

खण्ड-A / Section-A

उम्मीदवारों को
इस मार्ग में
लिखना नहीं 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।

① If you look into someone's face long enough, eventually you feel that you are looking into yourself.

Once a very famous Sufi saint was busy teaching his disciples the meaning of patience, devotion and reflection. A drunkard came from nowhere and began disturbing them. The disrespect of their teacher angered the disciples and they began hitting the drunkard. The disciples eventually killed the drunkard though not intentionally as

they were charged by their anger. On seeing this the saint asked the disciples if they have learnt anything from his lessons. The disciples said that they have learnt a lot and expressed their gratitude for his guidance. The famous saint then posed a question for them - "That drunkard behaved disrespectfully due to the effect of alcohol. However, you behaved more like him without being drunk and after all the knowledge that you have gained. What does it mean?"

The disciples recognised the futility of their knowledge and felt remorse for their action. The saint remarked that we are all reflections of each other - whether good or bad. It is within ourselves. The famous saint teaching the disciples this important lesson was the medieval philosopher & saint Jalaluddin Rumi.

This incident reflects the essence of the given topic. That is, we are reflected into others and they reflect us. However, we need to ask the question, why this happens? What are the different manifestations of it across time and space? How to use such reflections for the benefit of everyone? Let us delve into it one by one.

We as an individual are part of the society, we ~~let~~ live in. We reflect the same cultures and traditions learnt across time. This can be seen in our acceptance of a higher role for men and subordinate role for women in society. We fight for equality in public sphere. But have we ever looked into ourselves - our values, our traditions? Discrimination faced by women and girl child is a reflection

of the mentality we harbour that men's role is more supreme in society than women.

This even permeates the political institutions where we see more men in leadership positions than women. For instance, in India, where 50% of the population is women we have only around 14% as Members of Parliament. Why we may ask. Because we do not even think of giving leadership role to women at home. It is only a reflection of our thinking.

Similarly, we see huge discrimination against the Dalits. They are considered fit for manual scavengers but not others. Why despite existence of a law to prevent such practices, the issue of manual scavenging is still prominent? The answer lies in the fact that we are believing

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

in the caste system and think of them as superior - How can we expect an egalitarian society when division exists in our mind. Tolerance of discrimination must be ~~demolished~~ demolished to fight against such discrimination.

Further, in our society there is a culture of respecting affluence. This leads to individual members to indulge in corruption and not feel guilty about it. Sociological thinker, Kaushik Basu terms it Sanskritisation of corruption. We feel that it would bring affluence in society. However, the opposite happens, with social division and gaps increasing between the haves and have nots. This does not get reflected only in society but also in politics.

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

The increasing prevalence of 'criminalisation of politics' in India is a result of corruption tolerance in society. More than 40% of the members of parliament are facing criminal charges (Association for Democratic Reforms report). It is a reflection of ourselves. We tolerate corruption and corruption breeds criminals. This ^{not} only disturbs political harmony but promotes social apathy.

Further, the rising cases on communalisation of Indian society is due to our inability to cultivate the value of tolerance. Deep down we feel antagonism towards other religions which eventually reflects in society. Society is made of communal individuals that's why it is communal.

Moving on to the international sphere, there has been a war ongoing between Russia and Ukraine since last year. The war is a reflection of the moral values we held as nation-states. We all vouch for peace ~~in~~ but develop the best of weapons - ~~that~~ what a hypocrite we are. There is incongruence between the things we preach and things we practice.

Also, in our dealings with the environment, we all preach for conservation and give lofty objectives for oneself. But, where has that led us to? We are close to an 'anthropocene extinction' due to our ~~big~~ disregard for our mother nature. Environmental degradation is only a reflection of the ~~no~~ value of never ending greed we have.

However, it is not only that all the negative reflections of others are in ourselves or vice versa. There is also examples of good reflections permeating in our world.

For instance, we may highlight the work of Santibai Phule & Mother Teresa who worked for the downtrodden in society. Their concern reflected the value of care and humanity prevailing within us and society.

Moreover, our accommodation of differences ~~is~~ among us such as the gender orientation of LGBTQ+ community reflects our values of respect and humanity with care and concern for others.

In conclusion, we must all strive for a virtuous living by practicing and imbibing ethical values such as compassion, care and humanity to ensure

human flourishing. As Bertrand Russell
says 'It is co-existence or no existence
at all'.

