

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

Next IAS ID: PTTIP220889, TC062, 09-08-2023 12:23 AM

यदि आप किसी के चेहरे को काफी देर तक देखते हैं, तो अंततः आपको महसूस होता है कि आप अपने चेहरे को 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 आपका अनुमति देता है।

Section - A

4) Drop the question what tomorrow may bring and count as profit every day that fate allows you.

“Kuch Kar Dikhane Ka Mauka,
Jab b Kismat Deti Hai,
Din Gin Ke Taiyari Ke,
Tujhko Mohlat Deti Hai”

- (When life gives you a chance to do something great then it gives opportunity for a limited period of time)

These lines of song and movie -
'Dangal' which was based on inspiring
story of Phogat sisters depict the

importance of time we have in present. It shows that time to do something is limited so we should not waste it in thinking about tomorrow.

This song comes in the backdrop of wrestling competition where protagonist playing Geeta Phogat was in doubt, whether she'll be able to win or not. Then her father's teaching of focusing in the moment and doing whatever is needed - is what manifested through this song.

By focusing on moments of present, she managed to win Gold medal in olympics even in a match which appeared losing *prima facie*. Hence, it can't be wrong, if we say - Don't Deep the question, what tomorrow may bring and count as profit every day that fate allows you.

In this essay, we will explore why people tend to think about tomorrow?, what are the consequences of this? and why days available are like - a profit? Also, we will look-into inevitability of topic - should we always deep thinking about tomorrow?

Tomorrow : A prison or A sky

"The best way to prevent a prisoner from escape is to keep them unaware that they are in a prison" - [Fyodor Dostoevsky]

How can it happen that a prisoner is unaware of prison? It happens when prison is of tomorrow. When we think about tomorrow, little did we realise, we are surrendering our present to future. We go into procastination and our thoughts travel at the speed of light. The reason - why do we do this? is simple because it's easy to escape present scenario by thinking about golden future.

Another reason can be - fear of tomorrow. It is said - future is seen through eyes of past. So if in past some unfortunate events had happened then those bad memories haunt in present and we start worrying about future. For instance, Meiki-Kuki conflict is sustained due to fear of Kuki community over domination by Meiki tribe in near future as they did in past.

Next IAS ID: PTP220889, TC062, 09-08-2023 12:23 AM
It would be wrong if we say - fear breeds fear. Thinking about tomorrow because we are afraid of results give rise to fear of trying something new and innovative.

This 'fear' has many negative consequences.

Procastenation inbuilt an element of laziness in people. They tend to think about results and keep postponing the work.

Similarly, for a student, 'tomorrow' means - favourable results so when s/he becomes afraid of it, they start fearing from life itself. This cautious view of tomorrow takes toll on their lives in form of spurt of suicides of students in Kota.

As Plato said, 'most of the times, what we fear is fear itself and nothing else'.

Those who are ready to face this fear of taking a new step and are courageous to live in present are the ones who make their tomorrow - a free sky.

When Mahatma Gandhi chose tool of Satyagraha to attain freedom, little did he knew that it will be successful.

But as per the current scenario of that time, nonviolence and Satyagraha were innovative tools to compete with mighty Britishers. Without thinking about tomorrow, he did whatever was necessary in those moments and yielded - a free sky of tomorrow to his fellow Indians.

This goes true for all freedom fighters, they never thought that what will happen to their lives? Will they be alive tomorrow? Will Britishers go? Just nothing!

They just followed 'Nishkama Karma' of GITA which says - "you are entitled to actions and not fruits of actions"

Rather than being caught in prison of tomorrow, they made their tomorrow free.

Present : A present by fate

Saint Kabir in one of his verses had said - "Kal Kare so Aaj Kare, Aaj Kare so Ab" (whoever you think, you will do it tomorrow, do it today and even in today, just do it now!)

This line shows how much importance - 'present moment' holds. But why the present is important? why the days given by fate should be counted as profit?

The answer to these questions lie in the fact that humans love to live either in memories or in future. we don't value anything whether it is time, any opportunity or any relationship when we have it in present. When it becomes a memory, we yearn for it. So, the 'present' - days given by fate to us should be considered as super force

which have capability to change tomorrow.

If without valuing them, we spend them wisely then our tomorrow will full of regret - "if we could have done better - the universal regret".

Similarly, we are running in a rat race to live a decent life. We think about uncertainties of tomorrow and keep working hard rather than stopping for a moment and cherishing that moment.

"I was creating a good life to live tomorrow, all this while, when I looked back, I just found - whole life passed away"

- Anonymous

Above lines show that we wait for a perfect time which will never come.

This was understood by - maker of modern India - Raja Ram Mohan Roy who in quest

to build a better tomorrow for women, capitalised on profit of days available to him. He questioned and abolished 'Sati' ¹³ Pratha, he dared to go against

उम्मीदवार
इस मार्ग
निर्देशन
Candidate
must not
write on
this margin

the society and educated women.
All this happened because of faith in
oneself and faith in potential of present.

"Faith is taking a step ahead
even when you can't see the full
stair case" — Martin Luther King

A similar kind of leap was taken
by India when we decided to create
'digital public infrastructure'. When we
went for - digital financial inclusion via
BHIM, UPI, Co-win platform for vaccination
along with digilocker for storing documents,
we didn't know whether we'll succeed or
fail. But one thing we decided was -
learning from mistakes and becoming better
day by day. A faith of millions of Indians
has brought us to a stage - when we
are sharing our digital infrastructure with
other countries to make their tomorrow
better.

We started working in the present rather than waiting for perfect time and today in AMRITKAAL, we are promising a safe, secure and digital tomorrow for world.

After discussing how question about tomorrow can hamper progress, we can look on other side of coin.

As per [Sgādarvāda] doctrine of Jainism, each statement holds good in certain conditions. Hence, ~~we~~ this worry about future is not inevitable and that ~~it~~ it will always be counter productive is not true in some circumstances.

Taking instance of climate change, many developed countries are not worried about threats it may pose tomorrow and they want to continue emissions in present.

Here, going by words of [Barack Obama]

∴ "we may be the first generation witnessing climate change but probably the last one which can do something about it".

It's a kind of responsibility on us to think - what tomorrow may bring for future generation and take relevant actions for adaptation and mitigation.

The concept of sustainable development also arises from the fact that we are worried about our future generations too. Hence, thinking about threats tomorrow may bring to some extent is useful as 'present' can be modified to avoid those risks. As India took a step to modify present by becoming leader in 'International Solar Alliance' - revolutionizing use of renewable energy.

Similarly, an idea of targets we want to achieve in future is necessary to keep our actions targeted and directed towards progress. As we had targets of making India open defecation free and target of universal water supply by 2024 under Sat Seva Mission.

To sum up, it can be said that - a slight idea of targets to be achieved tomorrow and also an awareness of threats which tomorrow may bring is desirable. However, excess fear of tomorrow and persecution ~~can~~ should be avoided.

Life should be lived and explored in the moments we have rather than waiting for a time when everything will be alright. This can be ensured by following ways -

First, Buddha's principle of momentariness should be followed. That is, what is present ~~at~~ at the moment will go away soon. This helps in overcoming our fears as we know they too are transitory. Also we will value present moments more as they may become a memory soon.

Second, question about tomorrow comes into subconscious mind when we are unable to answer our present. Any complex task

makes us feel worried about results.

So, solution lies in Japanese philosophy of Kaizen, which asks us to break complex things into parts and take one part at a time. By this, we will be able to utilise our present better.

Thus, in order to achieve success, we should always remember-

"Success comes through iterations and an effort of present will never go waste tomorrow. Satisfaction lies in efforts and not in results".

- Mahatma Gandhi

खण्ड-B / Section-B

- 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।

Section - B

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

A young IAS officer when joined her first posting, she found something disturbing. A group of farmers and localites were regular visitors to her office complaining about illegal sand mining in their area.

The files before her had no evidence of any such incidents but at the same time she respected truth of those people. She took in her own hands and did covert raids and operations and to discover truth. Soon the villagers' truth

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

became her truth and she decided to end injustice, no matter whatever it takes. That lady GAS officer was none other than Durga Shakti Nagpal. Her journey to being truth out and end injustice was not so smooth. She received death threats, threats to her family members and a final blow was her suspension from job.

The very next day of her suspension order, whole India united against this arbitrary, unreasonable and intentional step and demanded Durga Shakti back as officer. She was called back with honour and all necessary efforts according to her reports were undertaken to end illegal sand mining.

It was strength of our true truth which made this possible. Hence, it is rightly said - Truth, like a torch, the more it is shooK, it shines.

In this essay we will explore - how truth is like a torch and what is meant by shaking of truth? Also we will find - how truth always shines in end and if anything there is need of external protection for truth.

Answering our first question by words of Gandhiji, truth is that lamp which can light paths of darkness. That is, light of truth can enlighten people, remove all pre-conceived fears and make things crystal clear for them.

Revisiting story of IAS Durga, truth about illegal sand mining made her glance through mafia nexus clearly. She got to know how a section of administration was helping in this. This made situation crystal clear to people as well. They stood up against her removal.

Similarly, truth has been a powerful tool of Gandhiji in whole freedom struggle. Masses were ready to support and participate because truth about exploitation by

Britishers were clear about them.

Next IAS ID: PTP220889, TC062, 09-08-2023 12:23 AM

Therefore, truth is like a torch which by its light can pervade permeate through palace of darkness.

Till now, climate change was being considered as false narrative. However, recent speech by Tuvalu (an island country) prime minister while standing in water upto knees made manifestation of climate change as 'truth'. He was demonstrating the threat of sea level rise to island countries by this innovative act. This called for a mass action to address climate change.

As George Marshall had pointed out, "mass based actions can't be carried out on basis of false narratives, 'truth' is irreplaceable tool to mobilise masses".

Shaking the Shackles of Truth

Next IAS ID: PTFP220889, TC062, 09-08-2023 12:23 AM

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

The journey of truth to evade darkness is not easy. It has to encounter many hurdles but the twist is - how much truth is shook, it shines with more brightness. How's it possible? Let's see.

'Truth' often comes with an attitude of challenging established beliefs. Be it JAS Durga, Mahatma Gandhi or Raja Ram Mohan Roy with their truth of Sati being inhumane and non religious. All of them have their truth which was contrary to popular and accepted notions.

So, they were subjected to various tests, various struggles - just to break the strength of truth, it was shook.

Frequent violent outbreaks by British to show non violence and truth are useless tools and punishing JAS Durga for unweildy

Corruption - everything is a part of weakening morale of truth as well as of those who hold them.

Next IAS ID: PTTP220689, TC062, 09-08-2023 12:13 AM

Similarly, when Bhavari Devi spoke of sexual harassment at workplace, no one believed her. Her truth was questioned by everyone in form of staining her character. This was because a patriarchal society wants a woman to remain quiet about all injustices but she was not ready to compromise.

Amid all the struggles, truth has to go through - it passes all the tests and emerges victorious. It shines with more vigour. Whether it's truth of 90s Bunga who brought her back, truth of Gandhi ji which attained freedom or truth of Bhavari Devi which resulted in Vishatka Guidelines.

In all above instances, truth not only shines alone but also brings a light of justice and hope to people.

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

This is possible because of strength of truth and strength of character of people who are in possession of that truth. As Gandhiji said, "strength doesn't come from physical might but from indomitable will, when we refuse to give up in adverse circumstances".

Another reason is - oneness of truth and its objectivity. It is same for you, me and them. As Plato said, "falsehood has infinite combinations but truth has just one-being" and that sole existence is reason behind its shine.

The shine of truth is not only visible in its resistance to dangers but also in its multiple success.

"The woods are lonely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep"

- Closing lines of "Stopping by Snowy Woods" by Robert Frost

- These lines depict the character of shining of truth, one truth is not an end itself instead it has potential to go for miles before to reveal other truths.

The best manifestation of this is Lord Buddha. When Buddha was seeking truth of life, he was challenged even his truth was challenged but as soon as he discovered one truth, it was paved way for four noble truths. These truths by combining delayed layers of suffering and their causes.

Similarly, another manifestation of truth acting as means and it's

shining leading to other, truth is enactment of Right to Information Act by Indian government.

RTI Act was a result of struggle of daily wage labourers seeking information and truth about their wages. They faced all kinds of oppression and emerged victorious in getting a tool or we would say - a torch which can ignite many torches of truth various truths. This proved a sine qua non for responsible governance.

As Aristotle said, "Truth is foundation of peace and good governance".

Despite indomitable strength of truth, there are certain moments when external force is higher and it suppresses truth which calls for need of extra support from outside.

The era of fake news has fuelled sense of communalism and leading to violence in society. Amid this fake news, truth of individuals like Akshay Tadev who offered his house premises for Muslim neighbours amid Gurgaon riots often go unnoticed. In this backdrop, there is need of external media force which can propagate truth of Hindu Muslim unity and reverse trends of violence.

Similarly, threats faced by whistle blowers often force them to change their statements and surrender their truth to powerful. This calls for need of a robust witness protection scheme.

If it could've been in place, we wouldn't have lost GES Satyendranath Dube who highlighted truth of corruption in Golden Quadrilateral project

To sum up, it can be said that no matter whatever the challenges are, truth has the potential to win except in some circumstances where dangers hover around life of individual.

To deal with certain situations, we should always remember -

Courageous attitude is like a weapon which can protect our truth. Those who are forcing us by threats are cowards, frightened by truth. So, we should be courageous and integral and should not give up easily.

Remembering words of Franklin Roosevelt,

"Our lives become meaningless at the very moment, when we close our eyes to the truth which matters the most"

Hence, if we want to live a meaningful life, we should yearn

for truth and preserve it's sanctity,
one we get it.

After witnessing the truth, it's
strength amid all hurdles and it's
powerful shining which has potential
to ignite other torches of truth,

we can ascertain the truthfulness
of a saying in Mundaka Upanishad
which says -

- "Satyameva Jayate"

(Truth alone Triumphs)

— o —