



A Handbook of

SELECT ESSAYS For Civil Services Examination

Covers Essays from UPSC CSE Mains 2020



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

A Handbook of Select Essays for Civil Services Examination



Drishti Publications

(A Unit of VDK Publications Pvt. Ltd.)

641, First Floor, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009
Telephone: 011-47532596, 8750187501

www.drishtiias.com

CONTENTS

Ess	ay Writing: What, Why and How?	1
Ess	says from UPSC CSE Mains 2020	17
1.	Life is a journey between human being and being humane	19
2.	Mindful manifesto is the catalyst to a tranquil self	23
3.	Ships do not sink because of water around them, ships sink because of wat that gets into them	er 27
4.	Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication	30
	Culture is what we are and civilisation is what we have	33
6.	There can be no social justice without economic prosperity but economic prosperity without social justice is meaningless	37
7.	Patriarchy is the least noticed yet the most significant structure of social inequality	41
8.	Technology as the silent factor in international relations	45
Po	litics and Governance	49
1.	Consequences of Unrestricted Freedom of Expression	51
2.	Media as the Fourth Pillar of Democracy	55
3.	The Challenges before a Civil Servant Today	60
4.	Water Disputes between States in Federal India	65
5.	In the Indian Context, both Human Intelligence and	
	Technical Intelligence are Crucial in Combating Terrorism	69
6.	Is Sting Operation an Invasion on Privacy?	74
7.	A Decade of RTI in India: Achievements and Challenges	78
8.	The End of Law is not to Restrain or Abolish but to Preserve and Enlarge Freedom	83
9.	Whither Indian Democracy?	88
10	Minimum Government and Maximum Governance	93

11.	E-Governance: Prospects and Challenges	98
12.	How far has Democracy in India Delivered the Goods?	103
Eco	onomic Issues	107
1.	Globalisation would finish Small Scale Industries in India	109
2.	Issues Plaguing Indian Agriculture	113
3.	Globalism vs. Nationalism	117
4.	Impact of the New Economic Measures on Fiscal Ties between the Union States in India	n and 123
5.	Universal Basic Income	127
6.	India Needs its own Growth Model without Upscaling Western Ideas	132
7.	Special Economic Zones: Boon or Bane	137
8.	Farming has lost the Ability to be a Source of Subsistence for Majority of	
	Farmers in India	142
9.	GDP (Gross Domestic Product) along with GDH (Gross Domestic Happ	oiness)
	would be the Right Indices for judging the Well-being of a Country	146
10.	New India @ 75: Justice to Farmer in India	150
11.	Smart Cities: Prospects and Challenges	154
12.	Urbanisation in India: Prospects and Challenges	159
13.	Is the Criticism that the `Public-Private-Partnership' (PPP) Model for Development	pment
	is more of a Bane than a Boon in the Indian context, Justified?	164
14.	Dreams of a Developed India	168
15.	Can Capitalism Bring Inclusive Growth?	172
So	cial Issues	177
1.	Managing Work and Home – Is the Indian Working Woman	
	getting a Fair Deal?	179
2.	Restructuring of Indian Education System	183
3.	What is Real Education?	188
4.	Why should we be Proud of being Indians?	193
5.	Has the Time come to Abolish the Reservation System?	198

6.	Changes that will Change India	203
7.	Homosexuality and Indian Society	207
8.	How far has the Campaign for Women Empowerment Really Empowered Women?	212
9.	Is Linguistic Diversity a Hindrance to the Unity and Integrity of India?	217
10.	Is the growing Level of Competition good for the Youth?	221
11.	Perpetrators of Gender Inequality are also its Victims	226
12.	The Language Problem in India: Its Past, Present and Prospects	230
13.	Does Indian Cinema Shape our Popular Culture or merely Reflect it?	235
14.	The Age of Social Media	240
15.	Youth Culture Today	244
16.	Fifty Golds in Olympics: Can this be a Reality for India?	249
17.	Justice must Reach the Poor	254
18.	Education without Values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make a Man m Clever Devil	ore 259
19.	The Focus of Health Care is Increasingly getting Skewed towards the 'Have	s' of
	our Society	264
20.	The New Emerging Women Power: The Ground Realities	269
21.	National Identity and Patriotism	274
En	vironment and Science	279
1.	Alternative Technologies for a Climate Change Resilient India	281
	Cybersecurity in Digital India	285
	Science and Technology is the Panacea for the Growth and Security of the	
	Nation	289
4.	Nation The Country's need for a better Disaster Management System	289 294
5.	The Country's need for a better Disaster Management System	294
5. 6.	The Country's need for a better Disaster Management System The Cyberworld: Its Charms and Challenges	294 299
5. 6. 7.	The Country's need for a better Disaster Management System The Cyberworld: Its Charms and Challenges Artificial Intelligence: The Science of Future or a Crisis	294 299 304
5. 6. 7. 8.	The Country's need for a better Disaster Management System The Cyberworld: Its Charms and Challenges Artificial Intelligence: The Science of Future or a Crisis Combating Climate Change: Common but Differentiated Responsibilities	294 299 304 308

