

Name - Neelesh Goyal

Next IAS Roll No. - GSMACT24A1433

Test Code - TC062

Date of Examination - 11th August, 2024

Mode - Online

Q.4

Competition is the law of the jungle, but co-operation is the law of civilization.

It was a beautiful Sunday morning. Chetan, 5 year old kid was watching TV with his mother. They were ^{watching} a documentary on 'National Geographic' channel about wild animals. The kid asked his mother, "Ma, why this deer is running so fast?"

She replied, "Can you see the lion, who is chasing it?" Kid nodded in affirmative. She explained further, "They both are competing to survive, if the deer wins, it lives, if it loses, it dies and the lion gets to eat it and survive." Amazed by this fact, the kid asked, "they why don't we have to run to survive?"

Mother smiled at child's

UPSC

innocence and said, "It is so because we, humans are a civilized species. To ensure our own survival, we don't need to kill others. Rather we co-ordinate with each other."

Now the kid was convinced that competition is the law of the jungle but co-operation is a law of the civilization. But the question is - has it always been like this?

Let us go back to the times when humans were hunter-gatherers. To survive, they would kill animals and gather fruits from trees. There was no law to govern interhuman relations. In words of John Locke, it was rule of nature, which was 'nasty, brutish and short lived'.

UPSC

Question No.

प्रश्न संख्या

For
Practice
Use Only
मिर्क अभ्यास
के लिए

3

But as humans evolved, they discovered fire, agriculture, pottery etc, they began to settle. The first thing they realised was that, co-ordination among themselves was required to ensure peace and harmony. Thus came the concept of marriage, which tied two families / clans and ensured co-operation.

Further in modern times, rule of law has ensured that human society is guided by the principles of equality. Author Yuva Noal Harari also writes in his book 'Sapiens' - 'Human beings have been able to survive for this long - primarily because of co-ordination existing between them'.

Now, having established the fact that for human civilization, co-ordination, not competition is required.

Let us examine the question that why competition is bad for humans?

UPSC

At individual level, competition disturbs mental peace of person and forces him to take wrong steps. for example - young students preparing for competitive examinations like NEET, JEE commit suicide because of excessive competition.

Similarly, at societal level, competition more often than not brews disharmony among different sections of society. for example - competition between kuki and mitei communities of Manipur state regarding reservation in government jobs, representation in politics etc., has led to widespread riots in the state.

Another example in this category could be of inter-state water disputes such as - kaveri water dispute between kerala and Tamilnadu, Satluj - Yamuna canal dispute between Punjab, Haryana etc.

Further at national level, competition may cause economic loss, loss of social capital etc. For example - intensive trade war between USA and china, not only harmed these two nations but others as well.

Similarly world wars, in which western nations were competing for resources of colonies, harmed these nations economically and exposed their true character to people of colonized nations, who were struggling for independence.

Instead of competition, if co-ordination is prevalent among members of society, such conflicts can surely be avoided. For example - in modern world intense trade competition is gradually being replaced by free trade agreements among countries, thus a result of co-ordination.

UPSC

Similarly in case of Israel - Hamas conflict, where these two religious groups are competing over territorial boundary, the co-ordination guides them to two-state solution, which ensures peaceful co-existence for both.

Economically, Adam Smith's laissez-faire economy advocates free competition. But in real world, such a practise might result in a monopoly of few dominant players, who would further create entry barriers for new players. for example - Google was fined by competition commission of India for its monopolistic practices.

Grandhiji had advocated trusteeship model to ensure that

UPSC

7

giant industrialist share the benefits with society as well. Similarly to address the grievances of dairy farmers AMUL co-operative was established in Anand, Gujrat. It has not only become a highly successful organisation but also inspired other sectors to do such experiments.

Now, having understood the importance of co-operation in human society, one would like to ask - Is competition all bad? Is there no use for competition in society? To answer this question, let us explore the life of a sports person.

Let's take the life of Virat Kohli, the batsman. What pushes him to practise everyday for hours? What pushes him to eat healthy and maintain a good physique even after so many years?

