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ESSAY MOCK TEST

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3/ PROTEST BEYOND THE LAW IS NOT A DEPARTURE
FROM DEMOCRACY; IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO
IT.

"We will not let them enter the sanctum"
said a group of protestors at Sabarimala temple
in Kerala. They are violently confronting the police
personnel who escort women pilgrims to the
temple. A news reporter asks one of them why
they are blocking the women's entry after the
Supreme Court's judgement permitting their entry,
he says,

"The Court perhaps doesn't know that our
lord is a (Naishitika Brahmchari) Menstruating women
shall pollute our deity's abode. We will not let
this happen." Looking puzzled, the reporter
tries to know from him further "... But the
Kerala Government too has supported the Court!

... "Why then do you ...?" Then man interrupts him and says "What do they know about our land. They don't care for our customs & feelings."

We don't know what law says. We will simply not allow women's entry in the sanctum."

As another party of women escorted by police arrives, he jumps to join the other angry male protestors.

Why these people don't respect the law? Why do they protest? Does the Democratic framework of the country fall in meeting

people's expectation? Is there indifference on part of law makers & executives towards citizen's needs.

Is protest against the law a dead end to democracy? Has democracy been a fair deal

to all? Questions like these are many & the answers too are complex. Let's explore.

2018 has been year of protests.

Protests are not alien to Democracy. As Democracy is a government of, by and for the people,

define democracy in brief
define protest
why people protest

They shall speak up, even shout when these scheme of things is violated. This happened in Sabarimala case, The Court, in Young Lawyers' Association vs Union of India reversed the

Narasim Appa mali Judgement of Kerala HC that had validated the ban on women's entry on

Sabarimala citing Religious customs to be beyond the scrutiny of fundamental rights of Equality.

So, people are protesting.

Another example of protest by citizen against law is the Section 377 of IPC

This criminalised homosexuality. People from the LGBTQIA community protested. Their right to sexual orientation under Article 21 of Constitution (life & liberty) was being violated. SC finally decriminalised the homosex-

uality in "Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India".

So, protests by activists, concerned citizenry did pay off and rights to the community were extended.

But the struggle is not over. Recent Bill for Transgender's protection (2016) has been passed. People are again protesting. On being asked why, they say the law doesn't address their grievances but further adds to them. Of course, it makes begging a crime which these jobless people do to earn a livelihood in absence of work. It is the district screening committee that decides who a transgender is not the person concerned. No reservation for this marginalised & historically discriminated against in the new law. So protests are obvious & justified too. ✓

Muslim Women (Protection) Bill too has been facing protests by none other than the muslim women themselves whom the bill is supposed to protect against Instant Talaq. Why are they protesting? Well, three years of jail to the husband in case he divorces his wife instantly. Who shall take care of the woman's ^{children} expenses if the bread winner is in jail. There is a provision for letting off the husband on bail if woman

agrees to it. So, bill leaves scope of creation by women's in-laws for setting the husband's ^{males} face. Women too did not like the law to intervene in their personal sphere. So, it is obvious All India Muslim women organisations are protesting against the law. They feel their right to Religious freedom (Article 25) is being violated, ✓

Cults in AP
Cruelty to animals
Cruelty to animals

Similarly, Jallikattu protests started in Tamil Nadu in 2015 & beyond. The ancient sport of Bull taming was declared illegal by Supreme Court in A. Nagarajan case, recognising "Animal's right to life (Article 21 extends to them also)". Violent protestors took the law in their hands. Celebrity from film & politics too joined these protestors. These people also cited the violation of their freedom to practice their culture.

For this essay
now take examples
where the protests
were successful
and became Law/Act
order by govt

The provision of immediate arrests on committing atrocities

against SC/ST was recently invalidated by the apex court. The result was - violent protests by SC Community across the country. The historically discriminated against too have found a voice to speak up when their rights are threatened by laws & changes in legislations.

The ^{killing} death of tigress Avni by professional hunters on government's order also attracted protests by wildlife lovers & activists. They suspect due procedure in first tranquilising her and then capturing was not followed & she was shot miserably.

In all the instance, we explored, there is a common theme running across them. Ri The citizens felt their rights, civil liberties & freedom was ^{being} violated by laws. They protest to get it compell the state to redress their grievances. The state usually responds positively and rights are restored. If this order is not followed, people punish the law makers in elections by voting

them out of power. This is what we call
democracy - power to people.

In democratic discourse, the
norms of participation are changing. Citizens
no longer want to remain mute spectators or
passive beneficiaries of government schemes. They
want active participation in governance. If they
don't get a fair deal, protests are imminent.