India and the World		
1.	India's Rise in 21st Century: Opportunities and Challenges	323
2.	UN and the World Peace	327
3.	India's Act East Policy	333
4.	What should be India's Foreign Policy Framework: Hawkish or Dovish?	338
5.	India and SAARC: Opportunities and Challenges	342
6.	Management of Indian Border Disputes – A Complex Task	347
Ph	ilosophy and Ethics	351
1.	Lending Hands to Someone is better than Giving a Dole	353
2.	The Pursuit of Excellence	357
3.	The Paths of Glory lead but to the Grave	361
4.	True Religion cannot be Misused	365
5.	Our Existence is a Comforting Delusion	370
6.	Science and Religion: Are they Compatible?	374
7.	Youth is a Blunder, Manhood a Struggle, Old Age a Regret	378
8.	Truth is Lived, not Taught	383
9.	Customary Morality cannot be a Guide to Modern Life	388
10.	Search for Truth can only be a Spiritual Problem	392
11.	Independent Thinking should be Encouraged right from the Childhood	397
12.	History Always Records Truth	401
12.	God is Dead, and We have Killed Him	405
13.	Words are Sharper than the Two-edged Sword	410
14.	Knowledge without Character is the Root of Vices	414
Important Quotes		

Essay Writing What, Why and How?



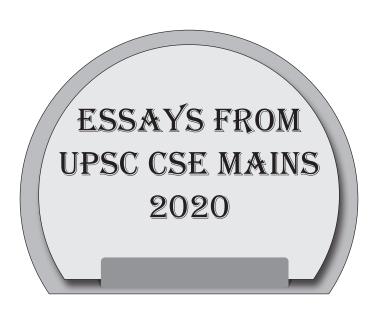
"Reading maketh a full man; Conference a ready man; and Writing an exact man."

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.



Life is a journey between human being and being humane



Around the 3rd century BCE, a ghastly battle was fought at Kalinga between two great armies that led to the mass killings of hundreds of thousands of people. By attacking Kalinga, King Ashoka slaughtered and brutally killed everyone who came his way. History is the testimony to the brutal and inhumane warfare practices adopted by King Ashoka. It was the battle of Kalinga that later created a deep sense of remorse in Ashoka's heart leading to his conversion to Buddhism. After this war, the Great Ashoka adopted the policy of Dharma (or Dhamma) for peace and prosperity. He changed his path from being a treader of wars and battles to the one who understood his pupils and even the enemies and promoted the idea of peace and happiness. His earlier acts were recorded in history that could be considered as a dark phase for the whole race of human beings and humanity. This episode is a living illustration of the journey between a human being and being humane.

A human being refers to a member of the species *Homo sapiens* that differs from most animals by the high standard of psychological development, power of speaking fluently and coherently. Humans have a way of sitting and standing, and making things happen. Human beings can act upon nature to create a new world to fulfil all their wants and desires. Human action has a force for changing the laws of nature. Human beings are endowed with divine favour of bringing any abstract entity, quality, or concept into existence. They have the potential to make the planet, on which life exists, heaven or hell.

The definition of a good human being is that he has a tendency of thinking for others before himself. If we introspect, we will find

Mindful manifesto is the catalyst to a tranquil self



"When we are unable to find tranquillity within ourselves, it is useless to seek it elsewhere."

