

Roll No. _____

Time Allowed: 3 Hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate.

Remarks

- 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).

81/55
Mm

Name DIKSHA

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature *Diksha*

1. Invigilator Signature *[Signature]*

2. Invigilator Signature _____

SECTION 1

- 1. It is important to be able to see the world, what is the situation that is going on about things, and what is the situation that is going on about things.
- 2. There's a connection between the situation and the thoughts, and it is the situation that is going on.
- 3. The greatest danger is when our ideas don't match up with our interests.
- 4. Nothing's too good, it's the only thing.

SECTION 2

- 1. Privatization is not always the best economic policy.
- 2. Privatization is not only about expanding the area of choice.
- 3. Inequality is a problem that is destroying the economy, society, peace, and health.
- 4. No matter where you stand politically, it is important that you should participate in the process of politics.

1. When we cannot make life better on earth, what is the guarantee that dreaming about flying cars, humanoid robots and populated cities on Mars would make it any better."

As I sit down to study, many a times, my brain plays tricks on me. One minute I am with my book, the other I am above clouds. I get tensed about a situation and ^{then} at times, I choose to fly. I treat technology out of thin air and solve all human troubles. I become the 'Hero' people are waiting for. But then reality hits. Time is the one that fears. I am still sitting with my book, struggling to become the "Hero" of my own life.

They say the world is ^{being driven} headed towards a disaster while we fight who gets to sit in the front seat. Be it environment, be it nuclear arms, space race or ~~space~~ market space, we cannot seem to agree. While we wait for some better technology, while burning our coal, and children die from inhaling the smoke; we dream of flying cars and cities on Mars.

We, as humans, have been gifted with a far superior intellect. One that enables us to dream, to imagine, to feel and to hope. We all strive towards some pursuits of our own and some of us all. We are mostly all trying to make a better life for ourselves.

Remarks

intro could be better. Use the second paragraph as the opening. Your intro doesn't link to the question.

Good answer about Sciencelife universe.

and our fellows.

So, arises the question: what is a better life? Have we failed to create such life? who is in charge of creating this better life? what thoughts, dreams make our life better? what is the guarantee of realising such dreams ~~and~~ of making life better? ^{therefore} So, how do we make a life better?

A BETTER LIFE: an endless pursuit

A 'good life' is a subjective state, defined variously by each individual. For some it is pleasure seeking, for others it is "seeking virtue". For yet others, it is humanitarian pursuits, for others material. Everyone has a different value system and hence different ideals for a good life.

section could be shorter

But life is also always full of ups and downs. So, while trying to build better life are we aiming for a 'utopia'? Or just 'survival of the fittest'? Is it a collective or individual pursuit?

Many philosophers and ethicists have opined; a good life cannot be of oneself alone. Without the collective good we are bound to be pulled down or fall ~~our~~ on our own sometime. Thus a better life for every individual is individual excellence for collective pursuits.

A better life for self would be realisation of one's full potential. ~~and~~ The striving for the

Remarks

constitutional duties of excellence, scientific temper, brotherhood, international harmony. It is also the striving for one's spiritual wisdom of fulfilling of all of one's Dharma (duties) or of living by the code for life is heaven. Self-actualisation is the highest order need in Maslowski hierarchy of needs.

A better life for our society, nation and the world can be one with justice, equality, liberty, dignity and status. All these ^{are} constitutional values and agreed upon humanitarian and communitarian values. A better life would be quality and equality of basic commons like water, air, food, shelter & esteem.

Such goals can become onerous to apply to 7 billion plus people. So can we never achieve these?

ACHIEVING BETTER LIFE: Failure of striving

The better life seems like an endless pursuit, where the goalposts keep shifting. As the world advances the aspirations advance with it. As Gandhiji pointed out "there is enough on earth for everyone's needs but not for everyone in a single man's greed". The greed is endless.

We have not made a better life on earth. At least not for everyone. Inequality, discrimination, poverty, conflicts and wars, global warming, pollution, of air and water; these are some of the ills that plague the communities. So can we ever cure these?

