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

खण्ड–A / Section–A

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।

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2) The opposite of poverty is not wealth

Poverty, as defined by the World Bank, is a state when the income and consumption patterns of individuals are such that they are unable to fulfill their basic requirements. It is quantified on an income criteria when their basic income is much less than what is required to sustain their livelihood.

Wealth, on the other hand refers to a state where the means of resources are plentiful much more than required to sustain the livelihood, creating a huge excess than the requirement.

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The opposite of poverty is having the means of resources just more than what is required to sustain their livelihood, not wealth, which involves having too much of resources, much above the basic requirements.

I intend to explore the central theme of this essay by elaborating it into various sectors like economy, polity, etc by providing facts for justifications. I would also provide the antithesis of the central theme, ie when opposite of poverty is wealth, before Concluding appropriately.

Opposite of Poverty : Having Minimum Resources

Quantitatively, any person who earns above 1.9 $ per day on PPP rates is not poor. Thus, any person who earns above this essentially is not living in poverty according to the World Bank. He/she does not necessarily needs to be wealthy to contradict poverty.

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Expanding the scope of poverty into the agricultural sector, the Department of Agriculture classifies farmers on the basis of land holding into 4 categories → marginal, small, medium and large. As the popular income levels go, earning of large farmers is the highest amongst all, making them wealthy.

However, that does not translate into its contrary. Thus, many marginal and small farmers also earn enough to remain above the poverty line. Therefore, many marginal and small farmers are earning enough to lead a healthy lifestyle, send their children to good schools and get benefits of good quality healthcare.

Adam Smith, the father of economics also talks about the concept of ethical wealth creation. Thus, many corporates are helping people come out of poverty by providing them employment, donating to social causes via CSR norms, etc.

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The opposite of poverty is not wealth, but having bare minimum needs. Thus, many nations states are heavily inclined towards the idea of a welfare state, i.e focusing on basic health, education to alleviate poor people above the poverty line.

On the same lines, India also boasts of a number of welfare schemes for poverty alleviation. Schemes like MGNREGA help in creating employment, PM Gareeb Kalyan Anna yojana provide for food grain distribution and schemes like Ayushmaan Bharat focuses on improving the healthcare.

This is due to the fact that India is a Socialist state by virtue of 42nd Amendment Act. Socialism focuses on providing equitable opportunities to all, going against wealth creation, or capitalism. This may even take regressive form as Communism, which strictly goes against wealth accumulation to combat poverty.

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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है।
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Opposite of poverty is not wealth and families focus on earning to adequate levels to fulfill their basic demands. This was especially seen during the time of COVID when the family members, especially parents worked incredibly hard, doing different shifts, multiple jobs to remain above the poverty levels.

Opposite of poverty is leading a comfortable life. Even non-wealthy people lead a comfortable life. This can be explained by the huge numbers of middle class population in India. As Plato says, "A human knowingly does no wrong", they focus on ethical means to earn their livelihood, educate their children and live with dignity.

Wealth creation, in itself leads to a materialistic society. Not all industrialists are Tata, therefore lead to creation of "haves" and "have nots" according to Marx, leading to the perpetuation of poverty.

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Opposite of poverty focuses on basic standard of living, of which education is a basic criteria. In the current times the nation states focuses on education as a key poverty alleviation method. That is why India has a Universal Primary Education policy and schemes like Mid Day Meal.

In classes, the children of a middle class person as well as a wealthy person study together, use the same infrastructure, compete equally. Both of them are not poor, or living in poverty. This phenomenon is especially visible in higher education, where institutes like IITs NITs get heavy government subsidy to lessen the cost of education.

Exploring the central theme of the essay into the domains of religion, every religion focuses on social services like community kitchens, resource redistribution, etc. This shows that religions do not focus on wealth creation as an opposition of poverty.

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Wealth and Poverty : Two Opposites of the Same Coin

However, some critics argue about the central theme of the essay, mainly on the context of wealth creation. They allege that wealth and poverty are the two different sides of the same coin; ie. the economy.

