

A Handbook of **SELECT ESSAYS**For Civil Services Examination



Includes a Comprehensive Strategy on What, Why and How of Essay Writing

A Handbook of Select Essays for Civil Services Examination



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From the Desk of the Editor-in-Chief

Dear Aspirants,

Essay writing is an important component of the Civil Services Examination (CSE), which tries to gauge the writing skills, knowledge, critical thinking, imagination and creativity of the candidates. Particularly, in the UPSC CSE (Main), scoring well in the Essay paper, which is allocated a decent share of 250 marks, has become crucial to final selection into the coveted services like IAS, IPS, IFS, etc.

In the Essay paper, the UPSC demands certain attributes, which focus on "conciseness, relevance, and effective and exact expression" of the views presented, in an orderly fashion. However, the scenario may not be as simple as it appears. This segment is not easy to master, and getting a good score in an Essay has always been a challenge to the aspirants.

"A Handbook of Select Essays for Civil Services Examination" is a step by Drishti Publications to cater to the needs of the aspirants for whom essay writing has always been an untamed horse. This book contains essays from different domains, such as discourses on Religion, Science, Nationalism, Health, Economy, Politics, Security, Governance, etc. Some of the topics are knowledge-centric while others are of an abstract nature. The experts at Team Drishti have tried to reflect upon different dimensions while compiling an essay on a particular topic, so that an aspirant is able to develop his or her ability to think and analyse the different facets and views related to the topic. To help the aspirants to get to the know-how of essay writing, a comprehensive strategy on "What, Why and How of Essay Writing" has been provided in the book so as to give a blueprint of a standard essay framework. This will enable the aspirants to practise brainstorming, bringing coherence in random ideas, adding multiple dimensions to their essays, etc.

We hope that the book will be of immense help to the aspirants.

We look forward to your feedback and suggestions.

With Best Regards Editor-in- Chief Drishti Publications



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Essay Writing What, Why and How?

"Reading maketh a full man; Conference a ready man; and Writing an exact man."

These words which emphasise on the importance of writing in the making of a man, belong to Francis Bacon, one of the greatest essayists of English language. The "essay" has been defined by him as "dispersed meditations", while Samuel Johnson has referred to it as "loose sally of the mind". The style of essay writing has evolved over the years since the time of the likes of Bacon and Montaigne of the 16th centuries. The style, presentation and content of essays vary as per the purpose and targeted audience.

Essay writing is an important component of various competitive examinations. However, we will focus our strategy on the kind of essay which is to be written in the Essay paper of the Civil Services Main Examination conducted by the UPSC. It will also be of help for aspirants who are appearing for other competitive exams like State PCS, CAPF, etc.

What is an Essay?

An essay is a short piece of writing that sheds light on any given topic. M.H. Abrams, the American literary critic, notes that the essay is "Any short composition in prose that undertakes to discuss a matter, express a point of view, or persuade us to accept a thesis on any subject." Essay is a comprehensive analysis of a given topic while taking a particular view/stand on it. It takes into account various aspects of the topic along with its critical appraisal.



Consequences of Unrestricted Freedom of Expression

"The peculiar evil of silencing the expression of an opinion is, that it is robbing the human race; posterity as well as the existing generation; those who dissent from the opinion, still more than those who hold it".

-John Stuart Mill

Freedom of speech and of the press lay at the foundation of all democratic organisations, for without free political and intellectual discussions, no public education, so essential for the proper functioning of the process of popular government, is possible. Freedom of speech and expression has a well-recognised connotation, which means the liberty to express one's views, opinions and beliefs. It leads to the creation of new ideas and knowledge, finding of truth, building tolerance and receptivity and is essential for self-rule. At the same time, it does not confer an absolute right to speak or publish without responsibility, whatever one may choose or an unrestricted license that gives immunity for every possible use of language. The freedom of such an amplitude might involve risks of abuse. Unrestricted freedom of expression many a times may engender serious and aggravated forms of public disorder, which may threaten the security of the state.

