



An Institute for Civil Services

IAS TOPPER'S

TEST COPY

JAYANT NAHATA

RANK - 56

ESSAY MOCK

ESSAY MOCK TEST

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate

- Both sections are compulsory.
- Attempt one essay from each section.
- Each essay carries 125 marks.
- Write each essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- After finishing the first essay, attempt the next on a fresh Page.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

(Examiner will pay special attention to the candidate's grasp of his/her material, its relevance to the subject chosen, and to his/her ability to think constructively and to present his/her ideas concisely, logically and effectively).

→ 17 Aug/2018

Name Jayant Nahata 60 + 60

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Nahata

1. Invigilator Signature

2. Invigilator Signature

Remarks

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

U.P.S.C.

इस स्तंभ में कुछ
(Don't write
in this column)

Digging deep : Silence & its causes

Primarily, man is selfish, narrow minded,
fickle and self serving (Machiavelli in 'The Prince')

Thus, things that doesn't affect him directly,
he chooses to ignore.

What else can be the reason behind the
stunned & silence of mute crowds while
Arhlag is being lynched to death? Why no
call to police or even the police being
a spectator as a dalit is lynched in Una?

But, is it not true that INJUSTICE anywhere
is a threat to JUSTICE Everywhere?

Won't the same rightwing group not turn up
at your door with sticks & rods on
valentine's day? So even in self interest,
one has to speak up for the violence &
injustice in society!

good

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Secondly, people stay silent because they think they lack capacity!

Power they think is welded by one or few men and speaking against them would invite harm to their own self. That's the reason why

IAS officers like the Tonul Naha, Chief Secretary who was caught with Rs. 200 crore worth assets not only permitted sand mafias but also took 'cuts'.

Ordinary people believe they are no match for criminals or politicians.

But, as Focault rightly said 'Power flows throughout the society like blood flows in the capillaries'. Hannah Arendt also argues that

when people gather, power appears. Power is sui-generis. Thus, as people voice concerns & others join, no force can challenge them.

It is 'WE THE PEOPLE' who have given this constitution & power to various offices.

Corruption
by the bureaucrats

Politicians get
power through
people only

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Thirdly, even if there's capacity, people fear that the violence by the actor would be directed against them! ✓

So when there's domestic violence, the son doesn't shout fearing his father. The upright German officials became complicit in 'Holocaust' fearing the attack of fellow Germans & Hitler or the

Secret Guards. ✓

But, if the event of injustice isn't stopped in its path of proliferation, it would ultimately harm you in myriad ways. ✓

The 'domestic violence' is just a symptom. It can take even the form of child female infanticide on another day. ✓

What explains the declining child sex ratio from 927 in 2001 to 919 in 2011 (Census data)?

Maybe because of the silence. Doesn't our life end this way? Isn't injustice spreading its reach, influence & rigour if it's not stopped. ✓

Thus, we have to speak up. ✓

Germany & HITLER

Sex ratio

excellent point

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इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें
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in this part)

Virtues of Speaking up: Personal & Public Good

John Rawls in his seminal work on 'Theory of Justice' said that 'Justice is the 1st virtue of any social system'.

Thus, the rights of anyone are not up for political bargaining. It's not majority vs minority.

Thus, in a normative sense, we need to ensure justice. There are no 'material' reasons necessary like self-protection to warrant action on our part.

When we nip a violence in the bud, we are all saved from the perils of its exaggerated form later. (Not controlling pollution from factories & resolving the debate between Capitalistic model and sustainable development has threatened the whole survival of our species via Climate change.)

IPCC predicts 2°C or more rise by 2100 which will be catastrophic!

Speaking up leads to a virtuous society. We saw that in the contrast between India of 1700's & India of 1800's.

political suppression

climate

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Letting fratricidal violence by Tamil led to LTTE in Sri Lanka and civil war. ✓
Whereas, adjusting by linguistic reorganization and calming Dravidian disenchantment led to peace & greater national unity. For those who spoke up (Dravidians), they witnessed growth in socio-economic conditions with Tamil Nadu ranked best among Education/Health/Welfare etc. ✓

(In all the 5 southern states Tamil Nadu had highest poverty)

When a person exercises choice, that is the real freedom as Immanuel Kant would say. Thus, when we brave ourselves against odds, there's a sense of self-actualization. ✓
Moreover, if we don't, we lose the moral authority to speak up again later on. ✓

On the other hand, we should question why do we have injustice in the society at all? The answer probably lies that people didn't take action. Thus, not speaking was the genesis of the issue itself !! ✓

A poor African getting complicit led maybe to the whole slavery system by Europeans! ✓

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in this part)

In the political space, democracy is being spread across the globe. It is only because, it gives power to common men via participation & voice in the system.

India thus is progressing more organically & Russia (USSR) which was authoritarian broke up in 1991.

good comparison

Amartya Sen & Jean Dreze in 'India: An Uncertain Glory' argue that Education & Health is in poor state because these have not become the matter of public debate.

