

ForumIAS

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	MUKUND SINGH CHAHAR		
Roll No.	1910091294	Date:	31/12/2021

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	<p>1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.</p> <p>2. There are TWO Sections. Each Section has MULTIPLE topics printed in English & 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>Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/ Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p>
Q.1			
Q.2			
Total Marks:			
Remarks:			

For Student Only

Start Time 09:00	End Time 12:00
Mode Of Examination:	Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>

For Office Use Only

ECN CODE:	EG:	Evaluation Date:
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SECTION - A

1. Cryptocurrency – boon or bane?

क्रिप्टोकॉरेंसी – वरदान या अभिशाप?

2. "Artificial Intelligence will be the best or worst thing ever for humanity"

"कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता मानवता के लिए अब तक की सबसे अच्छी या सबसे खराब चीज होगी"

3. India at 75: soft state or strong state.

75वें वर्ष में भारत : उदार राज्य या शक्तिशाली राज्य।

4. 30 years of Economic Reforms- reforms are only a necessary condition and not a sufficient condition.

30 साल के आर्थिक सुधार- सुधार केवल एक आवश्यक शर्त है न कि पर्याप्त शर्त।

"Artificial Intelligence will be the best or worst thing ever for humanity"

SCENARIO - I: A utopian world:

As Ram enters the hospital premises, he is greeted by an automated robot who schedules his Dr's appointment. His Dr. takes inputs from his AI assistant, which predicts diabetes onset for Ram based on his consumption patterns. After diagnosis, Ram's AI powered phone automatically books a cab, driven by

an AI robot. On reaching home, he checks his daughter's annual result, which provides learning outputs, and his daughter's ideal career based on AI predictions. It seems that the entire world is on Ram's fingertips."

SCENARIO-2: A dystopian world:

"Empty roads, destroyed buildings and an unsettling silence prevails in New York. An army of robots, powered with 'self-conscious' AI have taken over the world. Humanity is on the brink of extinction, as 'skynet's' domination prevails."

While Scenario I is imaginary, Scenario II represents the plot of Hollywood film 'Terminator'. These scenarios exemplify the opportunities & threats associated with Artificial Intelligence (AI). While it has the potential to become our saviour, it also holds the power to vanquish us.

Perhaps its best description is that of a "double edged sword"

The Edge that Protects : Prose of AI

Artificial intelligence refers to technological interventions that aim to replicate human intelligence. It holds tremendous potential to serve as the panacea for humanity's ills, and can revolutionize multiple sectors.

Its use in healthcare can truly revitalize a struggling health system. While "Predictive healthcare" can predict onset of diseases, it also has the potential to predict and manage future pandemics like COVID. In a nation like India (Doctor: Patient ratio = 1:1456, Nurse: Patient ratio = 1.7/1000), it can cure the perennial shortage of healthcare professionals by automation of health sector.

Its potential of automation can be best utilized in Industry 4.0 . AI

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based manufacturing can improve resource efficiency, increase productivity and boost production. In ageing nations like Japan, automation can be a true blessing.

Even Agriculture can benefit from AI, especially in India (Poor resource management ex: skewed fertilizer ratio N(6-7): P(2-6): K(1), low price realization, poor resilience)

Through accurate crop advisories, accurate remote sensing and quick early warning (EWS) systems, AI can truly create a resilient Agricultural ecosystem. Further, precision Agriculture based on AI boosts resource efficiency manifold.

AI based EWS and remote sensing has immense applicability in disaster management. In a disaster prone nation like India (ex: Kerala landslides 2020, Assam floods 2020, cyclone Phalin in Odisha), it can replace NDRF in rescue and relief, & hazard zone mapping.

AI based robots can also automate the risky sectors like Defence (ex: checking of landmine traps) and Sanitation (ex: sewage cleaning). This can curb loss of lives and ^{protect} dignity of our dedicated soldiers and manual pot cleaners.

AI's use also allows efficient, effective decision making with huge applications in Administration and Traffic management. Based on mining big data, it can enhance quality of decisions to ensure greater productivity.

AI make its adoption a "no-brainer". So the question is, how can it be the worst thing ever for humanity? What are the threats associated with AI?

The Edge that Annihilates: Cons of A.I

A.I is a replication of "human intelligence"; used virtuously, it can bring prosperity. But if used maliciously, it can wreak havoc, as manifested in "Knowledge without integrity is dangerous and disasterous".

The issues of AI begin with the prevailing issue of "inequality" in our world. The gap between "Haves" & "Have-nots" is ever expanding (ex: Oxfam: 1% Indians hold 4x wealth than 70%), and A.I has the potential to exacerbate it.