Our is still a, largely a centralised
bureaucratic model of democracy. Weberian paradigm
of a machine like bureaucracy free from emotions,
bias to attain the goals of state - social
welfare in Indian context are being questioned.

The question of indifference &
unresponsiveness to citizen's needs is pertinent. Bureaucracy
has become synonymous with corruption, red
tape, delay, inefficiency, unmet objectives of
social-economic equity & people's welfare.

Similarly, legislature is too very flawed. 184 criminals in 16th Lok Sabha, no productive business in sessions of parliament, walk outs by opposition, increasing instances of ordinances being passed by Govt. bypassing the debate & discussions in the house is a worrisome trend.

The Courts too have been overly activist, for making it mandatory to stand up for national anthem for in Cinema halls before the movie starts. The ban on his liquor shop on highways, while taking note of accidents by drunken driving, completely ignored the livelihood of lakhs of people engaged in this industry.

No doubt, the judiciary has been instrumental in protecting citizens rights in against legislative arbitrariness & executive indifference but a holistic

view of every verdict's implication is unavoidable.

These cases have been entered in courts and courts give directions, mostly, in favouring the individuals or who's

Pl. write
about the protests
involved and what
has there

So, where do we head from here?

The very institutions which have been established to protect & expand democratic rights seem to violate the same. But it is these are exceptions not the rule. Nevertheless, such violent outbursts against seemingly unjust laws are preventable. Let's see how. ✓

The media should assume the responsibility of carefully scrutinising the laws made by parliament & mobilise people's opinion whenever, flaws in legislations are observed. It should serve as the medium to express dissent against these flaws. Responsible Journalism, not fanning violent passions among people, valuing substance over sensationalism is the key to success of democracy in India. ✓

Also, the role of civil society in holding the legislators state accountable to the people is crucial mobilising public opinion.

Seeing as a forum for interaction of the state & citizens is essential to uphold the central theme of democracy - Power to people & participatory governance.

Reforms in bureaucracy too are essential. Assured pay & promotion has induced a sense of complacency. Unresponsiveness to citizens needs has become a norm. Difficult hiring but simple firing for non performers should be made the norm. Attractive 'golden handshakes' for the inefficient are desirable (voluntary retirement).

Applications of technology in parliament, courts, government departments can promote transparency, build citizen-state interface & reduce the scope of citizens feeling neglected or alienated.

Citizen Enforcing citizen's charter legally too can empower them vis-a-vis service delivery.

It is essential to take citizens in
loop while formulating laws is essential
to reduce chances of conflict & opposition.

Democracy is all about people,
building consensus among them & upholding

equality of all India is a peculiar democracy
with its hugely diverse population - Religion, language,
ethnicity & culture wise. So, Differences are common

& ~~It's obvious~~ It's also not necessary to generalise
negative connotation to protests. The silent march

of thousands of farmers from Maharashtra to
Mumbai At 4.00 am in the morning, without

blocking traffic or resorting to violence is a
sign that democracy in India has progressed &
matured.

The sceptics who doubted India's
capacity of India as a free, self-governed
democracy are nowhere to be seen today. Because
it's 70, it's going strong & maturing.

very good

- define democracy
- define protest
- People belongs to different regions, speak different languages, practice different religions, and have different castes. They look the world very differently and have different preferences. The preferences of one group can clash with those of other groups.

Examples of protests

- Gandhiji's protest against British for freedom
- VISAKHA VS State of Rajasthan
- NIRBHAY LAD
- ~~Q~~ case of Dr. SAVITA HAVALAPPANAR
- ANITA HAZARE
- TRIBALS OF NLYANGIRI HILLS in ODISHA
(fight against ~~mining~~ mining in the HILLS)

NOT ALL THOSE WHO WANDER ARE LOST ①

"Don't think of the faults of action,
Just fare forward" - Bhagvad Gita

This is the divine message ^{given} by Lord Krishna in the holy Bhagvad Gita. Some of the greatest leaders that the world has ever known were wanderers. They perhaps lived by this philosophy. They were on the move constantly in pursuit of a greater truth, a better life for their countrymen, some great inventions for welfare of the mankind. These people were fortunate enough to have a purpose in life & we look up to them because it was in the course of wandering that the purpose was found. ✓

But the picture does not look bright for some who wandered and just lost themselves in the sands of time.

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In this essay, we shall explore both kinds of stories, for each holds a valuable lesson for us, to make this world a better place to live.

