

खण्ड-A / Section-A

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

- Q.1 You can't serve data on a hungry man's plate.
आप किसी भूखे आदमी की थाली में डेटा नहीं परोस सकते।
- Q.2 AI is overcoming our mental limitation but not expanding our mental horizon.
ए.आई. मनुष्य की मानसिक सीमाओं को नियंत्रित कर रहा है, किंतु मानसिक क्षितिज का विस्तार नहीं कर रहा है।
- Q.3 We are using environment for politics, not politics for environment.
हम पर्यावरण का उपयोग राजनीति के लिए कर रहे हैं, न कि राजनीति का उपयोग पर्यावरण के लिए।
- Q.4 The worst form of inequality is to try to make unequal things equal.
असमानता का सबसे बुरा रूप है असमान को समान बनाने का प्रयास।

The Worst Form of Inequality is to try to ~~make~~
Make Unequal Things Equal

"If merely redistributing the wealth of world's richest to all equally was the panacea for global inequalities, I would be the first to become Robinhood", as said by former IMF Chief reflects the spirit of the given Aristotle's quote. Inequality cannot be resolved merely by redistribution between surplus & deprivation, it is a complex outcome of diverse deprivation, unequal strengths & unequal social structure.

This essay will follow a multisectoral critical approach, where we'll investigate different kinds of inequalities present in society, the consequences of making unequal things equal, question the reason of such inequalities & towards end look at possible solutions.

When we perhaps imagine inequality, we think of material inequalities. A stark picture of Mumbai comes to our mind, where the most expensive home of world Antilia & the largest slum Dharavi coexist. Our socialist friends would argue, what if we take the wealth of richest 10% & redistribute it equally among all. Won't everybody have enough for need & basic sustenance. Perhaps, it would be wise to jog our memory back to socialist USSR. with high lofty aims of TOTAL

EQUALITY, Lenin & Bolsheviks redistributed all wealth, nationalised industry & abolished capitalist hierarchies. But soon famines happened, economy collapsed and what was supposed to become egalitarian resulted in oligarchical society with handful of billionaires & plenty of poor. Our own debacle with land reforms in 1960s & 1970s gave us a valuable lesson. Even though at quantitative level we redistributed land, but fragmented landholdings, lack of access to credit, agrarian hierarchies etc. ultimately resulted in resurgence of socio-economic inequalities.

"While pouring the liquid from the full vessel to empty vessel (redistribution), it is always prudent to check if the empty vessel itself is broken at first place (capability deprivation)".
Most material equalities result due to social inequalities present in our society.

In our modern world, normatively we are all equals, untouchability doesn't exist & Caste hierarchies are a relic of past. Perhaps the most strong argument we present is of Affirmative Action or colloquially called as Reservation.

However, caste discrimination at workplace, social stigma & stereotypes & social exclusion is a lived reality even for the beneficiaries of reservation. Had that not been the case, we would never have read the ~~the~~ news of tragic suicide of Rohit Vemula (PhD at JNU) & tragic murder of Ludhjit Meghwal (Delhi Schoolboy).

An interesting case of South African Cricket Team is an apt example of this. Their Cricket Board adopted a quickfix approach of reserving equal seats for Black players & white players in national cricket team. What resulted in ensuing decade was drought for tournament wins,

subpar international performances & mass exodus of
untouchable players (Shawn Pollock, Du Plessis etc. ann-
ounced early retirement)!! Perhaps equating the
unequals is injustice for both strata.

What results from this normative equality
is invisibilisation of hierarchies. Glass Ceiling,
Pink collarization of jobs, Informalization of
female labour, growing domestic violence etc. are
real time testimony that real inequality does
not go away with quick fix measures.

Society shapes the political discourse &
even there we can see such contradictions
operating abound. We are the largest democracy
of world & rightly so. In our great democratic
exercise, every adult has equal power: ONE
VOTE, ONE VALUE. Everyone has equal claim
to compete & hold political office, everyone
has equal rights which are protected by

Constitution & reinforced by Judiciary.

