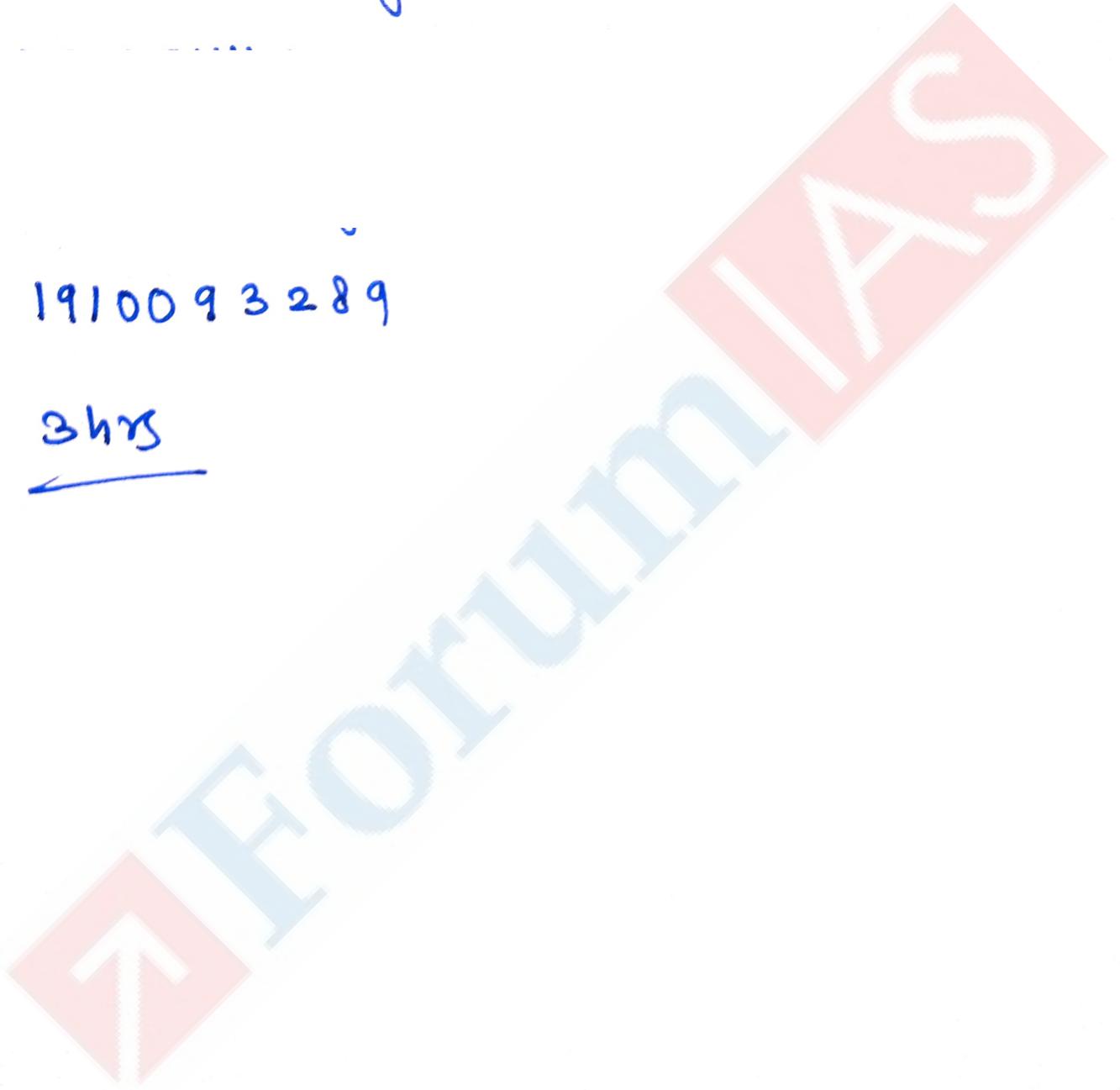


Sanskriti Singh

1910093289

3hrs





(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

373367 810402 1910093289 (2025-07-12 19:56:13)

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्शिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
Candidates must not write on this margin

GROWING REGIONAL ASPIRATION AND
DEMAND FOR GREATER AUTONOMY : A
CHALLENGE TO INDIAN FEDERALISM.