The early hunter-gatherers, known as the Palaeolithic people, are shown in history to be constantly on the move. It's a misconception that they led hand-to-mouth existence & thus wandered for food. They were exploring numerous ways for semi-subsistence-way of food security & livelihood. Look, what they ended up with - "Cultivation of food crops". Agriculture which these people started to practice is today the primary source of livelihood for 59.54.6% of Indian population. It also generates substantial revenue from agricultural exports.

Not only the stone age people but the Aryans who perhaps started with no clear aim in mind to conquer India from Harappans, went on to establish the Vedic civilisation -

something that is the foundation of social, religious and daily life for 85% of Indians.

the foundation by Aryans settlement may have been violent but India also throws up example of Wandering Renunciants who preached peace & non-violence. Take for instance Gautam

Buddha Wandering in to wilderness for several years of his life, he ultimately attained enlightenment and delivered the message of harmonious co-existence of

all beings on earth. Buddhism today is the major link that connects ASEAN and India. The link is significant booster for economic partnership between India and the South East Asian nations.

Of course, wandering renunciants in Islam - the Sufi saints also paved the way for harmonious co-existence of two major communities - Hindus & Muslims in 13th century and beyond. Sufis guided

②

led to a proud, peaceful life when these people from different religions had almost irreconcilable differences - idol worship, multiple gods were detested by Islamic rules then, which are the mainstay of Hindus. Bhakti saints too were constantly on the move to spread the message of peace & goodwill irrespective of religious affiliations. Secularism in Indian Constitution - the most cherished value for modern India is thus a gift of these wanderers.

The nation state of India too is the contribution of many such wanderers. Chandhi - the man ^{who was} always on the move. Going He headed to South Africa for practicing law, got thrown out of the train despite possessing a valid ticket, ended up in Jail for organising protests against the British in South Africa with agitated Indians who had faced similar humiliations i.e. restrictions on movement, invalidation of their non-

-registered marriages etc. Even this did not stop his
 career of struggle for restoring self-respect of
 the subjugated people. Coming to India, he wandered
 across the country to assess what menace the
 Britishers had been in India. His journey simply did
 not stop. From fighting for Champaran's Indigo (1917)
 farmers to uniting Hindus & muslim leaders in a
 joint challenge to the British under Non-Cooperation
movement (1920). His thoughts were constantly evolving
 i.e. the mind wandered from the strategy of satyagrah,
 non-violence, peaceful struggle on truth to the aggressive
 posture in Quit India, do or die. (1942)

Similarly, there were many
 who did not foresee the consequences of their actions.
 Take Bhagat Singh, he perhaps would have never
 imagined - The "lost Youth of 23" would fire up the
 imaginations of thousands of revolutionaries in the
 quest of freedom from colonial rulers.

⑥ Hence, it is justified to say that the nation state of India is the fruit of all of these people on the move - organising, educating, mobilising the masses by wandering ^{around the} with message of "FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS" even though they themselves were quite unsure of where the journey is headed.

Such inspiring stories exist in our neighbourhood too. The Communist led by Mao Tse Tung in China wandered for years and undertook the "THE LONG MARCH". This journey, indeed is the foundation for global success of this Asian Giant, once a poor country & today the second largest economy. It is a story of struggle against all odds by a visionary leader who understood his people & mobilised them for their own empowerment.

Having talked at length about individuals whose journey of life is an inspiration to mankind, the Democracy in India too throws up examples of constant explorations & changes

to find a stable order for Indians. Our constitution is an example of movement across the world's political values & philosophies. Dr. Ambedkar led drafting Committee is said to have left no Constitution in the world to formulate the best law of the land for India. This secular, democratic, republic's nation is a product of the vision of the founding fathers of India who wandered in pursuit of a framework for INCLUSIVE INDIA while never losing the sight of the challenge of uplifting the masses - the poor, disadvantaged, marginalised sections.

So, Jawahar Lal Nehru was right when he said "The achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of opportunity to the greater triumphs & achievement that await us, are we brave enough & wise enough to accept the challenge of the future", in his TRUST WITH DESTINY speech on the Eve of Independence (1947)

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While exploring a method to alleviate poverty, we stumbled first, with Trickle down approach in the 1960's i.e. Rapid growth of Country will trickle down to the poorest. It didn't happen. Then Self employment / wage employment approach through Pradhan mantri (Rojgar Yojana) & MGNREGA was tried, it worked, but not fully serving the purpose. So, Subsidised foodgrains & fuel was provided under PDS. This constant wandering for a perfect strategy for poverty alleviation made us lose the baggage of poverty. Percentage of Below poverty line people reduced from 55% in 1974 to 22% in 2011-12. Our Journey did not stop at this because, Constant unsatisfactory rank in HDI of UNDP shows there is some more travelling left for us in realm of advancing education, Health, Sanitation & employment opportunities for a huge proportion of Indians. Yes, we have been wandering from one strategy to other, in

How the material in this page help our essay on wandering

pursuit of our goal of INCLUSIVE INDIA - Jai Shri
vishvas, but we are measurably not lost in
wilderness.