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



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



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



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



खण्ड-B / Section-B

उम्मीदवारों को
इस माग 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।

⑤ 'Truth, like a torch, the more it is shook, it shines'

Towards the end of the 19th century, Indian educated elites led by Dadabhai Naoroji & R.C. Dutt exposed the nature of the British rule in India. They explained how the Britishers were looting India by giving the 'Drain Theory'. The Britishers tried hard to suppress such a narrative through various means. One of it was bringing in the Indian Councils Act, 1891 to show that they cared much for

the Indians. However, inside the council also, Indian legislators exposed the ulterior motive of the Britishers.

Indian intellectuals and educated elite eventually became successful in bringing forth the truth that the Britishers were ruling in their favour only and not concerned with the Indian subjects. Despite multiple attempts across years to shake the truth, the Britishers failed eventually resulting in the triumph of the truth which shone bright in the midnight of 15th August 1947 as India got independence.

History is replete with examples of the triumph of truth, be it the civil rights movement in U.S.A, be it the apartheid regime in South Africa or the idea of imperialism across the world. But, the question is, why is it that truth always shines

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

at the end. what qualities have truth got that its triumph becomes inevitable?
Let us explore.

Truth represents the ultimate reality and is devoid of any fallacies in itself which makes it possible to shine the brightest. Let's take the example of women's movements across the world. By the mid-1950s women became enlightened by the truth that they were not being included in the developmental paradigm. Such realisation gave rise to call for the right to Equality across the world. They highlighted the truth that patriarchal society has been subjugating women leading to their subjugation ~~subjug~~ subordination.

The MeToo movement in present times only echoes such a subjugation & discrimination. Despite attempts from across

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

sections of society the recognition of the equality of men & women has shone eventually

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

Back home, in India, we are seeing the rising voice of the LGBTQ community who have been neglected socio-economically and politically till now. The Preamble of our constitution highlights the aspiration of 'fraternity'.

However, the truth is that the LGBTQ+ community were never considered a part of that fraternity and that truth is shining bright now.

Moreover, truth exposes the inherent contradictions existing in our society.

Though we claim ^{that} we have progressed well but the truth is that there is stark

inequality existing in our society. This truth even shines brighter as exemplified by

the World Inequality Report. According to this report, the top 10% of the population own more than 80% of the world's wealth.

Even in the negotiations being held to conserve the environment, there has been attempt to shake the truth that we are exploiting it. However, nature itself tried to shine upon that truth as seen in the rise of extreme events climate events across the world. The heatwaves across Europe or the devastating floods in China provides ample evidence of the truth that we are not conserving our environment.

Moving on to geopolitics, we are seeing increasing spending in military and arms across the world (SIPRI report). Also, the rise of nuclear arsenals among the nuclear powers is evident of the truth that weapons do not create deterrence. Despite many claims that it would bring deterrence the opposite has happened as seen in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Oppenheimer, the creator of the atom bomb, had hoped that the bomb would make everyone fear of war and lead to deterrence. But instead, it led to a nuclear arms race to create hegemony on others.

Now let us delve into the Indian polity. There has been claims that the decentralisation of power has been undertaken till the grassroots levels. Through the 73rd & 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts. However, the truth reflects a different narrative. There has been rise of prony Pradhan and Sarpanch pati as seen in the recent case of Sarpanch pati taking oaths in Madhya Pradesh. So, has there been real transfer of power to the grassroots? The truth tells a different story.

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

Similarly, there has been a claim that India has moved on from the shackles of colonialism. However, the reality is different. The truth is that India ~~has~~ inherited not only colonial structures but also values. This can be exemplified by the existence of 'bureaucratic elite' in Indian administration. Though we may try to shake this truth, it will only shine brighter unless we make changes to it.

Thus, truth shines the brightest eventually. But, the bigger question is what to do to ensure that it shines even when it is not shaken.

Firstly, as an individual we should examine ourselves for our faults and welcome criticisms. This would ensure that ~~individuals~~ we become

aware of the truth of ourselves. It would help in fighting the idiosyncracies we have and make us a better individual. Clinging to truth would help us in leading a moral life.

Secondly, we as a society should always stand by the side of truth. This would enable us to achieve justice for all & fight prejudices and stereotypes effectively. A more ethical society can be envisioned if we stick to the truth without shaking it.

Lastly, at national and international level we need to pursue truth so that human suffering is mitigated. It would also enable us to live in harmony with the environment. Only reflecting upon the truth would

ensure human prosperity.

As said by ^{Swami} Vivekananda once

6 Anything can be substituted for truth but
Truth cannot be substituted by anything."

we must all pursue truth and

reflect on it.



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



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



