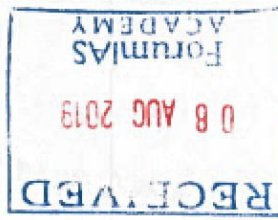


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ACADEMY

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	Gutayali Shama		
Email Id.	[REDACTED]		Roll No. 1910032948
Mobile No.	[REDACTED]		Date: 6/8/2019

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION	
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	<p>1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile).</p> <p>2. There are TWO Sections. Each Section has FOUR topics printed in English and Hindi. You have to write on 1 topic from Each part.</p> <p>3. One question in each part is compulsory.</p> <p>4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</p> <p>5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided.</p> <p>6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.</p> <p>7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(3hr 10 min)</p>	
Q.1				
Q.2				
Total Marks:				
Remarks:				
Start Time 11:40		End Time 14:50		
Mode Of Examination :		Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
ECN CODE:		Evaluation Date:		

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MARKING SCHEME

<i>Parameter/Criteria</i>	<i>Aspects Considered</i>	<i>Total Marks</i>	<i>Essay 1</i>	<i>Essay 2</i>
Basic Format	Introduction + Conclusion	10		
	Body	15		
Content	Data/Facts/Interpretation/ Analysis	25		
Organisation	Flow of ideas/ Absence of Deviation from the topic	25		
Language Skills	Punctuation/Grammar/ Sentence Formation/Spellings	25		
Examiner's Discretion	Perception/ Innovation/ Engaging	25		

<i>Parameters</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Poor</i>
Coherence				
Language				
Handwriting				
Pre-writing				

Very Good	Good	Average
120 and above	100-120	Below 100



SECTION - A

1. Democracy and socialism are means to an end, not the end itself.
2. The fight against malnutrition: policies and pitfalls.
3. India's leaps in space research.
4. Water crisis: Not just meteorology but mismanagement.

WATER CRISIS : NOT JUST METEOROLOGY
BUT MISMANAGEMENT

There is a popular story of a King who loved gold. Although he was prosperous and ruled a peaceful nation, there was nothing more that he desired. Owing to his good deeds and strict penance he received a boon from the Gods - that everything he would touch would turn into gold.

The King rejoiced and went on a gold converting spree. However, he soon realised his folly as his little daughter turned into gold when she hugged him. Soon he realised that he couldn't even eat or drink and

the king eventually died of thirst and hunger.

India as a nation too seems to be following ~~its~~ ^{the} King's path. In ~~its~~ ^{our} quest for growth and unlimited wealth (economic development) we have overlooked the very basis of our existence - Water. Our finance minister in her budget speech announced the grand plan to achieve an ambitious target of becoming a \$ 5 trillion economy by 2024. While all the economists and bureaucrats huddled to chart out a plan, Chennai's residents were standing in long lines to fill at least one bucket of water.

What India is going through is nothing short of a water crisis. One of our major metropolitan cities is dependent on trains for water, with its functioning brought to a

grinding halt. This is also the future that awaits our other cities, which will run out of groundwater by 2020, according to NITI Aayog. 2020 is only 5 months away.

The Water Gap report says that 183 million people in India have no access to ~~safe~~ drinking water. This number is larger than many countries of the world. This is the situation when India is the 7th largest economy of the world, and one of the fastest growing nation -

These facts bring us to question why such a scenario has been arrived at. The answer lies in both meteorology as well as mismanagement.

India has since ages been dependent on its monsoon. Our rivers in the South are seasonal and swell only with the arrival

of torrential monsoon rains. The monsoon itself is concentrated over 3 months in a year, leaving India dry over the rest of the year.

The monsoon winds are impacted by large scale atmospheric and oceanic phenomena such as the El-Nino. Often, a below average monsoon on account of el-nino spells out drought for states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

Furthermore, India's geology is also not particularly conducive to storage of rain water as ground water. The peninsular plateau is made of hard granitic rocks through which water is unable to seep through.

More recently, the world has also been confronted with Climate change. For India,

climate change entails erratic rainfall with ~~super~~ unpredictable timing and greater intensity. Thus, water availability will only reduce due to climate change at a time when its demand will be rising due to global warming.

It is not correct, however, to blame our water crisis on the weather. India's over-dependence on monsoon is not a new phenomenon and various studies have highlighted the impending effects of climate change. Moreover, there are countries such as Israel who faced harsher meteorological conditions in the past and despite this, have moved from a water stressed to a water surplus nation.

