

Roll No. _____

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).

RemarksName Aditya Vakode

Mobile No. _____

Date 6-12-21Signature Aditya

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

SECTION - A

1. *Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.*
2. *Strength and wisdom are not opposing values.*
3. *It's choice - not chance - that determines your destiny*
4. *Character is a journey, not a destination*

SECTION - B

1. *The world is hard-wired for cyber resilience*
2. *How democracy dies?*
3. *'Electoral autocracy': The downgrading of India's democracy*
4. *Regional-parochialism has invalidated the concept of India being 'indestructible union of destructible states*

It's choice not chance that determines your Destiny

"Man is condemned to be free"

Jean Paul Sartre

For millennia theologians and philosophers have searched for the essence of man. What one must be, what was man meant to be. Fatalism, the inevitability of an outcome due to a ceaseless cause-effect chain left no room for freedom and choice. The only real pursuit was the discovery of that essence and accept it.

Existentialists like Sartre revolted uncompromisingly. Existence precedes Essence.

Man is not a mathematical outcome of simple steps summed up. He chooses.

Not chance but choice, free, in a vacuum with full responsibility makes lives authentic.

Rather than resigning things to chance, one must choose, face the fear, anxiety and

do and shape one's own destiny.

The pull of fatalism and chance is very tempting. If nothing is free and a choice, why bother about anything. It is the easy way out. Poverty, illness, environmental degradation are intimidating problems. It's very convenient to blame circumstances and the "other". Yet, a person or individual or a nation can choose.

Europe was the cradle of civilization in the middle of last millennium. The site of all scientific, cultural advancements. The Americans were displaced Brits who made the most of a favorable and plentiful geography. It was unimaginable for a small island plagued by earthquakes with hardly any natural resources to match these civilizations.

At the start, Japan looked at its weaknesses, assessed the strengths. They chose to unite, to educate and to strengthen. In two centuries, from a rich but orthodox society, Japan emerged as a colonial-imperial power. Matching these terrors in technology, industry and outperforming in innovation. The choices trumped their chance and circumstances.

India too has emerged from a colonial exploitation and hostile neighbors to be a leader of the third world.

The Democratic credentials, its soft power are not a gift but achieved through conscious choices of our freedom fighters. Like our neighbors we could have opted for dictatorship or military rule but instead we took the long but right way. It has made our destiny.

Remarks

Free choice is never easy. It is plagued by the chance of failure and defeat. Every decision must be carefully selected and choice exercised responsibly.

An affective and realistic assessment must precede every rational choice. Irrational and impulsive choices are as good or bad as chance, a matter of probability.

Mindless clamor for privatization of health sector due to limited public fiscal capacity is akin to circumstance dictating. Universal empowerment necessitates public sector participation for accessible, cheap and quality healthcare. The reality in implementation during Ayushman Bharat tells the same. Only 3% private hospitals enrolled and are plagued by locational bias towards urban areas. Thus choice to determine success must be qualified by well informed opinion, to make it better than mere chance.

~~Public servants~~

Public servants express helplessness in the face of a system suggested to be corrupt.

It is not uncommon to blame the situation. It believes a lack of ownership of choice. Sartre would call it "bad faith".

The choice of steadfast integrity may cause catastrophic damage to one's career.

That is the price, but every individual civil servant's submission to the

"system" just perpetuates the vicious cycle.

If an Ashok Khemka and Durgashastri in Nepal can do it, maybe government in India is not destined to be corrupt.

Religion, culture and customs have always considered women as lesser. It has been institutionalized. It would be not only easy but rewarding for a woman to just embrace her circumstances. Life is

short, why resist - comprising women
 everyday choose otherwise. Kiran Bedi
 breached a male bastion the IPS and
 made telling contributions. The founder
 of Nykaa became one of the rare CEO's
 of uniforms in India. Their choices
 overcame the destiny that Manu determined
for them.

Choice matters too!

It is thus apparent that choice
 not chance determines the outcome.
 Yet circumstances are not irrelevant.
 They are formative of one's abilities and
 aptitudes. Medical science has ~~to~~ decisively
 proven that early childhood mal-nourishment
 leads to life long disability of learning and
 physical development.

Social evils like casteism, chauvinism
 deny the very freedom in which choice
 is exercised. Reformative theory of justice

Remarks

is premised on the very fact. Society too must accept its role in the creation of a criminal. Slums, poverty, distribution of substance abuse etc. In fact, complete negation of chance will lead to insensitiveness. Resentment, minority rights try to overcome the curse of chance and circumstance for vulnerable sections.

Choice though extremely potent is not exercised divorced completely from circumstances. It is True, that one can achieve remarkable feats and compensate for chance. However it is also relevant to recognize the limits of what one may do and choose. Reason and temperance is the key to turn the balance in one's favor and achieve the destiny one desires.

Remarks

Truth always lies somewhere in the middle. We must choose to succeed, to overcome the limitations of our situation. We must do so logically and unflinchingly. Nothing is impossible. Yet, we must also be prepared to fail. To sometimes surpass the limits, whether it be in governance, politics, economy or personal life.

The serene prayer of Christians sums up adequately. God give me the strength to change the things that I can, the serenity to accept the things that I can't and the wisdom to know the difference.

