

TEST CODE 6 2 0 3 0 5

FIAS | MGP 2023 | Open Test - Essay

Time Allowed : 3 Hours
समय : 3 घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

ESSAY / निबंध

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	APURV ANAND		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910115647	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1901	Date/दिनांक	01-09-2023

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INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका			INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश
Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक	1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet. कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।
Q.1			2. Write two essays, choosing one topic from each of the following Section A and B in about 1000 - 1200 words each. खण्ड A व B प्रत्येक में से एक विषय चुनकर दो निबंध लिखिए, जो प्रत्येक लगभग 1000 - 1200 शब्दों का हो।
Q.2			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. एक प्रश्न/भाग द्वारा किए गए अंकों की संख्या इसके सामने इंगित की गई है।
Total Marks/कुल अंक			4. 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. उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।
Remarks/टिप्पणी :			5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाना चाहिए।
			6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off. प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा गया कोई भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ का भाग स्पष्ट रूप से काट दिया जाना चाहिए।
For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु			
Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :		End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :	
9 : 30 am		12 : 30 pm	
Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :		Online/ऑनलाइन <input type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु			
ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	EG/ईजी :	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :	
	① ② ③ ④ ⑤		

MARKING SCHEME

<i>Parameter/ criteria</i>	<i>Aspects Considered</i>	<i>Marks Allotted</i>	<i>Essay 1</i>	<i>Essay 2</i>
Basic Format	Introduction	10		
	Body	15		
	Conclusion	10		
Content	Topic interpretation	10		
	Quotations and ideas	10		
	Analytical skills	10		
Organization	Flow of ideas	10		
	Absence of deviation	10		
	Ease of reading	10		
Language skills	Language and sentence construction	10		
	Grammar and spelling	10		
Examiner's discretion	perception/ innovation/ engaging	10		

<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. Shelving hard decisions is the least ethical course.

कठोर निर्णयों को टालना सबसे कम नैतिक मार्ग है।

2. All things come into being by conflict of opposites.

सभी चीजें असमानताओं के संघर्ष से अस्तित्व में आती हैं।

3. The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice.

नैतिक ब्रह्मांड का चाप लंबा है लेकिन यह न्याय की ओर झुकता है।

4. Disinterested intellectual curiosity is the lifeblood of civilisation.

अनासक्त बौद्धिक जिज्ञासा सभ्यता की जीवनदायिनी है।

Shelving hard decisions is the least ethical course

The Second World War was a tough time for humanity. ^{Almost} The entire world was engaged in a deadly struggle for power. There were numerous casualties in the war, but the worst oppression was done by the Nazi Party against the Jews. A total of 6 million Jews were persecuted in the holocaust. Now, if we look back to a few years before the war, it is evident that Hitler was growing his power and his cruel intentions were also predicted by many. At this time, Britain claimed itself to be world leader and was really endowed with higher resources than other nations. Britain had to decide whether to stop Hitler at the beginning or ignore the problem. But, this decision was not easy.

Trying to stop Hitler could have cost Britain its own resources and the consequences of inaction was brutal human rights violations.

Unfortunately, Britain did not decide its course of action at the right time. In the end, it was Britain and America mainly who stopped the war with their response. But failing to do so at the right time did cost a ~~lot~~ ^{number} of human lives. Due to this, we say that shelving hard decisions is the least ethical course.

Hard decisions can be understood as those where there is no clear right or wrong and where both choices are equally favourable or equally unfavourable. Such choices often arise in the form of moral and ethical dilemmas, in the forms of crisis of conscience, conflict of interests and conflict of duties. But people often fail to take the right decision at the right time,

This can be attributed to lack of ethical values, tendency of risk avoidance and omission bias. But, this is problematic because indecisiveness is the worst sin - according to Bhagavad Gita. Human beings are built with conscience and not using it to decide right or wrong is the least ethical course. Another point of avoiding hard decisions is that by not doing the right thing, one is accountable for omission, which makes it the least ethical course.

A common reason for shelving hard decisions is risk aversion. This means trying to avoid risks of all kinds. This happens when people have low self-esteem.

