Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

खण्ड–A / Section-A

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

Q.1 If you look into someone's face long enough, eventually you feel that you are looking into yourself.
यदि आप किसी के चेहरे को काफी देर तक देखते हैं, तो अंततः आपको महसूस होता है कि आप अपने भीतर ही देख रहे हैं।

Q.2 We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.
हम उस बच्चे को आसानी से क्षमा कर सकते हैं जो अंधेरे से डरता है; जीवन की वास्तविक त्रासदी तब होती है जब लोग रोशनी से डरते हैं।

Q.3 It is the province of knowledge to speak and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen.
बोलना ज्ञान का क्षेत्र है और श्रवण करना बुद्धि का विशेषाधिकार है।

Q.4 Drop the question what tomorrow may bring, and count as profit every day that fate allows you.
यह प्रश्न छोड़ दें कि कल क्या हो सकता है, और हर उस दिन को लाभ के रूप में गिनें जो भाग्य आपको अनुमति देता है।

(4.) DROP THE QUESTION WHAT TOMORROW MAY BRING AND COUNT AS PROFIT EVERYDAY THAT FATE ALLOWS YOU

In an interview a shy student asked Ms Dhoni, "How to ensure that I will get good marks?" To this Ms Dhoni replied that one should focus on what's controllable. Does one have control over future? Not that much. But, what's truly in one's control is the Present. So, focus on it to and the future will take

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

care of itself. Doesn't it resonate with the ~~to~~ theme of the essay?

Certainly it does. Life is like a cricket match which must be played delivery after delivery. Each ball is an opportunity to strike and must be played with equal enthusiasm and care. And, there's a high chance one may win. But, is a person able to drop the question of future? If not, why?

FUTURE: CAN'T BE UNSEEN

Human beings are unique in the sense that they possess imagination. A person more than often indulges in day dreaming and wishful thinking. For example, APJ Abdul Kalam used to always talk about how he dreamed to be a fighter pilot.

Also, people think about future

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

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

because the present is full of sufferings. A peek into the future, however unrealistic, can be soothing for the pent up soul. For example, in the movie Shawshank redemption. Andy Dufresne is able to serve his imprisonment only by hoping for a free life.

However, in most of the cases, thoughts about the future arise from ignorance. Vile thinking and squandering away the scarce resource of time in thinking about fake scenarios. This stems from the lack of education which enforces imagined realities.

Now,

Having understood the reasons why one dwells on the future, one can discuss the importance of dropping the question of tomorrow and counting as profit every day that fate allows.

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

INVEST IN PRESENT : PROFIT TOMORROW

Bhagvad Gita has talked about the concept of detachment to goals. This holds relevance because too much thought about the goal which is future can be detrimental to the process today. Further, this thought about future creates desires and if one fails it creates Dukha (sadness) as Lord Buddha says.

Also, it's the process in the present which will give profit and not the thought about future. For example, James Clear says that 1% improvement everyday can make a person 37 times better than at the end of the year. (Book- Atomic Habits). Hence, future can take care of itself.

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

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

Further, future is uncertain. There are so many variables at work and one cannot establish a clear cause-effect relationship. So, it's better to work on one's weaknesses rather than wishful thinking. For example, one doesn't know how IR 4.0 will actually impact the employment landscape. So, it's better to prepare the youth for the future. ~~Eg~~. PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

Also, it's important to build the knowledge and database today for a better predictive capacity about the future. For example, Artificial intelligence is only as good as the data that has been collated. It can help in predicting climate change only if proper data on temperature, pressure etc is available today.

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196_TC062, 17.08.2023 12:54 PM

And, aren't the challenges of the present too much that one can waste time on future? The society is full of hate, malice and prejudices. The ongoing Manipur violence is a living example. How can one think about the future when the houses burn in one's neighbourhood.

Also, present is a gift. Time is money. It's a window of opportunity. One can't let it simply slip away from the hands. For example, Demographic Dividend is an opportunity for India but without action on health & education and skill, Amrit Kaal won't culminate in a developed economy. ~~But~~,

Till this point, one has discussed about the need to be in present and treating it as profit. But, isn't

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

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

living in the present necessity for some people? The poor who struggle to meet their ends meet each and every day can't dare to dream! They are forced to live in the present.