Similarly, Panchayati Raj is crumbling as Mani Shankar Aiyer Committee points out because it's not an election issue at all. In this respect, the National Health Protection Scheme being launched as 'Modicare' would be positive as it becomes a matter of debate & health would be focused upon.

Not verifying & complaining is also leading to ~~problem~~ menace of fake news which affected the whole US Presidential Election.

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Way to Future

Having established the root causes of why people are silent as also knowing the virtues of action, we need to chart our way forward.

Man & Woman, has to realize that being selfish is against self-interest. The values of Vasudha Kutumbhakam i.e. the world is one family needs to be engrained in the minds of kids. (Education) with morals is the need of the hour. The virtues of taking action should be taught via History rather than crammy of dates.

The school has to impart courage to students. Gandhiji said 'Be Not Afraid' and the lakhs of Indians finally revolted in Quit India Movement & brought down the mighty empire. Thus, building capacity is crucial.

The administrative system has to beef up too. There should be reforms in the criminal jurisprudence. Good Samaritans should be

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rewarded.

There's a need to encourage debate and discussion. The role of media is crucial in this respect. They should capture the misery as well as success stories to boost morale in the public.

The economic system has to inclusive. Oxford report states that 1% hold 70% wealth. This breeds political & economic cronyism with power in the hands of few. DPSP principles of Art 37(b) & (c) should be followed for redistribution fairly.

In the scientific realm, we see the recent Treaty on Ban on Nuclear ~~War~~ Weapons adopted by UNGA. This was brought upon by efforts of ICAN (a civil society group). This shows the power of ordinary people in affecting change. Thus, even International Organizations should emulate this case & grant more space to common man's issues.

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Finally, as the African saying goes

'YOU ARE, THEREFORE I AM'
(Ubuntu philosophy)

This should guide our path for the future!

Very good

- while writing This essay, we need to substantiate the point like this -

Ex: 1: Though Gandhiji was well qualified, he could as well settle in London or in South Africa and lead a comfortable life. But, he had chosen such a ~~at~~ subject of service to India, instead of intent, he chose to fight.

Ex: 2 Dr. B.R. Ambedkar could have easily got a career in London. But he had chosen India for the ~~the~~ upliftment of down-trodden in India. He gave India one of the best constitution, Finance Commission, RBI, independent Election Commission, Democratic corporation.

Debate
type

6/0

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Sec B

The increasingly rapid pace of life is creating more problems than it solves.

For anyone living today let's admit we are lucky! With all the resources at our feet, we 'humans' can do what we want & have what we desire - In an Instant!

Want to drive to the other end of the city - Voila UBER App! Want a pizza, presenting dominos in 30 minutes. Well, a new romantic date, SWIPE RIGHT on Tinder.

No wait. No worries! ✓

Isn't this a dream we all are living?

Gen Y doesn't even have a clue the progress we have made barely since a single century ago! From bullock carts to Space, that's the giant ~~leap~~ leap we have taken.

Very good introduction

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But in this rapid pace of life, are we truly happy? Or why are we bracing past so quickly into the future? Is it a bane or a boon. Let's explore all this & more in the following essay.

In the search for HAPPINESS

Humans always long for greater prosperity. Food security made us settle & practice agriculture 10,000 years ago. Desire to live better led to town planning at Harappan cities. More profits, led to voyages of discovery by Columbus to America in 1492 & Vasco da Gama to India in 1498. Longing for freedom, Indians struggled against the British. All in the name of happiness. So the current trend of 'rapid pace of life' is with the goal of happiness.

But ideas of happiness vary - temporally & spatially!

excellent

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इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें
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in this part)

Some say power & progress brings happiness.

Thomas Hobbes said man is utilitarian and so power seeking. Even in international relations, realists like Morgenthau say nation's self-interest is primary. So anything that accumulates power brings happiness. So digging up coal rapidly, greater financialization & globalization is bound to bring happiness. Automation will lead to faster GDP rise & is going to lead to prosperity.

But don't we see its negative effects of mindless pursuit of power? Environmental damage, destabilized economies.

Is the rapid pace of life of an American Upper class man bringing happiness to an African poor female? So is it benefiting all?

Some others like philosophers & sages of East say spirituality will bring happiness. Rousseau said in context of scientific revolution that

= Man is free but everywhere in chains

Happiness thus isn't in mindless pursuit but in slowing down & living the moment. For some.

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The ~~forager~~ forager and hunters back from a mammoth hunt, they were more ecstatic than a disgruntled teenager with an iPhone & instant messaging tools in his hand!

Alex Huxley in one of his seminal works during Global Depression in 1930's talked of a world where all have a secret pill 'Soma' which is a biochemical formulation to produce happy feelings. Such a world would be happy, right? But isn't it equivalent to the dopamine produced when one 'likes' your post on Facebook. It's just a temporary happiness. Further, Advertising & Media Industry is leading to depression in the global reservoirs of contentment.