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and low self-efficacy, they do not want to trust their own abilities. But, ~~in this world~~, as Mark Zuckerberg says that the greatest risk, in this ever-changing world is not taking any risk at all. This means that whether we decide to take risk or not, there are going to be uncertainties in life. So the best thing to do is to take calculated risk based on one's appetite. And, then make an effort to gain the maximum reward out of the risk. ~~The~~ This principle is often applicable in our personal career choices. When Chanda Zaveri was 17, her parents wanted her to marry a man of their choice and become a housewife. But she decided to pursue higher education and even left her family to do so. Such hard decision ~~required~~ was possible only because of her motivation and passion that allowed her to

take the risk. ~~The~~ Later, she started her own cosmetics company and this way her decision paid off. But, had she not decided back then, she would have had wasted her potential. It would have been an injustice to herself. ~~capabilities~~ ~~she~~ ~~is~~ Indeed, shelling hard decisions is the least ethical course.

Sometimes, as a society we fail to take the right decision due to lack of good social values. This could be social inequality, discrimination, exclusion etc. Such social injustices could be, and should be challenged with social virtues. But, this presents a hard decision because not everyone in society is easily onboard with just course of action. For instance, in India, the bill for reservation of seats for women in legislatures have been presented

thrice before the Lok Sabha. But shelving the hard decisions is evident in the bill ~~being~~ having lapsed every time. The problem is that we fail to understand the need of women empowerment not only for the upliftment of women, but for the society as a whole. ~~The~~ Unfortunately, the result of this is manifested in gender insensitive laws. These laws like ~~that~~ excluding male from the ambit of sexual harassment victim is unjust and unethical. In these ways, we see that, shelving hard decisions is the least ethical course. The way forward to overcome this is to be proactive in taking social action. We should all become change agents and try to promote good societal values and practices. This would then ~~also~~ reflect even at individual, institutional and national levels.

A prevalent misunderstanding that leads to shelving hard decisions is that of omission bias. It means that people think that doing wrong is more harmful than not stopping a wrong being done. People fail to understand that by having a choice and an agency and still not doing the right constitutes an act of omission. During the covid 19 pandemic, ~~everyone~~ the World Health Organisation was blamed by many for failing to decide and declare a world health emergency at the right time. This indecisiveness led many countries to underestimate the magnitude of the crisis. It further led to higher ~~and~~ incidence of covid cases and even ^{to the} loss of precious lives. That is why, shelving the right decision is the least ethical course.

On the other hand, the right decision is to be proactive in one's approach. This leads to timely response to a problem. Notably, this was done by India by declaring a nation-wide lockdown to prevent the spread of the pandemic.

At a time of high pressure, taking decisions becomes even harder. The natural course is to stick to one's attitudes and principles. But even adherence to principles consistently requires integrity one to possess integrity. If one has integrity, taking the right decision becomes relatively easier as one has to just stick to the moral principles. But, a lack of integrity leads to ~~shelving of hard decisions~~ not being able to decide consistently and in a limited time. Thus, we should make a conscious effort to develop integrity.

This could be done by developing good value system in institutions and society.

An example is that of Mahatma Gandhi during the Non-Cooperation Movement.

After the Chauri Chaura incident, he had to decide whether to continue fighting against the British or to adhere to his value of non-violence. Thankfully, he decided at the right time and ~~ended~~ ^{ended} the movement the next day. Had he shirked off the right decision, it would have led to more violence and chaos and would have been unethical.

The virtue of courage allows one to overcome fear and take the national decision in a given situation. It prevents shirking hard decisions because a courageous person follows his ethical principles, even in the face of worst fears. The problem comes when people do not want to face the fear, so much

so that they ignore an apparent negative circumstance, just to avoid the fear. This is called the ostrich effect. But, ignoring a problem only increases the risk associated with it. The ethical course is to take a decision and make an effort to do the best in the situation. The best example for this is the abolition of slavery by Abraham Lincoln even amidst the dreadful civil war between the North and the Southern states of the USA. Had he not decided at the right time, it would have been the worst ethical course. As Martin Luther King puts it, the worst tragedy is not the oppression by the bad people, but the silence over it by the good people.