The nations as a whole promote Capitalism, ie the wealth accumulation. The critics say that in the race for wealth creation, many people work hard, indulge in a healthy competition. This helps in people gaining knowledge and expertise and effectively fighting the poverty.

This is why many nations states including India promote capitalism in some form or the other. Policies to promote startups like Stand Up India Scheme, PLI schems, focusing on private sector growth as a major drives for economic growth are some key areas.

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Even Rostow in this theory of "Stages of Growth" focuses on Capitalism as a major factor promoting growth and poverty alleviation. Theory of "Pareto Optimality" even elucidates that some people need to be made "worse off" in order to make some people "better off".

Thus, in todays contemporary world scenario when the global value chains are highly integrated into our local value chains, focusing on poverty alleviation programs requires concerted efforts on different fronts. Key sectors like health, education, employment are the major target areas.

Focus on welfare, as said by D.M. Smith is very much essential in this regards. Understanding the depths of poverty issues, mapping holistically the beneficiaries and providing concerted efforts of different stakeholders is the need of the hour.

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Also, developing compassion and empathy towards the people living in poverty is a key method. For instance, focusing on slum redevelopment, like the Odisha Govt's Jaga Mission which focuses on granting land rights, providing basic infrastructure and clean water and sanitation facilities is a welcomed step.

Thus, wealth is not the opposite of poverty but wealth creation in the economy and ensuring its equitable distribution is very much necessary for combating poverty. This can be done by building in good virtues of the policy planners, administrators and providing equal opportunities to all.

For building good virtues, the importance of education, especially moral education is paramount. Even Gandhiji said, "Providing moral education is the key purpose of society to provide. If we are able to build the character of an individual, the society will survive."

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खण्ड–B / Section–B

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

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।

It is not that we use technology, we live technology

Technology refers to the scientific knowledge required for the purpose of solving issues of daily life, industrial production, education or for research purposes. The current world order is highly intertwined with technology, and we require it for almost all purposes in life.

The involvement and utilization of technology in our daily lives has been so much that technology and life have become inseperable domains, and that human survival cannot be imagined without technology.

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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है।
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However critics often allege that humans have the capability to survive even without the technology, and that technology is always a second fiddle in their lives after the bigger picture of "living their lives".

Vide the course of this essay, I intend to explore the central meaning of the topic by elaborating it into different domains like education, scientific research, geopolitical softpower. I would also provide the antithesis of this central theme before concluding appropriately.

Life and Technology : An Inseperable Phenomenon

According to Daniel Bell, "technology is a soaring exercise for human imagination." Humans are constantly involved in devising new technology to ease their lives, bring positive changes and improve on different fronts.

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Thus, this easing of life has lead to a "click culture". Thus every thing can be done on the click of a button - be it cooling the room, washing our clothes, listening to songs, watching news, and the endless list of human wants.

This click culture was accelerated by the COVID pandemic, where we saw technology overtaking human decisions and means of subsistence. Thus, services went online, work from home culture got exaggerated and human social interaction was vanquished by technological oversight.

We are living technology. Practically, there is no such household requirement that the technology cannot fulfill. We have online grocery delivering platforms like Blinkit, online food delivering platforms like swiggy, clothing like Myntraa, e-commerce like Amazon, and the endless list can't be terminated..

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Certainly, the COVID pandemic had other implications also. We saw online education spurring tremendously over a short time span into the grass root levels like villages. Even there are now customized educational modules available related to the demands of the pupil.

Even in matters of higher education, technology is the basic driving factor. The immense focus on scientific results, especially in STEM fields, development of AI like Chat GPT, all are driven by the powerful engines of technology.

Development of new technology like Genetic Engineering is technology driven, and breakthroughs in this field like CRISPR Cas-9 technology has provided solutions to many problems. Even the new emerging branch of technology like 3D printing holds mayor prominence in human life, like even building a full fledged house.

