

ESSAY

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें

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उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए

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SECTION - A

3. Injustice makes the rules and courage breaks them.

The colonial period saw the proliferation of rules to strengthen the British Empire in India. Be it the Partition of Bengal or the land evictions in rural areas or the one-way free trade with zero tariffs on British imports. The Indian Nationalists challenged them with the courage displayed in Non-Cooperation Movement, Swadeshi Movement and Civil-Disobedience Movement.

When Gandhi refused to go back from Champaran to struggle for the peasant's cause, he broke the British rules with his moral courage. And thus, was able to secure justice for them with remission of unjust payments. Such courage was also displayed by common people in

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no-tax campaigns and strikes in plantations and factories.

Thus, the injustice of British imperialism was met with a worthy opponent in form of courage of nationalist movements. The courage, hence, could be personal, social or national to go against the mighty state. When rules are unjust, it is just to break them.

The struggle between injustice and courage is a marked feature of society whenever injustice comes, courage rises to oppose it. But, rules may be born just at times. Here, breaking them may not be a sign of courage, but foolhardiness. This calls for making just rules and ensuring their enforcement for a truly just world.

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Looking at social injustice, it has been a recurring theme throughout history with caste systems rules of segmentation and hierarchy, inequality was pervasive. It took the strength of leaders like Jyotiba Phule and Ambedkar to challenge it, facing social condemnation on their way.

The fight of women for a gender-just society was also not a bed of roses. When women were denied right to vote, the suffragettes braved oppression to fight for their cause. Or when scientific institutions like Salts Institute of Fundamental Research denied women admission, Kamla Bhasini displayed exemplary courage in going against such discrimination.

In recent past, girls' hostels in Delhi imposed restrictions on timings for going out. The students with their collective

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strength expanded with 'Pujda Tod' campaign to fight back for their liberty.

Religion can as well be a source of unjust rules. as seen from unequal inheritance rights for men and women.

In India, the All India Women's Conference were able to break this cycle with Hindu Succession Act 1956 with their social movements.

Shasthya Muslim Mahila Andolan displayed similar courage in breaking the rule of Triple Talac through legal means. Facing social boycott from community members, did not deter their morale.

Across the world, when Rosa Parks sat on an empty bus seat to break the racist rule of seats for white, she changed

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the world for all Blacks. Her unperturbed answer to the authorities that 'she sat for 'she was tired', shows moral strength.

Courage can need patience at times to break the cycle of injustice. Being imprisoned for more than 20 years, Nelson Mandela with his 'quiet courage' broke the Apartheid regime in South Africa.

But, courage needs sacrifice to break rules for the cost of courage must be paid. When India refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty for its discriminatory nature, it was at the cost of US aid and technological cooperation.

This history seems to repeat itself with US tariffs on India at 50%, highest in world. The reason being India's refusal to bow down to hegemonic rules of US

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unilateralism of trade restrictions.

At times, personal sacrifice may be needed for courage to break unjust rules. When revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh protested against the Public Safety Bill, they put their life on line. So did the Indian activists like Nargis Mohammadi fighting for women's rights in Iran from prison.

With social participation, however, the courage grows manifold to fight for justice. The farm laws of 2020 in India with massive protests from farmer organisations had to be scrapped. More than 500 farmers died during this course of movement.

Having said that, mental courage based on perseverance is indispensable for fight against injustice. This is visible from the success of an underdog like

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'Deepseek', AI platform over giants like ChatGPT or Gemini. With lower costs, it was able to break the hegemony of Big Tech in AI race.

So, are rules always unjust and meant to be broken? The answer is no. Rules for establishing a 'just society' need to be followed, not broken.

Right to equality for establishing 'rule of law' is visible in Article 17 of prohibition of Untouchability, Article 15 of prohibition on discrimination or the idea of secularism in Preamble. Breaking them, can cause social injustice.

Similarly, the rules for law and order need observance not breach for a just society. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for crime control establishes procedures for an atmosphere of stability and harmony.

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Even international institutions establish rules for a 'just global order' as seen from the Loss and Damage Fund by COP28 or the Special and Differential Treatment of developing nations at world Trade Organisation.

When the global North breaches these rules for self-interest, the idea of universal justice suffers. USA withdrawing from Paris Agreement or denying the economic rights of fair trade with tariffs show this travesty of justice.