Similar, is the case with our Jawans guarding our frontiers. They do not think about the future. They can't! Because, no one knows which bullet has their name on it today. and they might be martyred for the nation. for example, Captain Vikram Batra who lived in the moment.

However, thinking about the future is visionary in some cases.

PEEK INTO FUTURE : A NECESSITY

Thinking about the future is the essence of sustainable development.

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

The present generation cannot just mindlessly destroy the nature without thinking about those who are yet to come. For example, NITI Aayog's sustainable development index to promote competition towards a healthy future.

Further, a peek into the future ensures preparedness and adaptation to the tides and ebbs that may come. For example, RIMES network — an early warning system in Indian ocean region to reduce impact of Tropical cyclone.

Also, futuristic thoughts can prevent steps that can be called foolhardiness. This can prevent one's own demise. For instance, it was Julius Caesar's

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

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

mistake who went to the Senate dispite the warning of a soothsayer and faced a treacherous back stab.

Having talked about the present, the future, one might complete the eternal flow of time by adding the dimension of the Past. Because, Hutton says - "Past is key to the future". and the insistence of World Economic Forum on past technologies is a testimony to that - for example, use of Persian wind catchers to control urban heat island effect.

Thus, it's important for an individual to fine tune the relevance of past, present and future.

THE PATH AHEAD - MADHYAM MARG

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

It's important for an individual to have the courage to bury the Past; The perseverence to persist & Improve the present and the right attitude to hope for a better future. For instance, Thomas Alva Edison braved his dyslexia, accepted destruction of life's work in fire accident and with a positive attitude said, "we can create something new now".

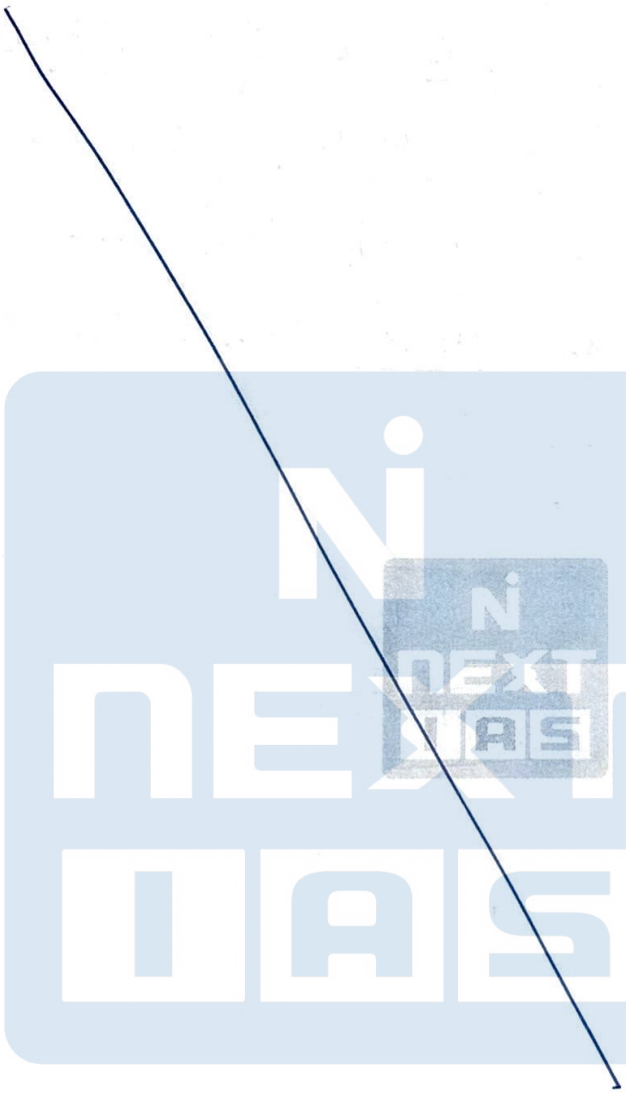
At a societal or a national level, the State must go for education of the masses who can simultaneously balance - 'Virasat par Gaav' (pride in heritage) and 'determination and conviction' for future. - ('Panch Pran'). This can help in fulfilling the fundamental duty in the present.

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

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

Conclusively, one can say that—, "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift ... that's why it's called the present." One must cherish this gift everyday and be thankful for each sunrise one is able to see.