It can broaden the divide between men and women, rich and poor, privileged and common man. For ex: Internet India report indicates only 1/3rd women have access to women. With such a large "digital divide", AI is bound to favour the "Haves" against "Have-nots".

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This is manifested in incidents where "racial segregation" based on A.I. will be seen while profiling citizens. These "biases" emerge from "societal" orthodoxy, manifested in "programmable" biases.

Further, automation by AI can exacerbate "unemployment crisis".

According to Bank of America, 30% Indians will lose jobs due to AI based automation in next few years. This is bound to worsen the already high 4.8% unemployment rate in India (PLFS report).

AI not only threatens an egalitarian world order, it also threatens the "dignity" and "privacy" of individuals. Data collected for AI often violates privacy norms and collects sensitive data like preferences, health background, economic background, etc. The malicious use can single handedly violate the "fundamental".

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rights of humans envisaged in "Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948"

These primary concerns emanate from "law regulations" by national & international governments. Poor regulations further breeds the monopoly of tech. giants like FB and Google. These monopolies not only distort the free market, but also hold the potential to influence decision making at the highest levels and can "engineer consent" based on their unbridled powers (ex: Cambridge Analytica scandal).

Further, AI also poses certain philosophical questions that ~~set~~ often go unnoticed. Is it ethical to recreate intelligence only for human needs? Is it fair to use "artificial intelligence" as "means" to ensure the "ends" of

"human satisfaction"? what are the rights of AI powered beings? And how can they be protected?

Wielding the sword virtuously:
A way forward

The answers to these questions also answers the question of whether AI is a friend or a foe? The answer is simple: "ethical use of AI" is the way forward. It can protect the rights of both humanity and AI beings, but will require a collaborative approach.

Firstly, as individuals, it is our duty to remain ethical. By cultivating the spirit of equality and introspection, all individuals can contribute in the ethical use of A.I.

Secondly, as a society, we must create an egalitarian social order that curbs biases. By treating all classes, castes, religions and sexes equally, we can truly ensure equal benefits of AI for all.

Thirdly, it is the government's role to curb AI's menaces. This can be achieved through responsible legislations like Data Protection Bill 2019, and Data localisation norms to protect privacy. Further, "draft AI roadmap" may be created to envisage ethical AI use.

Further, government initiatives like "IBM - NITI Aayog pact for AI in precision agriculture" symbolize right steps that may ensure that pros of AI outweigh the cons.

Lastly, International collaborations for curbing AI misuse

all required. Platforms like UN, OECD, G20, ASEAN etc. can be utilized to bring consensus on "global regulations on AI".

This can ensure a check on monopolies of big tech. (ex: EU's GDPR) while

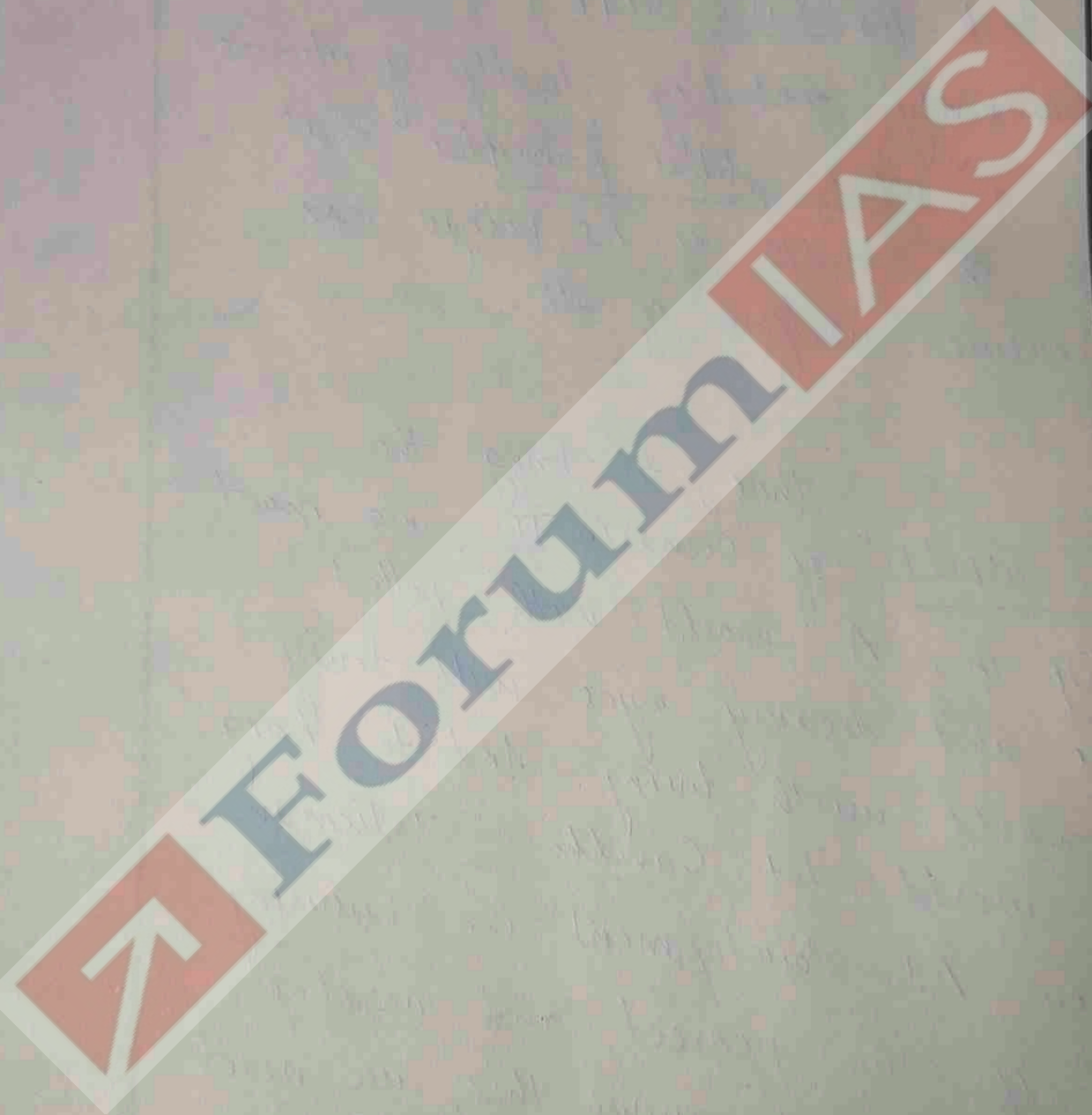
simultaneously protecting dignity of citizens.

