

## खण्ड-A / Section-A

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस भाग में  
लिखना नहीं है।  
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- Q.1 If you look into someone's face long enough, eventually you feel that you are looking into yourself.  
यदि आप किसी के चेहरे को काफी देर तक देखते हैं, तो अंततः आपको महसूस होता है कि आप अपने भीतर ही 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 आपको अनुमति देता है।

"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."

At the stroke of midnight, on 15th August, 1947, a new nation named 'India' emerged as a sovereign state out of shackles of colonial master. It pursued policy of protectionism and import substitution fearing the onslaught of capitalist model of free market economy. These policies resulted in stagnant economy and hurdle rate of growth marred by corruption and

license raj.

However, even after 75 years of independence, there are issues persisting ranging from corruption to regulatory cholesterol to domestic violence. There is prevalence of mob justice and criminalisation of politics as depicted by Association of Democratic Reforms.

The above story highlights the fact that at time of independence during 1950s India was an infant state. It committed certain structural policy errors due to fear of free market economy. Thus it can be forgiven owing to its inadequate capacity in terms of resources. However, the persisting issues highlighted above, even after 75 years, shows the fact that certain structural reforms are pending which India, even after becoming mature, is yet to take. These reforms are pending due to inadequate political and social will.

In this essay, we will explore the dimensions like What does darkness mean?  
Why child is afraid of dark? Why he  
can be easily forgiven? Further, we  
will talk about meaning of light.  
Why men are afraid of light and  
how it is a real tragedy?

Let us explore the meaning of darkness.  
Darkness, in broader sense means,  
chartering into an uncharted territory.  
It means trying new things whose  
result might be uncertain. For example,  
repeated experiment by Thomas Alva  
Edison helped him to bring light to  
dark houses of people via electric bulb.

Let us find out why child is afraid of  
dark? There are mainly three  
reasons for it. Firstly, it is due  
to lack of capacity building. For  
instance, Chinese economy remained closed

economy during initial years post independence after 1949. It was due to the fact that their industries could not face cut throat global competition.

Second, child is afraid of dark due to uncertainty involved in the outcome.

Outcome can be positive or negative. For first instance, many people faced vaccine hesitancy when administering emergency use approval vaccine like Covishield. This hesitancy was based on fact the vaccine didn't hold ~~any~~ regular approval like polio vaccine, which had gone rigorous decade long trials.

Third, it is due to fear of being outcasted. People who chose a path against social norms are discriminated and stigmatised. For example, people involved in inter religion marriage are looked down upon and stigmatised in our rigid and patriarchal setup.

After having understood why a child is afraid of dark, let us understand why we can easily forgive a child. It is because child's mistakes are considered amateur mistakes. It is looked as if they resorted to some unpopular action due to some brain washing or inadequate knowledge.

For instance, mature Indian democracy act as a bloat paper, mainstreaming and accommodating even people who took arms against Indian state, knowing that youth were radicalised by vested interest organisation. Majeed Khan, a Kashmiri footballer, is a ~~pr~~ evidence to this fact.

After having explored child's dimension, let us explore what does right means in ~~best~~ broader context, It means rising up against the segregating mindset and bringing reforms to

improve the standard of living in line with constitutional morality and ancient progressive cultural ethos.

For example, Renaissance and Age of Enlightenment in Europe transformed the social structure and political setup of whole continent.

Having explored meaning of light, let us talk about why men are afraid of light? There are three main reasons-

Firstly, due to comfortness of the prevailing status quo. It makes people lazy to go out to a new path. For instance, virtuous violence against women to ensure their subordination and subjugation. Kamla Bhasin in book 'What is patriarchy' argues that men control the resources and opportunities leading to domestication of gender.

## NEXT IAS

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Second, it is due to past experience.  
Past instances of cheating new path  
were not fruitful leads to skepticism.