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM



Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

खण्ड–B / Section–B

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

Q.5 Truth, like a torch, the more it is shook, it shines.
सत्य, मशाल की तरह है, इसे जितना अधिक हिलाया जाता है, यह उतना ही चमकता है।

Q.6 Art is I; science is We.
कला मैं है; विज्ञान हम है।

Q.7 Only the dead have seen the end of the war.
केवल मृतकों ने ही युद्ध का अंत देखा है।

Q.8 Act as if it were impossible to fail.
कार्य ऐसे करें जैसे कि विफल होना असंभव ही था।

8. ACT AS IF IT WERE IMPOSSIBLE TO FAIL

When one looks at the vast Geographical expanse between Europe and India, it presents a diversity of physical barriers. But, this challenging geography could not hold back Alexander the Great. He sequentially conquered the Central Asia, Egypt and North Western Indian subcontinent.

He acted as if it were impossible to fail. And, returned back only

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

because his army refused to walk into India. This epitomises sheer grit and guts to follow the path one has thought for himself. But, One may ask, "why to act as if it were impossible to fail?". But, However, before that it's necessary to ask, "why do people fail?" and only then can one value of acting as if it's impossible to fail.

SEEDS OF FAILURE

The first seed of failure is sown in the mind. Men become prisoners of their mind. People simply can't muster the courage and conviction to act. For example, Paris in the Trojan war accepted his defeat and elder brother Hector had to intervene.

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

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

Secondally, the society acts as an impediment. For instance, the chains of caste system act as barrier and people aren't able to muster courage to standup. Eg. in social mobility index - India's rank is 76/82 and people are trapped in a vicious cycle.

Having looked into the internal & external causes of failure one can say that, though there is and will be failure but one can't stop acting: And one of the attitudes to act is to act as if one can't fail. But "why to do so?" "why this attitude in particular?"

ACT AS IF IT WERE IMPOSSIBLE TO FAIL

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

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

Human beings are blessed with reason. He has infinite capacity for enterprise. And, no matter what are the odds, human beings can brave them. If this is the potential of a person then why not act as if it were impossible to fail? For example, Atlas carrying the entire Earth's burden for eternity.

Also, acting as if it were impossible to fail is necessary if one wants to create history. For example, Napolean waged 40 wars in his lifetime and went on no matter what till the Siberia acted as his grave.

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

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

Further, acting in a way that failure is impossible shows leadership. It can act as a benchmark for others and inspire people. For example, Raja Ram Mohan Roy acted as a philosopher king and ushered in India's renaissance. He inspired the next generation like Henry Vivian Derozio.

Consequently, this inspiration in the next generation carries forward the torch of growth and progress. Each person tries to act in a way that failure is impossible and a culture of innovation prospers. Industrial revolution started from Britain & spread across Europe.

Further, acting as if failure is one can fail is necessary in today's

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

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

world which is full of challenges. For example, the huge population needs endless resource for survival and the zest of Zimmerman, "resources don't exist, they are created" is needed. Eg. Elon Musk probing possibility to colonise Mars.

Also, this attitude is needed because failure is not an option. Failure is not a temporary setback. Failure is when stops trying. So, this attitude ensures that failure is used as a stepping stone to success. Eg. discovery of Penicillin after multiple failures.

Further, this attitude is needed for proper utilisation of time. If

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

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

one acts as if one can't fail in the words of William Wordsworth - "If you can fill the unforgiving minute with 60 seconds worth of distance run, your's is the earth and everything that's in it."

However, one may ask, "Is acting as if it were impossible to fail always possible?"

AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW -

Acting as if it were impossible to fail can create unreasonable expectations. Because, failure is a reality. One needs to accept it sometimes and carve out an alternate career path. For instance, APJ Abdul Kalam could not become a fighter pilot so went for research.

Also, acting as if it's impossible to

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

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

fail is'nt everyone's cup of tea. For example, during the freedom struggle, Nehru wanted struggle victory. But, it was Gandhiji's struggle - true struggle that won us victory. This recognises the fact that capacity of mass is limited.

Also, this obsession with not failing creates an exceptionalism where man thinks he's above mother nature. He tries to brave the laws of the nature. and it degrades our environment. Eg. the 9 tipping points of climate change like sealevel rise.

