ENSURE IAS

ESSAY TEST

Maximum Marks: 125 **Time Allowed: 1.5 Hours**

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Email		
Phone No.		**Date:** __/__/____

Follow all instructions otherwise copy will not be evaluated

1. **Instructions:**
   a. **FLT:** Choose one essay from each section.
   b. **SLT:** Choose one essay from the given topics.
2. The medium of writing should be the one authorized in your admit card.
3. Word limit: **1,000 to 1,200 words** per essay.
4. Credit will be given for:
   - Multiple Topics - Speed
   - Closely To The Subject - Relevant
   - Orderly Fashion- Flow
   - Concisely – Crisp
   - Effective & Exact Expression – Wise selection of words
5. Marks will be deducted for:
   - Irrelevant matter
   - Lack of depth
   - Poor language or organization

Students's message for evaluator (if any):

Q.No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1.	125	
2.	125	
Total	250	

Evaluator's Remarks:

ENSURE IAS

(Essay Evaluation On Exact UPSC Parameters)

UPSC ESSAY PARAMETERS	MARKS	ESSAY 1 Comments	ESSAY 2 Comments
1. Multiple topics • Speed • Dimensions • 1100+ words • Time Management	25		
2. Close to the subject • Relevance • Conceptual Clarity • Facts, Data, Examples, Diagrams • Strength of Arguments	25		
3. Orderly fashion • Natural flow • Introduction • Body • Conclusion • Structure and Paragraphing	25		
4. Concise • Vocabulary • Wise selection of words	25		
5. Effective and Exact *Expression* • Grammar • Keywords • Underlining • Handwriting	25		
Total Marks	**125**		

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To be content with little is difficult;
To be content with much, impossible.

It has been said that, "Money can't buy happiness". In the modern industry Society arguing against material Success, growth, profits is like arguing against gravity. Let us take the example of two different lines of mortals. one is a beggar from across the street who is finding it difficult to arrange two meals for himself. The other one is a businessman - Vijay Mallya who robbed millions of people in order to create a business empire what is the similarity between the two, apart from devoid of their home, both people

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are not content with their life.

The beggar probably thinks that having a million rupees in his account would have him never work again in his life, but Vijay Mallya knows - It is simply not true. This is the Paradox of desire in life. Having too little can risk your survival, while having too much will make you chase the game of 99, forever on repeat, without any ~~stop~~ stop.

This essay will attempt to discuss the dilemma of contentment, the necessity of discontent & the

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The way to balance It all

To be content with little - The difficulty

The history of mankind is a history of struggle. The struggle to attain "Roti kapda Makaan" - Food, Clothes & Shelter. The very essentials that makes us human. The non-fulfilment of these basic needs, makes life difficult, just like the dilemma of our beggar from the starting of this essay.

Being content with little is difficult because certain things & Services are essential to lead a dignified existence & have better life chances. For

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instance, access to basic health services is not only a need, but a right of every individual. Denial of access to healthcare is an attack on the dignity of individual. Thus having no bottle makes it difficult to be content because it reduces human life to an animalistic existence and also stop them from performing their duties and responsibility.

Kofi Annan has summarised this argument by saying, "failure to uphold dignity of individual ends in calamity for nations"

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However the problem lies here - while we have set some "minimum standards". There exist no such "maximum standards" to which humanity should adhere to, bringing us to the second part of the problem -

water water everywhere

To be content with much - the abundance of "everything everywhere all at once" guides the modern human's mindset. The law following in economics - "law of diminishing satisfaction" can help us decode this widespread issue of contentment. It argues that with

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every additional item, the satisfaction recieved by an individual decreases, until the pleasure derived is zero.

The pleasure derived from consumption releases chemicals in the brain, dopamine, serotonin etc to make us feel better. This quest of feeling better than before has brought humanity at a juncture of "Paradoxical Situation of Catch-22". The catch-22 Situation is one where solution is part of the problem. All the novel technologies of the world were developed with the noble purpose of saving

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The mankind. For instance, the Spinning jenny, ushered an industrial revolution with mass Production of clothes, textile. However, human were not content with the Progress., and that simple idea of mass production – For the benefit of all turned into a Frankenstein monster ready to engulf the world with fast fashion.

Indeed, it is true that,

"Nothing vast enters in the life of mortal without a Curse"

The above exemplifies that there is no end to human desires,

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which makes it impossible to be content with much. An excess to infinite supply of anything is antithetical to it's requirement. - It makes it redundant or useless. It erodes that object of it's essence & value. To demonstrate, let us look at the evolution of our entertainment sources. Back in the 1960's - 70's radio was the most prized possession of an individual. Even the advertisement - breaks filled people with excitement and awe. To compare it with the present scenario - any amount of content -

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films, documentaries, songs, reels cannot satisfy the humans now.

However, it is still observed that people are glued to their screens even though the satisfaction, contentment accrued from it is declining. one can wonder, why it is so? one of the answer to this question can be Addiction. Addiction drives the consumption even when the contentment is impossible. A lack of control on desires, & lack of much needed content on life has given rise to several forms of addiction — "Work-Aholic", Shopping Addiction, Screen-Addiction & not limiting

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to the usuals like Cigarettes, alcohol and drugs.

Consequences : The unlimited desires

The action of individual are not directed in a vacuum - they have consequences, both good & bad. That is the beauty of natural justice.

The unrestricted desires have led individuals to loose connections with themselves in the quest of trying to connect with the outer world, material things. Cases of mental health issues in the form of anxiety, stress, even depression can be attributed in parts to this race - which has no end point.

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The natural order of things holds a universal law — The law of conservation you cannot create something without taking it from others, because the matter & energy is conserved in the universe.

The consequence of unlimited desires of one sections of humans is bewed by a different set. Be it, the Industrial Revolution of the European Nation — leading to pollution, climate change warning or be it the rural agrarian distress of India. In fulfilling the unlimited demands of the urban centres, somewhere the villages of India got lost from the agenda of development.

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Discontent : The perks

The inherent need of individuals to do better, to consume more has also served its righteous part throughout the evolution of mankind. It helps in maturing of soul, building a better character and fuels the engine of curiosity, growth & development. To state this argument let us see the excerpt from Kanya phule - written by Savitri Bai phule

"There is an upsurge of knowledge in my soul,
Crying out for knowledge to be white,
festering wound, the mark of caste,
I will blot out from my life at last"

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Balancing: 'Needs' with 'wants'

The discussion has brought us to natural point of questioning - How to balance the perks of discontent with the evils of desire

The systemic issues lies at the heart of this problem - The instant wanting much is not the root of problem. If one intends to do the maximum good of maximum number of people. When Buddha said that 'Desire is the cause of Suffering' It should be interpreted in modern context. 'When the desire of others lead to Suffering for oneself as well as other people - It should be said to be bad.

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The balance lies on the allegory of Chariots, holding the reins of minds to balance the Chariot of life.

To see a practical application, the ethos of traditional Indian philosophy are filled with example of balancing the ~~Prompte~~ desires to promote sustainable growth of mankind. Niti Ayog's model of 'Indian growth model' rested on 'Sarvodaya, Antyodaya, Gramodaya' highlights the need ~~of~~ for sustainable development balancing with restraint, frugality and ~~restra~~ austerity.

We have to balance our Society on a way that no one

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has to be content with so little that they can't afford their meals, while imposing restraint so that individuals don't become threat to Society and environment.