Technology is at the question. Link your arguments to it. What place does it have in the pursuit of better life?

Remarks

~~When we cannot make~~

Can we not make life better on Earth? Our failures and our ambitions; are also highlighted by Sustainable Development Goals. These SDGs we set up in 2015 were meant to make life better for the maximum people by 2030. The progress on these seems slow and faltering even reversing in areas under conflict.

Refer to technology. Is it responsible for some of our problems or are some of our problems including some like inequality

When so many of our brethren suffer, can we individually make a better life, for just ourselves? The USA was once seen as a promiseland to fulfill one's personal ambitions. People would get highly educated, qualified and go to the USA looking for utopia. But as is said, poverty is a rather injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

The USA too is wrought with its own troubles. It is not paradise and so neither can be Mars. But more on that later.

MAKING BETTER LIFE: WHO IS IN-CHARGE?

So whose responsibility is it to make our lives better, here on earth or elsewhere? Does it befall on the scientists, the politicians, the government machinery, the spiritual leaders or on ourselves?

The Hindu philosophy, as written in Bhagavad Gita propounds that if only each of us fulfill our duties (Dharma) to our

Remarks

best potential, the society can thrive. So, each one of us, ~~exists~~ embodying different roles in the world can make our lives better.

The fulfillment of one's own striving and achievement of full potential, with the collective values, welfare and positions in mind, we can make not only our own but lives of everyone around better.

But there are many hindrances that have blocked such pursuits. The unequal distribution of power accompanied by self-striving has led to many blockades in our individual and collective goals. Lack of trust in one another, conditions of worth put on others to give them positive regard, and misplaced belief of our good not being unrelated to others.

Good achievement Needs exploring

Within families, societies, institutions, governments, and between nations, inequality, superiority of one over the other, lack of empathy, and low self-esteem prevail. This low confidence, along with restrictions placed on each other lead to individuals who give up charge of their own life and events. Fatalism, Dependency, low achievement motivation, low extension motivation, learned helplessness are all such blockades to ~~the~~ pursuit of better life.

Is technology's misuse responsible for our problems? Can it solve all our

problems including social, moral, ethical dilemmas?

DREAMS: do they make life better?

The loss of dreams, the ones that do not let one sleep, is the biggest tragedy that can befall a human. Because this implies that one has lost all hope. Dreams make us human, they power us, motivate us, drive us. Without dreams we become cogs of a machine. Sleep, eat, work, repeat.

Dreaming comes in many forms. From sleeping dreams, to day dreams. Somewhere in between lie hopeful aspirations with our cognition we visualise our expectations and our apprehensions. Many a times we sit and wander in our imaginary world. At other times we work to realise the best of these dreams.

Martin Luther King, famously had 'a dream' of a world where all are equal and the Blacks of Americas and the world are treated with dignity.

The dreams of sci-fi authors are today burning into reality. At a rapid pace, Elon Musk is trying to realise his, once absurd, dreams.

Dreams have had big significance, historically. Many Sages were visited by Gods in dreams and many saw symbolic future in their dreams eg: Joseph Claudina Buddha's mother before his birth. These dreams are distinguished from aspirational

You've established humans have scientific ability. Elaborate the dream is not relevant to the question

Remarks

ones. These, as also famously analysed by Sigmund Freud, are dreams of subconscious. So there can be good or bad.

And then there are the other kind. Daydreams & Psychologists believe we all daydream, a lot of the time. There can even be good for our cognitive powers. But to not know where the Tales drawn up in air end and where reality begins, can be dangerous. Too much time, energy and will should not be wasted on these.

Therefore, to surrender to fatalism where there are no aspirational dreams or to recuse to daydreams where there are not real implications, are both ~~the~~ hindrances to making life better through dreams.

DREAMS of flying cars, humanoid robots and populated cities on Mars: Guarantee?

to Dreaming can make life better, only when one works upon them. Still there is no 'guarantee' of ever being able to achieve them, or achieve them as per our conceptions, or even finding a better life on achieving them.

for long the scientific community has fantasised life on Mars. These fantasies have been accommodating the advances in technology on Earth. With the possibility of flying cars and humanoid robots becoming stronger, scientists and fiction writers have now put them on Mars to aid humans.

