

खण्ड-A / Section-A

उम्मीदवारों को
इस भाग में
लिखना नहीं 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.

Very recently, Google commemorated the birth anniversary of an Indian scientist via a Google Doodle. Apart from being a woman in a male dominated profession in the pre-independence era, she faced discrimination and discouragement from all corners of the society. Her application of masters was rejected on account of her having been a woman. Taking all obstacles in her stride, she turned a deaf ear to the negative remarks and completed her

masters as an associate student, with distinction. Thereafter she completed her PhD from Cambridge in less than twelve months, being the first person to do so in such a small span of time. The woman here is, Miss. Namale Sohoni. She later went on to get several awards and accolades for her discoveries & research.

Had she paid attention to the remarks of the crowd, or to the obstacles presented by life in the form of initial failures, she wouldn't have been able to be a 'leader' and 'role model' for women in the field of science and technology. This is only evidence of the fact, how one who wishes to lead the orchestra, must turn ~~at~~ his back on the crowd.

In this write up, we will discuss about the meaning of 'leading the orchestra' and 'turning one's back on to the crowd'. We will explore the various situations where the same

has been done by individuals, societies, nations across dimensions. We will further understand how the same is not an absolute dictum. Further, we will learn about the challenges posed and the solutions available for such a pursuit.

'Leading the Orchestra' would mean occupying a leadership position or leading by example.

It can mean achieving an unprecedented feat or being the pursuit of one. In such a pursuit, one may face distractions. There may be adversaries or naysayers who may dissuade one from his path. The leader in order to focus on his orchestra and for the smooth conduct of the same, needs to stay aloof and unaffected of such adverse opinions. Thus, 'crowd' has to be ignored, to do justice to one's avocations.

This crowd may not only be people, but also obstacles such as economic circumstances, that is, poverty. Crowd in the figurative sense can also mean one's own inhibitions.

and apprehensions. It may mean historical disadvantages or the curve balls of life.

'Turning one's back to the crowd' thus essentially means to focus on one's pursuit, irrespective of whether it is at an individual level, social level or national level, without paying heed to anything that may pull oneself away from realising one's true potential.

If we observe our country's rich past, we can observe that the leaders of freedom struggle were dissuaded with the "carrot and stick" policy of the British. Not only did they face repression via the Press Act & Newspapers Act which inhibited their freedom of speech, but they also faced imprisonment via draconian laws like Rowlatt's Act. Massacres as that of Jallianwala Bagh, deportation of leaders like Ajit Singh, lathi charge to murder of Lala Lajpat Rai, even death penalty to Bhagat Singh and his comrades were granted. Yet, none of this diverted the leaders from

NEXT IAS

Their pursuit of achieving freedom for the nation. They were busy conducting the orchestra of achieving freedom without paying too much ~~do~~ attention to ~~the~~ what was happening around.

Thus to achieve unprecedented victory, one needs to adopt a stoic approach. To exemplify, 'rags to riches' stories of the recently "shot to fame" ~~of~~ cricketers like Yashasvi Jaiswal, who ~~was~~ ^{used to} live in a tent at a cricket stadium while selling "pau puri" to being inducted into the cricket teams, tells us the importance of 'self belief'. Such a strong self belief is not possible without turning one's back to the countless people in the crowd who lack that belief in oneself.

The same was the case with that of renowned successful individuals who have left a mark in the pages of history. The Wright brothers, on intimating their desire to be "able to fly", were asked to leave flying to the birds. "Even the famous

child fiction writer J.K. Rowling, faced rejections from countless places before publishing her first novel of Harry Potter, which was an astounding success. Famous scientists like that of Edison, who failed a thousand times before electric bulb was a reality, show the power of "trying". ~~while~~ Edison said that you do not fail until you keep trying. This trial will not be effective if one lets one's inhibitions get the better of him.

The path of leadership is replete with challenges. For instance, Galileo was persecuted for believing that the earth was spherical. Steve Jobs, Apple founder, was removed from his own company. Aryna faced the mighty dilemma of picking up arms against his own kith & kin. Even Lincoln, faced several failures before he could finally become President. It was the case with our President, Miss. Pranab Mukherjee, who battled the despite

NEXT IAS

exclusion disability of being a woman, tribal, belonging to a backward region to become the first tribal President of the Country. ^{would} ~~can~~ These leaders have been successful had they paid heed to the crowd?