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Remarks

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How Democracy Dies?

Democratic polity is a marvel unto itself. Never in the history of mankind has Democracy seen the most widely accepted form of government except past two centuries. Kings, class and religion have always concentrated power at the cost of excluding the popular opinion and common man.

It is so prevalent that we take it for granted, as a right. Democracy the rule of people, by the people, in fact is of great value which needs careful preservation. If not, Democracy does more often than not, just a cursory look at newly liberated colonies confirms the same. Most of them have descended into autocracies or dictatorships.

Remarks

Democracy has many flaws and contradictions but its rectification is just a more democratic procedure. The main success is its inclusiveness and upholding dignity of individuals. Before learning how Democracy perishes we must know why so happens.

Democracies' failure to achieve economic socio-political development breeds unrest. If it fails to uphold dignity and is plagued by corruption and poverty, it dies. When interest contradictions trump avowed goals.

How Democracy Dies

It starts with a lack of will among the people. If people do not cherish and

value it, the fundamentals are eroded. No leader or military rule can defy the masses. However if masses start considering Democracy as inefficient or lardy then it is doomed. It also arises from taking it for granted.

Democracy dies when independent institutions betray their mandate. The fair and free conduct of elections rests on Election Commission's shoulders under Art 324. It is the cornerstone of any Democracy. Due to patronization, fear or favor if it fails, Democracy fails.

Judiciary is another vital element to keep check and ensure balance. It prevents brutish majorities from tulldoging Democratic principles. Our constitution and

Remarks

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Judiciary has done an amicable job
 ensuring justice, rights and rights ¹³
 upheld. Expanding scope of Article 21,
 innovative tools like PIL; Special petition
 one testament to the same.

Role of media as the fourth estate
 keeps information free from clutches of
powers that let it allow debate,
 democratic deliberation and participation.
 It is vital for accountability from
Civil Society. Politico-Business-Media
~~business nexus~~ kills Democracy for information
 is marginalized

Imbalanced regional development as
 well as rising inequality are antithetical to
Democracy. It breeds secessionist, nationalist
(and regionalist) and populist tendencies.

Impoverished people are more likely to eschew Democratic principles of debate in favor of instant gratification and expediency.

Democracy is not just majority rule at cost of minority. It is qualified by patience and ethics of care and respect for minorities. If minorities' rights are casually neglected and violated the Democratic set up suffers body blows.

Capitalism the economic system breeds Democracy the political counterpart. Vice versa socialism leads to autocracy.

However too much capitalism may also erode Democracy. Today global MNCs are too big and frequently impose

censorship (Twitter etc) which erode Democratic rights of freedom of speech. Moreover it becomes economically more sensible to override the concerns of affected for mining or exploitation of locals like tribals.

When these factors combine populist strongmen or military dictators move in. They concentrate power due to more appal or better organisation. They are the effect the causes are aforementioned. Other reasons why Democracies die include communalism, corrupt Civil Services, wars, famines etc. They all ultimately disturb the fragile balance that is Democracy.

Remarks

How to strengthen Democracy

The Constitution under Article 51 (e) clearly mentions how principles of freedom struggle must be cherished. It is not hypertole but a practical tool. If we all are aware of Democracy there is no way it can be dispensed with. "We the people" are its true guardians.

Further independence of media, judiciary, Election Commission, CAG etc must be ensured. The people in such places must understand how integral they are to survival of Democracy. Leaders and Governments must ensure that they do not fall into the greed of power but prioritize welfare of people.

Because when all is said and done, Democracy really is the best form of government, it may be slow due to deliberation and inconsistent due to periodic elections and policy reversal but it fulfills the need of enhancing individual liberty and dignity.

Men are not just creatures of comfort. They have sense of agency and self. It is fulfilled only when they can realize their true potential which also includes being the makes of laws not just recipients. Democracy thus works on consensus and collectivistic discussion.

There is also something innate about a population that sustains Democracy.

Even during emergency of 1975 the nation emerged more Democratic. Maybe it is the ethos of struggle and inclusivity that our forefathers developed that perpetuates it. Even while all other nations around us degraded into military rule, we are a beacon of Democracy.

Federalism, Fundamental rights, Civil political freedoms are the result of sacrifice and shed blood. The freedom fighters gave this all to ensure we emerge as a Democratic polity where all thrive. It is epitomized perfectly by our first Prime Minister who wrote a scathing criticism of

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himself and included opposition in
his cabinet. He made institutions that
make us proud today. It is our
solemn duty to resist all ways and
uphold the vision of great leaders like
Jawahar Patel, Gandhi who believed,
fought and ultimately died for
our Democratic rights.

How Democracy dies

(India)

Erosion of independent institutions → Jud, Ec, CAG, Parliament

Inequality ↓
 Inequality ↑
 lack of public participation and interest
Populism Opportunism Over centralisation
 Military overthrow / rule Tolerance (Majority)
Too much capitalism

Is it under threat in India?
 Courts ✓ Elections ✓ Civil Society ✓ Structure ✓
 Too diverse ✓ States ✓ Belief of the people.

What happens → Under
 Erosion of rights
 Rule of law secular humanism

why does it die?