

खण्ड-A / Section-A

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

- Q.1 You can't serve data on a hungry man's plate.
आप किसी भूखे आदमी की थाली में डेटा नहीं परोस सकते।
- Q.2 AI is overcoming our mental limitation but not expanding our mental horizon.
ए.आई. मनुष्य की मानसिक सीमाओं को नियंत्रित कर रहा है, किंतु मानसिक क्षितिज का विस्तार नहीं कर रहा है।
- Q.3 We are using environment for politics, not politics for environment.
हम पर्यावरण का उपयोग राजनीति के लिए कर रहे हैं, न कि राजनीति का उपयोग पर्यावरण के लिए।
- Q.4 The worst form of inequality is to try to make unequal things equal.
असमानता का सबसे बुरा रूप है असमान को समान बनाने का प्रयास।

"The worst form of inequality is to try to make unequal things equal"

Devi, hasnt been able to clear the medical exam. She worked hard and also desperately wanted a medical seat, to fulfill her anna's dream of seeing her as a doctor. She comes from a Dalit hamlet and many of her upper caste batchmates have made it to the list.

So what went wrong with Devi?
Perhaps, she was made to sit on equal pedestal in the exam, citing "merit"

and her years of undernourishment, lack of good education, discrimination faced in accessing basic services like water from the common well, etc have been casually brushed under the carpet, under the garb of "merit".

This system of Social Darwinism, has tried to make unequal things equal, resulting into worst form of INEQUALITY! But, what is inequality?

INEQUALITY - A CRUEL REALITY

Inequality refers to attaching differential rewards to natural differences. A man might get easy access to health, education etc based on his sex.

It is a relative concept as when compared to a trans-gender, it would be easier for a woman to get access to similar services.

But, then, why do people try to make unequal things equal, why can't they simply accept that inequality exists?

Making things equal - justification of social hierarchy : A crossroad

One way of understanding this is, that government or people justify social hierarchy by trying to make unequal things as equal. This also ensures that social solidarity is upheld, while differential gains still persist.

Now, who has better chances to be successful in a startup - the son of a billionaire business woman or the daughter of a farmer? Perhaps, the first one, but democratic governments will have similar conditions for them, citing competition and open market. The inherent

inequality in the situation has been turned backwards, causing the worst form of inequality. There can be other reasons for this too!

Making things Equal : To forego the blame away from them

To try to mould unequal things, in equal moulds often leads to shift of responsibility, as the situation becomes totally justifiable. This can have moral, social, political as well as economic benefits.

Take the case of climate reparations developed nations try to put themselves at similar pedestal with developing nations, leading to less ones on them to pay more for more use of carbon budget historically. The result? - Adaptation fund still is underfilled, CBDR remains a jargon and 2cm¹⁰ sea rise has already occurred.

NEXT IAS

At a personal level too, it helps in combating with one's consciousness.

Making things Equal : Quick bandaid for guilt

To prevent guilt of causing inequality, the most easy method is to justify the equality of circumstances. It would prevent guilt and "crisis of conscience", leading to easy perpetration of similar behaviour in future.

A couple might have given differential treatment to their son and daughter, but when the son bags a government job and the daughter has to be "married off" as a homemaker, they would usually justify the equality of circumstances and chances given to both. It would be the worst form of inequality to display here to try to make unequal things equal.

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

The next point of contention is, why it's
it called the "WORST"?

One reason would be because people here
won't see the need to change a
given situation. Unless, the unequal
status is understood, nobody will see
a reason to change the status quo.

Take the case of Apartheid,
people thought it to be absolutely
correct and Blacks and Whites were
given treatment that is correct for them.
No need was seen to change
the status quo!

Similarly, unless the dual
burden on a working woman is
identified, it would be difficult to
remove the extra load on her. It
is imperative to identify unequal
circumstances, to try to change them.

It is also worst as ends start justifying means and it becomes absolutely impossible to change the situation.

Instead, a vicious cycle of injustice creeps in and there remains no reason to change the reality as the "ends" have started to justify the "Means", no matter how bad they are.