Our Country's success in Space exploration
also is a product of a constant exploration. We
wanted to be self sufficient, modern country which works
for welfare of mankind. Sending satellites in to space,
facilitating connectivity between people across countries
(Example SAARC satellite) has been our aim. But we
Scientists at ISRO have been continuously on the move
intellectually, physically and ideologically. That sense of
wanderlust is evident. No help from any country in
developing cryogenics. Visiting training from even
taunts of foreign scientists, these people experimental
failed, failed yet again and look where we are
today now, a manned mission to space in 2022
(Gagan Yaan) has just been announced. Who can
forget the International record of launching 104

Satellites in one go. In space race, India surely ended up as a winner.

~~quest of~~ This sense of winning through a people who wander, only to be lost in the sands

of time. Refugees from Syria & Iraq hold the mirror to humanity. The three year old Alan Kurdi, would

have never imagined that he will become the poster boy (- the image of him being washed ashore dead) for

the GREATEST HUMANITARIAN DISASTER of 21st century.

He set sail for a better life, leaving behind death; destruction, everyday struggle for existence but met an

untimely end. It is sad to say but those who

wander do lose sometimes.

Punjab's Drug menace throws up numerous examples of drug addict youth. These

pilgrims of darkness - the intoxication, violence &

abuse would perhaps be lost in wilderness, never

knowing how beautiful life can be.

Migrant labourers from UP & Bihar who come in lakhs to Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana every year in search of good life never foresee that life would be so cruel to them. All Industrial growth in cities fails to absorb the surplus. Ashamed to beg, condemned to poverty & destitution, they take to crime, spoiling their lives and also of those whom they kill, abduct, rape or injure.

As we went through the lives of visionary leaders who shaped the our contemporary world & also saw the stories of the less fortunate let us see what we can learn from these & aspire for a good life for the greater mankind.

The journey is rather long or should we say infinite. There remain many challenges in pursuit of those we have to wander, we have a great ambition of wiping every tear from every eye & no rest till the sufferings of ^{the} last child in the country

is ends. (12)

Approximation distress, farmer suicides are mounting, let's make our farmers prosperous. Assured irrigation, quality inputs, 24x7 electricity, insurance against crop failure, diversification in subsistence base is needed. Let's travel across countries, explore the best practices & technologies and ensure "double incomes to farmers by 2022"

Communal tensions are once again on the rise. Let's take a quick travel down the memory lane, wander across the pages of Indian history, and observe how harmonious co-existence of diverse religious communities was ensured by leaders then. De-emphasize religion & glorify humanity & mutual welfare. This is the land of Buddha, Akbar & Ashoka, no rivers of blood but the elixir of love & tolerance is our identity.

Stories of everyday violence, crimes, dacoity, robbery, sexual assault greet us every morning. Let's explore the Gandhian way of life - truth, non-violence, respect for women & renouncing practices derogatory for them. Let's explore "Ram Rajya"

Philosophy of Bapu & strive to achieve it.

Let's learn from our neighbour, China the value of hardwork & vision for prosperous future. We have to skill, educate our people, ensure ^{them} "good health", build up massive infrastructure to attract investment and be the "manufacturing hub of the world". We just need to explore how China did it & we can do it too.

Constant struggle of uplifting the masses is on. Thirty crore people still poor, fighting hunger, homelessness, illiteracy, malnutrition, disease. We have a long path to travel, never knowing where this journey takes us. Will we end up being a superpower someday? A developed country? much like the 'land of Golden bird' as we were once. There is hope. We are reassuringly on the right path. Always on the move, in pursuit of something great. We shall win.

from page no. 8 to till the end of the essay - there is no relevance to the title of the essay

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- The approach of the essay should be to define the difference between

being comfortable in life & being stuck in life

and

- being innovative

- to wander means to explore obliviously, so what this ^{line} ~~line~~ is saying is to enjoy the ~~journey~~ journey and to experiment in order to find the right solution in your life. Some people may not have goals set out, but that is okay, - it is the Journey that matters

- Some people leave their well-paying jobs to go and visit a new far away place.

- Change is a constant thing, and wanderers are just those who are looking for new, exciting adventures.

- Those who tend to be creative or independent are likely to fit in to this pattern.

- There is a purpose and motivation for wandering - to know, to understand, find a way through something, find a solution, find your way.

That's how ..
STEG V JOBS