In this way, rules for justice end up widening the injustice when misused.

In a recent report, 14,000 recipients of the Ladki Behan Scheme in Maharashtra were found to be men. This calls for effective enforcement for justice.

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When rules are breached by someone, its cost may be paid by others, at times, with life. The use of AI for mass surveillance in Gaza by the firm 'Palantir' shows that digital rules when broken can cause genocides.

Hence, one can say that 'just rules' are a sine qua non for a just world. Based on 'Rawlsian principle' of liberty and difference with 'veil of ignorance', it may be realised. When Vinnie provided 'housing as a right', it followed this approach.

Along with consensus and empathy, just rules can be enforced effectively. For spirit of law is as important as letter of law. Using 'men as partners' in fight for gender justice, shows this approach of social power.

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But, rules need progress as well based on 'living tree doctrine'. for society is not a fossil. Only rules which bend to change can resist any urge to break them. The 100+ amendments in Indian Constitution stands testimony to this.

The dilemma of perception, stays though because the idea of justice is fluid and subjective at times. One man's freedom fighter can be another man's terrorist. So, who defines injustice? In such cases, the universal moral laws should act as guides over relations of culture or societies.

In essence, like Gandhi said, 'an unjust law in itself is a form of violence'. Such rules need breach with courage of conviction. But, one must be conscious of not breaking just rules for justice demands obedience at times, as well.

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SECTION-B

6. What lies behind us, and what lies before us are tiny matters, compared to what lies within us

In the American-Vietnamese war, an American pilot's plane was shot down by the Vietnamese forces. He was captured as a 'prisoner of war', staying in a hostile country for months before his release. While his stay, he was subjected to insults and torture, but he maintained his equanimity. He used this time to know and understand the culture of Vietnam

This pilot was Stockdale who while suffering, chose how he suffered. With his Stoic mindset, he was able to overcome his circumstances, even deriving something out of it. This goes on to show that what lies inside triumphs what lies around us.

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The past and future are blips in time, but the present determine the outcome. Similarly, what is behind us or before us are tiny compared to inner strength or weakness. But, one cannot take it as a universal truth for surroundings can exert influence as well.

PRIMACY OF PRESENT

Thinking of past can prevent the awareness of present just as one cannot drive while looking in rear-view mirror.

Thinking of future can either lead to suffering or unfounded sense of hubris with overthinking.

So, it is only by focusing on present that true realisation of self can be achieved. 'We learn who we are in practice not in theory'. Hence, present

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actions over past theories or future imaginations are key to finding self. This is visible from Gandhi's implementation of his principle of satyagraha in people's movements.

As India stands on the cusp of demographic dividend, its past of population boom or impending demographic tide are tiny matters. Right now, efforts for harnessing this potential are needed with education, health, skill and justice initiatives.

PRIMACY OF SELF

The focus on self matters over focusing on surroundings, for it provides courage of conviction. In Mahabharata, when the teenage Abhimanyu faced his uncles and seniors in warfare, he relied on his inner

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strength. And thus, he broke the shackles.

A right attitude is thus far more important than one's circumstances. It provides 'mental freedom' in a situation of helplessness. When Viktor Frankl was in a Nazi concentration camp, it was his positive attitude and hope which lent him sanity and survival.

With the power of inner strength, people have changed their circumstances. APJ Abdul Kalam was born in poor household. But, with motivation, he went on to become the President of the country. Hence, what lies inside can overpower what exists outside.

Based on the idea of rational pessimism with a mix of pragmatism and optimism, Jurkisch Kauschik started

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his ascent to Mount Everest base camp. As a triple amputee, he faced not only the mountain but also physical barriers. But he overpowered both, becoming world's first triple amputee to achieve this feat.

The display of mental strength by Gyelle Pelicot shows that one can choose their response to circumstances. Being raped by 70 men, including her husband, she chose to have a public trial, showing that it is the perpetrators and not victims who should be ashamed.

One more thing which lies inside us is the education we gain. It not only affects economic opportunities but life's values as well. "When opens a school door, they close a prison", said Victor Hugo. The SHO of Delhi Police, Kunesh Yadav teaches orphan and underprivileged kids to help them

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overcome their situation.

The place of integrity in dealing with unfavourable circumstances cannot be overstated as well. This is especially true for civil servants who face public and political scrutiny from front and back.