But diving at a deeper level, we see that this fabric of political equality has many knots of injustice interwoven with them. We ~~have~~ recently heard the news of a legislator in MP peeing on a member of Tribal Community. While claiming Equality Before Law & Equal Protection of Law we often forget Unequalities of Power are larger forces in our society. Even when we say that equal access to justice is a fundamental right, we often forget that opportunity cost of litigation & long pending cases often deter this formal equality.

Even politician today claim that technology is a democratising force. Technology empowers all equally¹² & is a method to eradicate injustice from society as it provides

a level playing field -

In a recent mobile distribution event by a State Chief Minister, when beneficiaries were later asked how they'll use these mobiles, they said either they'll sell it or give it to their husbands/sons. Illiteracy, digital divide & lack of technical skills are inherent contradictions which point that merely handing out devices or making unequals equal won't empower the deprived.

Technology & climate are interwoven & increasing technological dominance have often been equated with climate change & climate imbalance. Often we hear the claims of sustainable development, ecosystem restoration & Common Fight Against Climate Change. But contradictions emerge¹³ when the developed

Countries who are historically responsible for pollution & climate degradation ask for equal participation of developing countries like India who don't even figure in top polluters historically.

"Common But Differentiated Responsibility" often is reduced to a phrase "abundant in declarations but rarity in reality".

Communities around the world face myriad of geographical, physical, technological & social vulnerabilities. Quickly submerging island of Samoa & tall aircondition skyscrapers of New York can't be put at same pedestal, lest we engage in blind race for common destruction. Geopolitical inequalities & Global

Economic Systems are designed to profit some & deprive others¹⁴ even when the charter's

of most global organisations say of "Global Equality".

But one often wonders, then what is the reason of such injustices & why simple redistribution / normative equality / formal measures often fail. Firstly, inequalities are more often than not structural in nature. They are deeply ingrained in socio-political hierarchies & equating the unequal is merely a gimmick to fool the deprived. The most vivid example of this is neo-liberal shift which was supposed to promote meritocratic inequality but has produced socio-economically unequal landscape.

Second, as pointed out by Professor Amartya Sen, redistribution is myth while Capability Deprivation is with large in our society. A simple example of this could be giving

a lakh rupees to a businessman & a poor tribal.
 Former would use it to reinvest, cash profit
 & grow. Later in presence of deprivation, would
 go for material purchases out of pocket health
expenditure & for immediate gratification.

"Need is not to put money in hand, but
books in bag, skill in hands & liberty in
mind" (Gen. Arjun Singh, Indian).

Third, as humans we simply tend
 to equating ends to means. To avoid
painstaking structural reforms, handing out
state doles appear much easier & feasible. Rather
 than working ~~off~~ on Persuasion for Mindset
Change & eradicating social hierarchies, we
 unleash legislations which only provide
superficial equalities, but subsuperficial deprivations.

But the picture is not all gloomy
 & the sky is not all dark. Human history

is a history of ingenuity & history of fighting such injustices. A perfect case study for the same would be Indian Governance Approach. While handing out formal affirmative action, we are also educating under Right To Education (Sakshar Bharat Abhiyan), skilling under National Skill Development Mission & providing nutrition under PM-POSHAN. While reserving seats for females, we are also giving wings to their dreams by schemes like KIRAN, GATI & changing attitudes through Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao.

Inequalities & hierarchies are fast disappearing from cosmopolitan urban settings, we need to integrate our rural hinterland too. The solution to inequality often lie in 5 pronged strategy: First,

Structural Reforms - Economically, Politically & Socially; Second, EQUITY & not equality; Third, Capability Enhancement & removing disabilities; Fourth, Sustainable

Development Goals (Zero Poverty, Zero Hunger, Inclusive Education etc.) & Fifth but most fundamental Compassionate Mindset.