The entire world collectively is facing a hard decision today. It is about the actions to mitigate climate change. According to IPCC 6th Assessment Report, the world is 1.09°C warmer than the previous

century. This threatens the health, economy and even survival of humans, animals and plants on this earth. Thus, indecisiveness would be a ~~worst~~ least ethical course. The decision

before the developed and developing nations is to adopt the Common but differentiated responsibility.

The decision before the people is to adopt an environment conscious lifestyle - LIFE, that is, life for the environment. Shelving the hard decision at this time would, indeed, be the least ethical course. Thus, we should make every effort possible to mitigate the climate change.

FEEDBACK





SECTION - B

1. Women's freedom is the sign of social freedom.

महिलाओं की स्वतंत्रता सामाजिक स्वतंत्रता की निशानी है।

2. If humankind poisoned nature, nature in turn poison humankind

यदि मानव जाति ने प्रकृति को विषाक्त किया है, तो प्रकृति ने बदले में मानव जाति को विष दे दिया है।

3. History Doesn't Repeat Itself, but it often rhymes.

इतिहास खुद को दोहराता नहीं है, लेकिन यह अक्सर तुकबंदी करता है।

4. The century advances but every individual begins anew.

सदी आगे बढ़ती है लेकिन हर व्यक्ति नए सिरे से शुरुआत करता है।

History doesn't repeat itself,
but it often rhymes

About 2300 years ago, India was ruled by Ashoka, the great. He was the first to establish and consolidate the entire Indian subcontinent into one nation. But, he was able to do it not through coercion but by a ~~not~~ promotion of the noble principles of Buddhism. This event in history is the first instance of the use of soft power to achieve one's objectives through attraction or persuasion. Now, in the present time, the country and the ruler of India ~~are~~ ^{have} changed. It is a democracy and a republic now. So there is no exact repetition. But still, India is using its cultural and political ideals to attract the countries of South Asia. On India's persuasion, 21st June was declared as the International Yoga day ^{by the United Nations}. And, this year was declared

as the year of millets. This shows the efficacy of India's soft power in the world today, which bears a resemblance to the past. Indeed, history doesn't repeat itself but it often rhymes.

History doesn't repeat itself exactly because the world is ever changing with time. The people, the surrounding and even the circumstances cannot be the same ever again. But, ~~instead~~ there are situations which have a resemblance to the past. The past repeats itself with a new set of people or a new set of constraints. Therefore, we say that history often rhymes. With this understanding we should make an effort to try to learn from history. We should avoid making the same mistakes. Moreover, we should be proactive in responding as the situations and opportunities may not present itself again.

Everything is changing with time. but the greatest ~~rate~~ rate of change is present in the domain of technology. It is here, that new innovations are created every day. ~~History doesn't~~ ~~repeat~~ but each such innovation is distinct in itself. Thus history doesn't repeat itself. However, technological progress in essence is a product of man's curiosity and desire to innovate. When Alexander Graham Bell invented the first telephone, the world was surprised and even shocked by the new technology. Similarly, when Apple's CEO Steve Jobs presented the first iPhone, it ~~led~~ led the tech world ~~by surprise~~ being awestruck. Thus, history does rhyme. The important thing for us to learn is to keep this

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spirit of inquisitiveness and innovation alive. We should, as the Fundamental Duty, says strive to develop a scientific temper to enable technological progress. This would lead to the progress of the humankind.