It was 1953, the movement for a separate 'Andhra' state was at its peak. And the person leading this movement was Potti Svaramulu - an Indian freedom fighter. The struggle ended in October 1953 but not without a loss. Loss of 'Amarajeevi' - Potti Svaramulu. He died after 58 days of fasting, and then only the demand for a separate Andhra was accepted.

Regional aspirations and the demand for autonomy is not a new story for India. It goes back to independence. The partition itself was a painful result for many - an outcome of the aspiration for a separate nation.

Then, the referendum in Junagadh, Operation Polo in Hyderabad, and signing of Instrument of Accession with Jammu and Kashmir - all represent regional aspirations and want for autonomy in one way or other. It was the commendable effort of Sardar Patel and V.P. Menon that prevented the Balkanisation of our country.

After the formation of Andhra state in 1953, the regional movements gained pace all over the India. It was in 1956 that the dist settled down a bit. Fazl Ali Commission recommended the linguistic reorganisation of the country. And, as a result - State Reorganisation Act was passed and a total of 14 states and 6

the number in this space) कृपया इस स्थान में परीक्षा संख्या अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

3367_810402_1910093289_(25-07-2019) 19:36:13

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

union territories were formed. But, this was not the end. Regionalism has become a continuing challenge for India.

In this essay, we'll look at what regional aspirations mean, what fuels them, its consequences and what could be done so that these demands and aspirations represent India's unity in diversity rather than India's weaknesses.

Regional aspirations and demand for autonomy represents special attachment to a particular region. It often involves keeping & prioritising that region first, and nation comes second for these people and groups. But, what is the reason behind these?

The major cause such feelings is a sense of alienation or isolation. And, this can take various forms. The most prominent one being regional disparities in development. This is the case of Vidarbha. People here feel that they are left out of all the progress going around them. According to NCRB, a total of 30 farmers die by suicide every day in India, and a major chunk of it comes from Vidarbha.

A sense of isolation also comes from 'political ignorance'. Few regions within a state are often bypassed by the political process. There could be several reasons for it - including the inability to affect electoral outcomes significantly. The demands for separate Goanland is largely a result of this.

Some aspirations and demands also arise from historical injustices a region has faced. Ladakh has often been ignored, largely because ~~it~~ it was a part of erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir state. The recent demands for inclusion under sixth schedule reflect this.

Besides this, the aspiration to protect and conserve one's culture, language and traditions also contributes to regionalism. Tulu Nadu and Nagaland are the cases in point. However, not all demands and aspirations stem from feeling of alienation & isolation. Some are rooted in extremist and radical ideologies, which threaten the security of the whole nation. Demands for Khalistan is such an example.

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

Let's move on to the challenges that these aspirations pose. These impede optimum utilisation of resources, and thus have an economic cost. In a world which is moving fast and to reap benefits of demographic dividend, this could be great roadblock.

Secondly, this results in the politicisation of these issues. 'Votebank' takes precedence over curing the root cause of concerns. And this weakens the social fabric of our democracy.

Moreover, when idea of region becomes more important than the nation, it weakens the very spirit of Indian federalism. Centre-state conflicts and inter-states disputes exemplify this. And cooperative federalism take a backseat.

number
of this space)
क्या इस स्थान
में प्रश्न संख्या के
अतिरिक्त कुछ
न लिखें।

373367_810402_191009328 (2025-07-29 9:36:10)

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को
इस हार्शिए में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिए
Candidates
must not
write on this
margin

Fourthly, extreme form of regionalism can be a threat to India's internal security. Naxalism & Khalistani extremism confirm this. Their demand of overhauling the present structure is a major challenge for India.

However, we must ask ourselves if all the aspirations and demands a challenge for India? No, not all. There's another side to the coin. Some demands stem a longing for an inclusive society. A one where every person has a voice. As Gandhiji stated.

"The strength of a society could be measured by how it treats its weakest members".