Further, a "set of global principles" that enquire the rights of AI beings can truly ensure welfare of all.

Thus, to bring the "utopian world" of Scenario II, we must all chip in. A world with filled stomachs and dreamy eyes will truly be a world worth living. And to bring such a world, let Gandhi's Talisman guide our AI development i.e. ensuring

welfare of the poorest, and weakest of society. But to ensure this, we must control AI, and not the other way around. As aptly put by

Christian Lunge : "Technology is a
useful servant, but a dangerous master"



SECTION - B

1. The greatness of humanity is not in being human but in being humane.

मानवता की महानता मानव होने में नहीं बल्कि मानवीय होने में है।

2. Compassion and tolerance are not a sign of weakness but a sign of strength.

करुणा और सहनशीलता कमजोरी का नहीं शक्ति की निशानी है।

3. Human needs dictate individual behaviour.

मानव की आवश्यकताएं व्यक्तिगत व्यवहार को निर्धारित करती हैं।

4. Success is not a public thing, it's a private thing.

सफलता कोई सार्वजनिक चीज नहीं है, यह एक निजी चीज है।

"Compassion and tolerance are not a sign of weakness but a sign of strength"

"As his fellow soldier brothers hurled abuse at him, his belief grows stronger. He reviewed the harshest duties and the toughest punishments, yet he remained brave. Many threatened him physically to not participate, yet when the Day of war came, he showed his inner strength. As a conscientious objector, Demond Doss refused to yield weapons for the Battle

of Okinawa". Instead, equipped with a bible and medical supplies, he protected his men of peace & compassion for all. He went on to save 75 lives in the battle, by picking and carrying wounded soldiers to safety with his life on the line. He later received the "medal of honor" for his bravery in World War II. But more importantly, he manifested how compassion and tolerance are the true signs of strength.

This anecdote indicates how in a world filled with hate, apathy and intolerance, the bravest all these men display compassion and tolerance. Despite heavy odds, these values protect humanity from the immoralities of the world. Unfortunately, often these values are deemed to display weakness, and this essay aims to evaluate the

true nature of compassion & tolerance.

Compassion and Tolerance: The ornaments of brave hearts

Compassion refers to empathy for fellow beings accompanied by the will to act ethically. Tolerance involves the acknowledgment and acceptance of views that are different from us. Both these values require immense courage and strong will as they are challenged by evil forces.

History is replete with examples of brave men whose compassion and tolerance prevailed against daunting enemies. Be it Gandhi's satyagraha against the imposing British empire or Nelson Mandela's protest against Apartheid, these values defied all odds. In fact, Buddha's transformation of Angulimala depicts how compassion is "infections" and can

affect even the darkest of hearts.

