

ESSAY

Time Allowed: 3 hr.

Max. Marks: 250

Instruction to Candidates

- Both sections are compulsory.
- Write three essays attempting one essay from section A and two essays from section B.
- Section A carries 100 marks and write in about 1000-1200 words.
- Section B carries 150 marks, 75 marks for each essay and write each essay in about 800-1000 words.
- After finishing the first essay, the other is to be attempted on a fresh Page.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

(Examiners 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).

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SECTION - A

1. Beware the barrenness of a busy life.

SECTION - B

1. Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choices, are prepared to choose wisely.
2. It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity.
3. Being pro-market and being pro-poor is not mutually contradictory.

Section A

Beware the barrenness of a busy life

The changing lifestyle of people with increasing workload and an unflinching race for excellence has reduced the leisure time available with the people and enhanced barrenness in their life. This has led to a vacuum in the life of the people where they find themselves disconnected from their long-term goals and immediate priorities. This vacuum has shown up in the lifestyle and behavior of

people in many ways such as the changing relationships and the sociological order, impact on the development of children, care for the old people as well as in terms of cognitive development of people, psychological issues and the rising cases of lifestyle related diseases at a young age. Moreover, the increasing reliance on drugs and alcohol coupled with the loss of traditions, customs and moral values in public life is a manifestation of the ill-effects of extremely busy lives and neglect of basic psychological, social and aesthetic needs of the individuals.

The roots of the changing social order lies in the advent of industrial revolution and the increasing urbanisation associated with it. The development of the industrial process led to monotonous work routine and extended work hours of the people.

Moreover, the development of various philosophical 'isms' such as capitalism and socialism further de-humanised work by treating people simply as part of the labour which has to be used for production of goods. This de-humanisation bypassed

the needs of people other than economic and treated them simply as means to serve an end.

The excessive reliance on profits and increasing economic production coupled with the advent of nationalism ensured that people worked beyond their means at times to meet the political objectives of the nation or the targets set by industrialists. In the meanwhile, even the concept of hard work and duty was modified to suit certain people and ensure that the common men works extremely hard, without thinking about his own personal needs and without the vision.

of a long term goal or the implications of the same in other aspects of social, psychological, cultural and moral life.

The most significant impact of the bareness of busy life has been found to be on the social lives of the people.

The change in family relations coupled with the rise of nuclear families is the most visible aspect of the same.

There is an increasing tendency among people to indulge in social interactions and have devoted almost their entire lives to careers. The career-

oriented mindset has increased to such an extent that even babies are being seen as liabilities rather than a joy in life. There has been an increasing trend of individualism with greater mistrust among the people. Moreover, the relations in the contemporary times are being defined by the association of work and the concept of friendship has been de-lined into spaces strictly defined by needs ~~and~~ of work.

Such tendencies of isolation have led to a change in the psychological state of the

people. There have been rising cases of depression and loneliness experienced by the people requiring a rise in psychiatric treatment and counselling services. The increased use of drugs and alcohol abuse is also attributed to the barren lifestyle of people that has replaced healthy interaction among young adults. Lifestyle related diseases such as heart problems, diabetes etc. at a young age is also a side-effect of the changing pattern of society.

Another significant dimension is the broken cultural linkages

between the people, wherein the normal customs and traditions have been overtaken by work schedules. The elaborate preparation for festivals and important events such as marriages have become a thing of the past and there is an increasing tendency to outsource even these little joys of life. The extent of change can be gauged from the fact that the marriage dates are being decided by the convenience of being able to get holiday from work and the dates are clubbed with weekends to ensure that there is minimum loss of work!!!

Moreover, the changing traditional values have also led to immediate gratification urged by the people. This has led to extensive problems to the environment as well as the morals of society. The changed celebration of festivals like Diwali from being a festival of lights to a harbinger of pollution is an outcome of the same.