True and meaningful development ensures the the fruits of success are equally divided, and no one is left behind. Demands from Bundelkhand and Rajasthena are two such ~~examples~~ examples.

UPSC

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

3367_810402_191009328 (2025-07-12 19:36:13)
Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

कैंडिडेट्स
सॉल्यूशन
Candidates
must not
write on this
margin

Having discussed the challenges associated with regional aspirations and demands for autonomy, let's look at some potential solutions to the issue.

Firstly, strengthening local participation in development process is a prerequisite. We need to change the concept from democracy in theory to democracy in practice. For this, the local bodies formed under 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments need to be empowered. It requires devolution of funds and functions.

Secondly, the major focus should be on capability development - the concept built by Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen. As it's rightly said -

"If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day, if you teach

UPSC

373367_810402_191009328_(2025-07-12 19:30:10)

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को
इस हार्जिए में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिए
Candidates
must not
write on this
margin

them to fish, you feed them
for a lifetime."

Capacity development would ensure
that all regions of the nation participate
in the development process, and India's
dream of 'Viksit Bharat' will be realised
by 2047.

Thirdly, judiciary can play an
important role in ensuring equitable
development. The recent recognition of
right to protection from adverse effects
of climate change under Article 14 and
Article 21 is one such example. This
proactive role of judiciary is a sign
that inclusive development would be
the norm going ahead.

lastly, it also requires efforts of
the civil society to ensure that benefits
could reach the last-mile. It was

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को
इस हार्जिन में
लिखना
चाहिए।
Candidates
must not
write on this
margin

efforts of local NGOs and activists that Vedanta's bauxite mining plans could be halted in Odisha's Niyamgiri hills. Tata trusts, Coonj and Arim Premji's foundation are more such examples which highlight the importance of civil society in realising regional aspirations.

It becomes important to address the root cause of these concerns, and then these aspirations and demands would not be a challenge for India, but a sign of a vibrant democracy. As Barack Obama quoted.

"The power that binds us is much more stronger than the power that separates us."

THE GREAT AIM OF EDUCATION IS NOT
KNOWLEDGE BUT ACTION.

It was 1991, and India had just enough foreign exchange reserves to cover imports for a fortnight. That was when knowledge met action, then-
finance minister Manmohan Singh put his knowledge of economics to use. He was the force behind the New Economic Policy of 1991 which transformed the future of India's growth journey.

The interesting thing about this is that- there were many academicians and scholars associated with India's policy making at that time. But few had the courage to use their knowledge and put it into action, something that could bring a revolution.

UPSC

(Please do not write anything in this space)
378967_810402_1910093289_(2015-07-12_09:36:15)
क्या हम स्याम से परम स्याम के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को
क्या हम स्याम से परम स्याम के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।
Candidates must not write on this margin

Therefore, it is rightly said that 'the aim of education is not knowledge but action'. When knowledge meets action, transformation happens.

In this essay, we will look why education is not just knowledge; what happens when knowledge is complemented with actions; and finally what does knowledge without action translates into.

First of all, it becomes important to understand what education actually means. It is not just having the wisdom about things, but also putting that wisdom to some use. We can call this practical wisdom. And, education is not only about training our brain, but it is also about building our character. As Aristotle rightly quoted -



UPSC

373367_810402_19100932_9_(2023-07-12_19:05:10)

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all".

Let's move on to the aim of education. Education forms the basis of our understanding of this world around us. It could be through schools, parents, elders, social media or even our own life experiences. But, the real education is not just gaining knowledge.

To know how, when and where to apply our knowledge is equally important. That is complementing our knowledge with actions.

Think of a world, where people have knowledge, but they are unwilling or unable to take actions.

