

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।

DROP THE QUESTION WHAT TOMORROW MAY BRING,
AND COUNT AS PROFIT EVERYDAY THAT FATE ALLOWS
YOU

In a lush green forest of Amazon, two young brotherly deers were enjoying their lunch on delicious grassland. After enjoying their lunch to the fullest, they went on to satisfy their thirst on a nearby marshy pond. While the overjoyous one, ^{with} due to his over satisfied soul was enjoying the water with peace and calm, But on

NEXT IRS

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

the other hand the other deer was a bit nervous. He was constantly looking for a predator or a hunter. His ~~other~~ anxiety was not letting him enjoy his drink. As because his all concentration ~~on~~ was on the predator he forget to take care of the slippery slope on the edge of pond. He slipped into the marshy pond and got stuck there. The other one was helpless while his brother was stuck in the marshland. Eventually, a hungry tiger found a dinner served on his plate, leading to end of the overcautious deer.

What this story teaches us?

Why the deer despite being cautious about the predator fell pray to him? You we may argue that it was written in his destiny. may be true. But had he lived whatever life he had to the fullest? The answer is absolute 'NO'!

He lived all his life thinking about the tomorrow / next moment rather than enjoying the today / present moment. In this essay we will try to analyse the importance of today, or what it takes to focus on today and how we can develop that habit of living in the moment. In the end we will try to analyse, like whom should we live our life? Like the overjoyous deer or the overcautious one.

TODAY IS A BLESSING

What is the first thought that comes to our mind after waking up? It must be about the plan for whole day. The meetings, the targets, the seminars and what not! But how many of us wake up and think that I got to see one more morning and I must be thankful for that?

In our fast paced life, filled with deadlines, achievement to achieve at this age or that age, we forget to acknowledge the importance that today hold in our life. If we do not enjoy our today, how can we enjoy the tomorrow for which we are working hard?

The western stoic philosophy has beautifully talked about the 'present moment'. If we focus on the present moment with all our senses being conscious, then only we will be able to live our life to its fullest potential. It is rightly said that, "All what we have is today!"

If we take care of ourselves today, without questioning what tomorrow may bring, then we will be doing justice to the individual that lives in our body. This type of thinking will take us to greater heights in life.

IMPORTANCE OF TODAY

There is a famous phrase in America - 'you only live once' or ~~that~~ rather '#YOLO' on twitter. This signifies that you might not get another chance to live the life of a human again. As per Indian philosophy, you may get seven births, but the chance of being born as a human, comes only once. Hence we should strive hard to enjoy the every single second we have got in borrowing from the God!

All of us know about the young, dynamic wicketkeeper of Indian cricket team - RISHABH PANT. One of his latest post on instagram was ~~at~~ like this - "Even brushing teeth or having a shower is a blessing". What made him think like this? Well, Few months ago he had a deadly accident, which almost was about to take him away. But fortunately he survived. That incident made him realise that apart from glory

farme, chasing targets, ~~the~~ whatever we have today is nothing sort of a blessing.

We all borrow our life span from the God. Whatever may be written in our fate, eventually that will happen. What matters is, if we are doing what we are supposed to do today. * Lord Krishna in chapter 2, verse 47 of BHAGVATGITA while advising Arjuna talks,

" karmanye vadhita restu ma phaleshu
kadachan! "

that is, we must do our duty without any expectation of tomorrow. If we do honest effort today, eventually we will be rewarded tomorrow. There is no doubt about it. Hence rather than focusing on the question of tomorrow, we must enjoy our today.

We all are familiar with the story of our former ~~time~~ President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. If he would have kept thinking about the

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

tomorrow while sitting in the small village of Rameshwaram, he would not have achieved what he. Instead he focused on every life journey which was offered on his dish and enjoyed every ebb & flow with the same taste.

This is what true life is!
this is what life is all about! To keep concentrating on the Barfi served on your plate rather than thinking about the Gulab Jamun.

DON'T THINK ABOUT TOMORROW TO RUIN YOUR BEAUTIFUL PRESENT.

What is the real meaning of living a good virtuous life? We have heard about the story of great Gandhian politician of post-independence era - K. Kamraj - He was the chief minister of Tamilnadu. When he died, all he had was Rs 130 in his bank account. He did not even had a house of his own. But throughout his life, he focused every

day on doing what was expected from him as a leader. It was because of his effort that Tamilnadu saw a jump in literacy rate from 18% to 67% within a decade. Had he focused on collecting the wealth for his tomorrow, Tamilnadu would have remained poor. Rather than focusing on tomorrow, he enjoyed his today.

Thus, what is important is how you execute your today without thinking for the future. Along with it, we must constantly acknowledge that our life is transient. It is at the mercy of God. Hence whatever time we have we must spend it in doing virtuous work for the others. While doing so, we will be enjoying our today with lot more satisfaction and in this journey we discover ourselves in a better manner.

Mahatma Gandhi^{ji} always used to say 'service to others is the mirror we look into ourselves'. It helps us

understand the real goal of life. It ~~is~~ was never about acquiring worldly property or material pleasure. It is and always will be about the satisfaction of our immortal soul. If your soul is happy then only ~~well~~ we will be enjoying our every moment.