The ability to interpret, articulate and express ideas for personal as well as social and political purposes is unique to humanity. This ability is, however, not without restrictions. Since antiquity, various political thinkers have explored and opined on the freedom of expression in order to expound the relationship between individuals on one hand and the society and state on the other. The idea of freedom in a political sense is contingent on the relationship between the individual and

Media as the Fourth Pillar of Democracy

"The moment we no longer have a free press, anything can happen. What makes it possible for a totalitarian or any other dictatorship to rule is that people are not informed."

-Hannah Arendt

With the advancement and progress of democracy, the media has developed at an accelerated pace around the world. Its freedom has become the barometer of the liberty and freedom of speech and expression of the society. Media is an institution that brings the suppressed voice of a common man to the forefront and strengthens his voice in the democracy.

Though the legislative, executive and judiciary are the three prominent organs of the state, but the media has been designated as the fourth pillar of democracy. Such a designation has not been put forth all of a sudden, but it has been with the gradual development of the three pillars of the government in a modern democratic state.

Today, the media is considered as part and parcel of democracy as it plays an important role as an informative bridge between governing bodies and the general public. In a democracy, media acts as a watchdog for the society at large and the citizenry in particular. This, it does for the sake of the people or the governed in a democratic state and to ensure the checks and balances among the other three pillars so that they could function for the welfare of people and advance the real cause of democracy. The prime duty of the media is to make the people aware of the affairs and actions of the government of the day.

The Challenges before a Civil Servant Today

The institution of civil services has been in existence since time immemorial. The civil servants through their wisdom and expertise have influenced the course of the progress of human society in different eras and areas. However, in every age, they faced numerous challenges which varied as per the nature of polity, complexity of the society and aspirations of the people.

The institution of civil services was prevalent even in ancient India as mentioned in Kautilya's Arthashastra. However, the modern Indian civil service in the post independence period has been largely based on the British system of bureaucracy which was initiated by efforts of Lord Cornwallis.

Kautilya and Pt. Nehru both expressed significant challenges that can be faced by civil servants in the country's administration. In independent India, civil servants constitute all union and state employees, excluding armed forces who play a significant role in policy making and its implementation at all levels. Their role in monitoring, accounting, budgeting, implementation and sending feedback is very significant. As the state plays a significant role in providing a large number of public services to huge population which is facing issues of poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, etc., civil servants face serious political, economic, socio-cultural, administrative and technological challenges that impact governance outcomes which become more debilitating in the case of vulnerable communities or groups e.g., tribal people, women, children, etc.

The relationship between political leadership and civil services has always been debatable. Although impartiality, neutrality, and anonymity have been considered paramount for civil servants, but



Globalisation would finish Small Scale Industries in India

Globalisation refers to the modern or contemporary system of economy and society shaped by new and faster means of travel and communication and characterized by open economies and liberal economic policies, relatively free flow of capital, ideas and unprecedented people to people contact. In case of India, the era of globalization truly started post the economic liberalization reforms of 1990s. India was pushed into the reforms by precarious economic situation and IMF's loan that came with strings attached. More than two decades have passed since those liberalization reforms and India of today is in many ways unrecognizable from the preliberalization India.

It would be fair to say that India has benefitted in a number of economic sectors as well as improved upon some social indicators due to ushering in of liberalization reforms and globalization. However, critics also point out to its perceived flaws, one of which is its impact on small scale industries in India. Small scale industries have special or different requirements for growth as compared to large scale industries and are a major source of employment generation and income, especially in a developing country like India.

Globalisation in India brought a vast array of changes. It led to opening up of Indian economy. A number of hitherto public sectors were opened to private investment like power, telecom, air travel, etc. India by the 1990s had matured as a nation and also had come a long way since independence. Therefore, globalization meant that foreign capital was not seen with fear associated with foreign subjugation, but as an opportunity to drive forward an India that was secure of itself and its destined place as a major world power.