The fundamental reason lies in the wanton use and mismanagement of water in India.

Take, for instance, our agricultural sector. It is responsible for 89% of water use which is a number much higher than bigger countries like China, who have a larger population to feed.

NABARD has reported that Punjab produces only 0.22 kg/m³ of water in rice. In contrast, a water stressed state like Jharkhand produces 0.75 kg. Thus, the beautiful scenes of mustard fields and blooming agricultural fields of Punjab that we see in movies, is based on rampant over extraction of groundwater by farmers.

The Government too is to be blamed for its policies that promote wastage of water. MSP provided to water guzzling crops like sugarcane and paddy, backed with prorogement in areas with poor water use strategies (Punjab, Haryana) - Similarly, free electricity

is provided to rich and poor farmers alike, which has led to installation of pumpsets that are run day and night without any regulation.

Similarly, the inability of the urban local bodies and state governments to ensure waste water recycling, rain water harvesting and prevent illegal groundwater extraction.

Year after year states are faced with drought like situations yet firmly believe in a policy of fire-fighting rather than pro-activeness. This situation prevails despite the laws and rules already being in place.

There is complete lack of political will in certain states to tackle issues that have disproportionate impact on the poorest and most marginalised. After all, rarely do we see water management listed in party election manifesto, but we do see temple constructions.

The largest blame, however, can be placed on the citizens themselves. As individuals, we care more about clicking selfies than getting a leaking pipe fixed at home. Water that is filtered by RO systems in our homes comes at the cost of litres of waste water that is simply allowed to drain away.

In countries like Japan, this water is used to flush and wash clothes.

Similarly, we prefer cricket stadiums with water guzzling grass to forests that help conserve water. The availability of abundant water, especially to the ~~higher~~ upper strata of society has allowed us to be complacent. Hotels and offices in cities flout norms with impunity. What is ironic is the fact that when monsoon does arrive to our cities, it is only cursed for creating congestion, potholes and water logging.

Water thus has been taken for granted just as many other bounties & gifts of nature have had the same fate - biodiversity, forests, wildlife etc. The problem lies in our outlook that water is a resource to be extracted and exploited at will for building high rise buildings and bullet trains.

We lie at the cusp of a crisis filled century riddled with droughts, floods, heat waves and erratic rainfall. Our future generation will have it worse, because of our inability to recognise water as the life sustaining force that it is.

There are ample recommendations from experts and committees on the way forward. This includes reforming agricultural practices, realigning Government policies and strengthening enforcement of rules and laws. Moreover, there is an emphasis on shifting back

to our traditional wisdom on water conservation and harvesting.

What is needed, however, is nothing short of a Jan Andolan (people's movement) that brings the urgency of the issue to the fore, and demands action on a war footing to secure our own future.

While issues such as corruption and agriculture crisis have had their protests and marches, the same kind of zeal is required to tackle water crisis.

After all, the biggest threat to nature as well as humanity is the belief that someone else will solve it. A small step by each of us will lead to the requisite revolution.

Feedback

Feedback to be provided in terms of (1) Introduction (2) Sentence Constructions (3) Paragraph Formation (4) Legibility (5) Deviation from Topic (6) Coverage of dimensions (7) Simplicity / ease of reading



SECTION - B

1. Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned.
2. If you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed.
3. Silence of good is more dangerous than the action of evil.
4. The future depends on what we do in the present.

If you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed

There are two types of lies - big lies and small lies. Small lies are the one's we say when answering these questions - Did you remember to turn off the geyser? Did you exercise today? Did you turn off the pressure cooker after 3 whistles?

Small lies are generally harmless. We may waste a few units of electricity or we may incur our mother's wrath temporarily. Small lies may be remedied quickly and therefore we find ourselves repeating them day in and day out.

However, there are also the big lies. Big lies are the answers we receive to questions like - Are 'white' people more intelligent than 'blacks'? Are women lesser than men? Are immigrants taking our jobs away?

Big lies have huge ramifications to nations, societies and even individuals. Moreover, the more these lies are repeated, the more believable they are and the more they are internalised.

Take for instance the first question as to whether whites are superior. The lie that colonial powers fed to their subjugated masses was that theirs was a race of superior intelligence and culture. There's was a civilization while the rest were savages or barbarians. This was a lie told repeatedly through their officials, bureaucrats and was fed into the education system so that the natives could believe it too.