When Durga Shakti Nagpal chose to challenge corrupt mafia, she had to contend political reverses. But, she refused to bow down.

At a national level, unity of nation can help cross bridges with strength of fraternity. In 1965 war, inspired by bal Bahadur Shastri, people started having one meal a day to save grain for soldiers.

However, inner weakness can have the opposite effect. It was the despotism of the later Mughals which enabled British conquest despite India's strengths. And, it will be the geo-economic

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fragmentation of 21st century which will lead to economic injustice despite the abundance of resources.

For an individual, the dominance of individualism can lead to loneliness in modern age. As screens replace people for personal conversations with ChatGPT, the epidemic of loneliness fills the most 'populous nation' of world.

Hence, obliviousness of surroundings can be a cause for moral degradation as well. The devil of consumerism and hedonism can eat up the person's inner conscience. The recent case of murder of an elderly woman by her adopted son for her savings shows this trait.

PRIMACY OF SURROUNDINGS

But, as a social being, occupying earth, is it really possible to detach from outside world? Can one isolate oneself

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from the currents of the world?

In a socialised world, this may not be possible, where the social norms can find ways to exert themselves. The young girl, Radhika Yadav overcame patriarchal bounds with economic success. But, was murdered by her own father for this violation.

As a human being, it is natural to be affected by others' behaviour towards us. It is because 'self emerges from society'. This can, at times lead to catastrophes like suicides, seen in recent dowry harassment of a Tamil Nadu bride by her in-laws.

On a social level, it is not possible to keep 'own house safe when the neighbourhood is on fire.' The concentration of reservation benefits by elites has led to demands for sub-classification by

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the disadvantaged sections.

And as one cannot change their neighbours, one is forced to contend with them. India with two hostile neighbours faces a 2.5 front war. This has considerable impact on its defence expenditure and economic policies. The recent operation Sindoor showed that circumstances determine choices.

Further, none exerts more influence than environment on what lies within us. Voltaire had argued, 'Men argue, nature acts', highlighting its agency.

The recent floods in Uttarakhand, show that one is not immune to the outer world.

And, with the use of generative Artificial Intelligence, soon technology will determine what lies within. With use of AI companions like Revoice,

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people share their innermost thoughts with machines. Thus, the user becomes the product with a data node. This is then used to affect the person's mental state.

Umberto had said, 'I am because we are', stressing the primacy of social over individual. However, the mavericks of the world have shown that what lies inside is as important as what lies beyond. the borders of self or nation. This is because, 'what is important, is invisible to the eye.' for it lies within.

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3. Injustice makes the rules, and courage breaks them.

British { Enticement - Non-Coop.
Partition, One-Way Free Trade
Champaran, Civil Disobedience
no-tax, strikes.

Injustice - rules

1. Social { Caste
gender
Rel.
Race

2. Pol.

IR - Nuclear PT - India
USA tariffs - CBAA
emergency protests
Tax ↑ Sabar Saba - Gandhi's
Violence

3. Eco

Land - Dep Sechi - Farm Laws - Protests
Bhiki Harris

4. [Justice

de - \$ Break - injustice

5. AI { caste
gender
Rel.
Race

6. 423a

IR Wealth tax
LED

SSDT

Ladki Behen

7. Perception - AF vs

8. Rules - form

Standards
Ambedkar

More honoured in' break than
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6. What lies behind us, and what lies before us are big matters compared to what lies within us.

Stokdale.

① Time

② Space

1 Present ^{behind} remembering

↳ Action before
↳ practice activity
↳ theory

2 Problem-solving-urgent needs.

- Poverty, DD
30 unit harassment

- CC - Sancho Hall

DD

↳ Action

Matters - Radhika Yadav.

- suicide
- Neighborhood

- Government - asadus
- India -

- History - Partition
- Future - old age.
- Gen AS.

① Conviction - Ashimanyu

- success - attitude
hardships

↳ ② Bankel.
↳ diplomatic capital - India
High power - Israel.

↳ Reforms ③ Sancho Hall

↳ Rani Gardiniki

↳ ④ Edie - Bush Yadav

↳ Integrity
↳ Unity - op Sancho

③ Despotism rules

↳ Hedonism - credit
zawlin

↳ Individualism - lone
↳ Fragmentation - w

↳ Hope - rational.
↳ pessimism -
↳ Turkish Kaushiki.

↳ Will to power

↳ Payton founder.

social being -

VK -