportunities. Today they are excelling in every field. Founder of Sugar Cosmetics is a lady so does of Nykaa and Emme pharmaceuticals. In Sports women are bringing medals for India.

Not only women, even the vulnerable sections like people of lower caste, always since ancient times were bound in the chains of caste, which was imposed them by upper caste people. Their habitations, employment etc were decided and controlled by them. But ~~there~~ once they got aware they turned back and through various

Social movements, tried to lead their orchestra which are education, better health facilities, employment opportunity. As a result, this condition is improving and caste barriers are disappearing.

If we look at government's function of policy making, if they keep on listening to everyone and satisfying them, they will never be able to come to a consensus. This will create a deadlock. Thus instead of that, government should focus on data collected from surveys and census, some research papers, consult immediate stakeholders and based on that should formulate the policies.

Internationally, countries which keeps on listening or being influenced by others, fails to lead their orchestra. Consequently end up losing their hold

over Sovereignty. Unlike this India
during Russia - Ukraine war, ignored
pressure of western world and focused
on ~~leading~~ taking decisions as per
their own national interest. As a result
India's stature in world geopolitics has
increased.

So does that mean, we completely
ignore the crowd. Then again Answer
is 'No'. They also hold importance, as
for a man, having all knowledge is
impossible thus by looking at crowd,
one can get knowledge. Listening to
others broaden the perspectives which
plays key role in better decision making
ability.

Further by looking at journey of
others, we get experiences. As reading
history gives us lots of insights about
the mistakes and brilliant tactics of
various emperors and leaders. Apart

from that, one's cannot easily identify their own mistakes. Here also others can help. For example help of coaches in ~~badm~~ sports, enable player to win the game.

But Nowadays there is trend of leading the orchestra by looking towards the crowd. This is happening because of lack of knowledge of an individual coupled with looking towards comfort of opinion rather than discomfort of thoughts. Further Poor Emotional Intelligence adds up to the cause. As this results in lack of self awareness

At social level, vulnerability associated because of poor development and looming threat over cultural practices, This vulnerability breeds the ground for looking towards others. As Kerala youth induction in ISIS is

manifestation of this.

At National level, because of interconnectedness between countries due to globalisation. And the role of informal channels like international NGOs, compels a nation to act according to others. Like Pakistan is following China's commands.

So far, we understood importance of orchestra for man and positive and negatives and ongoing trend with regard with man's relation with world. Finally we will try to find the best way in this regard. So, we will take learnings of Buddha to follow middle path. Hence, we have to first become the leader our orchestra, for this we have to develop the ~~best~~ ability of self Awareness and self regulation. This is applicable for all manifestations of man. Additionally,

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

we have to be careful in choosing our crowd who can act as a giant, upon whose shoulders we can look ~~forward~~ further. Ultimately by navigating through all this we must apply our rational and analytical thinking like Abraham Lincoln did. Only then we will be able to lead our orchestra.



खण्ड-B / Section-B

- Q.5 International Trade is a good indicator of National Security.
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा का एक अच्छा सूचक है।
- Q.6 It is not that we use technology, we live technology.
ऐसा नहीं है कि हम प्रौद्योगिकी का उपयोग करते हैं, हम प्रौद्योगिकी को जीते हैं।
- Q.7 There is more to life than simply increasing its speed.
जीवन में केवल अपनी गति बढ़ाने के अलावा और भी बहुत कुछ है।
- Q.8 Nature is neither a servant nor a master, but a necessary partner.
प्रकृति न तो सेवक है और न ही स्वामी, बल्कि एक आवश्यक सहभागी है।

THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN
SIMPLY INCREASING ITS SPEED

In 3rd Century BCE, Ashoka became the third emperor of Mauryan Empire. He wanted to expand the greatness of his predecessors. In order to do so, he took up the route of conquest and annexation through war. Afterwards, winning war over war, his kingdom was expanding rapidly.

But after winning Kalinga war, he saw thousands of dead bodies lying around. Dead bodies of women, children, monks

उम्मीदवारों को
इस मार्ग में
लिखना नहीं है।
Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

NEXT IAS

etc forced him to ask question that is he really marching towards greatness. And then realized his mistake that there is more to his life and of this empire.

Resultingly, he gave up war based conquest and focussed on welfare, spiritual upliftment, more development through Dhammas. Thus by exploring other forms of his life as emperor, he in true sense became the great Emperor.

This brings us to very simple question 'What is life'. Though question looks simple but answer is not. many ^{has} failed to define it comprehensively. But in this essay we will see various possible contents of it.

For now, all events for an entity between this (her) life and death, collectively can be said as life.

There are few, whose life has not ended even after their death and still exploring

different forms and guiding others like mahatma Buddha, Gandhi etc.

Now, we come to next question that is 'What is speed' and 'what does it mean in context of life'. Here, speed is

moving faster and in context of life

moving faster in any particular sphere

like working day and night to acquire more wealth, or studying throughout the day to attain more knowledge.

Moving ahead, let's explore

why there is need to increase its speed.