UPSC

The answer may be his love for the game, monetary benefits etc. But the most important reason among them all is the competition he faces from other players.

He knows very well that if a team India finds a player better than him, he will ultimately be replaced. This tough competition he faces, motivates him and pushes him towards excellence.

Similarly an organization spends huge sums of money in research and development. It is competition in the market from other companies, that pushes it to innovate. For example - in automobile sector, companies are launching new models of vehicles every quarter, that is an upgrade on the previous version.

UPSC

On the other hand, co-operation is considered healthy for human society but it is not the case always. for example - co-operation among criminals may lead to increased law and order issues in the society.

Similarly world wars, were the result of co-ordinated efforts of different countries to maximize their exploitation of colonized countries. Even today in most of the global conflicts - there is co-ordination among countries. for example - In Russia-Ukraine war, ~~on~~ on one hand western countries such as USA, UK etc. are co-ordinating with Ukraine, while eastern countries such as - China, North Korea are co-ordinating with Russia.

So, what should guide human society? competition or co-ordination. The answer lies in Buddha's philosophy of 'Madhyam Marga'.

UPSC

While competition is necessary for excelling in life, it should not be so fierce, that it suppress the individuality of a person. For example - in Tokyo Olympics, 2020 - Pakistani javelin thrower Ashraf Nadeem, the arch rival of Indian champion Neeraj Chopra, was trolled. Despite being a competitor, Neeraj came to his rescue.

Similarly after Paris Olympics 2024, in which Nadeem won gold medal and Neeraj won silver, their co-ordination was visible to the whole world on-field and off-field, with Neeraj's mother calling Nadeem 'like her son'.

Further, co-operation is very much needed for mental peace of

Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
निर्भर अभ्यास
के लिए

11

individual and harmony in society but it should not lead to escalation and strengthening of evil.

While Chetan, the 5 year old kid, who now associates competition with jungle, wild animals etc. and co-operation with humans. He may realize on growing up that not only deers are running in jungle to escape the claws of lion but also people are escaping scammers, criminals etc; students are escaping the cruel examination system, poor are escaping hunger and women are escaping from predators.

It is upto the society to inculcate values among these youngsters, who are our future, so that healthy competition is encouraged, predatory competition is eliminated and co-operative society gets reinforced.

Question No.

प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

Q.8 Wisdom is to live in tune with the mode of changing world.

In early 16th century, Delhi was ruled by Lodhi dynasty. Ruling ~~Delhi~~ Delhi meant, they were most powerful of their contemporaries. Therefore when Babur attacked Delhi in 1526, Lodhis didn't feel threatened. They were confident that with numerically superior army, they will easily defeat Babur.

What they failed to realise was the fact that with time mode of warfare had changed. Babur's Canons easily overpowered their Army and snatched Delhi from Lodhis. Wheel of time turned again. It was 18th century. Babur's descendants ruled Delhi and there were other regional powers such as - Marathas.

Now it were Europeans - British, French etc. who challenged the sovereignty of Mughals. Once again Indian

UPSC

powers made the same mistake. They fought with enemy who was technically superior to them and lost. It was foolish on our part to not upgrade our navy, territorial army and finances. Indeed wisdom is to live in tune with the mode of changing world.

In this essay, we will explore the ways in which world is changing. How we are supposed to keep up with those challenges? Also is something constant in this world or everything goes through changes.

It seems yesterday only, when having landline phone in home was considered luxury. Then came mobile phones with keypad. It was nothing short of magic for people - that such an instrument can be carried in a pocket.

Today we have phones with touch screens, without keypads, with smart features, equipped with artificial intelligence. The change is not limited to upgrade of technology only. Look at the manufacturers - earlier companies like NOKIA, Motorola dominated the market who are nowhere to be seen today.

Similarly in economic sphere, barter system was the primary mode of transaction earlier. It has been replaced by market mechanism where money is the mode of transaction. In India also Jajmani system, which was based on caste-linked occupation has been replaced by market mechanism. Money itself has underwent changes from commodity money to metallic money to currency notes to digital money.