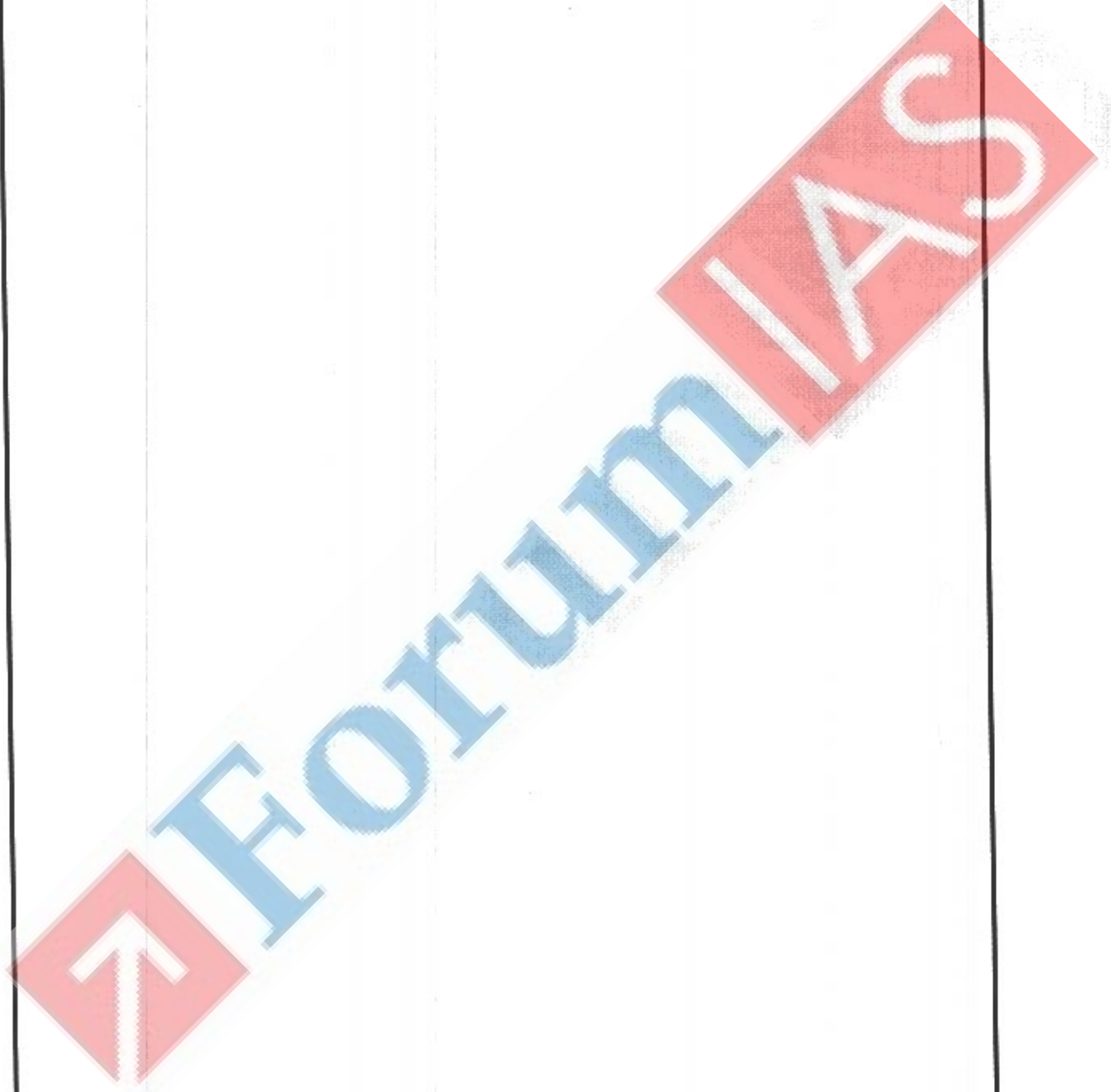
A constant problem facing the world ~~since some time~~ is the unreasing greed for material wealth. This often presents the problem of acquiring wealth by any means and even by harming others. Such immoral profiteering has led to a number of crises in the world economy. Although, the face of the crisis has been different each time, the lack of values and accountability is clear in all of them. ~~Every history doesn't repeat~~ For instance, the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997 was due to large scale withdrawal of funds by investors to safeguard their own personal fortune. This completely disregarded