For example, even after giving Pakistan  
adequate time to stop its cross border  
terrorism against India, Pakistan  
didn't mend its policy. So, now,  
India has virtually ended its relationship  
with Pakistan on diplomatic front

Having exposed reasons for the fact  
why men are afraid of light, let us  
get some so insights ~~by~~ what are  
the real tragedies happening due to  
afraidness of men.

There are various consequences like  
prevalence of cancel culture in the  
society where people don't want to  
accept new evolving norms and relationship.  
For instance, low acceptance of same  
sex marriage and LGBTQ+ in the  
society as people don't want to

provide space to them in existing social structure.

Moreover, with increasing temperature and thinning ice, there is Global boiling happening as said by

UN General Secretary Antonio. It is mainly happening due to rampant deforestation and unsustainable industrial revolution of past centuries and present decades. It is exaggerated by lack of environmental centric policy of concerned stakeholders as they don't want to forgo short term profits.

The above consequences calls for a fundamental transformation in approach to prevent real tragedies of life due to fear of facing light and bringing structural reforms. Let us explore solutions to this to make man more courageous to take required actions.

We should focus on value based education which develops critical thinking mindset to question regressive practices. For instance, Shantiniketan model of school by Rabindranath Tagore.

We should nurture intellectual curiosity by having robust media architecture which nudges people to stand against backward looking norms. For instance, media used by Indian social reformers to promote rational outlook and end caste discrimination.

We should support vibrant civil society organisation which are creating conducive atmosphere for bringing reforms by sensitising people like 'Bachpan Bachao Andolan' by Kailash Satyarthi to end child labour.

Apart from this, we need to have good governance architecture taking a lead to encourage people to take new paths. For instance, govt promoting gender neutrality in wages.

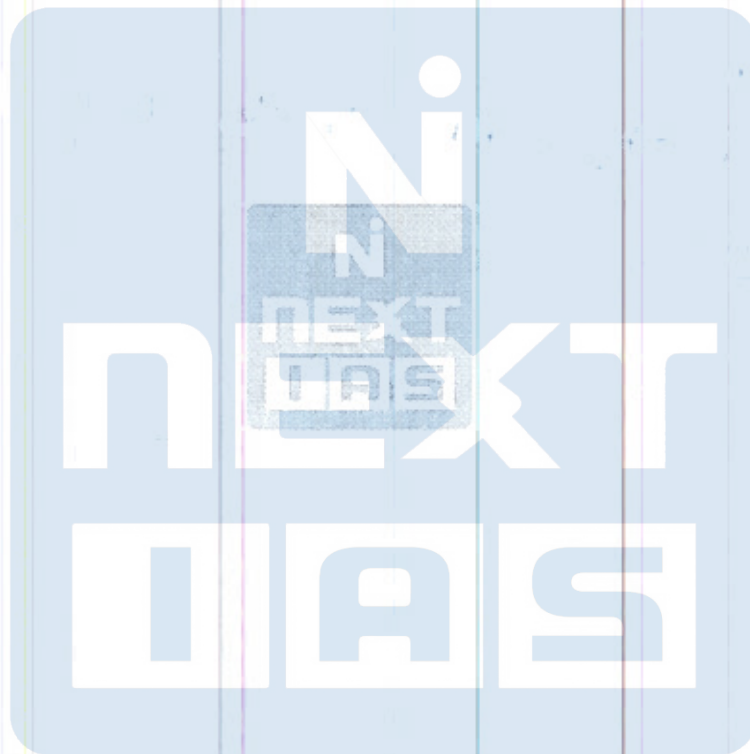
To sum up, ~~although~~ we can ignore the mistake of infant who is less knowledgeable and experienced as seen in case of India being infant. ~~but~~ However, when natured constitution, states and organisation fails to being adequate progressive reforms, it becomes a catastrophe of life as seen in global boiling of earth beyond 10 Celsius.

