GS SCORE

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).

Name _Parth Gupta_

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature _____ Pgupta_

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

Remarks

56+56
112

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.

Section - A

1. <u>Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising everytime we fall.</u>

"The three great essentials to achieve anything worthwhile are - First hardwork, second stick-to-tiveness and third common sense"

— <u>Thomas Alva Edison</u>

In life, it not the failure, but our attitude to the failure, that determines our attitude. These

who get restructed by their fear will never achieve glory. But people like Edison, who have the courage to ask for more, will remain as guiding force to inspire generations to come. Their 'Never Back down' spirit is a virtue worth emulation.

These virtues take us to glory, which is the recognition we get for the impact we create in present an future world. Glory comes after we succeed in our goal, but what if we don't suceed?

Many people think that our inability to reach the desired goal is failure. However, our not getting the goal is only a stage in our progress. Our failures are our pillars to success. True failure is our inability to believe in ourselves, conquer our fear and live to our full potential. This facet needs deeper understanding.

Remarks

The Real failure

During 1st decade of 21st century a mobile handset maker dominated world - 'Nokia'. Today it is nowhere. Their failure was in their inability to take the next step to success. Thus, the first facet of real failure is our inability to leave our comfort zone and venture into unknown.

Second facet relates to the inability to rise after a fall. India during 1991 faced a BoP crisis. This was the phase where globe expected India to default on its loans. But India showed greater will and courage for reforms and today it is among the fastest growing major economies. In some situation, a weak willed nation might have defaulted. This was an opportunity for India to course correction, which underlines the importance of falls.

Remarks

Why falling is a step to success?

India's example shows importance of our attitude to our fall. Our ~~failure~~ falls or small factures can act as guidance to our future generation. eg., when India witnessed growth of communalism under colonial rule, our leaders and present generations realised that such trends should not be allowed to prosper.

Small factures also act as a kind of feedback mechanism in shattering our ego. This makes us more down to earth. and humble to others.

Small factures expand our horizons of thinking and make us more broad minded. As ~~Ja~~ Jack Ma, the founder of Alibaba tells, that failures make us more strong and make the success taste

it also helps figure out fallacies in our earlier approaches helping us to make better plans

more sweeter. Gandhiji also won independence of India over 3 ~~do~~ decades, learning from his mistakes and becoming more broad-minded.

2. The falls <u>bring out our character</u>. It is said that in times of crisis, ~~so~~ people of strong will and courage turn up their sleeves, the weak turn up their noses and the failures don't turn up at all. Elon Musk the founder of Tesla motors and SpaceX, who once was on verge of bankruptcy, told in an interview that he never really witnessed failure. Such examples show that courage of conviction and strong willed character can change fortunes.

Napoleon once told that fortune favours the brave. This means that the <u>brave become more stronger</u> in the

face of difficulties and thereby raising their potential.

Our quest for success is our quest against status quo. And when we fight against status quo, we will definitely face initial reverses. The greatness lies in crossing these reverses to raise the benchmark of success. Malala, a young girl in Pakistan's NWFP fought for girl education for which she got shot in head. But that didn't deter her spirit. Her example has led to girls in NWFP going to schools.

Similarly, Raja Rammohan Roy too faced backlash for his modern ideas from his own family. But he continued, because he had a vision for a modern nation.

Also, our conception of success is limited by our knowledge. Thus, sometimes

Remarks

our failures are our true success.

(a) Christopher Columbus; when set out to reach India, failed to reach India, but instead found the Americas. This was a great success of his times. Had he not ventured for India, fearing that he didn't know the route, Europe wouldn't have dominated the world!

It is thus a matter of courage, determination, perseverance, and character that lead to success. Great leaders like Narayana Murthy, Shivaji, Wright Brothers etc are examples of such qualities. Our ISRO, a new space entrant which has enormous achievements in its bag has sought to break all the limits of space. A critical component to conquer the fear which holds us from greatness is proactivity which needs to be

built.