Issues Plaguing Indian Agriculture

True India lives in her villages and we can't dream for prosperous and vibrant India without improving agriculture sector. Agriculture, the backbone of Indian economy, contributes to the overall economic growth of the country and determines the standard of life for more than 50% of the Indian population. Presently agriculture is contributing around 17% to the overall GDP in terms of GVA. Low agriculture growth also affects the prospects of manufacturing and services due to forward and backward linkages.

The critical issues that hinder Indian agriculture at present are the knowledge deficit and infrastructure deficit, especially in the rural areas. Problems related to irrigation infrastructure, market infrastructure and transport infrastructure add significant costs to farmers' operations. Another issue is the lack of delivery mechanisms. There are a number of schemes aimed towards developing agriculture. However, we do not have effective delivery mechanisms that can translate those schemes into effective facilitation at the ground level, in terms of increasing productivity or decreasing cost or increasing price realization. Inadequate government support and lack of political will exacerbate these issues.

Increasing population and rising industrialization results in heavy pressure on land resources, leading to fragmentation of land holdings. According to estimates, nearly 80% of the farming families in India hold less than 2 acres of land. Large land holdings enable the farmer to implement modern agricultural techniques and boost productivity. Small land holdings restrict the farmer to use traditional methods

Universal Basic Income

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

The last century and the one preceding it saw the birth of many ideas that revolutionised the way human civilisation developed. In about 200 years, we moved from simple societies of the medieval world to sprawling metropolitan societies, which is by no means a small feat. It demonstrates human ingenuity and our belief in sense of justice. To be a human is in itself a liberating experience, that our thoughts can shape the planet and that our knowledge is extremely valuable for our survival. Our creativity and knowledge helped in the cascading of new ideas, principles and rationales, one after another, giving us the world we know today. In the universal game of good versus evil, human triumph lies only in good. Ideas that have shaped and are shaping our world today are as such either inherently good or seek ultimately to do good. The Universal Basic Income (UBI) is one such idea. UBI is to this century what civil and political rights had been to the last.

The Universal Basic Income or UBI for short, is not a new idea. To some it may seem like a romantic idea - give everyone a basic amount of money so that they can help themselves, but to many it is a practical idea - an idea whose time has come. Known by a variety of names like Unconditional Basic Income or Citizen's Income, it is a form of 'social dividend' or social security. The term, 'UBI' came into vogue only



Managing Work and Home – Is the Indian Working Woman getting a Fair Deal?

"I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress its women have achieved".

-B.R. Ambedkar

Traditionally, the principal role of women in the Indian society has been of procreation, child rearing and home management. It is the man who is considered the breadwinner of the family. Even though during the Vedic age women enjoyed privileged status, their position in society gradually weakened. It was during the British colonial rule that self-awareness was generated among the women and they made their presence felt in the freedom struggle.

With the passage of time, the spread of literacy, educational opportunities, improved health and a booming economy in India has led to profitable employment for both men and women. There has been a shift in the tide, with more and more women stepping outside the confines of home to take up gainful employment. There are several examples of women leading multi-million dollar enterprises-Arundhati Bhattacharya (former Chairman, SBI), Indra Nooyi (member of the Board of Directors, Amazon), Kiran Mazumdar Shaw (CMD, Biocon Limited) to name a few.

However, contrary to the general perception, the reality is unfortunately different. As per Census of India, 2011, the workforce participation rate for females is 25.5%. Globally, India has one of the lowest female labour force participation (FLFP) rate, i.e., the share of women that are employed or seeking work as a share of the working age female population. One of the main reasons for this trend is the unfair

Restructuring of Indian Education System

Education has been since time immemorial one of the basic prerequisites for a human being to lead a fulfilling life. Whether it was the *Guru-Shishya paramparas* of Gurukuls of ancient India or the modern education in contemporary India, the yearning for learning stays the same. Education is essential for one's self awareness, self realization and self development. In fact, it is our faculty to think, reason and apply that differentiates us from more primate beings. It can be said that education is what essentially makes a human being. Besides, it is education that helps us to make sense of our surroundings, our society and our fellow beings.