On 7 June 1893, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was forcibly removed from a whites-only carriage on a train in Pietermaritzburg, for not obeying laws that segregated each carriage according to race. If Gandhi had been a person with an aggressive and reactive nature, he would have somehow reacted immediately against the racist attack he had faced. But Gandhi was impeccable in a way that he kept his tranquil self unsurmountable. He decided to fight the real cause and do a lot more for society.

Keeping the mind calm in adverse situations is the real deal that leads to the state of being tranquil. This tranquillity helped Gandhi achieve things that humanity tries to follow even now. He took steps that were more or less taken with ultimate cognizance that gave him inner peace and stability of mind. Today, he is remembered with the utmost respect for his strong character and deed of doing good by being in a state of inner tranquillity. This gives us the idea of how mindfulness is the key to tranquillity and what impact it actually has on oneself and others.

Being Tranquil

The quality of being tranquil is related to being calm and composed. A person who has control over this thinking, his reactions and emotions can keep the same undisturbed. It shows that a person enjoys freedom from disturbance whatsoever it could be. No matter, whether the

Ships do not sink because of water around them, ships sink because of water that gets into them



The kingdom of Lanka ruled by king Ravana was a different state in itself as it was said to be a place of demons. The residents, the nobility and the king were all demons. The aura and the vibes of that place would have carried with it the sense of negativity, killings, punishments, bad characters, foul languages, etc. But even at such places, it was possible that someone would listen to his or her conscience and take rational decisions and become a destined and tranquil person. Such an example can be seen in Vibhishana who was the brother of King Ravana but a totally different personality in terms of character, way of thinking and believer in destiny that was dependent on the deeds. This difference in the character of both the persons of the same lineage comes out because of the difference in character building and resilience shown in the character that does not change or alter with the complexity of life and the related manifestations.

The quote - "Ships do not sink because of water around them, ships sink because of water that gets into them" - gives a similar idea that a greater character is built up from resilience even in the toughest/harshest of the times. How hard or complex the situations are or how negative is the atmosphere around one, he or she shall not be engulfed into such negativities and not let such problems become overpowering in comparison to the stability in the character. Instead of a person, we can think of any institution, organisation, kingdom, government, etc., the meaning and the interpretation of the quote remains quite similar.

Every person is like a ship where life is quite similar to the ocean that holds up a long, complex and incredible journey. The mental constitution, set of connected and interdependent values, sanity and sensibility, carrying capacity to deal with misfortunes causing



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 Kautilva'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

Globalism vs. Nationalism



"In a global world, nationalism is a fantasy, and it's poison." -Tim Minchin

The idea of belonging and attachment is at the root of the human identity. History of human civilization narrates the story of this belonging and attachment that developed in the form of familial, tribal and regional affinities. The thread of belonging is the root of social identity for individuals and the same has also been the reason for some major conflicts in the human history. The conception of nationalism is an extension of human identity. This nationalism saw its rise in the idea of nation-states of 17th and 18th centuries and became the defining feature of the modern political order of the world. Dawn of the 20th century marked a new world order by integrating the world market and making the market, a global phenomenon sublimating the national boundaries. This new world order came to be known as Globalism. Globalism has been in forefront challenging the nationalistic idea and a similar counter challenge has been posed by nationalism against globalism.

Phenomenon of modern nationalism is of European origin. It became a general European movement and one of the most explosive political philosophies that rule the world today. It proved to be the main guiding light for the rise of colonisation in the major parts of Asia and Africa. The colonial tendency of the European powers created an atmosphere of competition, rivalry and reached its zenith in the form of Nazism and Fascism. The world saw two great wars in human history in the form of World War I and World War II. The



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 CO, 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, drought management, forest management, water 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

Cybersecurity in Digital India



A digital economy is one which incorporates the use of Information Technologies (IT) in the majority of its economic activities and transactions. It aims to make the country 'paperless' and 'cashless'. To realise such a digital economy, Government of India has launched a Digital India programme, which is committed to provide the essential services to needy citizens in remotest areas and in timely manner. It is a great tool to achieve the financial inclusion and making the economy more accountable.