The victory of these values has often promoted social reform as well. R.R. Roy's fight against Sati, T.C. Vidyasagar's battle against widow remarriage and B.R. Ambedkar's untouchability movement manifest this victory over social evils. Internationally, Martin Luther Jr. and Rosa Parks brought reforms with the power of compassion.

These values have also impacted economics where capitalists have transformed into philanthropists. Aziz Premji's (22 crore per day donations: 2019) efforts, Bill Gates' Foundation are examples of compassion promoting Corporate Social Responsibility. Further, Mahindra's latest LGBTQIA+ 5-year hiring strategy displays how tolerance promotes inclusion.

Internationally, the battle between hate vs compassion & tolerance is perhaps the most wide-ranging. Ethnic cleansing in Myanmar, U.S.' protectionist Migrant policy, Trump's biased policies against women & Muslims indicate rising hate. But India's "operation Insaniyat", Germany's "open immigration policy" and Biden's latest democratic victory indicate prevalence of compassion - tolerance.

These values have not been limited to humans, but also extend to other organisms. Be it Uttaranchal's chipko movement, Rise of PETA and Greta Thunberg's fight for environmental justice, it displays these values against heavy odds of apathy towards fellow beings.

The above discussion manifests the power of compassion and tolerance. But if they are so powerful,

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Why is the world unequal? Why do hate mongers of the world often win?

Compassion and Tolerance: The armour of timid men

After Ashoka gave up warfare post Kalinga war and adopted "compassion and tolerance", the Mauryan Empire soon disintegrated.

Historians believe Ashoka's peace policy made "Mauya empire" weak and "impotent", leading to its untimely demise.

History manifests multiple lessons of how hate, brute power, intolerance and apathy often emerge victorious. Be it Hitler's rise and subsequent World War II or dictatoreships of Saddam Hussein, Gaddafi and Kim Jong, brute power often trumps compassion & tolerance.

In fact, despite Gandhi's successful Satyagraha, Independent India emerged "moth eaten" due to the partition caused by "Divide & rule", the root of which were: hatred and communalism. Even present day India reels from these evils in form of mob lynching (ex: Akhoy case) and religious riots (ex: Godhra 2002, Delhi 2020).

The defeat of these values in economic sphere has resulted in emergence of tech monopolies of FB, Google and white billionaires like Elon Musk and Mukesh Ambani gained wealth during COVID, 32 million Indians were pushed into poverty (Pew Research). This vulgar display of inequality simply manifests the lack of these values in today's world.

Many other sectors are similarly reeling in absence of these

values. Be it the industrial nation led climate change leading to submergence of Island nations like Tuvalu or the rise in cases of Domestic violence ("shadows pandemic") and hate crimes during COVID, all evils emanate from the absence of compassion-tolerance.

In fact, in today's world, power is not valued by the cultural and moral aspects of a nation, it is measured by the arsenal of a nation. This is why U.S, Russia and China wield nuclear power with disdain, while ethical scandinavian nations remain in the periphery.

If compassion and tolerance are often defeated, what is their utility? or is this defeat rooted in some other reason?

Building a compassionate & tolerant world : A Way Forward

"When wise men remain silent, fools multiply"

The prevalence of evils in today's world are not the defect of compassion and tolerance. Rather, they are a result of unwillingness of the wise, compassionate, tolerant men of the world to speak up against evils. Only a world where these wise men take centre stage, will be a world with equality.

To ensure this, firstly, individuals of tomorrow must be prepared thoughtfully. Importance of compassion and tolerance must be instilled at a young

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age through value education, sensitization seminars, ethical training and promoting self introspection.

This must be followed by societal efforts. For ex: Switzerland uses a unique credit system, where youth helps elderly to gain credits, which then benefit the youth in their old age. Such novel initiatives can promote fair attitude towards the vulnerable.

Thirdly, Government initiatives can play a crucial role. Welfare schemes like MUDRA, stand up India, Keshri as well as social security measures like Atal Pension Yojana promote unified nation. Further constitutional value of secularism must truly be implemented through model ^{anti} mob-lynching law, uniform civil code, etc. to ensure

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Finally, International cooperation through global platforms is required. Tackling Fake news (ex: IT Rules 2021), regulating tech-monopolies (ex: GAFAT tax), ensuring tolerant resolutions (ex: UN Refugee Declaration) are examples of how global brotherhood can be fostered on principles of

Vaandhava Kutumbam

To conclude, a world with compassion & tolerance would be one where brave heroes like Desmond Doss would be cherished instead of mocked, where each individual would be able to openly express himself. In words of Voltaire, it will be a tolerant world where Individual expression would be cherished. Even though I may not agree with what you say,

I would defend ~~your right to say~~
with my life ~~your right to say~~ "it".