Gandhiji rightly said, "To judge a society look at how it treats its weakest". For our vulnerable sections we need to empower them & make them equal participants in development journey to make REAL EQUALITY possible.

NEXT IAS

खण्ड-B / Section-B

उम्मीदवारों को
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- Q.5 Existence is a science, living is an art.
अस्तित्व एक विज्ञान है, जीना एक कला है।
- Q.6 If the truth shall kill them, let them die.
यदि सत्य से किसी की मृत्यु होती है, तो उन्हें मरने दो।
- Q.7 The only way to go beyond things, is to go through them.
हालातों से परे जाने का एकमात्र तरीका उनसे होकर गुजरना है।
- Q.8 Dream for the best. Be prepared for the worst. Enjoy life in between.
सर्वश्रेष्ठ के लिए सपना देखें। सबसे दुरे के लिए तैयार रहें। इसके बीच के जीवन का आनंद लें।

The only way to Go Beyond Things, is to
Go Through Them

Christopher Columbus standing on his ship
at Iberian Coast, ~~too~~ hundred men as crew
aboard & gazing towards roaring waves of
Atlantic. He was a wealthy person in Portugal,
no reason to put his life on risk; but for the
passion which was higher than stormy waves
of the sea. When he reached the coast of
New World / Americas, he lost most of his
crew, was suffering from weariness but his
discovery of New World was a testimony of
the quote that "Only way to go beyond things,

is to go through them⁴. To achieve the dreams one needs to strive. Rather story of our whole human civilization is a tale of same. Had the pre-historic civilizations not discovered fire, not invented wheel; if not for the intellect of Galileo, Newton & Kepler & not for the ingenuity of mankind & continuous pursuit to endure the challenge & cherish the journey, modern civilizations would have been a distant dream. This essay will look at the relevance of quote at multiple levels, ^{investigate} ~~from~~ the process & look at relevant examples.

Even our history is full of such instances. Peace & Content are the highest virtues we humans chase. Ashoka had to fight multiple wars, kill hundreds etc. only to realise the futility of it. His call for Dhamma Ghosh replacing Bheri Ghosh⁴ was

not a philosophical sermon but a testimony of his own journey & learnings. Journey often demand sacrifices & present hardships which need to be accepted & triumphed for success.

If not for the martyrdom of freedom fighters & selfless pursuit of leaders like Gandhi, Bose, Patel, Bhagat Singh etc. Indian Independence wouldn't have materialised.

At individual level, we are often presented with binary choice : To Act or Not To Act. Success & goal achievement are desired by all, but achieved by few. The difference lies in

Persistence & Endurance. For example, Datath Manjhi (Mountain Man of India) lost his wife as he could not take his ailing wife to hospital in time. He decided that nobody in his village would face the same ²¹ feat again & his persistence

reduced even "mountain to rubble". To achieve his goal, he needed to push through endlessly much like Arjuna who faced snowstorms, long tiring hours of climbing & sickness to become the youngest female to climb Mount Everest. To rise above the ordinary, you need to "do extraordinary".

Often this grit, Courage & Confidence is cultivated in familial setting. It is the values learned at home which is reflected in our professional competence. In a country like India, with billion aspirations & gazillion dreams, it often takes family's sacrifice & efforts to succeed. While reading success stories in newspapers & glorifying our idols we often tend to underhmine the struggle of invisibles; the support structure i.e. the family which withstood all difficulties to chase a common

dream & which went through despite all difficulties. It should come as no surprise that right from national exam toppers to successful sports persons all attribute their success to family's unwavering support during struggle phase.

Families constitute societies. Even our society has seen rapid transformation but this needs to be kept in mind that it took long years of change to arrive at where we are. It took able leadership & receptive society to change for better. For example, right from Raj Ram Mohan's pursuit against Caste Disabilities & Gender Injustices to Vivekananda's call for rationality, humanism & relentless pursuit; all social changes took decades to materialise.

An interesting case study is SNDA Movement by Scavah Community. They were traditional outcaste to ditoppers, untouchables, socio-economically deprived & educationally backward.