Remarks

Earth has been conceptualised by many, ^{and} including the great 'Stephen Hawking' as 'spacehip Earth'. That is, we can only survive for so long on Earth and will have to eventually settle elsewhere in Universe to survive as a species. This notion is also exploited by many to justify environmental degradation for economic or pursuits.

But the ethics of such environmental actions and of unequal climate, economic and political justice can easily be called into question on humanitarian, social contract, and utilitarian grounds.

As we have seen that escape to 'dream world' or to 'dreamland' (USA / Hollywood for many) does not resolve any ~~one~~ of the human issues. These are borne out of human nature that has animal instincts. Selfish personal gains, competition, power politics all catch up to people, no matter where they are.

There can thus be no utopia, on Mars or on any island. Besides there is no guarantee of realising these "Castles in Air" (literally), for who knows if we as humanity might wipe ourselves off with global warming or nuclear holocaust. The science and technology for such dreams is far away and to be able to make it real, we need to survive.

Who knows, we might enjoy our lives better there with equality, justice, dignity, and some cardinal pleasures being satisfied. But

offer a way forward how can technology be used in a better way?

Remarks

as so many anthropologists have found, man - Nature - Spirit are all interconnected, and any dis-connect in the link and we feel unethereal. Depression, anxiety, sleep disorders, and other interpersonal troubles are rampant in urban areas without the natural and spiritual connect.

How To make a better life: EVERYWHERE

Therefore, we ought to realize that our own life is in our own hands. As Gandhi has famously said "Be the change you wish to see in the world". Thus we cannot wait for any "Heroes" to make our life better. No escape to dreams, or holding out for dreamy technology, can create the better life.

Cooperation, mutual trust, collective community action, responsibility for oneself and others, and passionate action on our dreams can ~~create~~ ^{lead to} the striving for a better life. A better life here and now is the only guarantee for better life here and then.

Conclusion should balance various debates in the question. Your conclusion lacked an appraisal of technological & focused more on human aspects.

Remarks:

In - depth analysis on last page.

Urbanisation is not only simply Expanding the Area of Cities

The Economist Intelligence Unit comes out with City Livability Index. It ranks different cities across the world on 30 indicators across 8 stability, Education, Health, Infrastructure, Mobility, and Culture. It then compares cities with New York cities as the base. India's Delhi was ranked 112 and Mumbai 117 in 2018. The Best ones were Vienna in Austria.

A similar indicator for India, City Livability Index by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs ranked Pune as the best city in India, followed by Indore.

As these indices reveal, when it comes to ease of living in the city, the size of the city is not a good indicator. It can even be a negative factor as in Indian large cities.

Currently 50% of the world population resides in urban areas (~3.5 billion), ~30% of Indians reside in urban centres. These are projected to grow at a rapid pace in the coming decade.

70% of Indian GDP is generated in urban areas. They encompass most of the industrial and service sector. Cities are the confluence of economic activity; exchanges, commerce, affiliated services, finance etc.

Cities have also come to represent the development level of a region. All this begs the ~~question~~ attention, urgent and focused, on Urbanisation.

Remarks

Urbanisation is defined as the process of increasing numbers of people living in cities and towns. Cities and towns are variously defined as Statutory towns - that have Urban Local Bodies under 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992. There are also Census Towns - with more than 5000 people, more than 75% male engaged in non-agricultural activity and at least 400 people per sq km density.

Industrialisation of eighteenth and nineteenth century led to growth of cities around industries with opportunities for employment, many migrated to these centres. London, eventually became the 1st million population city.

Before this there were towns of administrative, religious, strategic significance. But these were limited in size and population. Urbanisation led to expansion of these and commercial centres. They ^{cities} came to become vast in area and ~~was~~ denser at the same time.

goal enough examination of the key word best expanses of the city. Many have even grown in density, activity, culture, quality of life and mainly opportunities; Singapore is the best example of a city that 'rose' with limited land area.