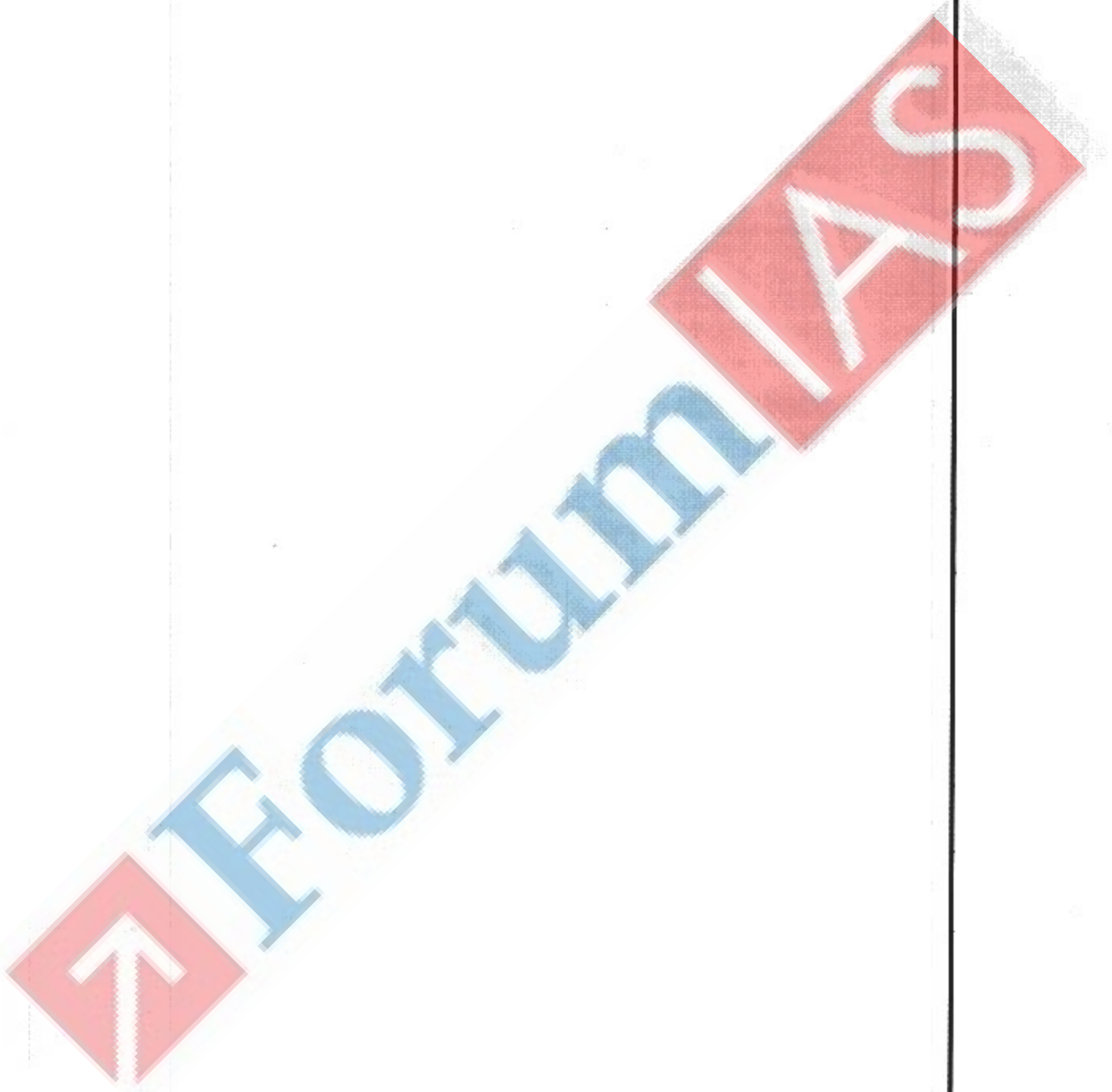
the consideration of their action on the financial system. Similarly, during the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, large investment banks hedged their own risks at the cost of small pension funds, mortgagers, etc. This shows that history doesn't repeat itself but it does rhyme. Taking the learning from this is to make the economic system more robust. It involves ensuring accountability of all participants by the regulators. For instance - how the Basel III norms were enforced upon the banks to better regulate them.

