

खण्ड-A / Section-A

उम्मीदवारों को
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- 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।

The Opposite of Poverty is not Wealth

India is celebrating 75th year of its liberation from colonial rule. There is a positive euphoria among every section of population about multipronged achievements we have had in those 75 years. Yet, the ghost of poverty still haunts and day even today - haunting majority of our 1.4 Billion strong population and giving nightmares to policymakers and political representatives alike.

It is well that we have ever left it as an avenue that time would eventually take care of. There have been policies after policies, schemes after schemes every decade, yet the results are far

from being satisfactory. And the reasons are many. This essay tries to take a holistic over the issue in a layered manner. We will first discuss what poverty actually is, what is its position today in our country. Then we will find out why wealth is not the antidote to poverty, delving deeper into its actual antidotes. Ultimately we will discuss some renewed approaches required to deal with ~~the~~ multidimensional poverty present today.

So, what is poverty? UNDP has given a very lucid yet captivating description of this term. Poverty is persistency of extreme deprivation. It is inability to have bare minimum such as food, clothes, home. Poverty is helplessness. The helplessness in the event of extreme events. Poverty is when one cannot afford basic life necessities. It manifests itself in the form of acute hunger, chronic malnutrition, prevalence of diseases, widespread illiteracy, poor social status and above all the perennial state of being voiceless.

And it is not a uniform phenomena. Some parts of world are notoriously known as poverty capitals of world such as South Asia which includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Central and East African nations such as Sudan, Somalia, Tanzania, Kenya etc. In our own country, the states such as Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha have constantly adorned the tag of "Bimaru states" due to chronic poverty prevalent there since independence. And not just geographically the menace of poverty is skewed socially also. The marginal sections, tribes, forest dwellers, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes bear the brunt of poverty much more harshly than other sections of society.

Interestingly, it comes with various dimensions as well. Some section of population are educationally poor, while some are economically, yet few are politically poor. To sum, the ever evolving and perennially persistent nature has made poverty - the single biggest challenge of governments across the world today.

Given the multidimensionality of its features, its only cure can not be wealth only. No doubt wealth creation and its distribution is key to alleviate and eradicate poverty yet, the scope of issue has slowly been moving from being just an absence of wealth to that of complete development of all related socio-economic-political aspects. We need to understand that today, it is more of a human development issue and it encompasses wide array of development indicators that include - total quality of life, working on human resource development, improving the social indicators etc.

Wealth alone cannot bring a change in these indicators. It requires humane outreach towards bettering the lifestyle of vulnerable sections. We must understand that poverty is not just an economic issue but a human issue. It requires taking care of total quality of life. It is rightly remarked that - "money cannot bring you happiness" - you can buy a bed but not sleep from money.

Health can lead to creation of good schools, better hospitals, but it cannot guarantee better education or healthcare that should be protected.

Now, the question is - what actually is the opposite of poverty? To begin with, it is to have a good life i.e. a life devoid of fear, hunger, violence, chaos etc. It is absence of every kind of insecurity marking the socio-economic progress of vulnerable societies.

Politically, the opposite of poverty is adequate voice of hitherto unheard population in every aspect of political progress. Adequate political representation at every level - from local level government to central government. We are still relying on certain percentage of reservation to ensure political participation of weaker sections at state and national level. This has to change. Our founding fathers had imagined that the weaker and socially backward sections would eventually be mainstreamed through political push in the form of 'political reservation'. Sadly, today it has become a political tool to further

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narrow political interest. This political poverty can end only ~~the~~ policies related to poverty alleviation consider political representation as one of its component

Moving on, opposite of poverty also means improvement in poor social indicators such as prevalence of casteism, racism, regionalism etc. A society engulfed with superficial sense of "us versus them" is destined to see poverty, malnutrition and other forms of misery. Bringing communal harmony, social equality and tolerance is what constitutes a wholesome attack on prevalence of poverty.