Remarks

Urbanisation: Areal Expanse

Cities today are large in size and keep growing with in-migration, extension of transport facilities, setting up and inclusion into economic activities of the nearby regions. Delhi used to be only ^{about} $\frac{1}{8}$ th its today's size in 1950. The National Capital Region was the designation given to all nearby areas that are now increasingly integrated into Delhi's economy.

The metropolitan cities of India are huge, spread across more than even 1000 km². These have come to be represented by the term 'Urban Agglomeration'. This implies areas contiguous to the city that are closely integrated with the city or town, or two towns together with contiguous regions. eg: Greater Mumbai.

The Area of cities increases with land acquisition from agricultural activities, or cutting of vegetation. It can also increase when other towns merge with the larger city. Suburban areas for housing are usually built outside the main economic hub with seamless transportation. eg: Dwarka for Delhi.

Satellite towns around cities also become 'Gloster' due to improved transportation and construction in between. These are towns dependent on main city for most economy. eg: Faridabad for Delhi, Staten Island for New York.

Industries come up outside, near city boundaries for want of cheaper land and labour. These lead to expansion of economic area of city.

But a city can only expand so much, before collapsing on itself. Transportation becomes key for larger cities, which become choked with congestion, pollution from cars and nuisance. Slums and shanties emerge on outskirts of large cities which have very poor living conditions for the residents.

~~Therefore, urbanisation cannot just be expansion of a city for efficient, livable cities, planned urbanisation becomes need of the hour.~~

good
manifestation
of the
challenge
to
urban

To conceptualise urbanisation in a narrow domain of areal expansion or is to invite plenty of problems. Many cities face wide ranging ill because of unplanned expansion. "Urban Sprawl" has come to signify the overcrowded, congested outskirts of cities, where the basic amenities elude the people. Sanitation, water supply, waste disposal, air pollution, dysfunctional roads mark these spots.

Expansion at the cost of planning in a rapid race for development brings these problems further into the city. Urban

Remarks

Flooding is a recent phenomenon worldwide. Increased population density, with its improper drainage, concretisation of floodplains and slightly higher rainfall leads to pools of water all over the cities.

Overcrowding of cities brings many other problems. Besides being a psychological stressor, overcrowding has also led to increased crime rates in cities. The limited resources of one region come to be shared with increasing number of migrants. This coupled with a wide chasm of inequality creates feelings of 'Relative Deprivation' and hence fuels criminal activities.

Crimes are also empowered by the large populations offering anonymity and invisibility to the delinquents. Networks of criminal gangs in cities operate discreetly, or with support from corrupt local police. They recruit new individuals looking for a sense of belonging. NCRB data reports show violent crimes at 25% in Delhi, 12% in Mumbai compared with national average of around 5-6%.

This crowding also stresses natural resources like air and water, which are being polluted

Remarks

by inefficient transportation, waste disposal, unregulated industries and so on. This pollution also affects the lowest sections of city dwellers, the workers, the labourers, the domestic helpers etc, the ones that fuel the economy of cities.

Then when urbanisation comes with so many troubles, why encourage it, why support it in the first place? Gandhiji was a proponent of 'village industries', of strong independent village republics. Then what is beyond large sprawls that makes cities attractive and desirable?

Could elaborate on the differences between modern & urban

Urbanisation: Beyond Area Expansion

Urbanisation has come to be synonymous with modernisation, with vibrant culture, better quality of life in quality schooling and healthcare, with shared communal spaces and with opportunities both ~~so~~ economic and political.

Many find the anonymity of populated cities liberating. This makes social mobility possible for those in lowest socio-economic strata. The close-knit village functioning binds these people into traditional roles and

limited scope for women development beyond status quo. The Dalits, the women, the bonded labourers, and the like can find new beginnings in cities, where education can help them turn their fortunes and identities.

This mobility is powered by a global culture that cities come to embody. women feel free to transit, express, wear western clothing, work in more inclusive and stimulating environments in cities. The safety issues and harassment dangers, still hinder their full expression, But the independence they experience is more liberating.