And believe it, we did. India being an independent nation for 70 years still suffers from a colonial hangover. English is a mark of refinement and elite status. Being fair is marketed as the highest priority of one's life, through ads and movies. Essentially, being Indian is considered to be lesser - something that the British had lied about.

Although the colonial hangover is more of a behavioural and psychological phenomenon, the ramifications of white supremacy have included large scale deaths and violence. Hitler had propounded the superiority of the 'Aryan race' and propagated a vile yet effective system of maintaining its purity - concentration camps. He made it a point to repeatedly hammer this ~~an~~ idea home in his speeches and soon enough, it became something that the German population believed was true. What followed was the death of 6 million jews, disabled persons,

homosexuals, deaf and blind persons.

These lies are not restricted to the past. Even today there are regular shootings in USA by white supremacists who are bombarded with xenophobic, racist rhetoric through the very tools that were meant to be channels of truth - social media, the press and elected representative.

Apart from the big lies, there are also certain lies that may appear small but are insidious in the way they persist and grow, till they can no longer be called small. One such lie is what we tell our daughters, specifically in India.

All through their childhood girls are encultured to believe that they are the weaker sex, that they belong in the kitchen and that they must be self-effacing mothers and wives first, and individuals only second. These are lies that are not backed

by data or statistics. Yet, since these lies are told to her by everyone - parents, relatives, movies, music, religion, the state - they are internalised and believed. Thus we have troubling statistics that show that more women justify wife-beating than men (NFHS 4) and practices like polygyny and dowry still continue.

Not only does the girl child grow up believing that they were meant to be nothing, the nation finds itself in a position where 50% of its population is under achieving and limited in its growth potential.

Other seemingly small lies are the rumours that spread via social media. What starts as one message, is multiplied into a self-reinforcing lie which has led to angry mobs lynching innocents in the name of cattle smuggling or child lifting.

Another instance of rumours turning into the truth comes from the Presidential elections of USA. When enough lies were spread on Facebook, users were caught in an echo chamber and repeatedly bombarded with these lies. Enough voters believed them and the bedrock of a democracy was broken i.e. free and fair elections.

Thus there are enough instances to show that lies, if repeated enough will eventually be believed. However, the question that arises here is that - Why do people believe these lies? It is not hard for a rational mind to debunk a few lies just by thinking about them. Then why is it that these lies find acceptance among the masses, who then play an effective role in propagating them.

One ~~reason~~ reason may be that lies often masquerade as the truth. For example,

India's GDP may be one of the highest growing in the world and this often taken to be an indicator of development. However, our growth in GDP is accompanied by mob lynchings, atrocities against the marginalised, rising income inequality and unprecedented levels of unemployment. It is said that there are three kinds of lies - 'lies, damned lies and statistics.'

Secondly, the persons who are often considered to be role models actively spread lies. Thus we have politicians claiming that cows exhale oxygen and bureaucrats claiming that evolution is a farce. The Sharda chit fund scam acquired its huge proportions due to celebrities and leaders who advertised it.

Thirdly, some lies are intentionally implanted through propaganda. These can be seen in Naxal infested areas where pamphlets

claiming the atrocities by the Government are found. Propaganda has also been used during the World Wars and Cold War, so much so that 'Communist' is considered an insult in western nations.

Most importantly, we believe lies because ignorance is bliss. It is easier to tell ourselves that we are incapable as individuals to achieve our dreams, rather than facing our fears of failure. Similarly, it is more convenient to blame the proverbial 'other' for job losses and poor standard of living, rather than to acknowledge our policy failures and inefficiency.

Striving to reveal the truth is difficult and oftentimes the truth may be undesirable and unbearable. India has no official statistics on hate crimes and manual scavenging.

This hardly bothers us because it is easier to believe that none of us ~~are~~ ^{are} complicit in evil acts of subjugating another human being to such exclusion and hateful treatment.

Hence, there are big lies and small lies with big ramifications. These lies are what nations tell each other, what leaders tell their voters and what we tell ourselves and to each other. There are also multiple reasons to believe these lies, each more compelling than the other.