It is said that to tread a thousand miles one has to start with a small step. Such a small step was undertaken by Vikram Sarabhai and APJ Abdul Kalam with initiation of a satellite on a cycle in Thumba, Kerala. This eventually led to the establishment of ISRO and the rest is history! This wouldn't have been possible without turning their back to the crowd.

Leadership entails taking strong decisions without getting swayed by external opinion. For instance, India's policy of strategic autonomy and issue based alignment has been met with criticism at several international fora. However, in order to be a leader of the "Global South", India

Indians at
40 min 3
Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

has had to turn its back and censure its Orchestra of "Vasudena kutumbakam".

Even environmental movements such as that of chipko & appiko, ~~and~~ or tribal movements as that of Niyangiri ~~and~~ were focussed and concentrated in their approach. The strength of force of the adverse side did not deter them.

~~This shows that~~ However, it cannot be said that the "crowd" serves no good purpose at all. Feedback forms the crucial part of a performance. Similarly, dissent, debate and discussion form crucial aspects of a thriving democracy. The reason for non-sustenance of autocracies and toppling of such despotic institutions as that of Hitler or Mussolini is the absence of consultative mechanisms with the "crowd".

Amartya Sen in his book The Argumentative Indian, emphasises on the importance of 'dissent' in a society. The same has been historically seen in the Chandogya Upanishad,

wherein the debates of Yajñalkya and Yāgyi have been hailed.

Thus, while it is important to lead in a focussed manner, it may also be wise to take feedback and opinions of people & stakeholders. It is the absence of this, that has caused resentment and resulted into French Revolution, Russian Revolution etc. internationally and maoism & secessionist demands like khaki movement nationally.

Even in the multilateral sphere, the monopolisation of the international institutions by the Permanent 5 without paying heed to the interests of the developing and least developed states has given rise to the clarion call of reformed multilateralism.

Thus, it is perhaps safe to say that while one should remain unaffected in one's pursuit of and shouldn't be affected by externalities, one should take stock of criticism and opinions to stay on track.

उम्मीद है कि
इस मार्ग में
निर्देशना प्राप्त है।
Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

The path of leading without paying attention to the crowd is however not an easy one. In today's world, which is centred around social media & information technology, one can easily be swayed and distracted by opinions. This has been affected one's attention span.

Further, there is a lack of empathy and value system in the present world. While one is supposed to be focussed and disciplined, it can't be at the cost of basic humanitarian principles. Values like emotional intelligence, compassion, honesty lie in the heart of a successful leadership role.

This lack of value system can be evidenced with the rampant corruption and greed being witnessed in the society. In order to climb the social and economic ladder people often ignore the social interests, which happen to be the crowd in such a case.

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

On the flip side, taking up a crucial role has brought fair share of harm to people. ~~Administration like~~ People like Satyendra Dubey who exposed the NDAI scam or Edward Snowden who was the whistleblower faced the brunt of the fearless and focussed approach that they had.

In such a scenario, it is crucial to understand one's true purpose. To deal with the lack of focussed approach and concentration, one needs to practise mindful meditation. In order to deal with the lack of value system, one needs to adopt role modelling. With the right soulisation, individually a person can attain empathy and compassion and take up responsible leadership positions. At the national level, for a country the public interest and national interest are to be paramount.

However, in a society in order to have a peaceful coexistence, it is important to adopt balancing of interests by the

Stakeholders, rather than having a unilateral approach.

Compliance of laws, strengthening of enforcement systems can enable the adequate orchestration by leaders. Adequate social environment, where talent is promoted, honesty is respected, creativity is appreciated, will enable those who want to lead the orchestra to do so without having to be afraid of the crowd.

The formation of a holistic ecosystem at the family, social, national, international level, can enable world's aspiring leaders to fulfill their agenda and make the world a better place to live in.

