

खण्ड-A / Section-A

उम्मीदवारों को
इस भाग में
लिखना पना है।
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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।

4.

The Opposite Of Poverty Is Not Wealth

Anisha, the daughter of a construction worker, had always faced a paucity of money growing up. She distinctly remembers not having new clothes on her birthday, or using hand-me-down books of her siblings in school. A silent but strong resolution gripped her existence slowly—that she would study hard and earn a good salary, ~~and~~ and would never ~~come to~~ look at the price tag of a dress that happens to catch her eye. Her dreams were more than realised. She landed a top executive position in a multi-national company, and earned more money than

she could keep track of. First few months were a dream come true. She would eat in the fanciest of restaurants, buy the latest model of her phone, wear expensive branded clothes, and take trips to exotic locations over the world. She couldn't be happier. However, after the initial novelty of all these experiences worn out, Anisha found herself confused. Her days were hectic because of her job, her health too took a beating, and she had a hard time recalling ~~when~~ ~~she~~ her last burst of uncontrollable laughter. What had gone wrong? Why couldn't Anisha outgrow her childhood memories of poverty with money?

This basic story highlights what we all know, but often forget. Money is not the answer, yet almost all our actions and goals are directed towards maximising this one metric. Study well, get a good job, earn well. But it surely isn't this simple:

• Money, or wealth by extension, is a means to procuring other things in life.

To be born and survive is a battle every second. ~~from~~ We all need food, clothes, shelter and other similar basic necessities day in and day out. It is not a choice. The complex society ~~that of 8 billion~~ of 8 billion people

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that exists today ~~have~~ ^{has} formed a sophisticated system of transacting via fiat currency. In this structure, those who don't have enough money, are declared poor. But what exactly is poverty?

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A limited definition of poverty is not having enough money, as explained above. The World Bank has defined the global poverty line at \$2.15 in PPP terms. Sure, money is required for survival in this 21st century world of ours. As is often said, only the rich can afford to romanticise poverty. However, research has shown time and again that after a threshold limit of income is breached, there is no increase in happiness with an increase in income. This is to say that going from 1 lakh per annum to ~~to~~ 10 lakhs per annum is greatly boosts happiness, but going from 10 lakhs to 1 crore has much less impact. Why is this so?

The answer is both simple and complicated. Life is a complicated concept, and money is too simple an answer to it.

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As long as money enables good food, a decent living space, an ability to absorb health shocks and other emergencies, and other similar necessary provisions, it boosts the quality of life. However, there is no substantial difference in eating out once a week versus three times a week.

The experience remains the same, and simply increasing its quantity does not do us much good.

To be clear, ^{breaching} this threshold is important, for unless our basic necessities are met, our entire existence is crippled by thoughts of where the next meal would come from, or from where one ~~child's~~ ^{child's} next month's school fee would be paid. To trivialise such concerns would be cruel to humanity at large, and can only be the rich's prerogative.

What is important here is to realise that concerns for survival is the issue, and not money per se. If governments or civil society can take care of them, most people wouldn't identify themselves as poor. High expenditure on public goods and other necessities by Scandinavian countries is a major reason behind the high happiness

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levels reported by their citizens. In contrast, poor governance of many relatively rich countries leads to suboptimal outcomes.

This naturally leads to the question that if not wealth, what is the answer to poverty? Poverty ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~an~~ ~~absolute~~, if we adopt a broad outlook, is a subjective condition. Often it stems from relative deprivation. Humans have a tendency to compare their life with those around, and reach conclusions based on it. A poor person of America is richer than ~~most~~ ^{many} people in ~~the~~ Africa, but not according to her. Context matters, a lot.

Exploring further, poverty is anything that hinders an individual from living a life she desires, which prevents her from realising her full potential. Many dimensions stem from this objective. Good education and health form the bedrock. Living in a clean and healthy environment is also of paramount importance. A person ~~in~~ inhaling the soot of factories round the clock is hardly rich.