In the societal sphere, a common problem is the lack of harmony and brotherhood. This ~~constantly~~ ^{constantly} is repeated in history, not exactly but in various forms. The issue is that such divisiveness like communalism, casteism are a threat of societal progress. In the worst form, they also threaten the

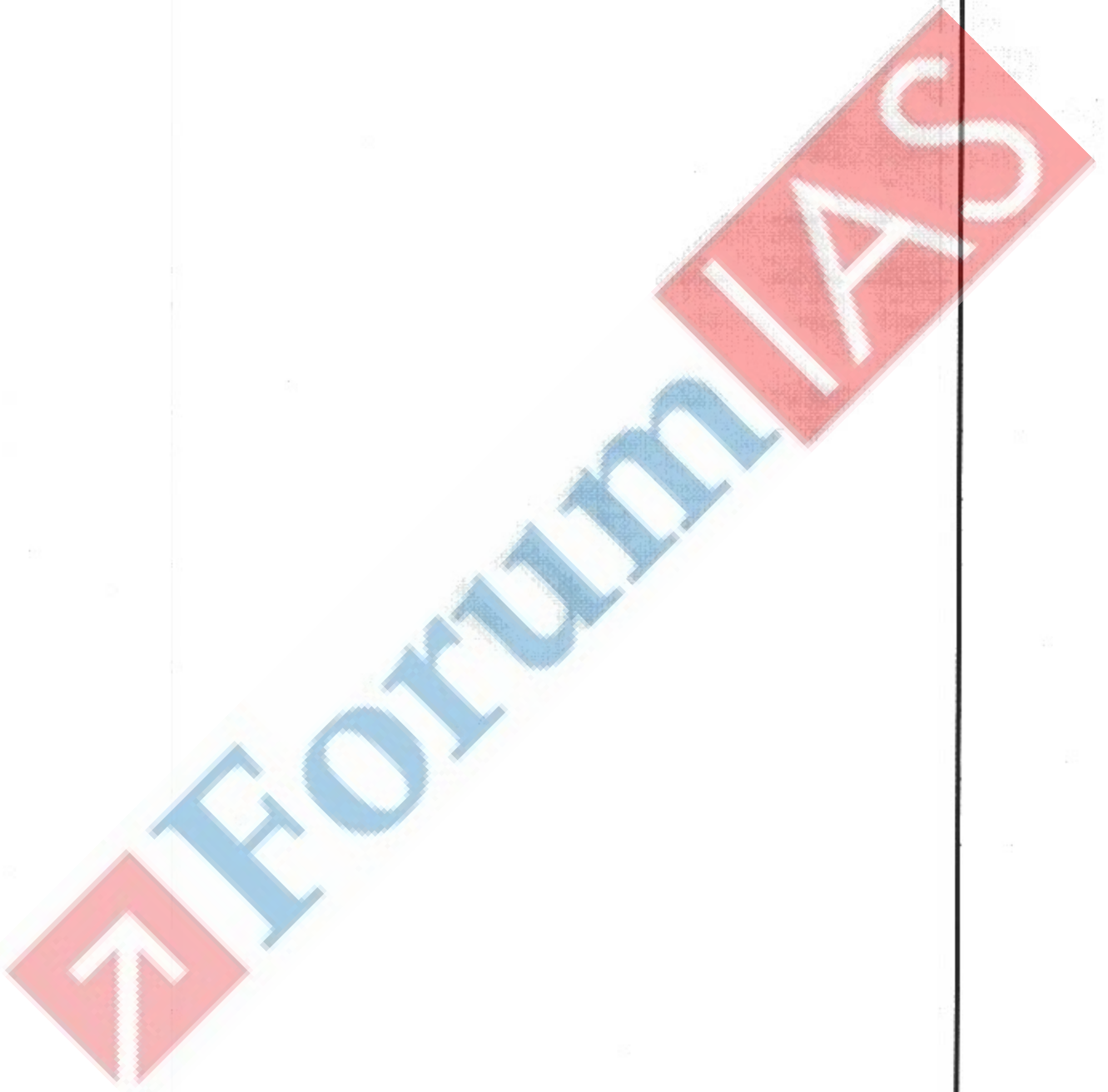
law and order situation. Another resemblance is that there is often a vested interest involved in these and people become the victims of such interests. ~~The people~~ Thus, we say that history often rhymes. In the Direct Action Day of 16th August 1946, there was widespread violence between Hindus and Muslims in various cities of India. Similar violence was repeated during the partition. And, unfortunately, similar violence was repeated in Muzaffarnagar riots of 2013. The three incidents are different in their ^{details like} location, reasons, casualties, but bear ^{close} resemblance. ~~The lesson~~ The learning that we need to take is to avoid social ^{prejudices} ~~factorisation~~. We should expose ourselves to various cultures and build an attitude of tolerance. This would enable us to live in harmony in the society.