In the society's modern manifestation in the form of nation-states, education is a necessary component of what goes into making of a good citizen. Indian government programmes, i.e., Make in India, Digital India, etc., aimed at making India a developed country can only be successful only when its Skill India program takes off and its success too will depend on how well India's education system performs at various levels. Therefore, it is critical for us as a nation and our policymakers to take stock of our education system that forms the edifice on which our future will be cemented and to rectify or even restructure if there are any shortcomings.

India's education system has come a long way from the informal, religion based education of the ancient and medieval times that was limited in its reach, and at times even its dimensions. With the spread of secular, progressive, and modern ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity around the world in the eighteenth century, coupled with the emergence of social reforms and the influence of the British

What is Real Education?

"Education is the most powerful weapon which can be used to change the world".

- Nelson Mandela

Education has been the driver of human progress and civilisation. It has shaped the destiny of man and will continue to do so in the future. The importance of education is recognized in all human societies. It is for this reason that there are various institutions like schools, colleges, apprenticeships, etc., with an aim to educate a person and equip him with the necessary skills to lead a decent life. Education prepares a person for life. According to John Adams, *"There are two educations. One should teach us how to make a living and the other how to live"*. While the present day education system is teaching us, rather effectively, about how to have a successful career - it falls woefully short when it comes to fulfilling the purpose of real education teaching us how to live.

"Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel", says Socrates. The purpose of education is to mould a person into the best version of himself. Present day education teaches us to increase our skill sets, advance our scientific understanding of the world, makes us knowledgeable and use the combination of these to make a career for oneself. But real education would rather push the person to contribute to the betterment of the world. It will inspire him to make this world a better place to live in. It will teach him to care for others, help others and have meaningful relationships. It will teach him to give higher priority to people rather than wealth, power, fame, etc.



Alternative Technologies for a Climate Change Resilient India

The Paris Agreement has laid down the roadmap to combat climate change and one of the significant pathways to it is through adopting clean technologies. Especially for India, which is the 4th largest emitter of CO₂ only after China, the US and the EU, there is an urgent need to cut emissions. Apart from working towards cutting emissions for preventing climate change, we need to also work towards making the country resilient to climate change which is already creating a lot of challenges for us in every front. This implies that we need to create better forecasting patterns and better preparedness to tackle various fallouts of climate change through measures like flood management, management, forest management, water drought resource management, biodiversity conservation, energy management and lifestyle management.

Flood Management: One of the gravest consequences of climate change is the abruption in rainfall patterns due to increase in the temperatures. For instance, the massive floods of Kerala in 2018 were very much anticipated by abnormal increase in the temperature of the water of the Arabian sea, but because of inadequate flood management, the loss of lives and property was huge. Similarly the need for flood management has also been felt in the arid areas of Rajasthan where even small amounts of rain is seen to create a flood like situations. With increasing uncertainty of rainfall patterns, such instances are going to become more frequent.

One of the very promising technologies in flood control is the flood gate technology used extensively in the European countries, particularly the Netherlands, England, and also Japan. The frequently flooding rivers and even seas as in the Netherlands are controlled

Science and Technology is the Panacea for the Growth and Security of the Nation

Science is the system of inquiry wherein we provide rational and logical explanations of events occurring around us. Technology is the application of science for practical purposes. Inclusive, faster and sustainable growth and security of the nation is sine qua non for nation building. The innovations in the scientific knowledge and technological prowess form the bedrock of the developmental path of a society. While, working on electromagnetic waves, Wilhelm Rontgen discovered X-ray, the use of which in medical sciences spread like wildfire. Today, millions are getting the benefits of X-ray as an excellent tool of healthcare.

Science and Technology Vision – 2035 of India delineates the role of technology in the economic growth of the nation. Technology can transform each sector of the economy and make India a centre of global growth.