Opposite of poverty also includes provision of quality education and healthcare facilities. Even after 75 years of independence, we do not find a place in global top 100 educational institutions. Our healthcare facilities crumbled under the burden of COVID pandemic, so much so that we were forced to accept foreign aid after some good period of time. This area is non-negotiable if we have to achieve the SDGs of Quality health and quality education by 2030.

Another dimension that constitutes

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opposite of poverty is adequate economic opportunity ~~there~~ and employment. Our founding fathers had long ago envisaged a prosperous India and had directed us to follow some ~~principles~~ that would ensure the same in the form of directive principles of state policy. 75 years have elapsed since then, and there still exists unemployment, wealth inequality and unjust resource distribution. We cannot fight poverty if top 1% population of India holds 40% of her wealth, while bottom half share 3% of wealth among them.

Anti-poverty society also means one that has access to clean air, good environment, clean potable water and livable environment. It is increasingly seen that the most vulnerable sections are the one who bear the most brunt of any nature's fury. The recent massive heat in North India has jeopardised the life of poor living in slums, shanties and poor colonies close to areas such as Yamuna. Dealing with poverty in a holistic manner includes dealing with climate change to ensure climate justice too.

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Ultimately, opposite of poverty is a society living in harmony, peace, brotherhood and with a sense of respect towards each other. It becomes even more important in our multicultural society which is made up of innumerable class, caste, language, religion and cultures.

This renewed look towards anti-poverty mission, therefore, demands a novel approach on behalf of our policymakers as well. We need a multidimensional vision and approach to defeat the multidimensional poverty. And we are not behind. There have been policies, schemes and programmes to holistically deal with poverty.

To begin with, our government has come up with a holistic, New Education Policy, 2020 that makes a departure from erstwhile closed and non-flexible education system. It promotes the 21st century ideals of innovation, imagination and ~~productivity~~ entrepreneurship in young minds.

Similarly, New Health Policy, 2017 and the focused impetus to 'ONE HEALTH' approach seeks to unify the processes the health care with

special focus on poor and vulnerable section. Schemes such as PM Jan Arogya Yojana and Ayushman Bharat Yojana are step towards providing health security and eradicating health poverty from our country.

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The renewed approach towards, skilling, upskilling and re-skilling and training programmes in sync with industrial demand has ensured adequate availability of employment while progressively improving the productivity of labour.

The general government budgetary allocation on social services has increased from 3% between 2000-2010 period to 8% between 2012-2022 period. This has led to proliferation of IITs (from 7 to 22), AIIMS (from 1 to 25) NITs, IITs and other such eminent institutions.

At environmental front, our honourable prime-minister has given the country 5 targets in form of 'Panchamukh' and has repeatedly urged for adoption of LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment). This is to ensure that the vagaries

of climate change affects least number of people not just across India, but across world also.

Also, to make sure that the government machinery remains susceptible to the needs of 21st century, our government has launched plethora of schemes to ensure good governance such as Nirban Karayog, Citizen Charter, CGRMS etc.

Special attention is being paid on making our agriculture sector competitive and profitable with schemes such as PM-KISAN, KISAN Berozgar, KISAN-Business, Zero budget farming etc. Agro-based food processing industries have been declared sunrise sector to ensure priority sector lending to ameliorate rural livelihoods.

Our manufacturing sector too has received renewed impetus in the form of PLI scheme, special economic zones, PM-Gate-Shakti masterplan, New PSU policy, industrialisation of MSME etc.

Hence, we can conclude that, although the road is tough ahead, but we have embarked on this journey to collectively defeat the

measure of poverty. These steps are vital to ensure timely achievement of UNDP Sustainable development Goals, especially Goal 1 - zero poverty by 2030.

Realisation of this goal will be an important milestone en-route our collective vision of economically & socially developed India by the 100th year of its Independence.

