GSSCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

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TEST COPY

PANKAJ ATULKAR

RANK - 692

GS MAINS ESSAY

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Test - 1

Roll No._____

ESSAY

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).

Remarks

Name Pankaj Atulkar

*Mobile No.*_____

Date _____

Signature _____

1. *Invigilator Signature* _____

2. *Invigilator Signature* _____

SECTION - A

1. Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall
2. Health is not valued till sickness comes.
3. Death is not the greatest loss in life; the greatest loss is what dies inside us while we live.
4. People who are in a fortunate position always attribute virtue to what makes them so happy

SECTION - B

1. The only answer to climate change is "change"
2. Science and technology revolutionize our lives, but memory, tradition and myth frame our response
3. Universities should be a place for 'creativity', 'out of the box thinking' and 'ideological disruptions'
4. Development means only human development; all other measures of growth are misleading.

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SECTION A

TOPIC; Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

Since time immemorial, a distinguishing human quality has been its SPIRIT OF PERSISTENCE. Human has always faced Multitude of challenges during the evolution of ~~homosap~~ homosapiens from times of Wilderness to 21st century Modernity. Nevertheless, its persistence struggle to overcome these challenges, in faces of recurring set-backs, is what Makes its apart from other creatures inhabiting earth.

Human challenged, faced defeat, yet again arose and challenged, then again was defeated, yet persisted until it took it to win. This never ending quest to perfect ~~ent~~ by rising up to challenge once again gives it the GREATEST GLORY.

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Perhaps this was the reason why, the great sages of ancient India spent decades in isolated caves to perfect spiritual knowledge, although they faced numerous difficulties in their path. Their knowledge became the guiding ~~soure~~ light for later sentient beings. However, over a period of time Indian landscape was overshadowed under superstitious beliefs. For instance, the emergence of Caste system negated the spiritual ideal of unity.

Later on, India went on to become one of world's richest nation by extensively trading. It was called the GOLDEN BIRD. Conquerers tried again & again to loot it of its riches. The last among them being the Britishers.

British hold of India was both economic and Military. Their cruelty was visible in the ~~manner~~ manner they depleted it of its resources,

Remarks

subjugated it politically, and pauperised its citizens.

The formation of Indian National Congress (INC) in 1885, as an assembly of Indians to fight Britishers and to help India regain is lost glory under British rule testifies the statement that one's glory doesn't lie in never falling, but in rising again. INC's continued struggle for political reforms, although briefly punctuated by British machinations, and ultimately gaining independence in 1947 is a mark of this ceaseless struggle to ~~rise~~ help India rise again.

After gaining independence, the drafters of Indian constitution had the enormous task of social reformation. From the heydays of spirituality, our society has denegrated to scrouge of casteism and women ~~of~~ subjugation. For these, the Constitution declared the right to equality as the

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FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT. This proves that despite having been felled to a state of social decadance, we again fought back & arose to set the wheel of social transformation roll again and regain our past glory.

On similar lines, we tried to create a more INCLUSIVE SOCIETY. Earlier, under British Raj Zamindars arose as a class rack renting peasants. The consequent inequity brought great hardships to poor peasants. To set this lacuna right, India embarked on a path of land reforms. ~~& land~~ Thus, although our society failed earliers in giving their share of due to poor, our efforts have ensured that we come out of the morass of social equity and help ~~creast~~ ~~create~~ regain the lost glory of social equity & harmony.

British rule had also led to widespread deindustrialisation and loss of for handicraft depended labourers. To overcome this, our planner embarked

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upon PLANNED DEVELOPMENT of Indian economy with special focus on industries. In light of this, today India is amongst the most industrialised nations ~~in~~ in the world. For instance, its cumulative industrial export in 2015-16 was $380 billion. It, therefore proves how persistance to rise again help one regain its lost glory.

This picture emerges in agricultural sector of India as well. For example, during early decades after independence, India was dependent on USA for meeting its food grain requirements. To shed this dependence, we launched the GREEN REVOLUTION. Its success is proven by the fact that in 2016-17 India produced a cumulative of 275 MT of food grains, making it self sufficient. Thus, although initially we failed, ~~so~~ but subsequently we arose again to be self dependent agriculturally and rose back to glory.

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During late 1990s, India faced the BALANCE OF PAYMENT CRISIS. It made India to borrow $7 billion from IMF, as it did not even had a fortnight of foreign exchange reserves left to repay interests on foreign ~~to~~ loans. Our economy failed miserably. However, this set back became turning point in economic revival of our nation. Adoption of structural reforms in the form of Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation led to India becoming one of World's largest possesor of foreign exchange reserve, which in 2019 stood at $420 billion. It, therefore, strengthens the contention that glory lies not in never falling, but in rising again everytime we fall.