But they decided to transform their states. They fought against untouchability, got educated, changed occupations, built hospitals & schools (Sri Narayana Group) & today constitute the most developed community of Kerala - Politically as well as Economically. Their tale is an irrefutable evidence that as a community, we need participation, efforts, struggle & sacrifice to undergo process of social transformation.

Societies are best reflected in the kind of organizations they produce. All kinds of commercial ventures aim for maximum profits & to become the best in their field. But to achieve corporate success, continued efficient operations, upgradation & rational expansion are continuously needed. After all, Amazon & Google started from garages

of some tech freaks only to become Biggest Multinationals today.

Success comes only after the process of hardwork & unclinging determination. Malvika Hegde, two years back faced crisis; her husband committed suicide as debt levels of CCB was unsustainable. Everyone expected CCB to vanish from Indian Markets, but for the courage & determination of Malvika. In two years of hardwork, she managed to reduce debt to 400 crore from 8000 crore, reduced wasteful expenditure while undergoing market expansion!!

It's true that only way to ~~go~~ go beyond things, is to go through them.

It is rightly said that Rome was not built in a day. To build a great nation, it takes decades of economic reforms, political reforms & social changes. our political

leaders dreamt of self-sufficiency & progressive India but agricultural backwardness, industrial inefficiency & mass poverty was a reality. So much so that we needed to ask America for foodgrains in 1960s.

But our leaders assumed responsibility. Land Reforms followed by Green Revolution & culmination in 1991 Economic Reforms it was a painstaking journey but a fruitful one. What resulted is 5th largest economy of the world, Net Agricultural Exporter & Fastest Growing Market globally.

Even politically it was a long journey. A nascent democracy with lofty aims of Justice, Equality, Liberty & Fraternity was laced with socio-economic inequalities, rigid hierarchical attitudes & unconstitutional supges (like other South Asian countries). But to

become world largest & stable democracy today
 it was necessary to continue the arduous
path.

Winston Churchill rightly said that
 human ingenuity know no bounds & we
 should realise the problems of modern world
 are common problem. Climate change,
Rising Pollution levels & increasing
vulnerability to humanity today demand
 a resilient effort for common fight. It is
 obvious to achieve a sustainable future,
 we need to kickstart the global crusade
 against crass hedonism today. To achieve
 a better future, we would need to
build it together piece by piece as a
global community.

But often while engaging in pursuit
of goals we forget ²⁷ it should not be a
reckless pursuit. To push through challenges

is not to pursue self-interest only. "One must realise that every action has widespread ramifications & eventual success should not come at great cost!!

Another consideration while pursuing journey is "rational choice of means". We would have choice at every step, but ethical choices & rightful actions are only way to achieve enduring success. For example, global peace must not be contingent on destruction of wars ~~of~~ or global balance of nuclear terror; but a journey of consensus building, cooperation & codevelopment ~~to~~ should bear testimony to eventual success.

lastly, it is important to realise that to achieve things, you need to pursue journey but we also need to EMBRACE

FAILURES : To achieve gains we need to realise that every failure is not a judgement of eventuality but a stepping stone to progress - Even Gandhiji in his autobiography "My Experiments with Truth" admitted that "I am a man of failures. I failed more often & embraced it to learn my own shortcomings". After all the journey is not just of achieving success, but a saga of self-discovery too.

Human Courage & Perseverance knows no bounds. Our history is full of examples of people who struggled & gained personal success (Tendulkar, Shah Rukh Khan, Elon Musk), people who struggled for altruistic reasons & social progress (Kailash Satyarthi, Sonam

Wangchuk & B.R. Ambedkar) & our
society which itself progressed from
field ploughing Indus Valley civilization to
Modern Progressive Nation. All of these are
woven by a Common Thread : Relentless-
ness, Prolonged tough journeys & unwavering
determination to triumph. Kalam Sir rightly
remarked, "Dreams are not which you see
while sleeping, but which do not let you
sleep"; as the only way to go beyond
things is to go through them.

The only way to go beyond things, is to go through them.

Columbus story - Crossing Atlantic → Go Beyond, Go Through.

We dream of result but to dream is to strive, otherwise any tle to fool self. We will take ^{Space for Rough Work} ~~multiple~~ ^{level} ~~approach~~ look at all the levels identify the relevance; Historically → The goal is to achieve peace → Asoka had to fight wars & kill thousands → only to realise that going beyond requires going through; National Movement leaders; Free & Independent India.

⇒ Individual level: Human to think of impossible → Moral Courage → Career Aspirations → work → Example: Sakshi Maharaj, Karoly Tachai; Rise above ordinary; Guilt & Punishment → leaving past behind.

⇒ Familial level: Social mobility → engage & work hard; most jobs struggled the most. Social level → Social Reforms → PPP, etc. → Universal egalitarian society, worked for it. Education, focus → Remove social shortcomings: Mobilize resources & eradicate; Ploughing Field to Modern

By scrapping the journey is of enduring challenges.

⇒ Corporate level: Embracing failures & working → Mahindra Heggale Case organization → Innovate → R&D → then can profit → Economic level: → Green Revolution → PL 480 to 2nd largest agr. exported → Structural Deficiencies to 3rd largest PPP → we made reforms

⇒ National level: Rome was not built in a day → Exercise of nation building → Constitutional Democracy → Exercise of various failures → Technological Development → Resource Deficient to Vishwaguru & 6th President

⇒ Global level → Climate Right → Need to Go through → Identify the owners → Remove barriers & accept. Common Development.

⇒ Spiritual level → Take the leap of belief (not faith) → Mental Toughness → ~~Rome was not~~ Champion → Need Crisis of Conscience to emerge as ~~champion~~ of Modernity. Gandhi failed then won. Gauli → Humility

Anti-Thesis

① Not should be a reckless pursuit of Environment destruction due to

② What things we need to go beyond → Rational choice of means.
 ③ Can development be not blind faith.

The worst form of inequality is to try to make unequal things equal

→ If merely redistributing the wealth of world's richest to ~~all~~ ^{some} among all... It would be the ^{Space for Rough Work} first person to become Robinson... Inequality is complex, inherent disparities & incapacities → not simply equaling the unequal. Aristotle's quote → ~~multidimensional~~ ^{sectoral} approach where we would look at multiple dimensions → understand the inequality at a much more deeper sense → consequences of unequal making equal → Solutions → at last.

→ Material Inequality → Poverty, nat. deprivation → Simple Redistribution → only wealth ↑↑; means not there → ultimately unequal

Land redistribution failure Case Study → Soviet Russia → ultimately impoverishment

→ Social Inequality ^{Used Example} → Caste & Untouchability; Women & Men → Normative Equal but disparities are there; ~~Religious~~ ^{Racial} inequalities. Reservation issue → still systemic discrimination

Political Inequality → EPOL + EBL → But ~~not~~ ^{scally} unequal ^{Study Example} → Casting votes but influence → Political Access → South Africa case study example → still again quality

Climate Inequality → Equal Populations → Loss & Damage Fund
Disaster preparedness → Means to save → SIDS case study

Geopolitical → WTO Case study → Democratic But Unequal Trade order
→ Codvelopment of Codependence

Ethical Inequality → Means = Ends → Catastrophe → Achieving ethical

~~Technological~~ ^{Technical} ~~inequality~~ ^{ineq. →} → At for one & At for other → diff. ^{is important → Granelli}
But where is issue → ① Structure is patterned in unequal way

② Capability Enhancement is the issue

③ Short cut & not the painstaking measure of reform.

Anti-theseis ① Has helped change at normative level too → Caste fast dis. from urban spaces; Reservation → socio-political progress & good work.

② Structural reforms take long time → need for immediate relief

③ Kickstart the process