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Nano technology is the technology of the future, and has high level of integration with human lives. Its applicability in infrastructural sector, developing crack resistant concrete; or in medical sector where nano bots perform intricate human surgeries or targetted delivery of drugs has a very high viability in our lives.

Even the whole agrarian sector is living with technology. We saw the advent of green Revolution which focused on high yielding variety (HYV) seeds; later due to its unsustainability in the environment Organic farming / Zero Budget Natural farming (ZNBF) cropped up.

Industrial sector focuses on changing its method of production - mechanization of process, improving assembly line efficiency, focusing on environmental sustainability shows a high level of technological integration into industrial sector life.

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Talking about the energy sector, it is now moving on paradigm technological changes to meet the demands of environmental sustainability. Focus on development of solar energy, hydrogen fuel cells, carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) are some of the prominent fields.

Even integration of technology into economy has been tremendous, especially after Specific Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities Act) 2016. Emergence of UPI has made daily transactions highly accessible, and increased in better revenues of businesses especially small businesses.

Sprawling up of e Rupee, Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) has also ensured that we live with technology. A lot of international collaborations by institutions like the World Economic Forums, domestic think tanks like the Niti Aayog on increasing technological penetration into the economic life highlights this. □□

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Even the world political systems are highly inclined towards technology. Electoral reforms like EVM machines, VVPAT systems are prominent. Also prediction of exit poles is based on the processing of information by Artificial Intelligence to provide result outcomes.

Governments, for functioning of various welfare schemes involve data collection using a variety of technological methods, ranging from identification of beneficiaries, providing direct benifit transfers (DBTs) in form of subsidies or providing an online platform for easing out the governments role, like the customs portal ICEGATE.

Technology is highly integrated in matters of geopolitical importance like defence, nuclear energy. The rise of China can be explained by usage of technology like 5G, utilization of reserves of Lithium, Rare Earth Metals (REMs), defense agressions in the South China Sea, etc.

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Technology and Life: A Critical Analysis

Technology has always been treated as a second fiddle in life, after the broader need of "living the life". Thus, as Aristotle focused on virtues of characters, focus on basic human virtues like integrity, honesty, compassion, tolerance is a greater factor in life than technology.

The present world order has taken a cognizance of this phenomenon. Thus many universities have banned the usage of Chat GPT for research work as it promotes a lethargic behaviour and plagiarism in work.

Despite the online methods of teaching and examination, more prominence is given to pen-paper based exam. This is due to the fact that pen-paper examination proves the real capability of a person, shows her hard work and depth of conceptual understanding.

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The technological interference with lifes has been minimal in regions like villages. Due to this, villages exhibit a higher social cohesion, promote a greater collective towards the shared goals of prosperity and contributes to a higher happiness index.

The ill effects of technology in our daily lives is also a pertinent issue. Cyber crimes are on the rise, issues of digital thefts, digital piracy are on the rise. Even misinterpretation of the "flood of information" has lead to the phenomenon of fake news and post truth.

Many political and geopolitical crisis are on the rise. Use of technology to influence the voters in the Cambridge Analytica case; or rapid technological developments of nuclear warheads, chemical weapons, militarization of the space and oceans are contemporary issues.

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Thus, there is no denying to the fact that technology is highly integrated into our lives. It has resulted in the betterment of human lives, transformed the economic modes of production, improved their efficiency and generated economic and scientific growth.

However, the ill effects of overarching influence of technology must also be checked. Thus, the cyber space must be secured by provisions like the IT Act 2000, geopolitical issues should be controlled by UN Resolutions and treaties/laws like Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), etc.

Improving the virtues of human character are primordial to ensure an ethical technological integration into human lives. We must focus on good morals and virtues to promote societal and technological growth. Even Swami Vivekanand said, "Patience, purity and perseverance are 3 essentials to success, above all, love."

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IR 4.0; ethical use, govt regul's, chat GPT, online classes / WFH during Covid (accelerating this phen). Virtues of char, trust on human cap, Gross Nat Hap Index, Gene Eng, Lethargic, help in wars, geopolitics, BRI, Study of Lands, Lab of Lands

Space for Rough Work

Theme → The involvement and utility of tech has been so much that technology and life have become an inseparable domains, and that we won't be able to live without tech.

