



Mains Practice Question

Essay Topics

1. Tradition is not a burden, but a foundation for progress
2. Real development begins when the last mile is reached.

11 Jan, 2025 Essay Essay

1. Tradition is Not a Burden, But a Foundation for Progress

Quotes to Enrich Your Essay:

- **Mahatma Gandhi:** "A nation's culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people."
- **Confucius** - "Study the past if you would define the future."

Theoretical and Philosophical Dimensions:

- **Continuity and Change:** Traditions provide a sense of identity and continuity while allowing room for progress and adaptation over time.
- **Philosophy of Conservatism:** **Burke's reasoning for valuing tradition** is rooted in his belief in the importance of intergenerational wisdom, which he sees as being naturally grounded and passed down through time.
- **Cultural Resilience:** Traditions help societies adapt by preserving their core values while embracing change. For example, the **Japanese concept of Kaizen (continuous improvement)** balances traditional discipline with innovation.

Policy and Historical Examples:

- **India's Panchayati Raj System:** A modern governance framework rooted in **traditional village councils**, exemplifying progress built on cultural foundations.
- **Cultural Renaissance Movements:** The **Bengal Renaissance** in India harmonized traditional values with modern intellectual pursuits, fostering socio-cultural progress.

Contemporary Examples:

- **Yoga and Ayurveda:** India's ancient practices have found global relevance in modern wellness industries.
- **Indigenous Knowledge Systems:** Environmental conservation efforts increasingly rely on the traditional practices of indigenous communities, **such as Amazonian tribes' sustainable agriculture**.
- **Festivals and Economy:** Traditional festivals, like **Diwali and Christmas**, drive economic activity while preserving cultural values.

2. Real Development Begins When the Last Mile Is Reached

Quotes to Enrich Your Essay:

- **Mahatma Gandhi:** "*The soul of India lives in its villages.*"
- **John F. Kennedy:** "If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich."

Theoretical and Philosophical Dimensions:

- **Inclusive Development: Amartya Sen's capability approach** emphasizes expanding freedoms for the marginalized as the true measure of development.
- **Sustainability and Equity:** Development is not just about economic growth but ensuring benefits percolate to the last citizen.
- **Social Justice Theory: John Rawls' principles of justice** highlight prioritizing the welfare of the least advantaged in society.

Policy and Historical Examples:

- **Green Revolution in India:** While it boosted agricultural productivity, its real success was in extending benefits to small and marginal farmers in rural areas.
- **Antyodaya Philosophy: Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's vision** of uplifting the poorest resonates with the principle of last-mile development.
- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):** Focused on providing employment and livelihood at the grassroots level, especially for marginalized communities.

Contemporary Examples:

- **Digital India Initiative:** Efforts to bring internet connectivity to rural and remote areas highlight last-mile inclusivity in technology.
- **Aspirational Districts Program:** Targeted development in underdeveloped districts ensures equitable distribution of resources.

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