Further, it can promote a rat-race in which the Daridranarayan will be left behind. and a Just society won't be possible Eg. the Dongaria khond tribes faced issues due to

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

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

mining in Niyamgiri hills in Odisha.

Thus,
~~Nevertheless~~, it's important to realise that ~~while~~ accepting failure and pursuing ambition in a sustainable manner is necessary. But, giving up after failure is escapism. and hence the need to ask. "How to go on despite failure?"

LOOKING AHEAD -

Although, the grit and guts to out-endlessly comes from inside. But, it's a person's family which trains him to pursue such a path. Also, it's a person's family that supports in moments of despair. For instance, the UPSC aspirants are able to go on and on due to family support.

Also, it's the society which

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

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

harbours a culture of not giving up dispite failure. For instance, the Jews in Israel are one of the most prosperous dispite environmental and security challenges. It's because of this spirit of persistence.

Lastly, it's on the nation to provide conducive environment for risk taking in the form of safety nets. For instance, India is world's 3rd largest startup ecosystem due to schemes like startup India which promote creative distruction, disruption and development

Conclusively, one can say that the worst what can happen is that one may not achieve his goal. ~~but~~ However, there would be a satisfaction

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

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that he tried till the end. Also, this process of picking up oneself and trying again is the essence of happiness. As Harivansh Rai Bachan says -

"Naash ke Dukh se Nahi
Mit-ta kabhi Nirman ka sukh."

(Destruction causes gloom but can't erase the happiness of building back again).

Hence, the importance of acting as if it is impossible to fail.

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है।
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★★★

Act as if it were impossible to fail — Possibilism

Next IAS Pvt. Ltd. 17-04-2023 11:54 PM

Space for Rough Work

Intro

Alexander the Great.

Q. Ingredient for Possibilism?

Q. Act as if impossible to fail?

Q. Is it sustainable?

Stepping stone

Art. impossible to fail — ? to avoid doomsday for humanity. — social welfare.

- Immunman → resources multiplication for new discoveries.
- growth & success.
- Inspiration & leadership: (entrepreneurship.
- Time is running.
- Ambition & personal satisfaction.
- failure not an option.

Is it sustainable?

Concl^n — Greater the Risk Greater the Reward. And even if we fail... failed bytter.

1. Rat Race. - Big Tech
2. Poorest of the Poor - Talisman.
3. Capacity of masses.
4. enviro degradn.

Ingredients for this?

- Attitude — failure not an option.
- Internal. Role of family — Kalam
  - Role of educn — AIM — entrepreneurial spirit.
- External — Role of Nation.
  - barbell.
  - agile approach — safety net.

Next IAS ID: PTTP220196, TC062, 17-08-2023 12:54 PM

Drop the Q what tomorrow may bring and count as profit everyday that fate allows you. → living in the present.

Past
Present
future

Q. why the preoccupance with future? club
Q. why not sticking with present? **Space for Rough Work**
Q. why not think about future & live in present?
Q. But, it's imp to think about future as well?
Q. Don't forget about the past?
Q. Balance it.
Q. Concln.

Intro → Gita.

1. Future not Present why? → ignorance lack of wisdom & wishful thinking. → suffering to avoid it by thinking (tve). → Hope - Shawshank redemption.

Seed to cedar

2. not Think about future but live in present? ? for some it's anxiety (poor) ✓ Balance it (WF)

Attachment → with result → Dukh (Gita) & (A-J) & (DM).
Overwhelming bogged down by expectn.
3. Present opportunities can be lost → MS Dhoni.
4. No one knows about future - build youth for future. - (PMKVY).
5. Present weaknesses ↓ → social evils

1. Internal. - Edison -
→ courage to bury the past
→ perseverance to convey with present
→ tve attitude for future.

2. External - Japan - Meiji restora
- society - past greatness ✗.
- present - weaknesses ✗.
- future - kingdom of Ends.

6. Janus clear: process → future taken care off.

6. 'Time is money'.

3. Imp to think about future?

1. Vision → inspirn: Amrit kaal (Path).
2. ~~Preparedness~~ Taking for (CC) → disaster: climate change (INDCs).
3. Foolhardiness - Julius Caesar soothsayer.
4. Lehmann brothers collapse

Concln - Oogway Quote -

4. Past - Hutton - Past is key to the future " learn from it
WEF on Baolis.

~~Time is money~~ - It's

Intro -