With many migrants from various places coming in, cities become melting pots with all identities creating new unique identity for everyone. New York city is the best case in point. The multicultural cosmopolitan nature of the city is unique with many countries' people/~~com~~ cultures enriching each other.

Such migration comes ~~with~~ ^{because of} the promise of a better future that a city holds. The plethora of opportunities it offers attract aspirational individuals from different backgrounds. These aspirations in turn fuel the economic engines of cities.

Remarks

A-B Good exemplification of the social & cultural dimensions of urban

Being subjected to exchange networks, commerce hubs, industrial regions, cities ~~function~~ offer many employment opportunities. ~~not~~ This also raises the need for skills and thus cities offer good educational and skilling opportunities. These well employed people receive higher wages/income and thus desire more ^{and better} consumption. This demand further fuels the urban economy with multiplier effect.

(b) With richer individuals, more population dwelling in cities the political opportunities also abound. Many at urban areas are ~~economic~~ administrative centres that attract economic and political activity. The Civil society groups are also much more active and vibrant in urban areas. Educated, aware citizens with desire to participate in their own administration fuel politics of cities.

Thus cities are much more than the area they occupy. They are culmination of people, clothes, cultures and economy. As is also highlighted by EU's liveability index, cities become liveable not by size but stability, infrastructure, culture etc. Therefore, while encouraging urbanisation the government ought to plan it through. Overcoming the problems can improve city life.

Remarks

Planning for URBANISATION : FUTURE

Planned Urbanisation primarily involves infrastructural, Research and implementation. To reduce congestion and pollution by ~~road~~ Transit-oriented planning, with Public transport, with electrical last mile connectivity or through metro or monorail, Bus Transit System (MRTS and BTS) with e-rickshaws. This coupled with walkable, cyclable spaces adds to healthy lifestyle of city dwellers.

The focus on community and cultural space creation in different sections of city, can involve parks, community centres, play areas etc.

good enough solutions
Innovation in city design in ~~with~~ well-planned drainage, water supply, ^{scientific} waste handling from collection to disposal, learning from global best practices from Singapore to Los Angeles, administrators can bring in experts in urban planning. SMART cities mission is in right ^{direction}.

The local Bodies ^(UBs) should be empowered and become more participative, responsive and transparent. Financing of UBs from Municipal Bonds, taxation autonomy and charging fees for services provided.

Housing and Squatter problems can be resolved by affordable housing like 'Housing for all' in 2022 initiative of government, where the beneficiaries are also involved.

Migration Policy with amenities, educational

Remarks

Health and social integration as focus is also needed urgently to avoid mass exodus like in Gujarat car crime problems in most cities.

Many desirable steps by government include AMRUT scheme for infrastructure development, SMART cities mission for ICT usage in redevelopment, retrofitting and new city creation, National Clean Air Programme to reduce chronic disabling air pollution of 102 non-attainment cities. These and more such initiatives should be encouraged and implemented.

Learning from Seoul, South Korea to Paris France, Indian cities can become more gracious, rooted. Away from ^{being} WHO's Top polluted cities to attaining liveability standards, through Swasti Bharat mission to Swastha and Sundar Bharat (Healthy and Beautiful India) Indian cities do not have to be dirty islands, but can come to be attractive, beautiful, hopeful leaders of Indian development.

good enough conclusion

Remarks

In-depth analysis on the next page.

- Good engagement with the question
- Explored multiple aspects well
 - ↳ challenges to urban
 - ↳ solutions to urban
 - ↳ cultural & social dimensions
 - ↳ village life v/s city life.
- L: explanation & evolution of "urban"
- Could explore if robust rural economy is essential for urban centers to thrive
- Good presentation

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Section A

- Could engage with the question more critically
 - ↳ How has tech made life for us better till now?
 - ↳ Can tech solve all our problems, including ethical, moral issues like costs or race? You referenced importance of human action, link it to over-reliance on technology.
 - ↳ Technology should be more accessible & inclusive
- Emphatic on one point - that dreams are important and tech as important. Link between human question - tech missing.