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Building Fearless Winners

To build a fearless society, the change must be inside-out. At the individual level, people should be asked to achieve excellence in their fields as per art. 51 A(j). Spirit of scientific temper and reform should be cultivated. Respect for dignity of other beings will also lead to a social atmosphere where divergence is accepted. Humility should be cultivated so that people don't hide their true potential in order to safeguard their ego.

Education has huge role to play in this as it builds the character of individuals. Value-based education is the need of hour.

Remarks

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can't also talk about Gandhi's example of struggle (ST 1) to highlight how we need true persist to work upon his failures

Education oriented to application is also essential to nurture the dormant talents of our youth and reap demographic dividend. Social sciences and arts education should also be given due focus. Teachers must exemplify courage in their actions, so that students always remain fearless.

Family and society as institutions can play an even more important role. They can create a social cushion for the people to venture into unknown and thereby encouraging innovation. Superstition and dogmas be stopped from daily practice. As a society, we must also accept diversity because, as per Maya Angelou, in diversity, there is strength and beauty.

Remarks

Mixing of new ideas can lead to new knowledge.

Government must make policies which are pro-winners and encourage a culture of winning. Startup India is one such scheme. We can provide some form of insurance or Universal Basic income to help people realise their true self and don't fear failure.

To fear is to fail every single moment of our lives. In our quest for greater peace, prosperity and innovation, it is the biggest hurdle. Therefore, as individuals we must emulate the great people and try to be one of them. Our not trying will never make us great and our existence on earth will be useless. Our <u>consistent</u> <u>perseverance towards goal</u> will make us achieve true glory and make our existence on earth worth a mention.

Remarks → Try to broaden your essay's scope further by including more diverse examples eg from sports where failure/victory is a part of life etc.

Section - B

3.) Universities should be a place for 'creativity', 'out of box thinking' and 'ideological disruption'.

"Education breeds confidence, confidence breeds hope, hope breeds peace" — Confucius

The role of education is to raise the standards of society and make the world a better place to live. Universities as the Crusaders ~~needs~~ of new knowledge have a huge role to achieve that aim. However, in the recent Times global rankings on universities, none of Indian university features in top 100. It shows that there is much to do to achieve excellence in our education and overall quality of life.
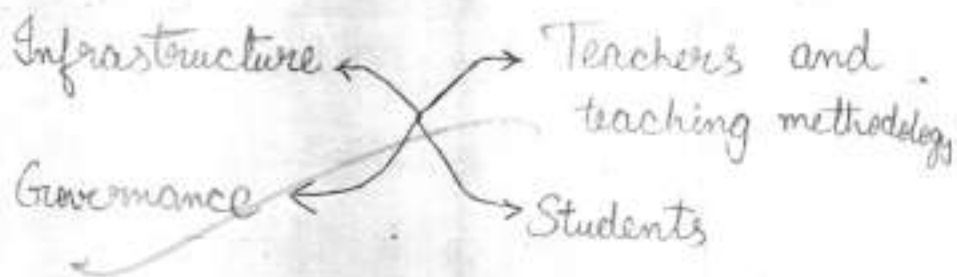
Creativity and out of box thinking are crucial to bring desired improvements in quality of life. Creativity means to use our knowledge to solve our problems in a better way and 'out of box thinking' is a way towards creativity. Ideological disruption refers to a ground breaking creativity in ideological domain. These have been a part of our universities since earlier times, which helped in information revolution, emergence of religions like Buddhism etc.

India as a global leader of knowledge, has been home to numerous ancient universities among which Taxilla and Nalanda stand out. They signify tradition of debate, discussion, emphasis on scientific temper. However, over time, the superstitions and dogmas entered our institutions and are cause for much of present problems.

Remarks

Hurdles to creativity in Universities

The problems can be categorised into 4 domains:

Infrastructure ⟷ Teachers and teaching methodology

Governance ⟷ Students

Our education <u>infrastructure</u> suffers from lack of capacity and is not in tune with the new trends in education, like <u>digital classrooms</u>. This is because of lack of funds especially to state universities.