So in general an entity increase their

speed when either they are running for

something like wealth or behind something

like 'fast moving world'. As Souder

said 'An unexamined life is not worth

living' so one should continuously focus

on examining their life. As Siddharta

left his home and luxury just to

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

NEXT IAS

increase his speed for attaining the ultimate answers of his questions.

He surrendered everything and meditated for years, only then he attained enlightenment.

In order to excel in any sphere, one has to sacrifice other facets of their life only then they are able to increase its speed. As Scientists get involved in their work so much that they forget everything but it is imperative for invention like life of penance by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Sometime, in order devote their life for welfare of others, ~~one~~ As mother

Teresa left her everything behind and came to India just to speed up her efforts towards well being of leprosy patients.

If we see at community level, then it becomes important in shedding obsolete beliefs and transforming to more

modern belief. This becomes possible only through speed propelled by rationalism, humanitarianism, modern Education etc.

During Socio Religious movement in India only by speeding for value transformation led by Balaram Mohan Ray, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Swami Vivekananda etc

Change in the Society was made possible eg → Sati Abolition^{Act}, Widow Remarriage Act etc.

But, more often speeding in life is ~~fore~~ fore misguided goals, then it has negative repercussions as well. As in today's world, with rising consumerism and materialism, everyone is running for wealth, money and material acquisition. And in this race we forget the saying of Gandhiji, that 'there is enough for everyone's need, but not for everyone's greed'. As a result our greed

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

NEXT IAS

always remain unfulfilled. Thus leading to sorrow' as held by Buddha.

In fact at the Society level, story is same just facet is different. Few Religious communities, are in ~~the~~ hurry of spreading their religion by any means neglecting and other values of compassion and empathy. Christian missionaries during British India ~~exploited~~ ^{manipulated} tribals by saying that through converting into their religion their dismal situation will improve. But it is very much evident that Britishers were only responsible for their dismal state.

Nowadays, in quest for protection against false promises and to overcome relative deprivation, some religious factions take route of high extreme speed that is violence and Terrorist organization like Mulahidden modus operandi is based

on this.

For a Nation^{or Government}, life is development of this country. In ~~this~~ order to achieve this development, Government often takes the path GDP increase at any cost. Hence they focus only on industrialization, investment, consumption expenditure increase neglecting development of remote and marginalized sections. This results in widening inequality (Oxfam Report), women disempowerment, Poverty increase in rural areas.

In fact, for development, ^{Various} countries also take path of Resource exploitation by cutting down trees, excessive mining in ecological sensitive areas. As a result, pollution of Air and water increases, frequency of disasters increases too leading to loss of lives and property.

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

So, rather than just speeding in one domain, we need to focus on 'more of life'. Let's see what this means for an individual. Then, simply it could be spending time with our family as this strengthens our bonding, improves our mental health and provides a sense of calmness in that there is someone to support us in our problems or journey.

Other facet could be focussing on good health, as in hoard of race, we neglect our health and end up having chronic or lifestyle diseases.

NHHS-4 survey said that on an average incidence of lifestyle diseases have advanced by a decade earlier. So by doing exercises, playing sports, doing yoga, following

healthy lifestyle, one can achieve good health.

Next, one can also focus upon helping others. As Mother Teresa ~~had said~~ ^{and} that poverty of love and companionship is more than ~~poor~~ normal poverty. So one should take few time for going to orphanage and spending time with children and should distribute gifts to them. Further one should focus on doing charity as much as possible. This contributes towards inner happiness.

Now again jumping to societal level, communities should focus more developing values of tolerance and respecting and recognizing other's beliefs and practices. This improves social harmony and fosters development for all. As Gandhi also said by having

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

NEXT IAS

Accommodative outlook, Religious harmony can foster.

Similarly at National level, if a government instead of focussing on narrow definition of development, shifts towards inclusive development by giving attention towards poverty and malnutrition reduction, women empowerment, and judicious use of Natural resources, then it can achieve Sustainable development which is more long lasting.

But despite, the positives associated with other forms of life, currently trend is towards speeding only. This is so because of lack of awareness about 'what is life'. As Plato said only good is knowledge and only evil is

Ignorance. Here ignorance has transformed everyone towards evil.

Then there is fat misconception of happiness in the society. All of us try to emulate other's life for happiness but end up staying dissatisfied.. further relative deprivation at ~~com~~ individual, community level coupled with above factors promote us to speed up in life instead of exploring other forms.

So by far we have seen pros and cons of speeding in life, other meaning of ~~life's~~ life's. Additionally seen the current trend of speeding only. Now let's figure out how to stop prevent this narrow outlook of life. For this we need to learn the concept of 'Golden mean' of ~~everything~~ extremes by Aristotle.

Here we need to balance between speeding and other forms. This can be done

NEXT IAS

using our knowledge and wisdom.

In order to develop wisdom,

We need to observe great personalities like Gautam Buddha, Mahatma Gandhi

Then, we should focus on achieving knowledge as held by Plato and experiences

by exploring different meanings of lives,

Just like Ashoka did. Finally we have

to develop contentment inside by staying

happy in whatever we have. So at last

I would say to all that we should stop

take a pause and deep breathe and

think for a while about what we are doing before moving again.