Thus, we can be like Astarch who dig his head in sand on facts facing challenges or we can be like frog who sees the sky as a small diameter from well ~~and~~. It is

imperative upon us to take the  
frog approach by looking challenges  
as small things and stepping stone to  
stone. This will help us to rise  
against injustice, fight against  
depressive outlook and usher in  
era of  
'Sabke Sath, Sabke Vikas and Sabke  
Vishwas'.

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खण्ड-B / Section-B

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- 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।

Act as if it were impossible to fail

Once upon a time, there were two young dynamic brothers. They were very curious in learning new things. They learned themselves about concept related to aeronautics. They experimented using those aeronautic concepts. Some times they succeeded. Some times they failed but kept on improving things and kept ~~up~~ on experimenting until they were able to develop an aeroplane. ~~so~~ The dynamic brothers mentioned here are 'Wright brothers'.

The above anecdote highlights the significance of trying things and experimenting again and again as if the result of the experiment is certain. It further shows that is futile to think that it is not possible to succeed in any endeavour.

In this essay, we will explore what does the quote mean in broader sense?

Why we need to act as if it were impossible? What will happen if we act with thought of failure in mind?

How to inculcate this habit of acting in such way?

Let us explore what does 'Act as if it were possible to fail' means. It means we should always start with positive outlook and keep the faith in the process and actions we are taking. We need to be optimistic that we

will ultimately succeed even if there are certain barriers and roadblocks in process

like faced in Ulysses path to Ithaca.

For instance, as per Islamic history, Battle of Badr was fought between 313 soldiers with bare maximum ~~no~~ weapons led by Prophet Muhammed and an army of thousands of soldiers led by Quraish force. However, it was the belief and optimism with which small army won over such a large contingent. They achieved the impossible feat by acting with positive outlook.

Having explored the meaning of quote, let us delve why it is important to act as if it were impossible to achieve.

It helps us to achieve social cohesion and solidarity among diverse groups. For instance, Nelson Mandela's struggle against apartheid, characterised by sacrifice and nonviolence, helped to unify a divided nation. It was his concerted

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effort to act continuously for bridging divide as if it ~~was~~ was not difficult to fault

Further, it helps in improving public health and ensure dignified healthy life. Healthy life is sine qua non for productive life as 'Health is Wealth'. For instance, Jonas Salk, American of medical research, continuous effort helped to invent polio vaccine which save the life of millions of people and nearly eradicated polio across world.

~~However~~ Moreover, it helps in achieving extraordinary and remarkable feats. For example, 1990s movie Foxtrot Gump prominently highlights how a man with low & intelligent quotient was able to earn a medal of bravery, became expert in ping pong and ran a successful shrimp farming. It was all because he acted in a way as if ~~was~~ all ~~these~~ these things possible to achieve

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and kept striving for it

Similarly, it helps in getting bigger  
sewards at crucial junctures. For instance,  
during an IPL match between Kolkata  
Knight Riders and Gujarat Riders,  
Pinku Singh hit 5 sixes in last 5  
balls to get his team Kolkata over  
the line. It was ~~to~~ his relentless belief  
that it was impossible to fail that  
helped him to achieve such feat.

Additionally, it helps in preventing looming  
catastrophe. Recent heatwaves in Europe  
and floods in Pakistan are result of  
ongoing ~~climate~~ climate change. If we  
all act with firm commitment and  
unwavering determination to implement  
"Paris Climate deal" in letter and spirit,  
we can prevent the catastrophe. However,  
to achieve this feat, we need to  
believe our action will ultimately  
bear sweet fruits without doubt.

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Further, it will help in improving goodwill gestures among people across artificial geographical boundaries.

For instance, Bajrang Bhaiya movie highlights the mindset of Bajrang, a hindu bhakt, to help a lost pakistani girl, Munni, to reunite with her family. He kept on pursuing his goal as if it were impossible to fail even though facing numerous hardships in the process.

Having explored why it is important to act as if it were impossible to fail, a question arises what if we act with thought of failure in mind? let us delve into this dimension.