Our <u>teachers</u> suffer from non-upgradation of skills and knowledge. There is an element of feudal mentality also which hinders the free flow of information from teacher to students. Most importantly our teaching methodology is oriented to make

us learn the age old knowledge while ~~not~~
world is focussing on making students think.
value-based education has been ignored.

Students are blinded by the rat-race for
jobs There whole education is job oriented,
not career oriented. Many are unaware of
their deeper passions and follow heard mentality.
There is no focus on life long learning.

Governance structure ~~of~~ universities
has very little ~~room~~ for student participation.
On the other hand, there is huge executive
and political interference. This curbs the
universities from nurturing ideological disruption

Our students, teachers and the governance
structures are ~~marred~~ by the problem of
lack of autonomy and accountability.
Another concern is the presence of violence
and ragging in our higher education
institutes, which ~~curb~~ individual agency
and liberty.

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relies on
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Remarks

Threatened universities, Bleak future

Without liberty, there is no individual and no future. If we continue to degenerate in the present track, human race will perish. Such weak universities will not produce leaders of strong character and we will remain in 'ideological stagnation'.

On the technical side, such a scenario will lead to poor quality human resource. This explains the present non-employability of Indian graduates. The pace of Research and development will slow down and there is a concern of the backward nations falling into the trap of Intellectual Capitalism.

In such a bleak future, all the best minds will seek to go abroad, leading to Brain-drain. Thus, the inequalities will perpetuate

Remarks

and widen over time. Already the H-index of the ~~you~~ research papers of Indian researchers is way below other competitors like China, South Korea etc. Hence, it is time for us to recognise the ~~code~~ areas where we can foster creativity and refashion our universities to meet the challenge.

The numerous Realms of Creativity

Despite its challenges, India has been constantly improving on the Global innovation Index by WIPO. These innovations have great scope in numerous fields.

Agriculture faces challenges like climate change, input intensive cultivation, price instability etc. Moreover, there are related issues like food and nutrition security. Our state agricultural universities can play

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Remarks

a critical role in providing extension services "in creative ways, developing new seed varieties which are drought resistant and nutrient rich. ICAR has developed numerous varieties like PUSA-arhar which improves farmers' income by being a shorter duration crop. Government can bring innovation in policy eg., a CIPHET study gives details of post harvest losses and innovative ways to redress it.

Renewable energy Technology is another area where our universities can work for developing new technologies like fuel cell technology, storage technology, innovative finance models to help common man take up such technologies. IIMs can help in the latter. Telecommunication technologies like 5G will play crucial role in India's future growth and IIT Madras has huge role to play here.

Remarks

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To bring more equality, across gender, caste, religion, language, innovation is needed in education, our arts, media and government policy. A new startup has devised a necklace to improve the security of women, by sending alerts to nearby people in times of crisis. Our universities can foster such ideas by acting as incubators.

To ensure greater cultural exchange, universities offer the best place. This can also lead to innovation and 'ideological disruption'.

To check other aspects of cyber security, border security, innovative technologies like UAVs, satellite technology etc, can needs to be promoted at university level.

Also, need to promote stress on humanities & literature based subject.

Nurturing Creatwity in Universities

The road so far

Our government has taken multiple steps to improve the innovation in university. To improve infrastructure in state universities, the Rashtriya Uchatlar Shikbha Abhiyan is started. Higher Education Finance agency will also provide for the needs of universities.

To improve the autonomy at governance teacher and student level, the Graded autonomy regulations have been brought and few institutes are declared as institutions of eminence. A bill has been tabled to replace UGC with HECI which will be more powerful to ensure

Remarks

quality of education in universities.

The road ahead

To make universities truly as centres of innovation, there is a need to break the isolation and bring greater connectivity in between universities, between universities and industry and between university and society. Thus the research labs need to be strongly linked to universities to transform our universities from merely teaching centres to innovation hubs.

We also need to attract global best practices and universities to nurture the intellectual competitiveness among universities

Remarks could highlight lack of critical thinking & submission to authority prevalent in indian society and how universities could help get rid of that.