TEXT IAS

खण्ड-B / Section-B

- Q5 International Trade is a good indicator of National Security.
अंतराष्ट्रीय व्यापार राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा का एक अच्छा सूचक है।
- Q6 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।
- Q7 There is more to life than simply increasing its speed.
जीवन में केवल अपनी गति बढ़ाने के अलावा और भी बहुत कुछ है।
- Q8 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।

उम्मीद है कि
इस मार्ग में
लिखने में है।
Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

It is not that we use technology, we live technology

"Technology serves as a great servant but an extremely ~~the~~ vile master", it is exclaimed.

Young Richa read out this quote to her grandfather while he had his evening tea.

"Why is it so?", she asked. Her grandfather

questioned her about the hue and cry about "ChatGPT" that he read about in

the newspapers lately. She cheekily replied

that perhaps it made her homework easy

and that she did not have to "think"

about or worry about any topic anymore.

Her grandfather, whilst answering her question,

exclaimed, that while the recent innovation served her as a good servant in helping her with tasks and homeworks, the very instant it captures her mind and dilutes her "thinking" powers, it turns into a vile master. Richa, while listening quite intently, then summarised what she understood saying, "So I should ~~to~~ use technology, without letting technology use me?", to which her grandfather nodded.

While this conversation seems banal, considering one is aware that technology has become all pervasive, however, why do we even need to have this conversation these days? Perhaps it is because, we aren't using technology anymore, we are LIVING IT.

In the following paragraphs, we will understand about how did we come to "live" technology ~~that~~ from using it, while seeing it's all pervasiveness. We will then

observes the ~~benefit~~ of the challenges of the same and the silver lining accompanying it. We will lastly observe what can be done to remedy the demerits of the transformation.

It is said that "necessity is the mother of all invention". Perhaps, it is this necessity that drove our quest of technology. Paleolithic man learnt how to make fire by rubbing two stones, while that is an exemplification of the simplest of technology, soon moving from microlithic tools of the neolithic man to wooden cart wheeled ~~boards~~ ploughs of the Indus Valley civilisation, man started developing technology to ease his living.

The modern man further advanced the development of technology from the spinning jenny in the first Industrial Revolution to the predominance of AI and Big data in the fourth industrial revolution (IR 4.0).

How, though, did this shift in manpower friendly to intelligence friendly technology take place?

Initially, we wanted to be able to "connect" and it is this urge that led to the creation of ARPANET that enabled the connecting of computers over a network, while computers were originally made to help us with calculations, so that we can focus on the higher order thinking, soon more could be achieved by them. Subsequently, with the advent of internet age and huge amount of data available online, monetisation and ^{possibility of} manipulating of the data to serve greater ends led to Bigdata. Utilisation of technology to then emulate higher order thinking of humans led to AI. Further, advancements were made in robotic technology, social media, mobile phone technology. This had spillover effects on all fields :- Transport, health, education, communication, governance, finance, disaster management → essentially ²²⁰ HUMAN LIFE.

उम्मीदवार
इस मार्ग
पर
Candidate
must not
write on
this margin

This all pervasiveness of technology leaves so intent that we no longer use technology to ease our efforts, ~~as to~~ rather "live" technology.

This can be witnessed while observing the life of an average well to do man of today's age. ~~while~~ He relies on his alarm set on his phone to wake him up, ~~a~~ sleep monitor app on his phone to enable him to have a sound sleep, calls out to "Alina" to read out the tasks for the day, uses his "wearable device" for his morning run, reads the paper on his ipad, even uses "voice sensor" to turn on his lights, uses the microwave to warm his food, the fridge to cool his milk, the netto to commute, and even the computer to work, social media to converse & connect and a mind relaxing music to ^{fall} asleep! What aspect of his day then, ~~it not~~ doesn't involve "living" technology? Absolutely none!

It is thereby said, that we have started to live technology. This all pervasiveness

can be witnessed in other aspects of life as well.

Rampant progress of technology has enabled the health technology to improve big leaps and bounds. Starting from the detecting of blood sugar levels (which is also possible at home & lately), monitoring blood pressure, ~~decreasing~~ usage of a stethoscope to advanced stages of surgery, endoscopy, X-Rays, angioplasty etc. technology has become the de-all end-all of health-systems. The progress of technology has even enabled tele-medicine, robot-led surgeries without human intervention at remote places.

A similar trajectory can be witnessed in education, where technology has enabled "real time" visualisation of topics leading to better learning outcomes. Covid 19 led school closures saw the relevance of tele-education, which has led to reduction of gender divide in learning outcomes as per Ases Report 2022 (By Pratham NGO). ~~Report~~, Report,

Even in the sphere of administration, technology has transformed the relationship of government with people via the e-governance (As per World Bank). Utilisation in order to bring about better monitoring of resources (via satellite mapping), better disaster preparedness (via early warning systems), greater fiscal management (via PFMS like transparent systems); technology has enabled the State to live upto its "welfare state" character as mandated by Constitution under Article 32.

However, all is not hunky dory in the era of technology. While the social media has enabled us to connect better, it has downsides as that of "d'sinformation" and "infodemic" (as highlighted by WHO Health Chief). It is said that "whoever controls the media, controls the mind". Thus, technology has the power to corrupt as well. Massive cases of hoaxing, "social boycott", "online cancellations" can be witnessed on account of the infodemic culture.

Further, it has also diluted the role of human labour and human creativity. ~~Text~~ Generative Technology such as ChatGPT, Google's Bard has enabled users to get creative poems, research pieces, all answers only via a question. The ability of technology to replace human beings has become quite real, with the recent ^{efforts towards} replication of human brain, Neuralink. Further, with the country becoming the most populous country (UN Population Prospects Report 2022), the threat of "unemployment" and dilution of "creative space" due to technology's dominance is ~~causing~~ becoming worrisome.

Technology is increasingly causing us to worry about the "future", ~~or~~ hijacking our present. Living in technology has affected our perception of life and diluted its ~~not~~ value for us. Young generation's attention span has become as small as a "tik-tok video". Adolescents are constantly creating experience to "post" on their

social media platforms. While the initial intent of the platforms was to increase the entertainment quotient, it has created further depression, anxiety, self-loathing attitude in people in general.

On the economic front, technology has brought great dividends to the rich, ~~but~~ however it has widened inequality. As per Oxfam Report, the top 10% own 77% of the entire wealth. ~~while~~ As per Richard Lyons, while technology brings great dividends on investment, it only makes ^{the} rich, richer and the poor, poorer.

Internationally, technology has been used as a weapon by the developed states. be it monopolisation of nuclear technology via the Non Proliferation Treaty or the increasing efforts to appropriate space as the fourth arena of warfare or even the assertion over global commons like Oceanic explorations, Antarctica etc. The inequity created via "living technology" is immense.

George Orwell predicted in his write up '1984', that very soon the TV will be watching you while you watch it. With the increasing manipulation of "algorithms" based on user preferences on streaming platforms, this has become a reality. This shows us how there is an increasing need to take stock of the matter and adopt a fundamental shift-back towards "using technology" from living it.

There is a need to structure the "value ecosystem". The values of quality of life, relations, compassion, love, honesty, nature, brotherhood. While technology can increasingly replace most of human capabilities, what makes us human is the "human touch", i.e., the emotional quotient that can touch lines. While we integrate technology into our lives, we should stay true to our conscience.

Further, "temperance" which has been regarded as a cardinal value by Plato, should be adopted while interacting with technology.

Buddhist philosophy also espouses the "upadhyamika marg" or the middle path. Thus, we should increasingly realise and be "aware" of the life beyond technology. We should appreciate nature, spend quality time with family and friends adopting "digital detox" strategy.

One can note that while technology has become indispensable, there are aspects that continue to "live". The role of ayurveda, Yoga, Uranic in Health, the importance of "teacher" and the human touch in education, the decision making & emotional intelligence of an administrator and the "soft power" of a country (Mission Sanjeevani :- delivering vaccines across the world in a philanthropic spirit). Technology's role has been unprecedented, but ~~one~~ one should remember, while using technology as fervently as he can,

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

That in such usage, ~~he shouldn't~~ understanding
of "living of technology", he shouldn't forget
to "live his life" while being mindful of
the "moral value within him" (Kant). Thus,
to summarise, as Richa exclaimed, "one
shouldn't let the technology use oneself,
while using it!"