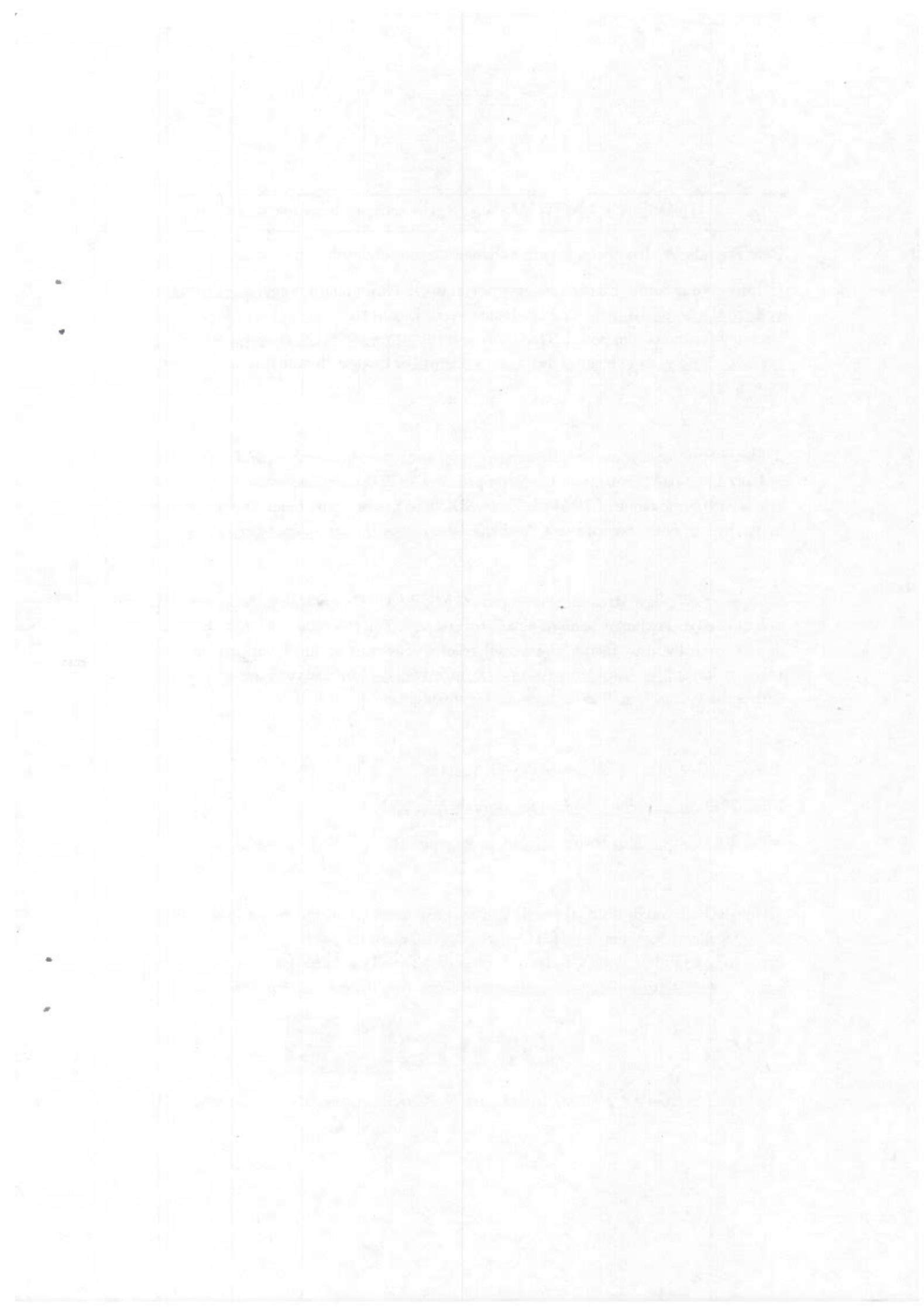
What we have now is a system wherein we are all complicit in selling lies. Whatever be the intention, there is no doubt that more harm comes from these lies than good. In the wake of lies are death, violence, fanaticism, wars, human rights violations and ~~even~~ a non-realisation of our own

potentials.

Mahatma Gandhi spent his life in pursuit of the truth. His striving for the truth led a nation to its independence and in the process showed a mirror to the society that revealed their own lies. As a nation that claims to follow the values of Gandhiji and as one that seeks to achieve its full potential, there is no better time to start telling the truth.

Feedback

Feedback to be provided in terms of (1) Introduction (2) Sentence Constructions (3) Paragraph Formation (4) Legibility (5) Deviation from Topic (6) Coverage of dimensions (7) Simplicity / ease of reading



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