One of the most important dimensions of the change is the loss of morals and values in people. People have become utility-based rather than virtue-based and are looking at short term

gains. Most of the social relations are being looked as zero-sum game where somebody has to lose in order for some-one else to gain. The broken linkages in family life has led to de-lineation of children from parents and excessive dependence on video-games and secluded lifestyles. The loss of interaction among children and lowered values of helping others is seen in rising selfishness and insecurity among children. Moreover, the increasing old age homes is a sign of broken families and value system.

The issue with busy lifestyle

has emerged from the desire for aimless accumulation of economic wealth, without regard to social or spiritual wealth of individual and society. This race for excellence has emerged from the Darwinian concept of 'struggle for survival'.

In order to overcome the ill-effects of the busy lifestyles and be able to enjoy the joys of nature, it is important to re-invigorate the family bonds as well as retrace our roots with nature. There has to be a focus on efficiency and time management

in order to balance the needs of work and personal life.

In this context, the story of pebbles and sand is appropriate, wherein the teacher asks the pupil to fill the glass with pebbles, and asks whether the glass is full. On getting affirmation, he puts in smaller pebbles between the holes and so on. The life is like the glass and personal life is like large pebbles. By prioritising on the right aspects, the balance between work and individual lifestyle can be maintained, and the small pebbles representing work can easily fit in the gaps.

It is important to remember the

famous saying - 'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy', and ensure that work and play are balanced for leading a wholesome life.

It has become appallingly obvious that
our technology has exceeded our
humanity.

The growth of science and technology in the recent years has brought significant comforts to human life and it has become an integral part of modern lifestyle of the people.

The improved standards of living of the people, the general increase in prosperity and the quest for greater knowledge has been driven by the growth of technology in the recent years.

However, it needs to be acknowledged that the benefits of technology have been coupled with various issues that signify loss of humanity among the people. The loss of

human values, development of destructive elements such as nuclear bombs, stark inequality among the people, inhuman relations and self-centred attitude of the people is the manifestation of the same reality in human lives.

The growth of technology brought about by the period of Renaissance and the Industrial Revolution firmly brought the modern age to the doorsteps of human civilisation. The significant advances in the field of transportation, communication, IT, human knowledge, psychology etc. have all been brought by the application of technology by the human mind in different fields. However, the concurrent growth of inhuman practices

such as colonialism, imperialism, (2)
slave trade and the consequent
world wars remain a dark spot
to the benefits of adopting
technology.

Since its inception, technology has become
an integral part of human life
and touched several dimensions of
the same, including social, economic,
political, cultural, ethical and spiritual
lives among others. The application
of science in these varied dimensions
has led to the tug of war
between the promoters of science
as well as its detractors. It has
been well accepted during the course
of this debate that while
'science is a good slave, it is a
bad master.'

The social aspects of technology has led to various sociological and anthropological changes leading to rise of individualism among people, self-centric nature with lifestyle more related to the virtual world than the real world and a change in social relations of the people while technology has brought the world closer by its advances in communication and transportation, it has also been responsible for the changes taking place in human relationships ~~such~~ ^{seen} by rise of old age homes, secluded nature of children, reliance on technologies such as video games rather than indulging in healthy social interaction being visible changes. Moreover, the increasing conflicts in families, rising mistrusts

and broken relations are a side aspect of reliance on technology. (3)

The growth of income and standard of living has brought about a general economic prosperity for the people, and led to development of global financial system that has helped in catalysing growth. However, the accumulation of wealth and the growing inequality as a result has been a severe handicap of technology that has replaced human labour by machine tools. The scenes of exploitation and the pictures of beggars near sites of extravagance produce a heartening story about the inhuman nature of science.

Technology has also led to significant changes in the political system and transformed the structures of

governance across the world. The use of science and technology has promoted transparency and simplified voting as seen by the successful usage of e-voting machines in Indian democracy. At the same time, the lust for power coupled with the advances of technology produces a dangerous cocktail that can reduce the ~~globe~~ entire humanity into ashes in a couple of seconds. The increasing conflicts in global arena and the blatant use of advanced weapons to violate human rights produce a grim picture of the state of affairs. The most startling feature of inhumanity is that global expenditure on arms is many times greater than the funds allocated for the cause of ending poverty.

(4)

The reliance on technology has led to significant changes in the cultural life of the people. The use of IT and applications such as Google Earth and advent of robotic systems such as GPS guided cars has led to significant advances in protection of global heritage. However, the homogenisation of cultures coupled with the process of globalisation has threatened various customs and traditions and led to the development of ~~and~~ unsustainable practices such as consumerism and materialism that have significantly harmed the human environment.

The loss of ethical values associated with humanity such as altruism and cooperation with other members of society has been the biggest blow to humanity which has given rise to ~~consumerism~~ individualism. This

has led to greater no. of crimes in the society and rising attitude of seclusion in human lives.

The unabashed use of technology without consideration of consequences has been the root cause of all the above mentioned problems. In order to overcome the grave crisis of humanity, it is contingent on the people to be more careful in adoption of technology in all domain and to make their best efforts to preserve the best practices of the current times.

In the consideration of human action, it is important to realise that technology is a means and not an end in itself. Loss of humanity will cause a grave crisis for the future. People must use

⑤

their wisdom in making choices
and ensure that humanity always
prevails over technology as it is the
differentiating factor of humans from
other beings on the planet. One
must remember the cardinal sin
'Science without Humanity' and
ensure that human actions are
always carefully considered to preserve
humanity in the use of science to
ensure continuous progress of the
human civilisation.



Being Pro-Market and Pro-poor is ⑥ not mutually contradictory

There has been a constant debate about the contradictory nature of pro-market policies as well as pro-poor policies. The arguments of the debate in seemingly opposite directions have ~~been~~ fuelled by the ideological differences between the proponents of capitalism and socialism. However, the new age thinking of policy makers has identified the deep linkages between market reforms and welfare measures as an effective way of achieving overall sustainable growth, which is based on the firm pillars of people, economy and ecology. It is suggested that the nature of these policies

is mutually re-inforcing and has been conclusively shown by the Nobel Prize winning author J. Stiglitz in the book 'Price of Inequality'.

The historical origins of the debate lie in the publishing of two classical works in economy and sociology that shaped the modern society. The first book by Adam Smith, considered as the father of modern economics, known as 'Wealth of Nations' advocated the free market philosophy that led to the emergence of classical economics based on laissez faire. The second book by Karl Marx, known as the 'Communist Manifesto' led to the emergence of socialist ideology that preferred state control of resources and social redistribution above market forces.

The debate between classical economics[⊕] and socialism merged into the political debate among the West, led the free market advocates and the Communist USSR. However, the subsequent events such as the Great Depression and the failure of communism to uplift people out of poverty has led to the amalgamation of pro-market forces and pro-poor forces to develop greater synergies and the adoption of welfare state as the most effective means of economic growth and social welfare. The subsequent development of indices such as HDI to determine the progress of a nation is a step in the direction of collating the best of market and social reforms.

In recent years, the various assessments of UN and IMF have

validated the linkages of market and society. It has been observed that the most prosperous nations ~~are~~ also have good social indicators in terms of health, education, nutrition levels etc. which allow the people to participate more effectively in the growth of the economy.

Moreover, the growth of US as a major economic power was linked to the adoption of liberal philosophy based on freedom and later the adoption of 'the New Deal' that led to pro-poor policies by the US govt. The failure of communism is also highlighted by its inability to allow market forces to work efficiently.

The policies of pro market and pro poor have several implications on the social, economic and

political lives of the people, as they are the ones affected by the implementation of these ~~po~~ policies.

It is ~~seen~~ ^{observed} that good social indicators such as health, education, poverty, sex ratio, nutrition levels etc. have a significant bearing on the economic growth of the country. By having a healthy and skilled workforce, the country is able to utilise the economic opportunities made available to the people and allow the market forces to function efficiently, thus ~~set~~ fuelling economic growth and improving social life in a circle. On the other hand, poor and unskilled workforce is a major drag on economy and leads to further poverty rise. This has been seen in many African states that are rich in

natural resources but do not have the skilled workforce to exploit the resources for economic development.