Science and technology help in the upliftment of Indian agriculture. It was high yielding varieties of seeds, irrigation facilities, and other technologies, the adoption of which made India sufficient in food production. A mix of technological interventions in the farm sector can help achieve good growth rate in this sector, thereby ensuring food security. Drip irrigation, sprinklers, watershed management, etc., are being used to increase the water use efficiency. Drought resistant seeds can save us during El-Nino years. Crop surveys through satellite imagery and drones can help in the better implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

Scientific techniques can be used to ensure water security and also fight against the fallout of climate change. Water desalination technologies can be used to provide safe drinking water in coastal areas where salt water intrusion has happened in ground water.

The Cyberworld: Its Charms and Challenges

The world has been changing at an unprecedented rate in the last few decades. Though advancements in technology are inevitable, the rapid rate at which this is happening is unheard of. The reason for these fast-paced changes is the proliferation of the internet. The increasing number of computers/mobile sets that are connected to each other through internet has revolutionized the way we are living. It has impacted every part of human life - the way humans interact with each other, the way humans interact with machines, machinemachine communication, government-people interface, financial transactions, and direction of market economy. Along with developing new dimensions and capabilities, cyber world has also provided new challenges. The major challenges include cyber security, privacy concerns, net-neutrality, bridging digital divide, etc.

Cyber world has been instrumental in accelerating the pace of globalisation like never before. The concept of 'global village', one world interconnected by an electronic nervous system, has taken wings because of the internet. Instant messaging, broadcasting, streaming and other communication tools provided by internet have facilitated the free flow of information. This free flow of information has led to exchange of ideas, ideologies, culture, technologies and so on. This has also led to online money transactions, thus removing barriers for free flow of capital too. Free flow of information and capital has changed the way businesses are being done throughout the world. Outsourcing has become the norm. Brick-and-mortar markets have become a passe as e-markets are flourishing. Innovative app based business models like Uber have increased their footprints. The introduction of cryptocurrency (digital currency) has the potential to enable more secure transactions in future.



India's Rise in 21st Century: Opportunities and Challenges

It is said, "We no longer discuss the future of India, we say future is India". This optimism for India's rise in the 21st century is not random, but have strong historical and analytical backing. If we go back to the 17th century, economic historians point out that India then accounted for about 23% of world's GDP. India's share of world income went down from around 23 % in 1700 (when Europe's share was 23%) to about 3% in 1950 as a result of colonial rule. Some historians opine that India was the largest economy of the world in the 1st millennium, i.e., for 1000 years from 1 to 1000 CE and was described as a 'golden sparrow'.

A key question for 1.3 billion Indians is whether we can reclaim the position held for a thousand years or even that which we occupied in the 17th century. The answer to this question lies in achievement that we made after independence. The period after 1947 was of momentous significance. We took giant strides in various fields that helped to release the people and the country from shackle of colonialism.

The 21st century has brought new hopes and aspirations among the people of India. These hopes and aspirations of people have been created by various research and reports conducted by the different institutions world over. Today, India is the sixth largest economy in the world in terms of GDP, but most analysts agree that by 2030, it is on its way to become the third largest after the US and China.

Apart from rapid economic growth, India is also an emerging military power. With the largest defence budget among South Asian countries, Indian possesses nuclear weapon, intercontinental ballistic missile, aircraft carrier, etc. India has made huge progress in space

India's Act East Policy

It is a well acknowledged fact of history, that India had close cultural and religious links with the countries of South-East Asia and East Asia during the ancient period. Buddhism, originated in India, spread rapidly to East Asian nations. In modern times, Japan supported India towards its freedom struggle. After independence, India, for long, virtually neglected looking eastward in its foreign policy. There were several reasons. Economically, the region was less developed than India until the 1970s. India's own economic policies were insular and protectionist. Politically, India and the Southeast Asian countries were on opposing sides of the Cold War divide. In this way, we missed a great opportunity to foster ties within our Asian neighbours to the east during a crucial period when the foundation stones of India's foreign policy architecture were being laid.

End of the Cold war, starting with the disintegration of the Soviet Union, led to the intensification of the processes – globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation. This led to the fundamental changes in the global, political, social and economic architecture. It also led to the search for new alignment to maintain balance in strategic context. 'Neo-Liberalism', emerged as the prominent ideology with the breaking of communist economies of the Soviet Union and other east European nation like Yugoslavia. With the fall of India's most powerful and trusted ally- the Soviet Union, and the emergence of the United States of America (USA) as undisputed power, India's foreign policy was bound to change.

The new geopolitical and economic scenario had a deep impact on the foreign and domestic policies of global actors. India was no exception. At that time, India was plagued with balance of payment

What should be India's Foreign Policy Framework: Hawkish or Dovish?

With successive governments, India's foreign policy framework has witnessed a sea change. Global geopolitical dynamics, evolving bilateral relations and erstwhile national aspirations have been the major determinants of India's foreign policy from time to time. Foreign policy decisions such as India's participation in the Non Alignment movement, Gujral doctrine and Look East Policy have played a key role in shaping the nation's history and strengthening India's international standing, and the local economy. They have also proved that, a clear foreign policy framework plays a key role in ensuring country's progress on multiple fronts. Thus, chalking out India's foreign policy framework at a time when India is standing on the cusp of becoming a global power is crucial.

India has always been known to use its soft power, to achieve its interests and substantiate its standing on the world stage. While, it has served the country's purpose well on many occasions, it has also been perceived as a weakness by many critics who suggest a move towards a hawkish foreign policy framework. Hawkish policy demands India to be more assertive and open to military interventions to resolve international issues. These critics have interpreted India's soft power, stature, as a Dovish approach to foreign policy.

Though India's foreign policy framework has always been a much debated and discussed issue among the country's political and intellectual class, it has attracted all the more limelight in the last few years due to a number of reasons, including India's endeavour to join some of the prestigious multinational forums. India's bid to join the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as a permanent member and



Lending Hands to Someone is better than Giving a Dole

"Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others." -Booker T. Washington

According to Dalai Lama our prime purpose in life is to help others. Helping each other is what makes us humans special. Compassion and altruism are the basic components of humanness. Even the most hard-hearted person might have helped someone in need at some point of time. Helping others is the fundamental characteristic of humans, but different people do it in different ways. Some tend to donate money to charitable organisations, some people give money to the poor directly, some people volunteer to do social work, while some create work for others. It is important to understand which type of help is most beneficial to humankind. As a Chinese proverb says, *"Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime."*

Recently, Chennai has experienced one of the biggest floods in over 100 years. Life had come to a standstill. The repercussions were such that almost all aspects of life were affected in the city, from local to public transport, railways, flights to electricity supply. In such crisis, help poured in from different corners of the world. Many contributed to flood relief fund. But this help couldn't reach the Chennai residents in time as the transportation facilities were derailed. This money could only be used for rehabilitation. But the helping nature of the locals, the various business entities in Chennai and initiatives by tech companies have helped immensely in avoiding a major disaster. Individuals opened their houses while schools, movie theatres and marriage halls welcomed families and persons who needed a safe and dry shelter. Facebook initiated a Safety check feature for Chennai floods, BSNL

The Paths of Glory lead but to the Grave

There is an astonishing disposition in human mind to seek pleasure from varied sources, even from pain and melancholy. If it weren't so, the Gothic genres of literature, horror and bloody movies, lamenting lyrics and grievous ballads weren't much popular. We receive comfort in gloomy tale, acceptance in sad sonnets and calm pleasure from the elegies which raise our melancholy, for no matter how pompous our life might be, there is always some room for bitter truth of pain and sorrow. Eighteenth century English poet, classical scholar and professor at Cambridge university - Thomas Gray - wrote this mournful poem titled 'Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard'. One of the stanzas of the poem is:

"The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power, And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave. Awaits alike the inevitable hour, The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

These lines are a continuous reminder of mortality of human life and inevitability of death irrespective of social position, beauty, wealth or any glory. Everyone has to embrace death one day or the other.