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खण्ड-B / Section-B

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- Q.5 International Trade is a good indicator of National Security.
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा का एक अच्छा सूचक है।
- Q.6 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।
- Q.7 There is more to life than simply increasing its speed.
जीवन में केवल अपनी गति बढ़ाने के अलावा और भी बहुत कुछ है।
- Q.8 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।

There is more to life than simply increasing
— : its speed : —

Let us begin this essay with a few questions.
When was the last time we sat ideally and
gazed the night sky? When was the last time
when we sat beside a running stream with
our feet half deep in it? When was the
last time when we sat with our old school
friends and talked all night about how
beautiful our childhood was? I believe the
answers must precede with a smile before
actually thinking when indeed it was.

The meaning of life has been

changing at a pace greater than our lives
themselves. Pay attention to this - the end of
eighteenth century and the ensuing one saw
the advent of Industrial revolution. The
hand-operated tool era got replaced with
big machines and industries. Gradually its
reach engulfed whole of Europe and North
America. The pace of industrialisation brought
unprecedented improvement in human development
indicators but it also led to accumulation of
deadly greenhouse gases in our atmosphere.
Cut to 21st century and greenhouse gas
induced climate change and global warming
is the most pressing issue - humanity as a whole
faces today. The pace itself has started taking
~~the~~ toll on us now.

This essay deals with effect of
such life changing developments that has occurred
over past decades & its unintended impact on
our lives. We will then see a few ways to
assimilate ~~on these~~ these changes towards

a good, happy and satisfactory life.

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Before we begin, it will be pertinent to take a quick peek at what constitutes a good life. In my opinion, a good life is one which brings peace to ourselves and to our immediate surrounding. It includes leading a morally compliant life. The one which walks hand in hand with all other vital components such as friends, family, companions etc.

A good life is one which has frequent presence of answers to the questions we discussed at the start of our conversation.

However, the meaning of life has been on constant change path ever since the world has transferred from medieval to modern period. There have been many factors that has contributed and still contributing to this altered meaning of life by increasing its speed. Let us discuss some of them first.

As we just talked about, the onset of Industrialization has been one of the greatest propellers of increased pace of lifestyle. The advent of big machines and resultant products such as cars, engines, jets etc meant that life would never be same again.

Industrialization then transformed itself into Information and communication revolution at the fog end of 20th century. The resultant era of Integration of man and machine in the form of Internet, social media and telephony has changed the meaning of life forever. Now we don't need to travel all the way to someone's home to speak as a phone call or even a text suffices. I wonder if ICT revolution has promised connectivity or has regressed it?

Rapid means of transport in form of railways, airplanes and advanced automobiles have equally contributed to the

Increased pace of lifestyle. Now, the technological advancement is taking it to another level in the form of hyperloop concepts.

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Economically, advent of industrialisation means emergence of capitalist society and prevalence of money economy. There has been rapid transformation in economic system of most nations from primary to secondary and now to tertiary and quaternary sector.

The corporatisation of economy has changed our social life as well and our families are gradually shifting from joint to nuclear family. From village based society, we have moved to apartment and colonies based societies.

ARE WE MISSING SOMETHING AMID THE MAYHEM?

The increased pace of life means we have started compromising with quality of our lives. Its manifestation is visible at multiple levels.

At individual level, we are increasingly devoid of much needed mental peace

Our busy lifestyle means we don't have enough time to spend with ourselves, or with our families, kids, friends etc. This has started taking toll on our mental health. According to Ministry of Health, the percentage of mentally depressed people has increased four fold in last two decades itself. Let alone the upseer caused by COVID pandemic over and above it.

At social level, the proliferation of nuclear families means less interaction or today's generation kids with their grand parents, relatives and this has led to what philosophers term value erosion of society. Individual mental issues ~~has been~~ sometimes take form of social disharmony and at time leads to violence too.

Perhaps the greatest pain we have paid as a result of rapid change in lifestyles is in the form of dwindling and deteriorating environmental health. We have recklessly destroyed forests & unmindfully exploited natural resources in pursuit of unsustainable developmental goals. The result has been degradation of environment.