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The saying
A rich life is a life of purpose. ~~He who~~ who has a why to live can bear almost any how substantiates the point. A mother working 4-odd jobs to ensure quality education of her child may not have enough wealth, but is surely leading a rich life of purpose. Self-worth, meaningful relationships, opportunities for growth, ~~social~~ social status are all crucial in the making of a rich & meaningful life. There is no dearth of stories of rich people committing suicides. The recent sudden death of Sushant Singh Rajput shook our collective conscience for this very reason. Surely he had everything! May be not everything, for sure.

The world too has taken note of this, which is why measuring GDP per capita is widely accepted to be ~~as~~ as an insufficient measure of a country's success. Bhutan's happiness index, WHO's happiness ranking, human development indicators (HDI), multi-dimensional poverty index by NITI Aayog are few examples of attempts to truly capture the extent of poverty. They

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include parameters like education, health, sanitation & drinking water, ~~and~~ among other things.

Another reason money is ^{an} insufficient metric is because many problems require public goods as an answer. An individual alone cannot solve law and order problem, no matter how rich she is. Similarly, sanitation or access to emergency health services require the active involvement of governments.

Thus, while money is important in measuring poverty, it is far from perfect. Money easily lends itself to mathematics, and is thus an easily collectable data point. But poverty needs an estimation of various other dimensions which are not that easily quantifiable. Role of governments is crucial here, for they alone can provide things like education, health, healthy environment, criminal justice system, democratic rights, and more. Civil society too plays an important role. Individual philanthropists are like Bill Gates and Azim Premji leading the way by ~~showing~~ doing. Our teachers, and

by extension society, set the values which are deemed desirable. ~~Cap~~ The current world is dominated by Capitalism, which ~~was~~ has maximising profit at its core. ~~But there are~~

But at the end of the day, money is nothing but pieces of paper and circles of metal. They are means to an end. And the end is eradication of poverty in its true sense. The morals and values of society play an important role in this. Anisha may have learnt it the hard way by leaving her high-earning job to teach kids like her, but keeping money and wealth in its right place in the ecosystem needs to be a collective effort.

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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।

B.

Nature Is Neither A servant Nor A Master,
But A Necessary Partner

Floods in India and Pakistan, severe heat waves in northern plains of India, forest fires in North America and Australia, desertification in Africa, cold wave in Texas, melting of glaciers in Arctic and Antarctic, and last but surely not the least, the nightmare of coronavirus pandemic, are news headings so familiar to us all. What has gone wrong? How did we come to this?

To understand this, we need to start from the beginning. What is nature? In short, everything. We, the mighty rulers of earth, the homo sapiens, is nothing but a ^{small} part of nature. Nature is the soil beneath our feet,

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the sky above our head, and everything in between. Nature is also the invisible SARS covid virus which brought humanity to its knees, and it is also the mighty blue whale which ^{shamelessly} we kill for its meat and oil. So the true question is not what is nature, but rather what isn't nature? Even our "man-made" objects, like cars and clothes, owe their raw materials to nature. We use the various products of nature, add our human ingenuity to it (again, a product of nature), and call them 'man-made'!

To understand the present and predict the future, an acute understanding of the past is a must. The human-nature relationship is no different. Earth was formed 4.6 billion years ago, and life emerged around 3 billion years ago. Through a long journey, with five mass extinctions along the way, modern human arrived on earth less than a million years ago! This 'arrival' of intelligent life has scripted history on its own terms since then.

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Initially, we were the servant, and nature was the master. We travelled in groups, surviving on wild harvests, and killing animals on a good day. Our first technological breakthrough was the making of weapons out of stones, and the discovery of fire. The stone age were a long period, and our greatest achievement in that period was survival, like all the other animals.

