

Question No.

प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

Section-A

If it costs you your peace,
it is too expensive.

John D. Rockefeller was an American
business magnate of 20th century. He

was president of Standard oil cooperation.

One fine day he received the news from
his subordinates that the goods enroute
from chicago to Houston via railroad are
expected to experience a violent storm.

He was in conundrum and felt penny
wise and pound foolish of not taking
more one hundred fifty dollar insurance,
to save his goods. However he used his
clout to arrange for insurance instantly.

The next day he received the news that
the goods reached the destination safely.
He then ^{bad for} ~~felt~~ ^{was} wasting insurance amount.

Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

All this took a toll on his health and he suffered from various heart and life style stress diseases. The greed for money was costing him his peace and in turn was too expensive.

The above anecdote highlights that if anything costs you your peace, it is not worth it. for an individual peace is his mental calmness, because if mind is not calm, it will affect his/her intellectual capabilities. This will have adverse domino effect on other aspects of life too. As we have seen in the case of John D. Rockefeller. And ultimately, to get peace, he started to do philanthropy and opened Rockefeller foundation. This helped him to live for another 25 yrs as against claims of doctors who said he will live only

UPSC

for 3 years.

Although we always value peace over anything as it is desirable for society, nations and world at large, yet sometimes we embark on path of violence/chaos to achieve long term peace. But first we need to understand what we understand by peace?

Peace : A virtue

Peace can mean different to different people. for an individual, sipping coffee with the loved ones in the comfort of home can be called as peace. for a business man, achieving sales target might bring him peace. for a nation, securing its borders from external threat can mean peace.

Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

All the above cases ^{that} we saw have a common thread, i.e. peace is the foundation over which other things are built. Without peace, no innovation can sprout, no society can flourish, and no economy can boom. Therefore it is pertinent to know, why its so expensive if it costs ^{us} peace.

Can there be tradeoff for peace?

A calm mind will always make better decisions than a chaotic mind. Thus, peace and calmness can't be a substitute for anything. for instance, take the case of cuban nuclear crisis.

The nuclear war was avoided due to the calm decision making of Russian Naval officer. Otherwise it could have

Question No.

प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

been too expensive for the world.

Similarly in society, where there is no peace, no constructive activities for upliftment of the downtrodden can be taken up. Take the case of tribal unrest during british period.

The continuous subjugation & oppression of tribals created unrest among tribals & it was too expensive for the britishers to manage them. ~~later~~.

Comparing it with independent India's affirmative actions for tribal development, like panchshet, tribal reservation, forest rights, we see that establishing peace ^{was} ~~is~~ ^{indispensable} ~~very~~ necessary for any affirmative action to yield positive results. The government realised that leaving 12.5% of tribal population in misery would have been too expensive.

Moving on, if we see the current climate change situation, which ^{may} ~~is~~ ^{going} to cost us our peace, we understand

Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

that adaptation & mitigation measures are not that expensive in comparison to the future disastrous impact of climate change. As the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres says - "In case of climate, we are not the dinosaurs. We are the meteors. We are not only in danger, we are the danger, but we are also the solution".

Hence, the responsibility of bringing halt to climate change is own us.

Then only peace can be established ~~and~~ otherwise it would be too expensive for all of us.

~~Moreover~~, we can extrapolate the same argument in content ~~of~~ the peace within a nation. If anything that disturbs peace of a nation, is tolerated for long, it becomes reason for more bigger unrest. for instance, the division of

Question No.

प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

of India and Pakistan based on communal lines. In this context, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel had said that if ~~the~~ division hadn't been there, there would have been a Pakistan in each State, each city, each office, each home. And this would have inhibited the further development of our nation, which would have been too expensive.

Similarly, if we see societal evils such as domestic violence with women, marital rape, clowry ^{torture} ~~teachers~~, it shows how it is too expensive tradeoff for peace. Some women ~~are~~ can come out of these oppressive relationships & make better future for them. And some get stuck due to societal pressure, or to preserve the pseudo sanctity & sacredness of the institution of marriage & family. Ultimately it is too expensive for them as it is taking away their peace.

Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

This brings us to our next question, ~~that~~ is peace that costly entity? Aren't there things more important than peace?

Beyond Peace: A new perspective

Every new technological revolution ^{initially} had created chaos ~~initially~~ in the society. It doesn't mean that the disturbed peace is bad for us & we shall stop all technological advancement. Rather we work to fill the lacunae. Take the case of invention of car. Cars were hitting people on road, but we didn't ~~ban~~ the cars, we made zebra crossings. Cars shouldn't collide with one another, we made lanes. For traffic, we made flyovers & red lights. We continuously improved to bring everlasting peace. Thus the innovation was not expensive.

Question No.

प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

Similarly, there can be temporary chaos due to any economic policy change. We shouldn't ~~be~~ fear those chaos rather embrace it. For instance, the teething issues due to introduction of one nation one tax regime i.e. GST. In long run its not expensive, rather its cheap, because it simplified taxation.

Similarly, intellectually awakened men & women have time and again chose to reform the society of its evil. It temporarily created chaos in society due to resistance to change, but in long run, it ~~turned out to be~~ ^{brought} ~~born/accepted~~. For example Raja Ram Mohan Roy's movement against sati or Rebecca Walker's movement for women rights.

Question No.

प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

Thus, we can see what peace means for different individual and how virtue of peace is a desirable entity. We also pondered over the other side of peace i.e. chaos & how it is not expansive to tradeoff peace for chaos in long run.

Finally, we have to understand that we as a society have to nurture our minds to distinguish between the negatives of peace and positives of the chaos. We also have to be aware of the cardinal importance of peace.

For that we have to nourish ~~the~~ our tree like mind with water of wisdom and fertilizer of rationality.

Then only we will be able to take the best decision about the sumptuousness of peace with its alternatives.

Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

[Section-B]

A single drop never feels responsible for the flood.

Krishna asked Karna, why he is on Duryodhana's side? To this Karna said "My mother left me the moment I was born. Is it my fault that I was born an illegitimate child? I wasn't given any education because I wasn't considered a Kshatriya. I was cursed by Parshuram. Even Kunti told me truth to save her son. Whatever I succeeded was through Duryodhana's charity!

Krishna reminded him that difficulties are in everybody's life, that do not give us licence to walk on unrighteous path. However Karna was adamant on his stand. Moreover, he never felt responsible for igniting the war by beingⁱⁿ support of Duryodhan. He rather blamed Pandavas for ^{the} war.

Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

This excerpt from Mahabharat epic shows, that a single person even on a wrong path, do not consider himself responsible for the war, rather lay blame on circumstances of other people.

This proves a single drop never feels responsible for the flood.

But, before understanding the cause of why this happens, we will try to understand, what does floods stand for in real life?

Metaphorical floods of life

for an individual, the difficulties of life can be the floods. And it's our natural response to blame all except us for its cause. As it is rightly said- The man who blames others has a long way to go.

Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

The man who blames himself is half way there.
and the man who blames no one has already
arrived.

Similarly for a nation, floods can be the difficulties associated with its economic conditions. for instance, the balance of payment crisis of 1991 in India.

In such a scenario, we can't escape from accepting our responsibility towards the nation and start the blame game. Rather we chose to take collective responsibility & carried out the necessary steps.

This brings us to the next question, why do floods even occur?

Why does water Rise? A Break down

floods occur when river change its course. Now it no longer is following its original course, rather flowing over the plains. Similarly when authorities don't remain on their course, it becomes

Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

a recipe for disaster. Take the case of recent basement flooding at Delhi's ORN^{area}, where three UPSC aspirant lost their lives. Who is to be blamed?

The owner, who flouted the guidelines?,
Delhi
MCD which overlooked the construction?
or the fire Department which gave
NOC without ~~thorough~~ enough inspection.

It again proves, a single drop
never fuls responsible for ^{the} floods.

Similarly, when side banks ^{of river} ~~are~~
not strong or protected by vegetation,
~~river~~ it may cause flooding. Drop by
drop the flood start to aggravate.

In ^{the} same fashion when rules are
not strong, and ~~there~~ are loopholes
in ^{the} system, floods of social evils enter
into society.

Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

Take the case of Jalore district of Rajasthan, where a teacher ^{had} ~~beat~~ to death a dalit student for drinking water from an earthen pot meant for teachers only. Here we see that although constitution has granted us right to equality under article 14, the moral compass has become so corrupt that a child had to suffer at the hand of the social evil of untouchability. Here the teacher doesn't feel responsible for the student death, rather blames caste inequality for this.

Moving on, we will now try to understand, why does a single drop never feels responsible for the flood.

Tiny Drop - Massive Impact

Firstly, the reason, a single person never feels responsible for floods is because

Question No.

प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

of an individual
of wrong mindset. The mindset is
often reflection of collective conscience of
the society. He acts as per the prevailing
culture. For instance, when a person
is told to not offer bribe to traffic police
as it promotes corruption, his first
response ~~is~~ will be - "this is the norm". This
has been reflected as culture of corruption
in India even in the Second Administrative
Reform Commission report. This
proves that an individual never attributes
corruption as cause of his doing rather
blames culture for it.

Secondly, one never feels responsible
for wrongs in society due to adherence
to conformity. People conform to the
crowd. No one wants to mend their
way. And then blame the system

Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

for metaphorical floods of life.

Thirdly, a factor of anonymity ^{a single} of a drop ^{gives the drop}. ~~gives~~ It is audacity for never feeling guilty for floods. A drop has no identity. ~~as an individual~~, ~~Along~~ with other drops it can cause chaos. For instance, if ~~we see~~ the case of mob lynching of Pehlukhan. ~~is~~ ^{was} the case of eating cow meat. It can be seen that no individual considered it as his responsibility to have killed Pehlukhan. Rather it was blamed on crowd. Hence a single drop never feels responsible for flood.

Fourthly, it also happens that an individual don't consider himself powerful enough to cause the flood. He thinks that one's effort won't make any difference in larger scheme of things. But that is not

Question No.

प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

the case. for instance, take the case of small squirrel's efforts ^{in Ramayana.} for building bridge to Lanka. Squirrel picked up sand, small stones & threw it in ocean to help in whatsoever manner it can.

This shows, that no matter how small your effort is, it will bring result, & admiration. ~~This~~

Moving forward, we will try to look into the answer to the question, is single drop really responsible for flood? or it is culmination of multiple events that cause flood?

Single drop or Many drops?

Many a times, we see that failures at multiple levels cause the disaster to occur. Its like the swiss cheese model which illustrate how failures

Question No.

प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
विषय अभ्यास
के लिए

are result of multiple factors, rather than single cause. This failure occur when different slices line up & the holes in chuse are alligned in sameline, inviting disaster to pass through them.

This can be seen in the case of chornobyl disaster in USSR. It occurred due to failure at many levels. If one person in that line would have done his job properly, the disaster would have been avoided. Thus a single drop is really not responsible.

Also, if we consider the 1857 revolt of independence, It was not just because of removal of Nawab of Awadh or, policy of doctrine of lapse by Britishers, rather it was simmering discontent, drop by drop due to subjugation and oppression by Britishers. It again proves that single reason is not responsible for revolts.

Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

So, what can we do as an individual,
as a society, as a nation or world
as a whole that we take responsibility
of our own floods? The answer
lies in awakening at the right time.

We must nip the problem in the bud. We shall not wait till
drop by drop, bit by bit our future
is snatched from us. Whether it
is climate change, terrorism, social evils, or international order, we
must take timely action without
laying blame on others. Each drop
has to take up its responsibility.

Otherwise our future will be snatched
~~drop by drop.~~
~~bit by bit~~ and all us will do nothing.

We certainly don't want that summer
Dowe?