Even in recent times, the continued demands of economic development has led to

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growing environmental crisis. According to a WHO report, India has 10 of the 20 most polluted cities of the World. This shows our failure in ensuring healthy environment to our citizenry. However, the commitment which India made at PARIS CLIMATE CONFERENCE of increasing the share of renewable energy production and its ambitious Intendent-Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) bodes well for a healthy environment for India. Therefore, although we had failed initially, yet we are trying to rise again, which actually gives us the glory.

Towards end, it is therefore pertinent to analyse the significance the spirit of persistence has in human endeavour. As the above analysis has shown, efforts never go in

vain. One may be facing ~~the~~ difficulties immanently, but the spirit to achieve the ideal is what that keeps the flame burning.

The Indian National Congress pursued the goal for an independent & democratic India with dogged persistence. So does our constitution Makers tried to rectify social-ills facing our society. The quest towards building an inclusive society was marred with adamant Zamindars not ready to part up with their lands. Nor was the task of industrialisation easy. Lack of capitals and technology became recurring ~~hinderances~~. So does agricultural development caused immense damage to ecology & environment. Even to this day, India

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requires foreign assistance to fund its developm-
ental requirements. Nor has environmental crisis
shown any signs of abatement in near-times.

There are failures galore in our tasks,
yet time and again, the spirit to reform
and regain the ideal has been the reason
which gives us its glory.

To conclude, therefore it will be
apt to quote Swami Vivekananda who said
India will regain its lost place in the comity
of nations as the great inheritor of its
spiritual lineage and there after it shall again
become the spiritual guide for the humanity.
Thus, although we have falled and failed, yet our
glory lies in every-time rising again.

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SECTION B

TOPIC; Science & Technology revolutionize our lives, but memory, tradition and myth frame our response.

In human lives, perception ~~plays~~ plays an important role in determining human actions/ response. The nature of socialisation one is exposed due during upbringing gives rise to emergence of Memory, tradition and myths, which play a decisive role in one's day-to-day conduct.

Inheritence of these memory, tradition & myth from previous generations and their subsequent passage to succeeding generation gives rise to a cyclical process which keeps on repeating generation after generation.

In modern times, science and technology has began to play a rather more significant role

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in a person's daily life. Its revolutionary effect is visible in complex medical procedures to every-day usage of cell phones for communication. Yet, this revolution has not permeated beyond superficial levels and memory, tradition and myth continue to exercise their influence.

Take the recent USA elections, for example. USA has 99% literacy rate. It has world's second largest number of internet based cellular connectivity users. Yet the prevalance of fake news on social media platforms, which relied on mythical news to spread Misinformation, proved adequate to help Republicans win. This is strange because one might expect such a literate and technologically advance populace to not be swayed by myths. Yet their response, as visible in voter behaviour proved contrary.

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In considering the role of technology in economic sphere, arrival of technologies such as FINTECH, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, BIG DATA etc., have helped economic agents make sound predictions for future. However, this isn't the case always, and especially in India, one can see ~~large~~ big industrialists resorting to astrologers to make future predictions. Thus the Indian tradition of dependence on astrology writ large in face of science and technological development.

Unfortunately, in India, usage of technology, although brought with novel purposes, has been more ~~in~~ determined by its traditions. for instance, use of Ultrasound machines was intended to

Remarks

help recognise developmental deformaties at early stage of foetus developments. However, its response is visible in its ~~blatt~~ blatant misuse for female sex determination. This shows the toadition of treating daughter as a burden ~~and~~ continues even to this day and for which the technical revolution of Ultrasound machine is proving as an assistance.

Internet-based cellular connectivity has revolutionised communication. Especially Instant Messaging using services such as. WhatsApp, people have been able to share and connect with peers more securely. However, its use for sharing incendiary posts to foment social trouble, seen most recently during lynching by cow vigilantie groups on suspicion of beef trading and consumption, brings to light India's responses. These responses

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are a product of tradition of no-beef consumption and a memory of protecting cows. Such emotional responses prove how latest mediums of communication are actually used in perpetuating responses based on medieval conceptions.