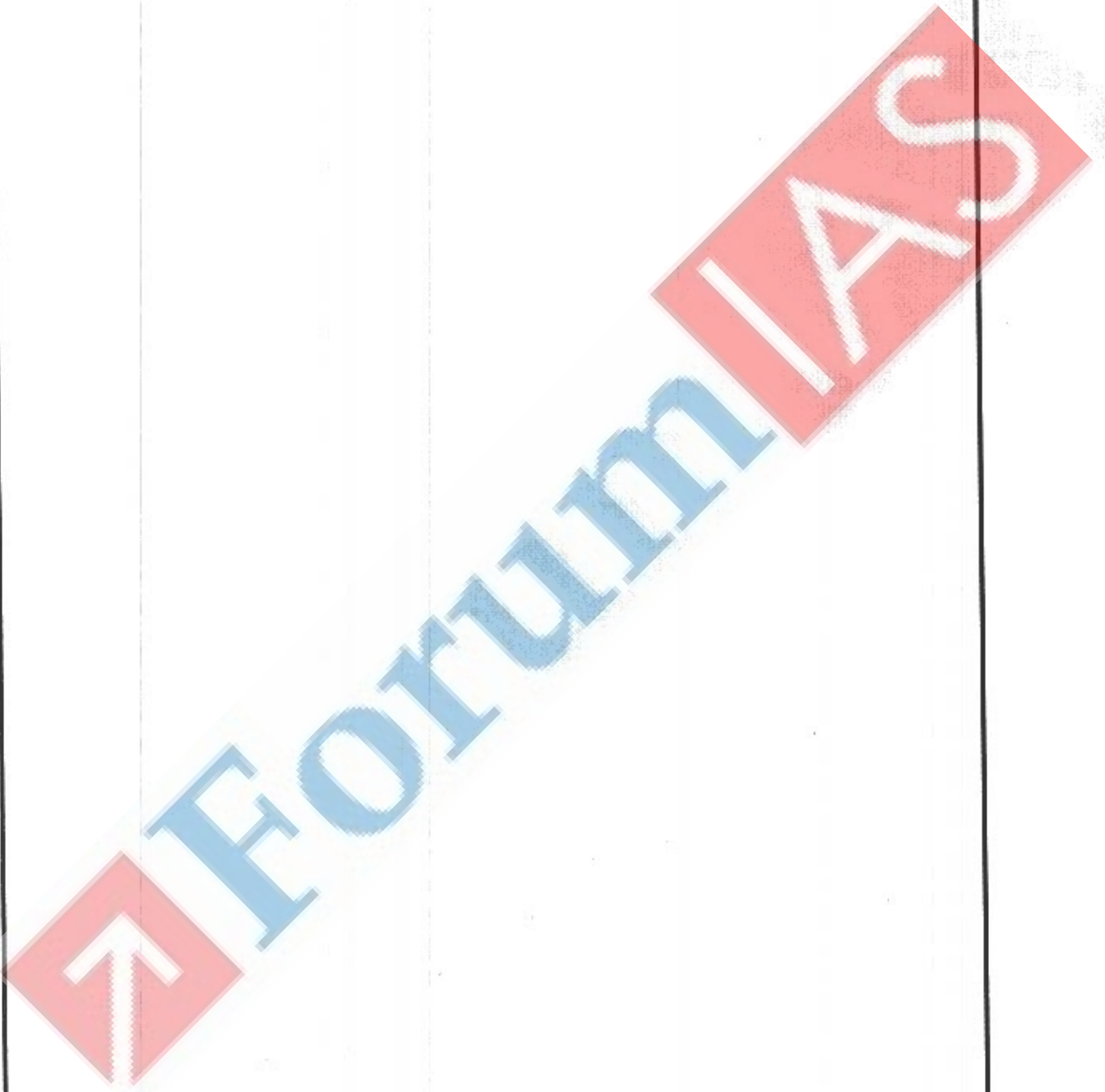








FEEDBACK



SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

Shelving hard decisions is the least ethical course

Agree

hard decisions - ~~ethical/moral~~ dilemmas
~~conflict~~ ethical moral

why do people shelve hard decision
 why is it the least ethical course?
 → Catch effect

- ↳ Lack of pessimism bias
- ↳ debilitation of duty
- ↳ uncertainty avoidance
- ↳ Gotta - indecisiveness
- ↳ Moral duty
- ↳ Guilt of Omission.

What is the ethical course? resolve, decide

conscience
 moral principles.
 → Tolerance/non-violence

Abraham Lincoln / Chanda Zaveri / ~~Dasrath Maughi~~ / NCM - Gandhi
 Soc → courage → Goal/Motivation
 → UK - WWII / LPG Reforms / WND pandemic / Women Res. in Parliament
 Climate Change - Now dare you. - LIFE → Conclusion → Justice
 ethical gov. Min. gov. → Omission guilt.

CJ - Uncertainty - Motivation -
 ① Risk

② Justice/Equality
 A-L - Courage -

④ Integrity - Gandhi

③ Proactive - hard work - leadership.

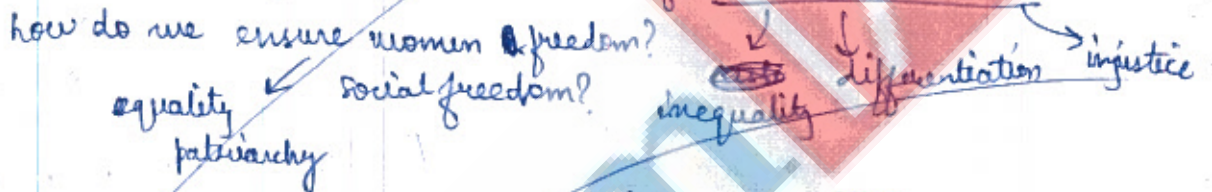
SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