Even in times of adversity we should not panic or should start becoming more conscious about the future. All we need is hope. Hope is a good thing, infact the best of things. It helps us to focus on the controllables at our hand rather than questioning about what tomorrow may offer. There is a famous dialogue in the Hollywood movie 'Castaway',

"I must keep breathing, And wait for the sunrise. And who knows what the new tide will have to offer me!"

This is the attitude all the successful carry on their shoulders. Be it sports persons like Kobe Bryant or entrepreneurs like Elon Musk, all they do is work hard today without thinking about the ups and down of ~~tomorrow~~ tomorrow.

DOES TOMORROW EVEN MATTER?

Yes it do. While all the while we are talking about focusing on the present moment, yet tomorrow has its own significance. Think of a scenario, suppose a family spent whatever they earned in a day on that day itself. No savings. Eventually, ~~when~~ when the 'tsunami' of bad phase will strike, be it in form of health or unemployment or any other, the family will collapse like a stack of cards.

Hence it is equally important to plan for tomorrow, have career goals, do financial investment, seek for career opportunities, etc, etc. Every thing is

perfectly fine. We can not leave everyth-
-ing with a fatalistic attitude on God.

- Even god helps those who help themselves.

It is our moral responsibility as a homo sapien to use our thinking capacity

to plan for the tomorrow. It helps us to reduce the 'uncertainties' of the future

If we control what is controllable, then the impact a uncontrollable can have ~~at~~ on our life, can be minimised.

There is a famous law ~~in~~ which operates in the cosmos. The 'law of attraction' If we manifest and strive hard to achieve whatever goal we have, ~~we~~ ultimately we will achieve it. After all,

'What we sow today, will sprout tomorrow'.

Thus there is no harm in planning or thinking about tomorrow. What we should keep in mind is that, it should not come at the cost of today. We have to build an attitude

like the one Robert Frost talk about in one of his poem,

"If you can gather all your winnings
And stake it, on a toss of a coin;
And lose everything And start again,
From beginning, without making a fuss
about it."

This kind of attitude will help us to focus on today along with a plan for tomorrow. And that is what one should strive for. Rather than going for the extreme behaviours of our deers, we must strive to take a middle path! Yes, Buddha's middle path!

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

खण्ड-B / Section-B

उम्मीदवारों को
इस भाग में
लिखना नहीं 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।

TRUTH, LIKE A TORCH, THE MORE IT IS SHOOK,
IT SHINES

A young 15 year old girl visited a reputed BABA's ashram for cure of her chronic illness. It was her parents' faith on the Baba, which could not deny. While her stay at the Ashram for about fifteen days, the Baba took disadvantage of his position in the ashram and repeatedly raped the innocent child. When the girl decided to expose the Baba in court of law, the mighty Baba with all his money-muscle, power tried to shook the victim. He also tried to bribe the judge sitting on the

case. But ultimately the Baba fell short by all sort against the indomitable will of the girl to save thousands of girl child to become victims like her.

This is the storyline of recently released film 'Sirf Ek Banda Kaafi Hai' meaning only one person is enough to shook the mighty. Truth however dark or at disadvantage it is, will find a way like a light, to shine someday like a hot overhead sun! No matter how many burdles, it will have to pass, it will make its way right through the air or water.

Truth is like an torch, no matter how we hold it, in which angle we hold it, in which direction we hold it, it will always give a bright light. Truth will have ~~an~~ a halo 'HALO' around it. In this essay we will try to find out through various examples, how Truth Alone Triumphs!

TRUTH - A BEAM OF LIGHT

What is truth? Why it is rare in today's world? Well truth is like gold hence it is rare. It is the quality of being honest and speaking out the right facts. It is a value ~~neutral~~ that leads to virtuous character. It helps the person to live a life full of honest deeds and satisfaction.

Truth is like a light, which shows or guide a person in his way of life. It is a reliable partner one ~~could~~ can trust, in all seasons of life be it autumn or spring. If you are on the side of truth, history suggest, you will come out victorious.

In Mahabharata, the epic battle between Kaurava and Pandava, we all know ~~th~~ how Pandava came out victorious in the end, despite facing humane challenges in the course of war. Kaurava tried to shake the truth by their treacherous strategies which defied the rajdharm, yet in the end

truth shined like the ~~brilliant~~ brightest star in the sky. And one can bet that this brightest star will not be covered by the sudarshan chakra of the all encompassing Lord Krishna! Such is the power of truth!

In the similar way, Ram, the 'Purushottam', meaning the virtuest man born on this universe, ~~at~~ also fought for truth. He went on to exile for 14 years just to keep his father's promise. Because he knew that the promise made was true, and it is his dharma being the purushottam to uphold the truth. Because of the virtuous men like Lord Krishna and Lord Ram, India is often called as the 'cradle of truthful life'.

