

प्रश्न की संख्या
दीजिए

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उम्मीदवारों को इस
हार्जिए में नहीं
लिखना चाहिए

Candidates must
not write on this
margin

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- 1) You can not shake hands with
a clenched fist

The first woman Prime Minister of India had famous remarked "You can not shake hands with a clenched fist". And Indira Gandhi as the PM, a woman of her stature, wanted to convey the need to compromise, the necessity to change, be open to amendments if one has to achieve a goal. She understood well how in politics, compromise or taking one step backwards is necessary to go two steps forward.

Politically speaking, India is a land of parties, with mergers and splits always being witnessed. A political party is only able to form a government in most cases when it forms a coalition with different party with differing, often

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Opposing ideology. This reflects how adaptable one needs to be to gain points.

Government time and again to deal with insurgents and naxals compromises, give them Sops so as to achieve the larger goal of maintaining national integration, security of state and well-being of all. All these have been witnessed time and again in form of Bodo accords, where government agreed to delineate Bodoland Territorial Council; in NSCN-IMOI deal where they agreed for a cease-fire in return for security; and even in events of naxals laying down arms.

The glaring scene of one not being accommodative to the demands of the time can

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be observed in the border disputes between states. Recently Mizoram police shot down few CRPF personnel stationed in Assam, owing to the long-standing border dispute between the two. Off late the growing dispute between Maharashtra & Karnataka for the Belgaum region turned violent with fanatics on either side burning flags and defiling statues.

In the same Marathi region, historically we witnessed an event where a Mughal king Aurangzeb was not receptive of the demands of local princes and captured Shivaji and tortured him. What it ended in is well known, Shivaji escaped, founded the Marathi Empire and Aurangzeb's atrocities and hardline attitude ~~not~~ led to the beginning of the end of the Mughal empire.

This was in sharp contrast

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with earlier Akbar's attitude of taking Rajput princes on board. This positive attitude led to wonders in religion like Din-e-Ilahi, in architecture like Red Fort at Agra, Moti Mahal etc, in land revenue assessment in form of Mansabdari among other things.

Zooming out from India and into Iran, we see how after Islamic revolution which brought a hardline leader Ayatollah into power pushed Iran to the margins. From being shaper of the destiny of Middle East to a failing economy marred with inflation and sanctions. But that's not the complete story, for one can't overlook Trump Government's refusal to accept any changes over its dictated terms and unilaterally withdrawing from

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JCPOA. This has further pushed
Iran into refining Uranium into
weapon grade material. All we
can learn is how when both
sides refused to bow down, things
went wrong.

Another example is China's adamant
behaviour to claim seven dash
line as its maritime boundaries
and claiming a number of
man-made and artificial
islands across South China Sea.
This hard attitude has led to
multiple disputes with neighbours
like Philippines, Japan,
Taiwan etc. In the time, when
we need cooperation for Asia to
rise, it is marred with
inherent quarrels and perhaps
the decade of Asia may never
materialise.

Pan-Asianism which used to
be a goal of Indian & Chinese
leaders alike has been long
lost, since the time of Nehru.

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Forward Policy at the LAC and
China's flouting of Panchasheel
principle. All that is left today
is mistrust and a long
standing border stand off.

Back home, India has seen multiple
attempts at giving concessions
to achieve larger good, but
sometimes when offering sops
are no longer an option and
there needs to be a tough
stance as was seen during
Operation Blue Star aimed at
containing Khalistanis occupying
the Golden Temple. Also, there
can't be concessions for
terrorists killing innocents. For
all these laws have been
made to put ~~sets~~ ideas
into practice.

Speaking of laws, the repeal of
the recently passed farm laws
suggests clearly how unilateral
decision making, without
stake holders' consultation doesn't

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work in a democracy. Laws made without people's consultation have always faced backlash. And all this should serve as a reminder to governments, how you can't really shake hands with a clenched fist.

In the domain of technology, when we are making immense progress, there isn't a scope to backtrack or deny changing with a changing world. But when such things do happen like vaccine deniers refusing to take vaccine, what we see is a pandemic raging on.

We have to learn to accept the changes which are in the pipeline. CRISPR-Cas9, genetic engineering offers a scope for curing multiple disease, produce pharmaceuticals tailored-made for a patient and much more. All this requires an open mind to see through the

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flaws and accept and improvise on the good.

Genetically modified crops seem to offer many solutions from addressing global hunger issues to being adaptive to climate change. But critics saying to outrightly miss the benefits and thus refuse to change.

Same goes with the critics calling for banning 5G testing and installation because of a few unproven adverse effects.

At a time when technology is sure shot providing huge revenue, huge employment and solutions to multiple problem. eg. Nitarone.

There can't be a going back because one refuses to take a step forward.

Turning to the environmental discourse, where there is a gap between two sides - development

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propagators and environment
activists one needs to look
beyond this binary for a
totally inclusive conservation
based development and enacting
of forest rights Act was one way
to move beyond this paradigm.
This enabled both sides to
understand accepting and
changing.

The success of some international
conventions like UNFCCC, UNCBD etc
can't be stressed enough. All such
conventions such gain, however
modest, because the countries
came together to closely cooperate,
because there wasn't an
arbitrator unilateral forcing
his might, but it was a
place for debate, deliberations
and compromise. This is what
distinguishes such Conference of
Parties from UN Security Council,
where all decisions are politicised
under the threat of veto.

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~~Good~~ Concluding, nothing is cast in stone. and one who refuses to change sides can be seen from absolute technology like ~~Dish~~ Dish or cable TV in the era of OTT.

For compromise is a way to change to be open to new experiences to be open to development.

As one won't watch the same movie forever, however good it may be, one can't be taking a stand forever, however righteous it might feel. As they remark in the movie 'The Lunchbox' -⁶⁶ Sometimes wrong roads take us to right destination. Perhaps all we need is a willingness to underch our fist first.

