

GS SCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

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DEEPAK KEN

RANK - 658

GS MAINS ESSAY



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Essay

Time Allowed: 1½ hrs.

Max. Marks: 125

Instructions to Candidate

- Attempt one essay
- The test carries 125 marks.
- Write the essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- 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).

Remarks

Name Jyotsak Kaur

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature [Signature]

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator's Signature _____

1. *Leadership is not about the next election, it's about the next generation.*
2. *The superior man thinks always of virtue; the common man thinks of comfort.*

Leadership is not about the next election; it is about the next generation.

The key to successful leadership today is influence, not authority. ~ Ken Blanchard.

Elections constitute a vital part in a democratic polity. It is a way through which people transfer their powers, authority and vision into the hands of few elected representatives. This process of election knowingly or unknowingly gives birth to leaders. Such leaders find in themselves the power of people, vision of their life and responsibility to serve them. Power associated with this leadership have a tendency to corrupt the individual. And to hold on to such power, he thinks and care about the next election only. His purpose is to win the next elections. to hold on such authority. But, as highlighted in the above quote, the true leader is one who uses his position to influence and not to exercise authority alone. In context of political leadership, the success of a leader depends upon his ability to think and deliver comprehensively for the present and next generation. He sets up vision for both and becomes source of inspiration to both, current and future generations to come. During late 1970s, Indian political sphere saw widespread mass movement against the elected leaders.

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leader of this movement Jai prakash Narayan, not only united the masses for a cause, but also set an example for the world. He did not take part in the election, followed by the movement. He fulfilled his role as an exemplary leader and imparted his vision to his followers, instead of using the opportunity to win the next election, to grab the authority. True political leadership creates vision, policies and schemes to benefit the present and future generation. Their purpose and intent is not restricted by the outcomes of elections and inspired by the cause of all.

True leader is above electoral politics. True leader keeps his focus on creating vision and in converting it into reality. His focus is on analysing the present problems and to build solutions which are sustainable. His focus is not on pleasing the masses for few days, but it is on taking care of the nation for long term. True leader is not power hungry. His hunger is to build a comprehensive society. A true leader is not bothered by the outcomes of election. His vision is not on pause when he have no authority. His vision for the nation is a continued process. He just uses the authority to convert this vision for all into policies and schemes. The true leader is not afraid of delegating his authority. He creates several

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other leaders. using the authority either directly or through inspiration. True leader holds himself accountable to future generations as well. And, in this process he becomes a source of inspiration for future generation, as well.

If primary duty of political leadership is to please the present masses for certain amount time, then it gives birth to politics of appeasement. Such leaders uses their authority for short term solution giving. In return their relationship with masses becomes volatile and temporary. And to avoid sublimation of this volatile relationship their focus is on appeasement.

Election under such conditions becomes a tool to grab the power of people by appeasement. This tendency to grab onto power has already given birth to criminalisation of electoral process. and use of money and material to appease the masses for delegation of power through election. True leaders don't find their relationship with masses as a product to appease. Their relationship with masses is formed by common vision. Their vision have an element to take care for the future generation. They create a unilateral relationship with future generation. Thus their primary duty is dual, towards both generations.

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Leaders who focus on future generations create a sustainable society. Societies lose their selfish ends. They analyse their problems with future perspective. Society as a whole starts to function with one leg in the future. They consume their resources wisely and sustainably. Leaders inspire such societies to maintain this attitude. Relationship of leadership with society thus becomes free from fear of electoral results. Leader for both generations don't fear maintaining the power via elections. In such scenarios, elections are then not fought for ~~the~~ power but for upholding the vision.

Elections give birth to leaders. Elections establish relationship of leader with society. Leaders come out of elections, if starts enjoying power, then they become power hungry. Elections just become a joy and method for them. Their focus is all alone on winning the next election. They find themselves in the cyclic process of grabbing the authority. Such leaders, who are power hungry, have a vision which is narrow and is reflected in their policies and schemes. Their policies and schemes are attached to elections. They use their resources to fuel the cycle of elections. True leaders on the other hand don't require elections. Jawahar Lal Nehru, the longest serving Prime Minister of

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Jndiq, kept his focus on creating a socialistic and secular society. His focus, as a true leader was to build a vision, which is still available for the current generation. Such leaders leave a legacy and vision for future generations. They shape the character of future generations.

Swami Vivekanand once said - Students of today's classroom are the leaders of tomorrow. Leadership which have an element for future generations, do not limit itself only on creating vision and policies which are future oriented. They play a proactive role in spreading their vision through education. They build the future generation proactively. They focus on future generation actively and participate in communication with them through various ways. Such members of future generation grow up to become true leaders. Leadership abilities are transferred from one generation to other generation through education to uphold the national vision. And, leaders formed out of such communication become the ~~second~~ next authority. Such authorities again have less focus on elections, and more focus on building and implementing a national comprehensive vision.

Thus, to conclude, a true leader is one who has a robust link with the masses. Such link is formed by a shared vision, common to both. This common vision allows a leader to look beyond the election. Thus, election becomes a playground to

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portray their shared vision for all the members of society, present and future. Leaders with their focus on future generation creates a sustainable present and inspires the society to use the resources judiciously. True leaders take part in active formation of future generation. Thus, a true leader have a relationship with present and upcoming generation. This relationship is then not bound by the election results alone, it becomes part of their common vision.

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