On the other hand, the free market is linked to the provision of opportunities to the people. This allows people to harness their maximum potential and achieve success according to their capabilities, thus fuelling economic growth. Moreover, free market ensures that there is minimal distortion in resource allocation which leads to fair distribution based on capability and capacity. Such allocation will inadvertently lead to better outcomes for the economy and society and hence improve the social indicators as well as economic indicators of progress.

(9)

The political differences over the type of economic system has led to the growth of welfare state, based on the principles of empowerment of people as well as maximising available choices. It has further led to political reforms in many parts of the world with emphasis on participative governance and outcome-based approach. It has been generally established that the expansion of choice leads to more stable form of govt. that leads to economic and social progress of the country. Conversely, the socio-economic progress is directly linked to political stability. This is best exemplified by the fact the most of the countries

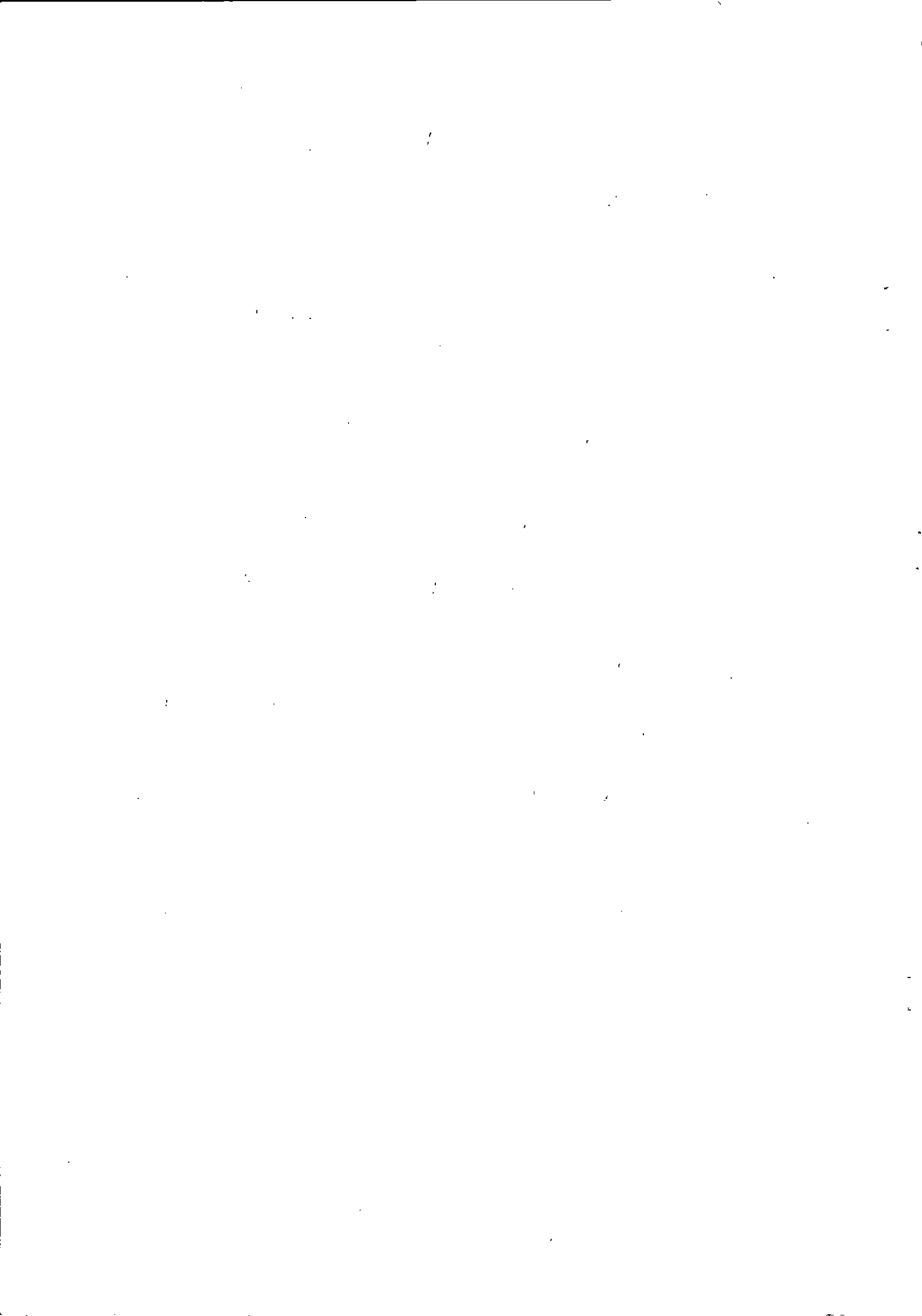
that are on the brink of civil war have extremely poor social and economic indicators.