However, all is not green with the implementation of Digital India and one of the major deterrents to it is weak cyber security infrastructure. This can be seen by the recent reports which said that, sensitive information of almost 3.2 million debit cards belonging to major banks have been compromised in India. The recent cyber and online financial extortion like ransomware, and wanna cry have added fear to this. India is especially vulnerable to these cyber crimes as it wants to spread the digital economy on a war footing. This primarily affects poor and hardworking citizens and overall security of the nation. But we cannot run away from an essential technology just because we are not proactive and rather reactive.

Benefits of Digital India can be studied from various dimensions such as economic, social, political, etc. Economic benefits of Digital India to business, agriculture, and tertiary sectors like tourism, transportation can be immense. To business, it can ensure ease of doing business by making quick electronic transactions, single window clearance mechanism like e-biz, etc.

In agriculture sector, digital India can connect remotest of the areas of the country into one single virtual market through National

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.



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

UN and the World Peace



"Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed." -UNESCO

Peace as a concept and as an objective has been eulogized since ancient times. The objective of achieving peace, either through war or through negotiations, has been practiced by ancient and medieval kingdoms as well as modern day nation-states. Scholars have defined peace in various terms. Peace is not just the mere absence of war. In fact, many scholars argue that peace has been always a latent objective of war.

Baruch Spinoza defines peace as 'a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, justice'. World peace too, is not just the absence of conflicts and wars. It is the process of development and security of human civilisation.

International community has tried to achieve this through the collective effort and the United Nations (UN) is one of its most important pillars. With the aim of promoting social progress, peace and justice, the UN was established in 1945 together with its various agencies and funds. But the question arises - 'Has UN been successful in fulfilling its objective and if yes, up to what extent?' To analyse this, and understand the UN's role towards world peace, it is essential that the origin and background of the concept of world peace are examined.

Historically, peace as an objective was more limited to territorial boundaries. For example, in India innumerable battles right from the 'Battles of Ten Kings' (in Vedic times) to Anglo-Maratha and

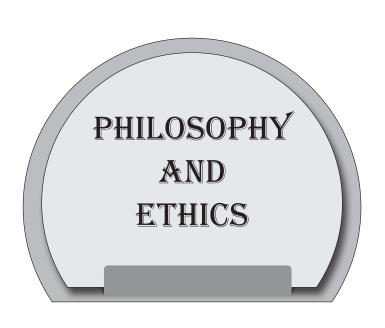
India's Act East Policy



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



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 Pursuit of Excellence



Pursuing excellence is a way of life. This is best articulated in the words of our former President late Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, "Excellence is a continuous process and not an accident". Pursuing excellence involves putting quality in everything one does - the trait that separates achievers from the ordinary. Excellence becomes an attitude of the winners. They strive to do better than their best. It becomes a philosophy by which they lead their lives. Those people who strive for excellence not only succeed in their life, but they have a profound effect on the society they live in. When the pursuit of excellence is combined with foresight, futuristic vision and an ability to think in an uncommon way - the society produces trailblazers and innovators who advance the course of human civilization as a whole.

As said by Confucius, "the will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach one's full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence". These are traits that can be seen in successful sportsmen like Novak Djokovic, inventors like Elon Musk, and actors like Meryl Streep. Their will to win can be seen from their steadfast determination to be the best at what they do. They are never satisfied unless they perform superlatively. Their desire to succeed pushes them to go the extra mile. They always do more than what is required. Essentially, they strive to reach their full potential, even if it meant sacrificing things that mean a lot to them.

Pursuit of excellence not only helps people become successful in their individual capacity, but it will also have a positive impact on the society. The success of Elon Musk at revolutionising renewable energy has made solar energy affordable and a viable alternative to society at large. In India, the efforts and vision of one man, Dr. Homi Bhabha

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





- Solutions as per the official UPSC answer key.
- Detailed explanations.
- Division of questions into various sections, such as polity, history, economy, geography, etc.
- Unique Option Centric approach.
- Trend analysis of the questions.



- A book comprising solved papers of previous eight years (2013-2020) Mains of UPSC CSE.
- The questions are segregated paper-wise and have been identified with specific topics.
- The detailed and comprehensive model answers coupled with examples.
- Includes a five-step formula for honing the art of answer writing.



Also Available at amazon.com & Flipkart 🔀















641, First Floor, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-9 Ph.: 011-47532596, 87501 87501, 8130392356

Website: www.drishtiias.com



Price: ₹220/-