Sometimes, thoughts of failure in action is crucial as it creates deterrents among law violators. For example, a person thinking of committing a

crime very cleanly like stealing may not attempt stealing due to that that it is impossible to steal without leaving any trace behind.

Additionally, thought of failure might hinder our efforts to achieve the goal as it hampers our efficiency. For instance, protectionist policies of India like keeping out of Indo Pacific Economic framework - trade pillar due to popul agriculture and dairy sector might ~~induce~~ breed in efficiency in these sector in long run.

Thus, it is important to inculcate this trait to act with positive outlook and determination. It requires multi-stakeholder approach.

Primary Socialisation should be dynamic which encourages and instills

confidence so that we can tread new path confidently until goal is achieved. For instance, father of Jammu Bai instilled courage and independence in Jammu Bai

Adequate promotion of Role model models to inspire people to take risks and keep on trying till goal is achieved. For instance, Thomas Alva Edison repeated failure did not stop him from inventing electric bulb.

Vibrant Social Structure based on ethical values like compassion and solidarity which encourages people to walk ahead at times of turbulence.

To summarise, it is necessary to chart new path as if ~~we~~ <sup>we</sup> are acquainted with it and keep on trying till goal is achieved as said by

Swami Vivekananda.

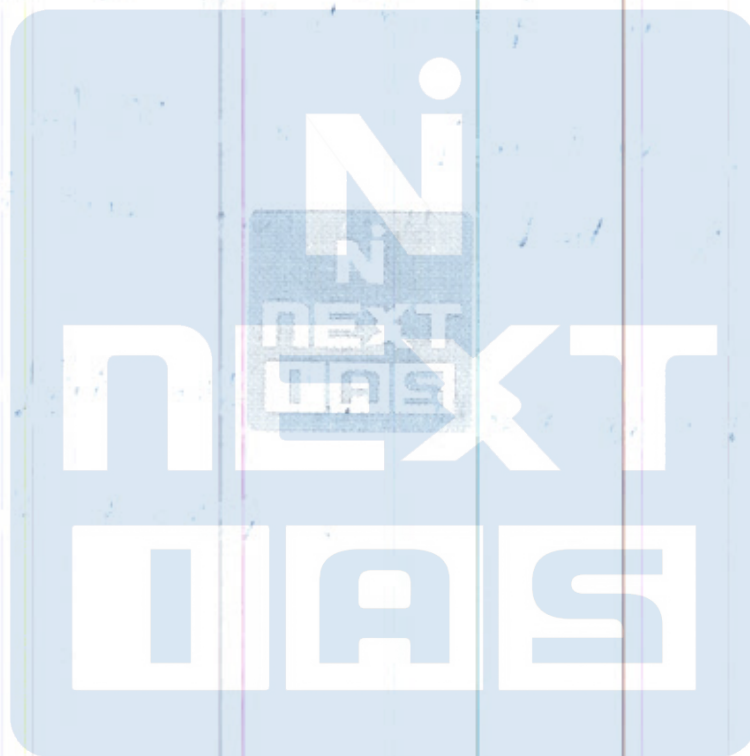
"Arise, Awake and stop not till  
goal is reached"

Further,  
Navigating such paths helps in  
innovation as done by Wright brothers  
and we can proudly say at the end:

"Two roads diverged in a Yellow-wood  
And I took the one less travelled  
by;  
That has made all the difference"  
— Robert Frost.