The Indian Caste System rests on the principle of "Purity and Pollution". In a bid to maintain ritual purity (ends), a horrendous practice of untouchability (Means) crept through. The situation was seen equal as it was based on one's "Karma". It resulted into the worst form of inequality.

This holds true at an individual level too! A scenario of a poor hungry man stealing a loaf of bread and a rich capitalist syphoning off tonnes of public money. Both are thieves. But are there situations similar?

While law would consider both as violators of rule book, but the circumstances leading them to conduct such a crime are quite different - from sheer hunger to hefty greed!

To put both these circumstances on equal pedestal ethically, is to carry forward the worst form of inequality, by trying to put unequal situations on an equal pedestal.

Consequences : A wide banquet

History has taught us that inequality often erupts into reform through revolution through initial subjugation.

often, intellectuals and wise administrators point out the seemingly distressful situation and turn the situation upside down.

As Raja Ram Mohan Roy fought for women's rights and made women to understand the unequal status they had in "Sati" and Jyotiba Phule's work to uplift Dalits are cases in point.

Similarly, Nelson Mandela's "long walk to Freedom" and Anna Hazare's Anti corruption movement were the ways in which unequal circumstances were identified and their remedies sought.

The worst form of inequality found a remedy for change - from violent protests to silent satyagraha.

Having said that, there can be negative fallouts of not doing this as well. If there is no attempt to make unequal things equal, their conditions might never change.

Social reforms would become a far fetched dream and people would abide by the given social systems present. Take the case of 2nd Round Table congress. Congress and British were regarded equals there despite the inequality.

But, this raised the self confidence of the nationalist leaders as they got a voice to change the status of their nation.

NEXT IAS

Despite these antidotes, it wouldn't be wrong to say that the worst form of inequality is to try to make unequal things equal.

There are many in a situation similar to Deir's. Deir might be an individual, a society, a nation or an institution suffering from the problem of being treated equally, despite the unequal status.

The need of the hour is for governments, policy makers and even individuals to identify the perpetuating inequality, to be able to resolve them better. The need to change the status quo will be felt only when the inequalities are identified in the first place.

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

More identification of these unequal situations can lead to options of solving them, finally leading to social solidarity and cohesion.

A nation, society can remain together only if the inequality is addressed and for a developing nation like India, Amrit Kal will usher only when we first identify inequality and then rectify the situation.

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

खण्ड-B / Section-B

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

- Q.5 Existence is a science, living is an art.
अस्तित्व एक विज्ञान है, जीना एक कला है।
- Q.6 If the truth shall kill them, let them die.
यदि सत्य से किररी की मृत्यु होती है, तो उन्हें मरने दो।
- Q.7 The only way to go beyond things, is to go through them.
हालातों से परे जाने का एकमात्र तरीका उनसे होकर गुजरना है।
- Q.8 Dream for the best. Be prepared for the worst. Enjoy life in between.
सर्वश्रेष्ठ के लिए सपना देखें। सबसे बुरे के लिए तैयार रहें। इसके बीच के जीवन का आनंद लें।

“Dream for the best. Be prepared for the worst. Enjoy life in between”

Delhi, Mumbai are cities of dreams.
People from rural areas and farflung areas migrate to these places and dream of making it big. Some succeed, some don't. But usually, both forget to enjoy life in between!

Those who succeed feel that it wasn't a way to happiness and fall into drugs, depression etc, while those who don't succeed, feel something

remains missing from their life. This ultra-fast city life makes us forget our one goal of life - enjoying it, and just follow a rat race, that leads nowhere.

The inability to take a moment in this "success oriented" life, enhances the importance of the adage - "Dream for the best. Be prepared for the worst. Enjoy life in between". Often, the third statement gets camouflaged.

Why Dream for the Best?

If, it is only, to enjoy the life, why should anyone dream for the best? Let's have small plans and achieve them and be happy.

The reason is - when we dream for the best, we get the

NEXT IRS

power, self-confidence to tread a difficult path. It also gives us clarity of thought as to what path to take in our personal and professional life.

A small girl fascinated by the moon and the stars, aspiring to go into space would have to dream for the best to be able to reach there and become a Kalpana Chawla. This holds true even at the societal level.