~~Women's freedom is the sign of social freedom.~~
~~History doesn't repeat itself but it often rhymes.~~

Women's freedom is the sign of social freedom.

Agree. Women's freedom - capability / ability
 liberty.

Social freedom - equal opportunity
 absence of social constraints



Safety & security

Healthcare

Education

Political participation

Economy

Agree. Doesn't repeat
 - circumstances change.

Rhymes - similar situations

Learn from it Be prepared - respond
 avoid past mistakes don't miss opportunity

Climate change → IVC - water crisis → India - scarcity → 1456 migration
 1700 → Empathy.

Pol. ~~World Wars~~ → ~~Indigo~~ → Greed / Satisfaction

② Eco - GFC / Great Depression → Profiteering → CSR, Corp. Gov. Social stratizats

④ Soc → Women emp. → sati / Me Too - Lowage.

① Tech → Science → Galileo / Newton / Einstein → ~~Internet~~ → ~~failure~~

③ Media → Anushi Takur → Media ethics → CSR case.

① Ashoka → Soft Power

② ~~...~~ → India

Buddha
 Gandhi

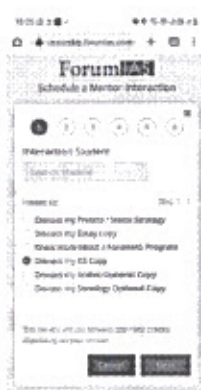
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