Rapid Pace : Causes

Despite knowing the different shades of happiness, if we all are still pursuing rapidness, its because capitalism is the dominant discourse of our times.

Capitalism with profit as the single goal leads to mass production & rapid production!

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इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें
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in this part)

But is it serving us after all?

Boon or bane in disguise

At the Economic level, pursuit of more goods is leading to automation & AI powered machines. Google is rolling out chatbots to skip the stage where slow & dumb humans are called upon to do tasks. On healthcare, AI powered X-Rays are better ⁱⁿ accuracy than Post-Doctoral fellows in identifying cancer! So it must be a boon for healthcare, global prosperity.

But this has wider consequences! Automation will lead to displacement of human labor. Threats of AI machines taking over the world is echoed by entrepreneurs like Elon Musk. Google's chat bots recently developed a language for machine-to-machine communication that their human operators couldn't decipher.

dangers

Uberization powered by financialization, is leading to creation of monopolistic empires with companies like Apple topping \$1 trillion in valuations. This hampers sovereignty. Moreover it hampers

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Choice to Consumers. Facebook controls
Mark Zuckerberg controls Facebook, Whatsapp,
Instagram alone! There are grave issues of privacy too

The international trade which is powering rapid
pace of life is inherently discriminatory.
It follows a neo-imperial model of extraction
of resources from 3rd world.

The Economic Model has great ramifications
on environment. 'Use & throw' materialism in
culture is causing widespread ecological destruction.
The Amazon is being cleared up, the rivers
are getting polluted, the oceans are filled with
plastic (Great Pacific Garbage patch), the ice caps
are melting. Climate Change has potential to
wipe out humans from the face of earth!

The Economic Model hampers sovereignty!
Casino Capitalism with 'hot money' getting pumped
in & out rapidly from economies is destabilizing
countries. The case of Venezuela which saw
its currency devalued by 100% over last few
years is an example!

2x allent
example

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In diplomacy, fast track diplomacy has become the norm. National interest being prime, the US led by Tromp calls EU a foe, ~~India~~ ~~moves~~ ~~to~~ Maldives aligns with China leaving India all for short term gains.

But, it's leading to more uncertainty & instability in the world order!

The fast pace of innovation by entrepreneurs though appears to be a bright spot. New age technologies like 3D & 4D printing, gene editing, AI, quantum computers are helping humanity progress. Armed with rapid processing by Pratyush supercomputer, Indian Meteorological Organisation will better predict monsoon, floods, storms & hence save lives.

But technology's use depends upon the beholders. If a nuclear weapon lands up in hands of a terrorist or gene editing starts of humans at mass scale, the Earth surely will end in an instant too maybe!

There are ethical challenges too with technologies like gene editing, 3 parents baby & designer babies. Similarly with AI subjugating human essence.

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Now coming to Media. We see the menace that fake news is creating. At lightning speed, "news" of a child abductor surfaces in Assam, & lo & behold → 3 tourists suspected are killed / lynched in an act of instant justice!

Printing without fact checking led to the crippling of US Presidential Elections of 2016 by alleged Russian hackers.

Instant lives also leads to breakage of human bonds. When money rules, transactionalism trumps sentiments. Joint families are facing the onslaught of nuclearization. The Westernization & McDonaldisation is ruining our Asian values & culture.

Losing the humane self ✓

Thus, we saw how rapid life is creating benefits on one ~~for~~ hand but larger issues on the other. ✓

In the midst of all this, as Marx argues, we are losing the human essence. Man is getting alienated from the process of his work. He feels like a cog in the machine.

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He fears alienation from the product of his labour. He is becoming a 'one-dimensional' man aloof from his society. And thus a man alienated from his own humane self.

It is time, we chart a better way forward!

CRAFTING →
A Better World

We all ^{humans} need to decide as a species, or as a community, what are we doing, why and for what purpose? If the rapid pace of life beneficial in some domains like innovation, better service delivery then good! We should reward such progress & encourage it. Skill India & Startup India are right initiatives in this sense.

But there's definitely a need to reform and regulate other aspects. In 1818, Mary Shelley warned of a Frankenstein monster. We have to build a world which avoids loss of the human essence. Education system with moral studies is one solution. But it isn't sufficient. We need to check monopolies via anti-competition rules to be made stringent. Privacy has to be respected as a fundamental right (Puttaswamy judgement of Supreme Court).

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~~It is true that~~
Rapidness shouldn't just be motivated by profits alone. With the same zeal, we should take people out of poverty, curb inequality so that the fruits of progress reaches to the base of the pyramid.

There should be ethicality in all spheres & domains. A rapid life with crowds chasing to intervene in a lynching is of no use. It is almost satanic.

True that, today with all technologies & instant ~~access~~ fulfillment of desires, we are privileged but the rough ends have to be polished. ~~no one~~

60
No one can deny that change is the only constant but a change at a fast pace in the wrong direction will lead to catastrophe & nothing else. Thus, we need a direction. So let's take corrective actions. Because the future will be determined by what we all do today!