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2. The best is the enemy of the good.

Seated at his study desk, Leo Tolstoy in a diary entry, wrote down 'Today again, I couldn't do a single task, this is for the fourth straight day. I have set the goal too lofty for myself. I can only sigh?' Writing it down, Tolstoy realised how this idea of being perfect got exemplified by his lofty goals won't let us even set one foot in the direction to achieve the most meagre of goals.

Philosopher Thomas Aquinas said somewhat the same thing 'The Perfect is the opposite of good?' This idea of perfection is but a utopia. Plato would say such perfection exists only in the realm beyond this world. All that we have here is a flawed version of that ideal type. Then what is good? Good isn't one finite state, but a path, a

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direction towards that perfection. Good is the desire to constantly be better, to constantly improve for you know you aren't 'there' yet.

The story of Narcissus be told here. Narcissus was a perfect man, most beautiful, upon seeing his reflection in water he immediately fell in love with himself, he knew he was perfect and there isn't anyone his equivalent, so he turned away all his potential love interest, he died alone. What this story teaches us is how this 'imagined perfection' can lead to us to misery.

But, the idea of good allows us to constantly look for chances to improve ourself. In cricket, it is net practice that makes or breaks a player's confidence

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because being good consistently
requires practice and patience.
You could be man of the
match once, but not be out
at duck is what constitutes
being good.

Recently, when Rafael Nadal
withdrew his name from
Wimbledon, after reaching
semi-finals, only reflects how
instead of being that perfect
player to win all four
grand slams in a year,
he chose to respect his body
to and thereby himself.
This constitutes the element of
being good, when one knows
when to give up.

The idea of being the best, the
led to many pathologies,
exhibited most apparently in
sports. Sportspersons doing drugs
to enhance their performance
and countries, like Russia,
sponsoring them in doing
so. In other sphere, students

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cheating in exams to get the best score. Shopkeepers adding adulterants to get the maximum profit and MNCs creating monopoly or cartellization to get the best value in the market.

This imagined perfection, has created a culture of constant dissatisfaction. Spouses comparing each other based on one ideal type they see on social media. Parents comparing their children with one topper, whose story we don't know. All this is now a routine phenomenon.

This culture has made people forget, how we are all born naked and through constant effort to be better and its 'being better' that we need to try for 'the best' is just elusive.

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Our world has experimented with various forms of government from dictatorship to oligarchy to autocracy, but it is democracy that we arrived at, and was found most suitable, not because it's the best, but simply because it's better than the rest. That's what Winston Churchill also said.

The quest for perfection, has pushed the world into a crisis as lot of youngsters commit suicide for they think they can never achieve what is 'the best'. The idea of perfect is drawn from society's morals and values, but such morals are only a tiny reflection of society's deep underbelly, where inequality, discrimination and deprivation are hidden. So, the truth that one can't live up to those standards are never told. It's shown as if non-achiever

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are to blame, for overlooking structural inequality, inherent power differences and differential starting points for all. People who don't achieve turn to crime, and in trying to be perfect, they aren't even good now. They are worse off.

Also in society, we observe how this idea of being perfect propagates discrimination, as ~~was~~ is seen in the caste system, where Brahmins, who claim to come from the mouth of Brahma, creates a rival class of Shudras who are untouchables and stand dialectically opposite to Brahmins. They are denied benefits, denied rights and often life chances are poor. But, as a welfare state, which tries to do good to people, state has made legislated acts like Civil Liberties Act and provided

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for reservation because the
goal of a good government
is lifting all.

One may observe, how this idea
of being best the best race,
perpetuated and put into
use by Hitler led to millions
of deaths in the concentration
camps at Germany, Poland etc.

Also this idea of being a
perfect communist state, led
to execution of millions of
Kulaks by Stalin, because they
became obstacle to his goal.

This idea of perfection, relegates
to citizens to subjects, for they
now no longer they are the
end, rather they are just

means to achieve that
perfect idea state. They are not
stakeholders, rather some tools
that can be dispensed with.
The same happened back home
in India, during the emergency
when the goal of achieving
total fertility rate of 2.0

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became much more important
than the will of the people
and they got subjected to
forced vasectomy and tubectomy.

In the imagined perfection,
there is no scope for consultation,
there is no scope for amendments

Had we been in that state of
perfection, we would never change
and become status-quoist. It
becomes most dangerous
when making laws. As the world
and technology changes, so
does the need for laws to be
amended. If not for amendment
in the Medical Termination
of Pregnancy Act, we would
be denying unmarried women
the right to opt for abortion
or we would be denying rape
victims abortion beyond 24 weeks.

If we become averse to change
by claiming we are perfect,
in practice we are becoming

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rudimentary, orthodox and
doctrinated. Thanks to our
adaptability, we today have
done away with discriminatory
provisions in the IPC like Section
377 in the Navtej Johar case.
Or we have moved beyond
the realm of wife just being
husband's property, with no
sexual freedom of hers, in
the Joseph Shine case, decriminalizing
adultery.

The idea of being good has
motivated governments in a
progressive direction, which
can be seen from women
entry in army and NDA,
women entry in temple is
now being debated thoroughly,
providing social security net
to unorganized workers
registered at e-SHRAM portal,
and schemes like One Nation
One Ration Card.

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Concluding, we can't be
perfect for we have to change
and perfect world change.
Innovation and not status-quoism
has driven the world forward.
This constant effort at being
good and then better is
the mantra the world needs
to follow, when we have
plethora of challenges ahead of us.
The challenges of climate change,
pandemic, cyber security,
food security, maritime security
and a sustainable lifestyle
needs international collaboration
for no country can claim
they are the best.

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