In every manner possible. Global warming and its vagaries are unknown to no part of world now. Its fury has affected developed, developing and less developed world alike.

The economic cost of rapid change in lifestyle can be seen in the progressive down of agriculture based societies. The difference can be gauged by the fact that today more than 50% of GVA is contributed by service sector, yet close to 50% of our population is engaged in agricultural and allied activities. The backward development of primary sector also meant that our villages would never stay same again. It has resulted in extensive out-migration in search of better jobs, education and lifestyle.

Also, we cannot ignore the impact of these developments at international forum. The world, which has never seen a global scale war, fought two world wars within a period of ~~30 years~~ 100 years of advent of industrialisation. The rapid increase in weaponisation, nuclear armament continue even to date.

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Given the price we have paid and are paying or will be paying for indiscriminate change in our lifestyle, it is pertinent to step and reflect at what went wrong. It is high time that mankind realises that rapid advancement in lifestyle is a double-edged sword that needs meticulous handling.

The best place to start with will be environmental reconstruction. We must understand that this earth is our beloved home and home should be accordingly taken care of. We have to reverse the pace of deforestation and ensure that it stays green - today and for our future generation. Developed countries need to understand their responsibilities and must support the idea of climate justice - reorienting their own advancements in favour of developing and less developed nations.

Next comes economic lifestyle. The sustainability of environment rests upon the sustainability of economic practices. We need to

devise quicker ways to economic development. An economy which is balanced and take everyone along. To start with, we must pay attention to modernising our agricultural system, more so for a country like India with huge dependancy on the sector for livelihood. There is a need to reimagine ~~and~~ our village based systems to ensure that they maintain their identity. The more we come close to nature and adopt natural solutions, the more peaceful ~~and~~ our lives will become.

At individual level, we need to take a look at what we are missing in present of never ending life ambitions. We must ask this question to ourselves that why we are doing, whatever we are doing? The answer may guide us towards a lifestyle which is less pay and more peaceful.

Socrates says that - "a life which is unexamined is not worth living". It is high time, we examine our lives and choose what supplies us with mental peace and purpose.



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Space for Rough Work

Opposite of poverty is not wealth.

→ ①

② → Poverty - UNDP defn. state variation - regional class

③ what is dimensions

(4,5) → why not wealth.

- human issue
- doesn't imply happiness
- Quality of life
- contribution

→ what steps actually its opposite (6,7,8,9)

10. → Tackling poverty - renewed approach

↳ Human capital

- ↳ LIFE

↳ Skills dev

- ↳ Sanitary condition
- ↳ Affordable health
- ↳ Self-reliance

⑪

⑫ → Conclusion - WFP report. SDG-1, streamlined concept, developed by 2047/dmng

Good life - less pressure, no fear.

- ↳ social program
- ↳ Absence of discrimination
- ↳ Good health, edⁿ, climate
- ↳ adequate access of emp.
- ↳ Good climate.
- ↳ Harmonious society
- ↳ Adequate representation

Space for Rough Work

There is more to life than simply increasing the speed.

↳ Industrial revolution - mechanisation - pollution - etc. - greatest period today.

↳ Good life --

↳ Increased speed (any means) → rapid dev. → industrialisation → globalisation

↳ Working on → mental peace → mean of transport.
→ Relax → nature of family
→ quality family time → corporatisation

↳ How to de-stress → economically - end of agr. society, village life
→ env. - loss of forest, biodiversity, climate
→ politically - stable world, wars, weapons.

↳ conclude -

Every tech dev. has
+/-.

Speed should not slide.
Some go to all about the
Resource on time (corporate).

↳ Take a break, learn from mistakes

↳ be env. friendly, (Shulan - Happy Riders
come close to nature, ~~de~~ de.

↳ sust. dev. economically - balanced, take all along
from of rural to, regenerate village life.

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