Even in domain of law, prevalance of Section 377 (IPC) in law book of India, which criminalises consensual gay sex between adults and which is used to harass LGBT community members, shows how science and technological development has remained untouched to it. The American Psychiatric Society had in 1972 and the WHO in 1992 had removed homosexual orientation from the list of psychological disorder. Yet, response of Indian judiciary as well as its people towards members of this community is visible in the form of prejudices, stereotyping, discrimination etc. These are

Remarks

again a reflection of societal memory, tradition and myth, towards members of LGBT community.

Indians ~~never~~ have great reverance towards its rivers. This is specially true for the River Ganga. Millions come to take a dip in its holy waters to rid themselves of sins. Yet, it needs to be highlighted that the Central Pollution control Board has designated certain stretches of the River Ganga so polluted that it is unfit for drinking and bathing. These conclusions have been derived based on scientific analysis of river's water. Yet, people give short shrift to this advisory and out of reverance their response, by drinking river's water & taking bath, shows that scientific & technological advisories do not play any role in their behaviour.

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The rising need of energy has made it imminent upon India to secure altemate sources of energy, especially for electricity generation. for this, nuclear energy appears as the most suitable choice. Government is constructing a nuclear power complex at ~~Fukus~~ Kudamkulam. It has been said by govemment that this plant has best ~~safest~~ technology for safety. Yet, locals have opposed it tooth & nail. Especially after the fukushima Nuclear Disaster (2011), ~~protets~~ protests have grown. The response of local populace show how past memories affect their views and the non-chalance they have chown to scientific & technological revolution in nuclear safety.

Even at global stage, withdrawal of USA from PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT, based

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on the line of reasoning that climate change is a hoax, despite scientists globally & especially those presenting the IPCC reports have shown that climate change is real, proves that myth creation can be a good tool in framing responses which are anti-thetical to scientific & technical proofs.

Towards end, it can be said that people have strong links to memory, tradition and myth which frames their responses. These are so strong and have such a hold upon psyche of people that the objectivity and rationality which science and technology presents are seen as inferior to one's held views.

Perhaps, with increasing education and literacy, as also belief on science and its principle could one expect that

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desired change may come. Despite these, however, one needs to guard against deliberate spread of myths, such as using fake news and calling climate change a hoax, so that people's responses ~~are driven by~~ are educated and logical.

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PESTLE

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S&T revolutionises our lives, but memory, tradition and myth frame our responses.

- WhatsApp lynchings.
- Ramayan serial on TV → praying before it.
- Sex detection → abortion
- Fintech / AI → dependence on Astrologers [Trust on Humans cont.]
- purchasing / owning new vehicle → puja.
- Political → USA election → FB fake news
- LGBT → American Psychiatric society, not a mental disorder, response → stereotype, prejudice, even laws cont. this.
- Drinking / Bathing in Ganga, data says its water polluted,
- IMD forecasts, yet cropping based on past experiences
- Science of religion → spirituality, yet we seem people diff.
- Humans are one, yet racism
  Homo sapiens
- Distrust towards EVMs
- Medical quacks
- Climate change → a hoax
  Trump.
- Adoption of nuclear energy → fukushima memory

Intro → inheritence of M,T,M → talk about its significance,
why S&T should have revolutionised

Body →

Concl → With ↑ education, secularisation, & cultural exchange, responses will alter.

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Our Greatest Glory is not in never falling, but in Rising every time we fall.

spirituality → superstition

India → Golden Bird.

scrooge of casteism → Art - 17, 16, 15, 14

Sachin Tendulkar → 1988 → 2011 World cup

INC struggle for political reforms in British India.

French revolution → society kept on falling, revolution reenergised it

India → bop crisis, got $7b, arose again.

society → oppression of women, works of reformers, in 194 constitution

Tech → ~~to~~ Isro faced setbacks.

Legal → LGBT → 2009 DHC, 2013 SC, fighting again.

Environ → Paris Agreement, INDCs, renewable targets

Agri → GR, ~~PL~~480, self sufficiency, ~~declining~~ overuse of ferti → organic farming

Inclusive growth → Britishers gave big zamindars, post independence, land reforms land ceiling, adressing economic inequality.

~~Infra~~ → Industry → handicraft broken, plan period industries, → Make in India

skilling → pauperising of labour, now we r reskilling

Mumbai attacks → resilience shown by city

Body ~~Intro~~ → spirituality, Golden Bird, British, INC, society (women, caste), Inclusive gr., Industry, Agri., Tech, BoP, Legal, Environ, Sachin

Intro → Talk about Human spirit never ending struggle to challenge, to struggle, to win, to feel satisfied ~~Perhaps that made~~

~~Body~~ →

Conclusion → Swami Vivekananda, India will rise again to get its rightful place in world as spiritual guide

Remarks