This knowledge would not be of anyone's use. We can understand this through a very simple example. We all have the

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

knowledge about the harmful effects of environment degradation and climate change. yet, very few of us do something about it. It's rightly said that -

" the biggest threat to our planet is our belief that someone else will save it "

with evolving challenges, our world needs people who are willing to take actions - meaningful actions. Knowledge combined with actions puts theory into practice, and then only can it serve any purpose.

we all must have heard of Srinivasan Ramanyjan. However, had he not taken one very important step in his life - we wouldn't have known about this prodigy. In 1913,

UPSC

373367_810402_1910093288 (2025-07-12 16:26:13)

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को
इस हाशिये में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिए।
Candidates
must not
write on this
margin

he sent a letter to a famous British mathematician - GH Hardy, about his findings, new theorems - all the knowledge he had gathered. Hardy was skeptical at first, but he soon realised the genius of Ramanujan. And that's how the world got to know about him.

Knowledge and action is such a powerful combination that - it can solve most of our problems. As Gandhi quoted -

"The difference between what we do and what we have the capacity to do is sufficient to solve all of world's problems."

The important thing is to do - to act. without actions, knowledge doesn't amount to anything.

UPSC

367_810402_1910093289_002507_2 19:36:1

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

Let's take a micro view of things. Actions are not just important for the world to progress. In our personal life too, actions have immense importance. Having knowledge but not being able to put it into use is a recipe for anxiety & worry. And the best antidote to anxiety is taking actions. Then only, we will be able to realise our full potential.

Knowledge without action takes various forms in today's world. The prime example of this is the emerging Artificial Intelligence. According to an estimate by IMF, AI can take 35% of world's job by 2030. People will have the knowledge -but- will not be able to actions - most of the tasks will be automated.

UPSC

373367_810402_191009328 (2025-7-12 10:36:13)

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को
इस हाशिए में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिए
Candidates
must not
write on this
margin

what's the solution to this?
When most of repetitive and redundant
tasks will be done by AI, where will
~~the~~ we put our knowledge to? Then, our
creativity and capacity to think 'out
of the box' will come into play. The
literate of tomorrow will not be the ones
who can read and write, but the ones
who can bring creativity and compassion
on the table.

Talking about creativity, let's
move on to World Trade Organisation. The
Doha round which started in 2001, is
stalled, and yet to reach a permanent
solution. The 'knowledge' from all over
the world combines in the ministerial
conferences - but no 'action' is taken. And
the result of all this is a world with
trust deficit, well behind its potential
and who bears the maximum bunt?

UPSC

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space.)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

37367_810402_1910093289_025-07-2019:36:1

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

2019
UPSC
Candids
must not
write on this
margin

The developing and the least developed nations. This is what happens when knowledge doesn't meet actions. A world with rising inequality with only few thriving and flourishing.

And then there are few people whose actions speak volumes about them. One of them is Ratan Navat Tata. He was a great business mind - had 'immense knowledge'. But what made him apart from others - were his actions. His compassion during 2008 Mumbai attacks; his refusal to compromise on the quality of Tata Nano even if it meant losses for the company; and countless other actions just show case how someone's small actions can mean the world to other - and then knowledge takes a backseat.

But, is taking action always the right thing? Are all actions good?
No. It is important to distinguish between what is right to do and what is not. And the situation and the way in which a particular action is taken also holds significance. There have been instances where wrong actions of few have changed the course of history.

In 1945, when the clouds of World War II were hovering all over the world - knowledge met action. The great minds of those times led by J. Robert Oppenheimer developed the atomic bombs. And, this combined with politically motivated actions led to the bombing of Hiroshima & Nagasaki - in which lakhs lost their lives. This was a result of knowledge and

ill-motivated actions. The great aim of education is not knowledge - but 'right' and emphatic actions.

similar was the case in 9/11 attacks. Osama Bin Laden, a learned & knowledgeable engineer, took wrong action, and it resulted in the worst terror attack of this century. So, not just any action - but right and virtuous actions are a need to realise the actual aim of education.

such actions combined with knowledge will lay the path for a prosperous and thriving future, where nothing but humanity takes precedence. And then it would also not matter if the actions are small

UPSC

373367_810402_191009328 (2015-01-12 19:36:11)

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवा
इस हाशिए
नहीं लिख
चाहिए
Candida
must not
write on
margin

or big. As Mother Teresa famously
said -

" There are no big things,
there are small things done with
great-love".

FORUM IAS