Slowly, around 10-12 thousand years ago, we undertook agriculture and domestication of animals. The human-nature relationship slowly began changing, for we could use nature to our advantage. Nature became a necessary partner for us. This advancement enabled us to give up our nomadic lifestyle, and instead settle in a region. We raised families. Trade across regions of the world via land and sea routes grew. There was surplus production, which enabled a diversification of livelihood. ~~Pottery~~ Pottery, ship building, metal work,

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construction, and other hitherto & unknown professions ~~were~~ developed. Religions arrived, and an era of kings and queens was seen. It was ~~the~~ a similar story in different regions of the world. No ~~one~~ region dominated the world, or nature. It ~~a~~ was a low-level equilibrium.

However, things changed drastically in the 18th century Europe, starting from Britain. Industrial Revolution and Capitalism arrived. Suddenly, the purpose of production was not consumption, but profit. More than enough surplus was generated, and an inevitable need for markets emerged. Merchant ships emerged from Europe's coastline, and they 'discovered' other regions of the world to sell their produce. Unregulated capitalism, and blurring of boundaries between companies and countries, led to a mad race for colonising the world among European countries. This capitalism was fuelled by coal, the most abundant ^{and accessible} energy resource on earth. Colonies also provided other raw materials for ~~the~~ the European industries. Minerals were mined,

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plantations were established, and profit was made. Few ~~dom~~ regions dominated the world, and nature. The human-nature equilibrium was disturbed, and nature was designated to be a dutiful servant. Or so we thought.

The current climate crisis across the world cannot be understood without understanding this history in detail. The race for colonies also led to the two world wars in the 20th century, and our current global governance architecture is a relic of this past. The IT revolution, the victory of capitalism over communism in the cold war, inventions like the airplane and satellites, have together shaped our current world and its values. Globalisation led to an increase in trade, fuelled by capitalism.

But amidst all this, we were harboring the illusion that humanity has overcome nature through its ~~own~~ innovative capability. We could summit the Mount Everest, establish research stations in Antarctica, create 16°C in a room situated in deserts,

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travel across the Atlantic in a few hours, sit in ~~cars~~ air-conditioned cars and not worry whether its sunny or rainy, and ~~what~~ more.

The only limit was our imagination, not even sky, for we had the GPS guiding us from the space. Now with the developments in generative AI (Artificial Intelligence), maybe imagination is also not the limit.

But we couldn't have been more wrong. The last 50 years have increasingly led to the realisation about who really is in control, nature or us. Earlier, it was a ^(FEEBLE) feeble voice of a few concerned and isolated voices, but since the Earth Summit of 1992 and other ^{similar} events, this voice has gained immense credibility. We ~~to~~ may have disillusioned ourselves, but nature was in charge all along. The fury with which extreme weather events have struck various regions of the world need no recalling. Islands ~~are~~ have already submerged, and lives have already been lost.

What is more important to understand here is that our calls for 'save earth' are misleading. It should be 'save humans'.

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for the earth will survive, with or without us. Humans are endangering themselves, and other species through their actions. Nature is a terrible servant, and our naive greedy actions of the past 3 centuries are catching up now. The green house gases emission since industrial revolution are heating the earth beyond what is favorable for many life forms. The Paris Agreement goal of containing temperature rise to 1.5°C by the end of this century is slipping right before our eyes.

Global efforts, mostly through the United Nations, like the Paris Agreement or Aichi Biodiversity Targets or SDGs have almost always fell short. To ensure a partnership of nature for our survival, it is important that they succeed. Barriers of diffused responsibility and concentrated benefits, differences over Common But Differentiated Responsibility principle need to be overcome. Often, national politics is not aligned with such goals. Global north needs to shoulder a larger share of the burden through funds and technology transfers to the Global South, for their 'developed'

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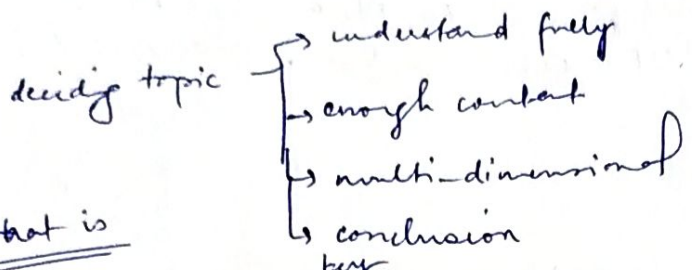
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status came on the back of exploiting nature. Even today, on per capita basis, Europe and US are the most energy guzzling and waste generating regions. Irony is that these who are poor will be struck the hardest by nature's fury.