Further in political sphere monarchy has been replaced by democracy. meritocracy is the principle mode of selection.

UPSC

of officials to manage state affairs.
concept of nation-state has been
~~dep~~ developed and boundaries drawn.

Therefore, with the changing
world, humans, societies, organisations etc.
also need to change. let us examine
the need for adopting the change:-

Firstly, those who do not adapt to
changing environment, become irrelevant
for example - cellphone manufacture

NOKIA went out of the market as they
did not adapt to changing customer demand.

on the other hand we have
example of MNC (multi national corporation)
'WeWork' - a coworking space provider
company. It was on the verge of bankruptcy
in 2020, due to COVID-19 induced slowdown,
however adapting to the changing times,
it downsized the company (reduced
no. of leases it had, reduced staff)

UPSC

5

and today it has become profitable.

Secondly, with changing times, problems one face, change. for example - when Indian penal code was formulated, problems such as - cyber crime, mob lynching etc. did not exist. However in modern times, these are recurring issues. That's why Indian government came up with 3 new bills BNS (Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita) BNSS (Bhartiya nagrik suraksha sanhita) and (Bhartiya Sakshya adhiniam).

Similarly COVID-19, introduced the world regarding vulnerability from such diseases and need for rapid vaccine development. At this time, m-RNA technique helped humankind to fight COVID. Further infrastructure upgrade in hospitals was pushed, in absence of which the world witness a large number of casualties.

Thirdly, if we do not change

UPSC

Our approach towards changed circumstances, we may lose to our competitors. for example - In recent political upheaval in Bangladesh, where reigning PM was ousted from power by demonstrators, India was prudent enough to recognize the will of Bangladeshi people and our high commissioner for Bangladesh, attended swearing in of interim government.

Similarly, climate change is another reality of changing world which is forcing countries to adapt to environments friendly practices. It is wisdom to mitigate the affect of climate change which may otherwise trigger 6th mass extinction of humans and other living beings.

However, in the name of keeping up with changes, one must not promote consumerism, fear of missing out (FOMO), unsustainable

environmental practices etc.
for example - mobile companies launch new models of their phones, almost every quarter. In the name of being 'up to date', advertisements, social media influencers etc. promote purchase of these new models.

similar is the case with automobile industry, fashion industry which has caused increased wastage of these products and we see the increasing height of waste mounts at landfill sites. Instead the demand of changing world today is to promote Reuse - Recycle, which not only reduces pressure on environment but also useful economically.

Now coming to the final question - Is everything undergoing change in the world? The answer would be mostly yes. Everything from

UPSC

family to religion to polity to economy and so on is undergoing constant changes. Even humans and their aspirations are changing. for example - at a time, invention of aircraft was considered impossible but today humans have landed on moon and next we are preparing to land and colonize mars.

However in all this, something that can be said to remain the same is 'humanity'. Way of clothing, language etc. might have changed but humans are still compassionate towards other living beings. Material conditions of human beings might have changed but 'spirit of enquiry and eagerness' remains the same.

UPSC

Therefore, wise people have always learnt from past and adapted themselves for the future. Because those who do not do so, perish. Be it Lodhis of medieval India, Mughals, British or modern day organisations such as NOKIA.

At national level also, India is adapting itself to the changing world. For example - in new education policy-2020, we have given great importance to vocational education, which enhances skills and thus employability of ~~past~~ students. As India states its goal to become a developed nation by 2047, such initiatives are necessary. Another pain point of Indian economy is lack of jobs, which we aim to address by employment linked incentive scheme (ELI) announced in budget 2024.

So, it is important to recognizing the demands of changing times and addressing them, while time is still there, is of utmost importance.

UPSC

As it is famously said

"The time to repair the roof is
when the sun is still shining."

Therefore taking cues from
changing world in all spheres of
life - social, economic, political, scientific
etc., we should do course correction.
Individuals, nations, organisations etc.
all would do well to live in the
tune with the mode of changing
world.

Question No.

प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

11

For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए