

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	Nagendra Babu Kumar		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910051052	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1901	Date/दिनांक	01 Sep 2023

\*Center Code : For Online - 1900 / Delhi : Karol bagh - 1901, ORN - 1902, Mukharji Nagar - 1903 / Patna : Boring Rd. - 2001 / Hyderabad : Jawahar Nagar - 2101

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका			INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश	
Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक		
Q.1			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.2			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 हों।	
Total Marks/कुल अंक			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।	
Remarks/टिप्पणी :			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।	
			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।	
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Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :			End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :	
9:30 AM				
Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :			Online/ऑनलाइन <input type="checkbox"/>	
			Offline/ऑफलाइन <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु</b>				
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		① ② ③ ④ ⑤		

## MARKING SCHEME

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

Parameters	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor
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 सम्यता की जीवनदायिनी है।

All things come into being by conflicts of opposites

The long debate on the purpose and meaning of life has caught many of the Philosophers attention. We see ideals pitted against material, right against the wrong, good against the bad, reason against passion in the form of binaries. These binaries have given rise to various philosophical thoughts ranging

from Idealism, Realism, Marxism, Liberalism, Socialism etc.

Similarly the Existentialist thought considers that humans are free entities with their own responsibilities. Scholars like Martin Heidegger, J.P. Sartre consider that rather than Essence, Existence of individuals is the purpose of life. Essence is the identity we as individuals and collective society gives to individuals but the Existence does not mind about the identity. Our Existence is based on our choice. Thus, we can say that the Existentialist thought arose out of the conflict of opposite ideas like Essence and Existence.

Not just ideas, but the values that we hold as individuals or as a group are a product of conflicting values. Friedrich Nietzsche in his work 'Genealogy of Morals' gives how the traditional values like hierarchy, discipline



natural inequality has been replaced by the modern values of Equality, humanity, freedom etc. Similarly we can also see some public values like neutrality against political patronage, Compassion against apathy or antipathy. The modern consciousness based on human dignity has given rise to modern values against the medieval mindsets.

The above contradiction between ideas and values shows the civilizational progress in dialectical manner as given by G.W.F. Hegel. He considers that history moves in a dialectical manner where thesis and antithesis will come into conflict to give rise to Synthesis. Thus, the ancient ages of democracy as flourished in Vedic age through Sabhas and Samitis and Greek idea of democracy in Athens even though society was divided into masters and slaves, democracy existed in ancient Greece.

The synthesis happened during 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century when medieval order marked by monarchical and exploitative feudalism was in conflict modern values of human freedom and justice. The synthesis is what we see as representative democracies in the populous and complex societies rather than direct democracy in the past.

Since the past, humans are curious to understand the human mind and its working. Most promising explanation is given by some psychoanalysts like Sigmund Freud, John Bowlby and David Winnicott. Freud considers Mind as Id, Super Ego and Ego. This, he says, human mind is dominated by 'will to pleasure' which he ~~compares~~ likens it to subconscious mind.

**MID - ESSAY REVIEW**



Then he suggests the need for 'Reality Principle' i.e., Conscious living rather than living based on pleasure principle. Thus, most of our actions and behaviours are engendered by the conflicting wants within our minds i.e., between conscious and subconscious mind. We have many times experienced while coming out of sleep. Even though conscious mind wants to get up and work, the subconscious mind tells us to sleep for a while. Hence, many a time we see or experience dissonance in our lives.

Similar thoughts are reflected in George Orwell's 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' where he contrasts between conflicting opposites. The phrase 'Slavery is Freedom, war is peace and ignorance is strength' encapsulates his ideas. Orwell's idea is to make us understand how we are kept under ignorance by those in power, and how being in power is dubbed as peace and

how slavery is considered freedom. He suggests us to think critically to really ensure peace, freedom and strength. Thus, bringing out the need for critical thinking to ensure better lives.

All civilizations evolve a culture to live in a particular social order. Many of the mainstream civilizations except some tribals like Khasis, we see culture of patriarchy. This culture is a product of differentiating people based on their sex i.e., male and female and contrasting between them. Females are considered weak physically, submissive and shy whereas males are considered strong, aggressive and courageous. This is why we see the outcry among women to let go of these binaries and create an egalitarian order. Feminists say that complete and absolute division of qualities has given rise to more suicides among men as the NCRB data shows that 65% of the suicides is



among men. Hence, the sexual binaries and associated characteristics have been disadvantageous to men too. The same binary thinking has created stigma against LGBTQIA+ Community. Hence, in the sphere of society, we see conflicting opposites giving rise to pain and suffering.

Not just in the social sphere, but also in the economical sphere, we see the conflicting opposites of haves and have-nots creating inequalities. World inequality report says that 10% of the world population own about 75% of the wealth. Similarly we see slums in metropolitan cities adjacent to havelis and bungalows. Mumbai, the financial capital of India has world's largest slum, Dharavi. Census 2011 data says that about 18% of urban population (377 million) stays in slums. Thus, we see haves and have-nots struggling to stay fit where wealthy and luxury lifestyle causing obesity and rising non-communicable

chances, whereas haven't struggling to get quality food to survive.

Survival instincts of huge population has given rise to the need for welfare state. welfare state is the mid way between the Capitalist state and the Communist state. Welfare state follows mixed model of growth to ensure all the rights of all individuals are safeguarded and justice is ensured in a society. This is the 'golden mean' given by Aristotle. He says, lack of justice in any society will lead to crime and revolution. And the welfare state based on Conflicting ideas of socialism in politics and capitalism in economics is one of the reason for financial Crisis that we have seen. Starting from Depression in 1929 to 2008 financial Crisis is one or the other way is linked to the idea of welfare state.





gave rise to need for peace. This led to establishment of United Nations which call for peaceful resolution of differences and international cooperation.

The international cooperation in the environmental arena has given rise to the idea of Sustainable development. This is the idea based on integration of need for Economic growth which was at odds with the Environmental conservation. The reports of Earth overshoot day says that we are using Earth's resources at 1.75 times the Earth can regenerate. And IPCC reports indicating that climate has warmed by 1.15°C. This calls for growth informed by Environmental sustainability to avert the climate catastrophes like sea level rise and refugee crisis.



However, can we say that all things are conflicting opposites? The Universe has no opposite to compare and contrast, even though within Universe we see many solar systems which can be compared. Thus, we can say that opposite ideas are human creation to better understand the phenomena of life and Universe.

It is a grey area and a continuum. we see good beside bad, right beside wrong in a continuum rather than as opposites. we see hybrid cultures coming up rather than completely conflictual. say, Caste system in Sikhs and Muslims which is a primary feature of Hindu society. Thus, it cannot be said that all things are borne out of conflicting opposites.

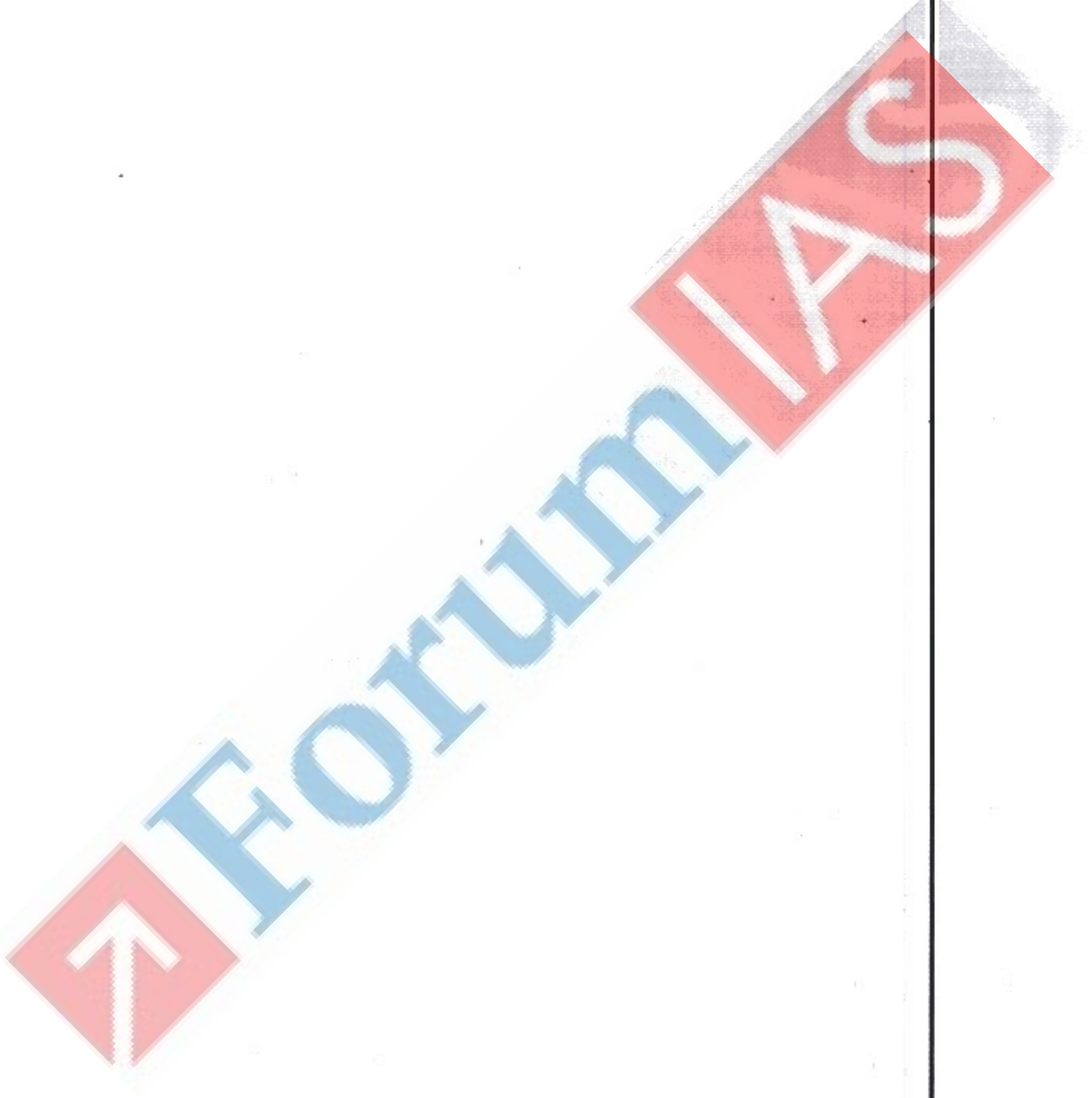
To summarise, we see both conflicts and stand alone systems and as well as continuum.

what we fail to see is the human condition that created these opposites. Hence, we need to improve our thought process while we create them through critical thinking and  juxtaposing the conflicting opposites.

Finally to conclude, we can arrive at Buddha's Middle path or Madhyam way to find a better solution for conflicts and bettering our lives. Rather than looking binaries in the form of higher and lower idea, say, reason is placed in higher position over passion, speech over writing, we need what J. Derrida calls it a 'deconstruction' and 'double reading'. Rather than falling in the trap of Metanarratives we need to understand the nuances of the life and universe. That is when we live happily contributing to humanity rather than egoistically limiting to our own lives.



FEEDBACK





**SECTION - B**

1. Modesty is the color of virtue.

विनम्रता सदाचार का रंग है।

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

सभी चीजें असमानताओं के संघर्ष से अस्तित्व में आती हैं।

3. The root of suffering is attachment.

दुख का मूल आसक्ति है।

4. The century advances but every individual begins anew.

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

The root of Suffering is attachment.

The just war or Epic war or Kurukshetra as it is called in Mahabharata had an episodic moments which led to creation of Bhagavadgita. Arjuna, the mighty warrior felt lost in the middle of the war as he felt bad because he was fighting his own kith and kin. This is when Krishna enlightened Arjuna about his suffering. Lord Krishna said to Arjuna that the attachment of Arjuna



towards his cousin brothers of Kuru clan was the main reason for his suffering. The childhood memories that Arjuna had with Dhuryodhana and his other brothers created dilemma in Arjuna's mind. This is what Krishna described it as Sakama Kama or attached involvement. Then suggested Arjuna to overcome his attachments to ensure Dharma or righteousness.

Not only in the epics but also in the real life humans get attached to various things, events or people which when removed from the scheme of things in life leads to suffering. Many attachments gives us pleasure and others satisfaction or contentment. If people attached to food gives pleasure, the attachment to parents, siblings and spending time with them

genes contentment.

Thus, we see attachments are the patterns formed or wired in our brains which when altered, our delicate minds get worried about the future and become anxious. This is what Albert Camus calls 'the plague' in our minds. This neurotic state of our mind will act violently when disturbed. The desire of territory by Joseph Hitler which was reflected in his idea of Lebensraum or living space for Germans led to world war II. The war led to about 50 million deaths and unaccounted sufferings of those left behind.

Similar conflicts for the want of territory occurs now and then. The Gallean clashes by China and Russia-Ukraine war has resulted in lot of suffering for those



affected as they have lost their houses, relatives, lands etc.

Similar greed is seen in the people for resources. Greed for money has made many civil servants corrupt. Greed for domination over of one group over the other has led to Communalism, regionalism or Patriarchy. The end result is conflict and violence which will exacerbate pain and suffering. This pain and suffering will lead to mental health problems. Inability to fulfil the desires like getting resources and dominating others leads to mental health issue too.

MID - ESSAY REVIEW

Mental health issues arise due to addiction to gaming, internet surfing or substance abuse like drugs, alcohol or tobacco. When these are not fulfilled, our brain tricks the body where the stimulants like Dopamine, Oxytocin are not released which makes people suffer as they long for these chemicals to be released.

Similar mental health issues occur in our relationships too. Many of human relationships like marriage, parenting etc leads to attachments. Any loss or disturbance in balance leads to suicides. The facts of suicides by lovers for non-acceptance by their families shows this. Their loss or death will make the parents and relatives suffer. Thus, the cycle of suffering perpetuates as long as it holds attachments with or between



people .

As people living in society use aim for a better status and prestige in our communities . To impress others we go an extra mile to work and earn money as wealth is one way to better our status in society . If we fail to earn or even after earning, if we fail to impress others, that is when we start suffering and having conflicts with our neighbours .

This need for better status has led us to moonlighting, hustle culture where there is cut throat competition in the market for jobs . This hustling has adversely impacted our health where the non-communicable diseases like obesity, cancer, Blood pressure and mental health issues like depression are on the rise .

Emile Durkheim, a French Sociologist, makes this hustle culture as the reason for the suicides in Capitalist countries.

The Capitalist Exploitation has led to Environmental degradation where there are talks of 6<sup>th</sup> mass Extinction and climate change leading to climate refugees. The greed for Economic growth has led to not only our suffering, but also suffering for those in coastal areas who have become climate refugees migrating to other countries without any legal recognition. This has resulted in their Exploitation and trafficking increasing their suffering.

However, suffering is considered as good by some scholars. Scholars like Ryodor



Dostoyevsky, an Russian writer, says that suffering is the inherent quality of human beings. Only with sufferings humans can realize the true meaning of life. Then he says that through suffering we realize that this life is not only to be lived for ourselves but also for others. Thus, he makes suffering a necessary condition for a person to develop other-orientation.

The case of Constitutional makers of India, who suffered in the hands of British made the Constitution of India an amendable and living constitution. They did not just make the constitution for themselves, they gave it for future generations to amend it as per their needs. Thus, reflecting what Lord Krishna says as 'Nishkama Karma'. It was developed

out of their suffering and to avoid others suffering they made provisions of welfare state for state to give assistance to old age, unemployed, person with disabilities etc.

Similarly, suffering will teach us the need for flexibility in life. If we fail in one aspect or goal, there can be numerous methods of reaching the pinnacle. The founder of Twitter, Jack Dorsey was rejected by Google, Facebook and other companies before launching Twitter. Thus, he went with the flow of life by becoming flexible through the suffering of rejection. This is what Lao Tzu considered as 'wu wei' or Effortless action. Lao Tzu suggest us to flow through the river of life rather than getting stuck in a static lake. If river wants to flow, it has to make amends with the rocks and boulders in its way. Similarly,



an individual has to be flexible and open to change for better. Maybe, an ocean of opportunities might be waiting for us ahead. We will know only when we move on.

The idea of moving on through suffering has made lot many successful people. These people are now involved in philanthropy to help others to overcome suffering. Rather than getting attached to the momentary pleasures, the philanthropists like Ratan Tata, Jhiv Nadar and Sudha Meethy have become epitome of humanity in India. Thus, suffering has taught humanity to humans, creating a sense of satisfaction in this living.

Thus, to say that suffering comes with attachment is one facet of suffering. Suffering can be caused by the amusement or adrenaline rush when a driver

rams into a crooked rolling way and ending up in jail. Suffering can be caused by ignorance i.e., if one is ignorant of taking care of technical glitches in the aeroplanes or jets which might crash in the midair. Thus, there can be many reasons to our suffering and attachment is one of the prominent reason.

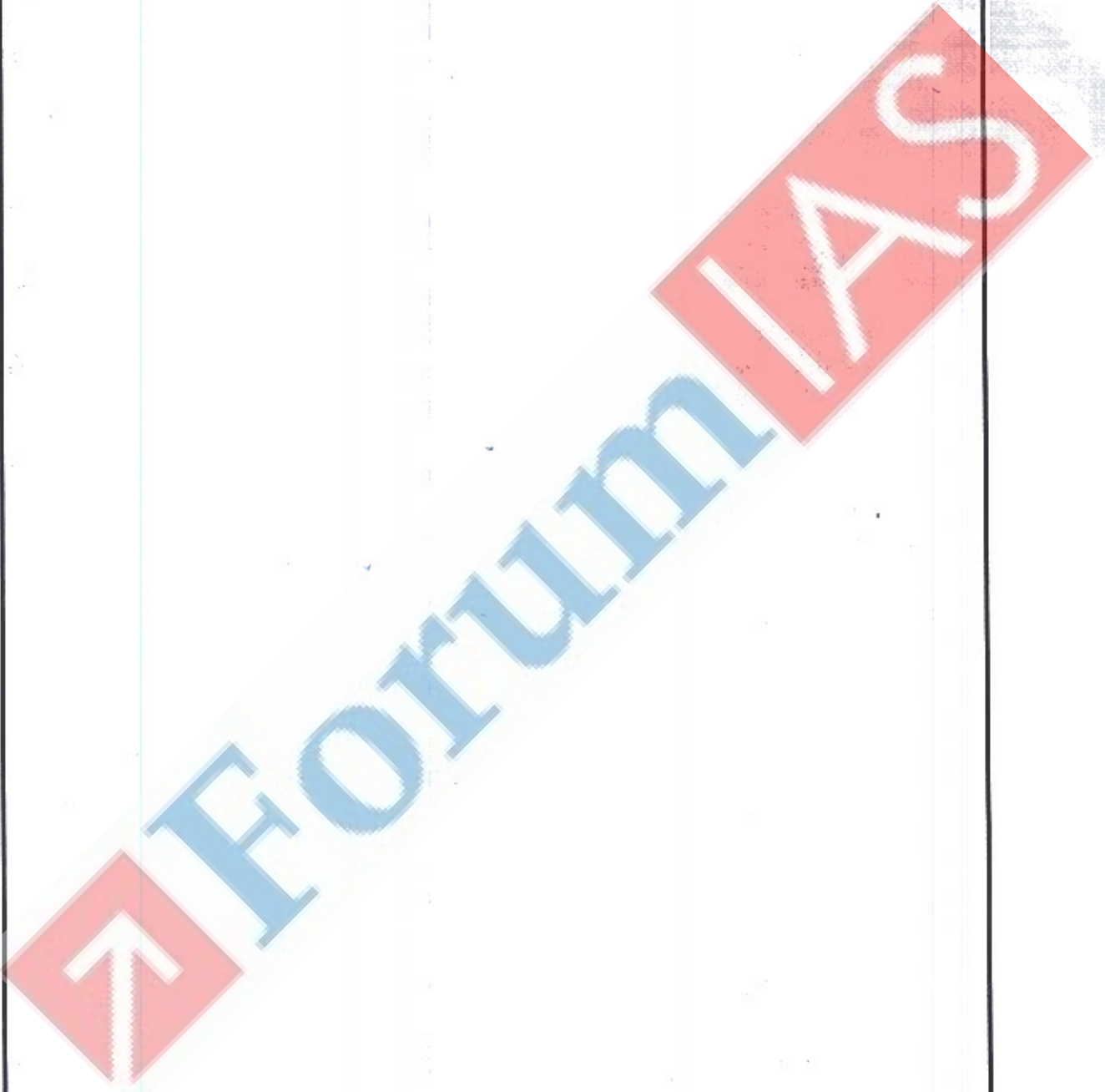
However, suffering not only causes adverse impacts but also creates conditions for humanistic thought leading to compassion and empathy. Thus, suffering is a double headed concept and the individual's ability to navigate through the suffering decides the success or failure of the person.



To Conclude, One has to learn the art of Cheerful Despair. As Buddha gives four noble truths and concludes that all are suffering (Sabbam Dukkham), we need to realize that bad things in life happen and how we react to it makes all the difference. The

Stoicists like Seneca, Marcus Aurelius suggest us to Expect rejection, deception or hate and we don't feel bad when they actually happen. They say, this will avoid destructive emotions in us and it will be easy for us to cope up with. Finally, we need to become what Lord Krishna suggested to Arjuna, 'Sthithaprajnya' to live an Equanimous life and a Calm living. Let's beat suffering through detached involvement and Establish a life of balance i.e., Sattva between Extremes of Tamas (Ignorance, cowardice) & Rajas (Extravaganza/Rashness).

**FEEDBACK**





SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

Existentialism:

All things come into being by conflict of opposites.

~~Thesis - Antithesis - Synthesis.~~

Hegel  
Marx

Dialectics  
Binaries

~~Good - Bad - Right - Wrong.~~

~~Values - Nietzsche - Traditional + Modern values.~~

~~Psychoanalysis - Conscious + Subconscious mind - Sigmund Freud.~~

George Orwell - Freedom is Slavery, Ig is strength, War is Peace

~~Logic or Reason - Passion~~

~~Ideal - Material.~~

~~Sex - Male + Female.~~

~~Have + Have not.~~

~~Ethics - Common people~~

~~Bureaucratic + Democratic attitude.~~

~~Peace - war.~~

~~Sustainable development - Growth + Conservation.~~

Not all things - Universe. Grey area.

Intermingling. Intersectionality. Continuum.  
(Hybrid)

J. Derrida - Deconstruction - Not in Binaries. Middle path

Opposites - Human Creation.

Advaita  
Ekam Sat  
Shruti  
Nishkalam  
Sheelam

Kaizen  
Ubinu  
Ikigai  
Kintsugi

Marlow  
Game Nautilus  
Kafkaesque

Will to power  
Many  
life  
power

Humanism  
Transcendentalism  
Existentialism  
Post-Modernism



## SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

The Century advances but every individual begins anew.

Time moves on

- child - new life - can mould the ideas.

→ Civilization - continuous progress.

19th Century - WWI, WWII, cold war, USSR breakdown.

The old rigidities constitute (geopolitics) cannot stop.

Children -

Population -

The root of Suffering in Attachment. Romanticism.

luxury - attachment - suffering - Greed - Corruption - Money  
realth.

Niskama Karma vs Sakama Karma - Krishna to Arjuna.

The plague - Territory = water - debauchery - wars.  
WWI.

Addiction - games, surfy - Mental health issues.

Suicides - relationship issues - Erich Fromm - Hustle  
Culture.

Environment - Climate refugees -

Moonlighting

Fyodor Dostoyevsky - Suffering is good.

Leo Tzu - Wu wei - Open mindedness - flexibility to change.

Administrators - Constitution makers - CAA - Detached involvement.

Philanthropy - Sense of wellbeing, other orientation.

Buddha - The Art of cheerful despair.

Sthithapragya - Emotional intelligence.

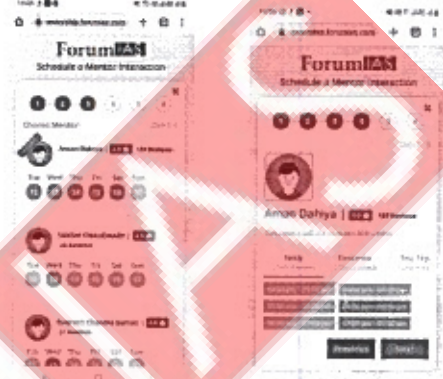


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