~~On~~ On the positive side, human ~~human~~ ingenuity alone can answer questions posed by human ingenuity. Our actions have led us here, and our actions alone can ~~to~~ uplift us from the ~~to~~ hole we have dug for ourselves. Countries like India are doing more than their fair share in restoring the balance back to partnership between human and nature. Renewable energy, ~~by~~ hydrogen as fuel, environment friendly handling of waste, reduction of subsidy to fossil fuels, carbon tax and regulating industries ^{are} all ~~bold~~ pieces to the jigsaw puzzle of nature's respiration. The sharp healing nature showed during the ~~a~~ covid lockdown phase, when animals could be seen on roads and mountain ^{were visible} ranges ^{from} cities, illustrate the point that we may like to think of ourselves as 'partners', but in reality, nature would be better without us, and we would ⁽²⁶⁾ be extinct without it.

X — X

Space for Rough Work



then what is

④ The Opposite of Poverty is Not Wealth

①

economic
politics
social
edu
international

- Anisha thought ~~money~~ money was ans,
... ~~main point~~ but not happy, lonely

- what is poverty

- money: most obvious
- why? other basic necessities
- threshold crossed
- what if basics were provided?

②

past
present &
future

→ other dimensions

③ individual

- ~~condition~~ communism vs

Capitalism

→ dominant
→ hence the dominant
idea of poverty
Creative pursuit
by all

→ lack of purpose in life / poverty of personality
→ poverty of healthy envt
→ ~~of~~ meaningful relationships
→ health
→ edu
→ social status
→ ideas / growth
→ how money is earned / self-worth
→ ~~of~~ satisfaction
→ poor rights from the State

- then how do we measure

→ Bhutan's happiness index

North Korea
China vs Scandinavia

→ multi-dimensional poverty Index globally, NITI Aayog

- wealth: not just money, but other things like edu, health, clean envt, liberty, democracy, making political

- how can it be achieved

→ role of govt: edu policy, expenditure on edu/health, removal of corruption, climate change
→ role of each & everyone, esp parents, teachers, civil society discourse (philanthropists like Bill Gates, Azim Premji, Tatas)
180 x 7 = 1260
180 x 6 = 1080
26 x 7 = 182

Conclusion

④

→ ~~Common Opening~~ : floods in Space for Rough Work

India, forest fires in N. America, Australia, heat waves in Europe, desertification in Africa etc

→ ~~climate change~~ nature at the centre : how did we come here

↳ last 50 yrs : increasing realization of nature being true master

↳ "save earth" instead of "save human"

↳ 6th mass extinct" again

↳ ~~humanity~~ half-hearted attempts of Kyoto

Protocol, Paris Agreement of 2015

↳ Capitalism / being a major culprit

stone age : nature as master
↳ humans like other animals in the wild

progression from bronze to iron age and beyond.

18th c. IR is when rapid change.

last ~300 yrs : IR, computer rev. of 1900s, rev in transport, airplane, globalisation, colonisation, WWs

→ ~~when difficulty in making~~ difficulties in fighting CC : concentrated benefit, diffused responsibility
↳ historical responsibility : CBDK principle
↳ national politics not always aligned with some global goods

Conclusion "same human", climate justice, impacting those already poor.

- renewable energy, ~~can~~ declared targets accountability
- development vs cc debate
- role of developed countries in fund & tech transfer
- civil society, local govt : stakeholder model not shareholder
- people / profit / planet model
- govt regulat : subsidy from fossil to clean energy
- "nature" is always exist, but suitable for human, ~~nature~~ man, humans also exist, life doesn't