A truthful life is a life which has no place for any kind of forgery. Mahatma Gandhiji in his book 'My Experiments with Truth' rates truth as the single most valuable value one

should possess. He often used to say that 'you will often find me, where truth is!'

such was the identity for himself he had made! Despite criticism from the revolutionaries, pressure from extremist, he did not chose the path commonly followed. He took the one less travelled by. The path of truth and non-violence. With simple 'phadi' and 'Boli' (truthful speaking), he won independence for India.

It is obvious to talk about Nelson Mandela if one talks about Gandhiji. The man who idolised Gandhiji, was prisoned for about 10,000 days. Still it did not ~~shape~~ ^{shape} his moral. He continued his protest against the Apartheid regime and in the end emerged victorious. One can not deny his virtuous character by the fact that he did not reliated against the white people and gave them equal say when he become the President of South Africa.

This is what a value of truth does to you. It has a spillover effect on all your other values. It makes your decision making process easy. John F Kennedy rightly said: 'It is easy to make a decision when you know the truth'

An army of virtuous people will always align to the side of truth. But is aligning or upholding the truth is so simple?

TRUTH - A PATH FULL OF THRONES

It is not easy to uphold the truth all the times. History has taught us how difficult it is to walk on the path of truth.

Savitribai Phule, a staunch social reformer from Pune, was firm believer in the topic of women's education. She knew, education alone will ~~emp~~ emancipate the women from responsibility of a child and a hearth. But her truth was not acceptable to the then society. They used to throw cowdung at her,

when she started teaching the girls. But eventually her truth triumphed! Now we all know the gross enrollment of women is higher than male in higher education in India.

It takes lot of courage to walk the talk and talk the truth at first place. If you are not ready to face the opposition then you might not be able to hold the truth for a long. Our very popular social reformer Anna Hazare, throughout his life talked about truth and good governance. It was because of his 'Anti corruption movement', today India has an office of Lokayukta to check corruption.

His path was not easy. He had to take fast unto death at the Ramlika Madan to make his truth reach the deaf ears of then government. Hence Gandhiji called satyagraha as the practice of a brave. It is not for a coward. The path has many slippery slopes, it is your integrity which will determine

which flag you will hold in the end.

TRUTH ALWAYS FINDS A WAY

However, difficult it is, to walk on the path of truth; but if one sticks to it, it will make a way out. Today or tomorrow it will come to light. Because the 'sheep life of a lie is very shallow'. The lie which blocked the way of truth, will sooner or later will have to vacate it.

Everyone knows about the commonwealth scam of 2010. It was a massive, supermassive in terms of the money as well as the people involved in it. But despite their influential position, the truth prevailed. The corruption got exposed. and guilty were punished.

Let in the bollywood movie 'Chhapaak' - a story of an acid ~~stunt~~ attack survivor victim is shown. Despite facing mountainous challenges right from home to the supreme court, she along with

her indomitable partner 'the truth' fought for the justice. and made sure that the court passes the order banning over the counter sell of acid

In the same way, a sixteen year young girl Greta Thunberg, protested outside the parliament to make them listen her truth. The truth about the current happening - The climate change. It is due to her indomitable will power that the world take its attention towards the issue of climate change.

It takes a will power of a mammoth size to fight for truth. Despite several challenges on the way, ~~if~~ no one can ~~defeat~~ defeat you unless you yourself bow down!. The famous hind phrase summarise this in apt way

Satya parashan ho sakta hai;
Parajet nahi!

meaning, truth can may have to face adversity but it will not get defeated at any cost.

NOT EVERY TRUTH SHINES

We talked about how truth finds its way even in a bare rocky desert. But we can not ignore the fact that not every truth is heard. Many of them go unnoticed. It took nearly 23 years for the world to acknowledge the truth which our scientist Prof. Nambiyar was telling. Whole India treated him like a treacher despite being a patriot.

In the same manner, ~~we~~ it was a shameful day to call ourselves as an Indian, when a video of a woman being naked and gangraped by the mob in Manipur, surfaced the internet. It took nearly two months (60 days of continuous mental horror) for the government to acknowledge the plight of the women.

Is this is what truth made for? We often hear the ~~phrase~~ phrase, 'Justice delayed is justice denied'

who will answer the children of the tribal people who were acquitted ~~as~~ from the offence for which they were serving a sentence ~~from~~ from last 6 years? They lost their six years without committing anything wrong.

A heap of cases of rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment of transgenders go unnoticed because of the lack of proper implementation of laws. Is it the sole responsibility of the individual to have an indomitable will like the girl in our story? What is the role of a state here?

A state should strive to walk on the path which our father of nation has walked. It should take every possible action to facilitate and make sure that truth is not strucked in a traffic jam. It is states responsibility to make a way for the truth. Only then we will see the truth shining like a torch, no matter how many

times and how hard it is shaken!

To conclude, only if we work collectively as a citizen and government, we will be able to

make a virtuous society full of truth.

Yes, this 'Sirf Ek Banda Kafi Hai'

(only one man is enough) but what if we make an army of such Bande?

(man/women)

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

N
NEXT
IAS