Needs → Humans have the capability to even survive without technology and utilise tech as a second fiddle in their lives; rather than being living their lives.

Family → Everyday life "Seamless start" → TV, washing m/c
→ Covid → WFH, online delivery of groceries, food
Lack of socials" b/w diff families

→ Villages → simple life, more social ethos" due to less tech
→ Cannot sustain, misuse of tech

Issues of tech → "Harmful effects of tech → lethargic, Misuse fallouts eg Nuclear plants; Cambridge Analytica
→ Focus on safe dev, Reg issues like Green energy

Educ" → changes in educ" model → customised educ" according to child's needs
AI → chat GPT → lethargic; online educ", issues of child after lockdown (ASER report)
Higher Educ" → STEM, genetic Engineering (course (ass?)
use of nanotech
3d printers

Issues

Political → Election system → EVM, VVPAT; exit polls based on AI
→ Data collection by Govt, processing them using AI for diff schemes
Geopolitical → defence
→ Nuclear
Study of Lands China → REM, Li, BRI, Study of Land

Economic → Agri → Green Rev, Organic / ZNBF
Ind → changes in mech, nano tech,
Green energy → hydrogen, solar
IR 4.0 UPI, e-rupee

Relig" → Many Pujas of Sai Baba, Vaishno Devi Online
→ Online forms of dom"

Needs → Tech as a second fiddle → focus on human labours, cap.
→ ban on chat GPT in schools
→ Amitabh → Virtues of char → usage of ethical tech (CTBT, defence)
→ Economic" → in pre papers monthly - to test human hand with AI

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Eg: Cond^n → welfare, ethical means, equal opportunity, values, compass^n
↳ focus on targetted pov red^n plans, edu^n, healthy
Poverty alleviat^n via ...

Space for Rough Work

Poverty → Dimnl
↳ Low income
↳ Health
↳ Edu^n

Poverty, i.e. the opposite of poverty, i.e. when the means of resources are not enough to meet the min threshold is not wealth, i.e when a person is having resources >> than min threshold

Anti → The opposite of poverty, is i.e. having very less resources not enough to sustain livelihood is wealth, i.e having resources >> than required

Edu^n Family → family resources, livelihood, how family earns enough to come out of pov^n
↳ have min requirements enough to come out of pov^n
Even ppl having resources > poverty living comfort
wealth creat^n = materialism ⇒ creates haves, have nots.

Edu^n → Universal prim edu^n ⇒ helping come out of pov, mid day meal
↳ mid day meal check of wealthy invisible class study in same class, both ⇒ poverty
↳ Highly subsidised edu^n, esp Higher edu^n. Eg) IIT ⇒ better affordability even if not wealthy

Political → welfare nations ⇒ making come out of pov ⇒ wealthy Eg) PMGKAY, JDY, SMDY
↳ Socialism ⇒ ensuring equitable society
Communism, extreme, against wealth accumul^n

Eco → Quantitative indicator of WB (1.9$ per day @ PPP), if above then opp of poverty
↳ Classific^n of persons on basis of level, even some marginal ⇒ wealthy > poverty
Adam Smith ⇒ ethical wealth creat^n; Many big corporates helping come out of poverty, CSR

Relig^n → Equitable distrib^n of resources during Mahayanapalas
↳ Every relig^n involves community services like community kitchens, social gathering → working to come out of poverty

Anth → Different stages of growth ⇒ capitalism v much evolved
↳ Wealth creates competit^n ⇒ many ppl work hard to come out of pov
↳ Country as a whole promotes wealth creat^n. Eg) Unicorn startups, they gen emp, CSR, etc
↳ Pareto Optimality

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Space for Rough Work

Reason → motive
↓ way
cause
codes

Reason, i.e the motive to do a particular task has always been there, not necessarily

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