SOCIETY - A CULMINATION OF DREAMS

When most people of a society dream for the best and have high hopes of achieving a collective goal, it is bound to manifest itself sooner or

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

later.

PM Modi's Pauch Pran is one such example. His dream is to make India a developed nation, which seems far fetched in short term, but dreaming for the best is the only way to get out of the middle income trap we are stuck in.

All our efforts of boosting manufacturing enhancing investments can yield results when we believe in ourselves. Another facet of this is to be prepared for the worst!

The worst is yet to come

one should be mindfully prepared to face adversity to ensure they are able to have the strength to tide when tides are low.

If we are psychologically ready to fight off a difficult situation there are high chances of sailing through it effectively.

Take the case of failure of Chandrayan mission. Indian scientists had put their all to ensure a soft landing - but that didn't happen. They didn't lose hope and now we are again ready with Chandrayaan-3

The reason? Perhaps the ability to understand the risk associated and accept that despite all precautions, there are chances of failure, it would be easier to face better.

Even, at an individual level this will hold true. Take the case

of lakhs of civil servant aspirants who come to Delhi to join the coveted service. Many of them might never be able to get through and thus, they should prepare themselves for the worst.

This will ensure that they perform better in other careers and ensure they remain happy and sane throughout their lives. Now, moving on to the most important part - enjoying life in between. live life - as if there is no other

It is important to enjoy life in between the bouts of success and failure. The ways to do it are pretty simple - watch a plant grow and bore flowers, enjoy a moonlit

night looking at nature's gifts of dark night and moon, enjoy a good rain by feeling the smell of the wet soil and the cold breeze it carries.

All these are free and yet give immense pleasure - both to our eyes and hearts. Enjoying our life wouldn't mean adhering to Charvak philosophy - indulging in conspicuous consumptions. What it does mean, is to enjoy the little joy that is life.

Starting can be pretty simple, speak to your parents, enjoy their company while they are alive, make new friends and enjoy the pleasure of human interactions. Nobody

can object to this form of gratification

Enjoying life can also be ensured by helping others in need - which will require fairly simple steps.

Help an old lady cross a road, pick an old man's heavy luggage on the railway station, or offer a good meal to poor children.

The enjoyment and sheer pleasure that arises out of helping others is immense and should form a part of our everyday routine. Help others in whichever way one can!

Enjoying life would also mean living sustainably with the environment. Sowing plants, keeping our environment clean and plastic free will also gratify us as it will indirectly help in keeping our minds

clean.

Standing against the wrongdoers and ensuring prevalence of ethical standards create ripple effect of enjoying life in between the negative fallouts.

Additionally, living and enjoying life should never mean 'harming others' rights. One has to keep one's rights of enjoyment until other person's rights start.

One can't live off on other's hard earned money, claiming to be enjoying one's life. One can't violate human rights of other person to enjoy one's life - like violating another's body (Rape), or causing violence (lynching).

But, it is always possible to live by this philosophy?

Perhaps No. Sometimes circumstances, sometimes grief don't allow one to enjoy life in between. While disease, can reduce one's physical and mental strength to enjoy life, similarly the death of a loved one can result to emotional trauma!

One way to adjust to these circumstances is to go through them. In days of grief, cry and in days of sorrow, ask for a shoulder to cry. Live the grief and take it out of your system, as not everything is under the control of the mortal human.

NEXT IAS

The protagonist in the movie "Anand" shows us the way. He is a cancer patient, but "till death does him apart", he remains faithful to his LIFE and HAPPINESS.

On his death, he leaves a rich legacy where people remember him fondly, forever in their hearts!

Thus, the adage of "Dreaming for the best, preparing for the worst and enjoying life in between" is most valid in the changing modern world.

In a bid of achieving success, riches of life, people often forget "living" and their life is a mere survival.

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

One way of coming out of this spiral is reading about enlightened men like Buddha.

He remains an epitome of how one should maintain a "Madhy Marg" while dealing with success and failure, meanwhile enjoying the little things in life.

Even our Pauch Pran will be realised if we dream for the best, prepare for adversities like epidemics, wars, inflation and meanwhile live - by lifting poor out of poverty and creating a just society.

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