It is important for the global establishments of power and multilateral forums to realise the linkages between the ideologies of free market and social progress. There needs to be a concerted push towards an outcomes based approach that leads to expansion of choice, welfare of people and minimum distortion. The agenda for inclusive growth and sustainable development that has been adopted by the UN needs to be at the heart of global policy making.

(10)

By trying to delineate the differences between pro-market policies and pro-poor policies, a major gross injustice is being done to the collective human knowledge, and especially the poor who are most affected by these policies

In order to overcome the menace of poverty in the future, it is important to identify the links and take coordinated and concerted action aimed at improving the welfare of people in the long run.



Economic → Free market → growth of market opportunities.
 ↳ better opportunities for people to progress
 ↳ lesser distortion → fair distribution based on capability.
 ↳ reduced corruption and improved outcomes
 ↳ reduction of poverty, unemployment → raise income → helps in growth of poor.

Political → political differences over market
 ↳ welfare state
 free market → people empowerment and choice to people.
 ↳ participative governance → better outcomes
 → expansion of choice in political domain → reforms in form of representative democracy
 ↳ more stable form of govt
 ↳ improved economic growth and social indicators

Conclusion → Problem Solⁿ
Conc. → existing clash among diff. proponents.
 ↳ need to focus on outcome based approach and welfare of people
 ↳ identify synergies among the two processes.
 ↳ provide better outcomes in terms of social health and economic growth
 ↳ aim at overall improvement in inclusive growth by creation of opportunity & capability
 Call for action → get together and act

Being pro-market and pro-poor: a not mutually contradictory

Intro • Constant debate about contradictory nature of pro-market policies and pro-poor policies
 • mainly fuelled by ideological differences - capitalism and socialism.
 ↳ deep linkages between market reforms and poverty reduction → defines the new age thinking of policy makers.
 Rather than contradictory ⇒ in fact mutually reinforcing.
 Stiglitz → Price of inequality → shows the huge costs associated with poverty. HDI, → linkage

History ⇒ Historical origins → Adam Smith → wealth of nations, 1776
 free market philosophy
 Karl Marx → communist manifesto → ^{proscribes} enforced labour welfare and social redistribution above market forces.
 Classical economics and socialism → merged into political debates of US and USSR and polarised world in different ideologies
 Keynesian theory of market intervention and welfare state ⇒ & greater synergies.

Various aspects → ~~for~~ Poverty reduction and economic growth link
 ↳ various assessment of UN and IMF
 ↳ most prosperous nations → good economic and social indicators
 US growth → after 'the Mao Deal' ⇒ welfare state
 USSR → focus on poverty reduction ⇒ collapse and increased poverty
 allowing growth by creating opportunities rather than bringing down the levels of achievement
 Several implications of on social economic and political fronts

Social → good social indicators ⇒ better standard of living
 low inequality, better health, better education, nutrition
 ⇒ effective economic participation → growth of economy

cultural → Technology replaced cultural traditions
↳ Whole Earth → travel at home

- threatened customs, pulled people away from enjoyed
- unsustainable practices
- promoted consumerism.

ethical → over-reliance on tech
↳ loss of values in children & adults
↳ ~~poor~~ social exclusion and segregation
↳ individualism, selfishness
↳ rise in crimes

Problem → • Unabashed use of tech. without consideration of consequence
• replacement of tech. in all domain

Solⁿ & Concⁿ → • Priority to humanity over tech
• focus on social bonds and cultural linkages
• develop harmonious relations
'Science without humanity' ⇒ cardinal sin
promote use of science without dependence
↳ essence of humanity needs to be maintained for differentiation

It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity.