Of all the truth, death is the most universal whose realisation is assured beyond any doubt and without any exception. One thing that man has consistently failed at is in achieving physical immortality. No alchemy, sacrifice, yoga and no enlightenment or Nirvana could materialise into an everlasting enduring life.

One who has been born, shall die; so shall one who will be born. Entire life, people torment themselves for money, material, love, family, health, glory, etc. But all the varieties of trouble a life might encounter, with all its preoccupations, find their submergence in

Our Existence is a Comforting Delusion

"We are our choices"

- Jean-Paul Sartre

Human existence has been the centre of discourse and philosophical introspection. A question that has time and again troubled the human mind is- whether the human existence is real or an illusion. Many sages and philosophers have spent their life in the quest to know the real aspects of human existence. But the journey to unravel the mysteries of life and existence still continues.

According to materialists, the world is for human and the existence is real. They hold that human life is real as there is nothing beyond this world and the world is meant to be enjoyed by humans. This world for them is the place for humans to satisfy their desire and live with pleasure. On the other hand, non materialists hold the contrary view, where human is a combination of material and spiritual element. They have given primacy to spiritual rather than the material aspects of human existence. The spiritual element or soul is eternal and permanent while the physical body is changing and temporary. In other words, the real consciousness is true existence. The views of materialists and non materialists appear to be true in the sense that the former talk about the empirical world which is perceived and enjoyed by us humans, whereas the latter emphasize something which is abstract, beyond our sense perception but provide us with the moral basis of life.

Taking a leaf from the materialistic view, human existence is real and the question of it being a comforting delusion stands weak. Human existence in the world have different aspects and dimensions.

Important Quotes

Politics and Governance

"Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes." -Mahatma Gandhi

"Inthetruestsense,freedomcannotbebestowed;itmustbeachieved." -Franklin D. Roosevelt

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." -Abraham Lincoln

"A nation's culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people."

-Mahatma Gandhi

"Good governance depends on ability to take responsibility by both administration as well as people" -Narendra Modi

"The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter." -Winston Churchill

"The tyranny of a prince in an oligarchy is not so much dangerous to the public welfare as the apathy of a citizen in a democracy"

-Montesquieu

"The ballot is stronger than the bullet." -Abraham Lincoln

"There cannot be daily democracy without daily citizenship."

-Ralph Nader

"I understand democracy as something that gives the weak the same chance as the strong." -Mahatma Gandhi

"Democracy is not law of the majority but protection of the minority." -Albert Camus

"In a democracy, the individual enjoys not only the ultimate power, but carries the ultimate responsibility." -Norman Cousins

"Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." *–John F Kennedy*

"A man may die, nations may rise and fall, but an idea lives on. Ideas have endurance without death." -John F Kennedy

"Mankind must put an end to war – or war will put an end to mankind." -John F Kennedy

Economic Issues

"We are unnecessarily wasting our precious resources in wars... if we must wage war, we have to do it on unemployment, disease, poverty, and backwardness" -Atal Bihari Vajpayee

"Progress is more plausibly judged by the reduction of deprivation than by the further enrichment of the opulent" -Amartya Sen

"The test of progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; It is whether we provide enough for those who have little" -Franklin D Roosevelt

"If agriculture fails, everything else will fail" *–M S Swaminathan* "When women do better economies do better"

-Christina Lagarde

"Any society that does not succeed in tapping into the energy and creativity of its youth will be left behind" -Kofi Annan

"Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. Empowered, they can be key agents for development and peace" -Kofi Annan

"You cannot have peace without security, and you cannot have security without inclusive development" -Kofi Annan

Social Issues

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

"A gender-equal society would be one where the word 'gender' does not exist: where everyone can be themselves" *-Gloria Steinem*

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