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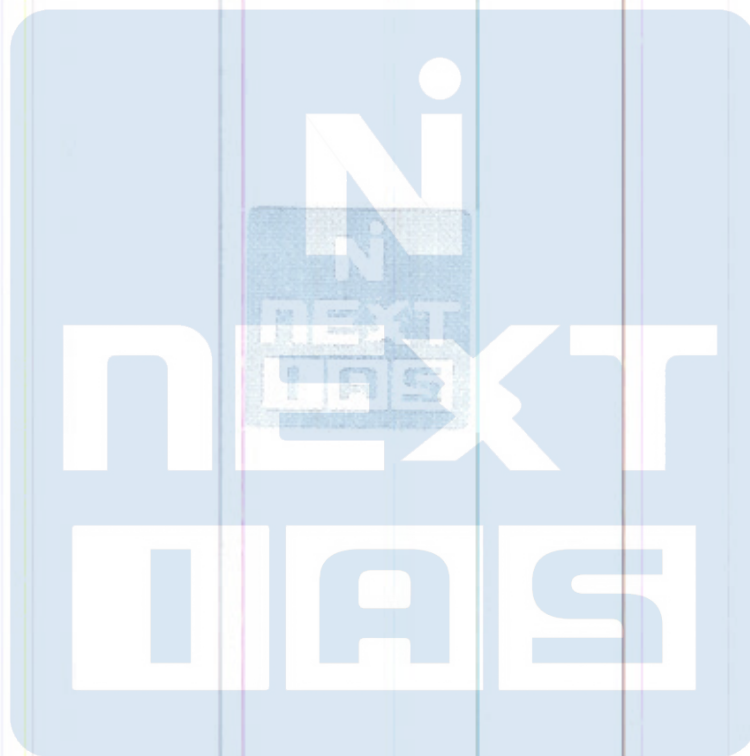
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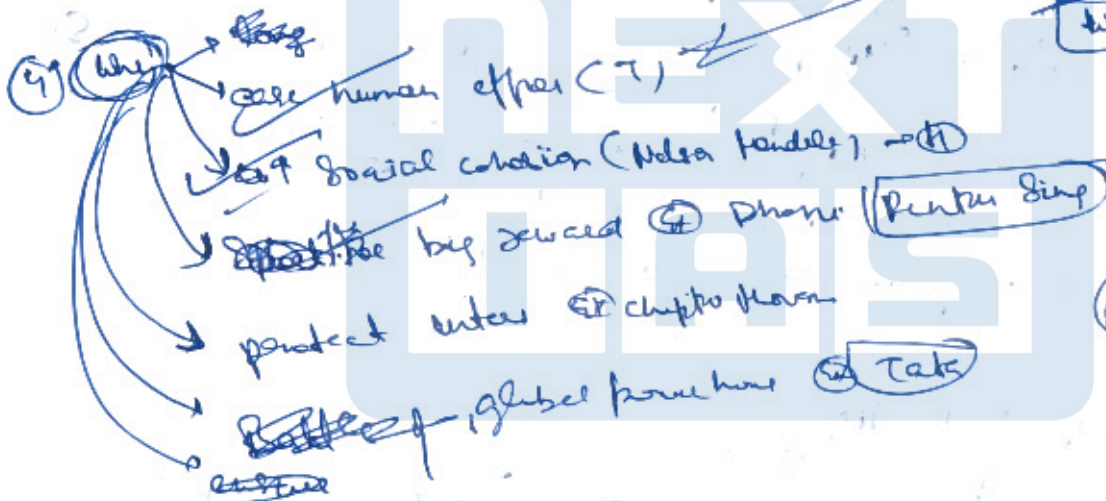
# Space for Rough Work

| Act                                                                                              | Impossible                                                                                                         | Fail                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take act</li> <li>• Chav path</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not possible</li> <li>• beyond achievable</li> <li>• difficult</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• unsuccessful</li> <li>• not passed</li> <li>• against expectation</li> </ul> |

① What is the act of an impossible fail  
↳ Battle of Bada

Intro

• Wright brother  
• Sonas Seta → Paro



turner

• Courage is knowing what not to fear

• Bajrang Bhairava

Is it always to → Reason  
Contemporary → Climate Change / → Climate Justice  
→ Race & Gender →

What if act with failure is mind → India  
day/section

① How to

- primary social
- Role Model
- Social Support

②

Conclusion:

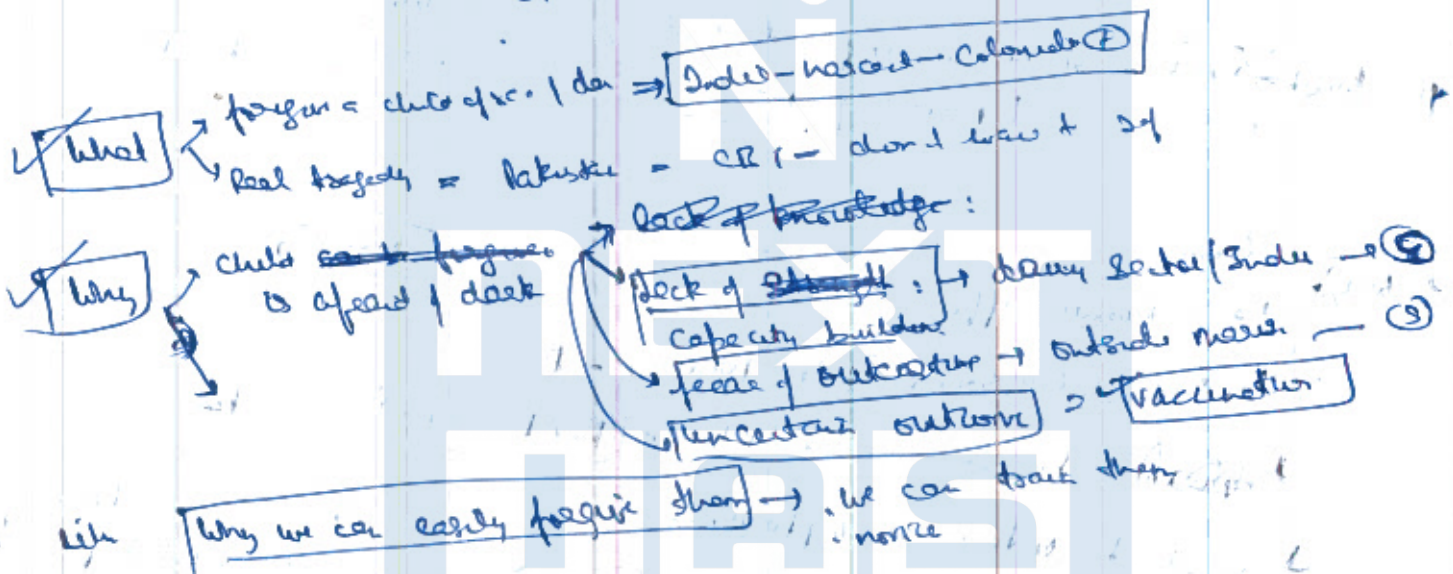
T's road driver in a yellow wood

Intro - India 1950s Ch  
New country -

## Space for Rough Work

| figure           | child                                | dark                                                                                                                            | deal together | Man                        | light                                                                    |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • ignore mistake | • unfair<br>• new born<br>• not know | • trying new<br>• then<br>• Inward<br>• Defens<br>• Regressive<br>Social order<br>• All reservation<br>• Mental rape<br>• L&ETO | • catastrophe | • grown up<br>• experience | • L&G<br>• Decency<br>• Gender equality<br>• Sustained<br>• AIC / Travel |

## Notes



## Why we are afraid of figure

- past experience (P) Colonel
- Lack of self confidence comparison in status quo (P) patriarchal setup
- Long term systematic capt' long.

## How it is deal together: Affected

- perpetual aggressive pol. setup (P) Low women (P)
- prevalence of Cancel culture (P) Sam Jek (P)
- low quality innovative econ
- Global banking (P) due to inadequate action (P)

we to be → encourage culture  
 → nurture intellectual curriculum (P)  
 → All models

we can be like others or fog

2 social change in a