Intro -

Growth of science and technology → significant

comforts to human life

↳ improved standards of living

↳ widened scope of knowledge

↳ greater prosperity, skills and quest for growth

(Science is a good slave but a bad master)

• Coupled with loss of values, development of destructive elements, inhuman relations and self-centred attitude

• Concurrence of poverty and rich in urban areas → perfect example of these realities.

Historical

→ ~~The~~ Growth of technology ⇒ Renaissance and Industrial Age ⇒ brought to the modern age

↳ coupled with significant advances in transport, comm., IT, etc. ⇒ brought the world closer and more connected.

↳ coupled with inhuman race for superiority
↳ colonialism, slave trade, world wars.

Various aspects

→ Technology → touched aspects of social, economic, political, cultural, ethical lives.

social

→ rise of individualism, over-reliance on tech., increase in old age homes, nuclear families, greater conflicts.

Economic

→ growth of incomes and standard of living
→ prosperity
→ development of new and complex financial system
→ accumulation of wealth ⇒ inhuman attitude towards labour
→ growing inequality ⇒ exploitative tendencies to gain money

Political

→ transformed political system
→ greater say in governance, transparency, voting
→ greater conflicts at global arena. violation of human rights
→ terrorism for political gains. technology to manipulate people

Cultural → Cultural linkages broken
 • traditions overcome by work
 • relations defined by work
 • customs and festivals → commercialised
 ↳ environmental problems → such as Diwali

ethical → loss of values → decrease in morality
 ⇒ increase in crime, hatred etc
 → utility-based more than virtue-based
 ⇒ ends justify healthy development and rights
 of children and old people means for.

Problems → the main issue → excessive workload
 • race for excellence
 • Darwinian concept → struggle for survival

Solⁿ → re-invigorate family bonds
 • focus on efficiency and time management.
 e.g. of pebbles and sand.
 • make priorities clear and set long
 term goals.

Conclusions → ensure effective regulation of lifestyle

- avoid barrenness
- understand multiple dimensions of life
and need for balance
- 'All work and no play ---)
↳ make priorities and get
effective results
→ call for action.

sect

Intro

Beware the barrenness of busy life.

All work and no play makes Jack dull.

- L increasing work loads \Rightarrow reduced leisure time
- L ~~the~~ vacuum in people's life
- L impact on society, family relations, as well as child development:
 - L Cognitive development, psychological issues, depression,
 - L rise in use of alcohol and drugs
 - L lifestyle diseases.

Historical

\rightarrow The changing lifestyle \Rightarrow sociological changes since Industrial Revⁿ

- urbanisation
- factory system.

\Rightarrow monotonous work nature, extended work hours.

Various aspects

~~Driving profitability~~ has rise of firm's \Rightarrow increase in perception of humane as means

capitalism \Rightarrow focus on profits \Rightarrow excessive work to labour force

rationalism \Rightarrow to provide strength to nation

\hookrightarrow duty \Rightarrow important with less focus on leisure

Notion of hard work \Rightarrow modified to suit interests and made people to work harder without long term goals or simplification.

Social

- Family relations
- Nuclear families
- individualism
- loss of morals and values in society
- defective societal relations, less time for outdoor activities

Psychological

- affected cognitive abilities of children
- rising cases of loneliness and depression
- aimless life \Rightarrow increased use of drugs
- alcohol consumption & club culture \Rightarrow replaced social interaction
- lifestyle related diseases, early strokes, heart problems etc.

Economic

- Accumulation of wealth with no time to spend.
- ~~in~~ compensation of time with money \Rightarrow overdependence of children on video games
- dullness and selfishness
- lack of social abilities among children, ~~loss of~~ ^{violence and} self