



APSC MAINS TS'24 - TEST 5 (ESSAY)

Duration: 3 Hrs

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(Please fill your details correctly)

Medium: English

Assamese

INDEX NUMBER			INSTRUCTIONS
Q.NO.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained.	<p>Please read each of the following instruction carefully before attempting the questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay paper will consist of two Sections, each Section containing of 4 Essay topics, out of which the candidates will be required to write one topic from each of the sections A and B, in about 1000-1200 words each. • Each Essay will carry 125 marks. • There will be word limit and page limit for the essays. • The duration of the test is 3 hrs. <p>Remarks</p> <p>Signature of the Student:</p> <p>Invigilator's Signature:</p> <p><u>NOTE: EVALUATION PERIOD FOR THE MAINS TEST SERIES COPY IS 10 DAYS.</u></p>
Section A	125		
1			
2			
3			
4			
Section B	125		
5			
6			
7			
8			
TOTAL:	250		

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"The greatest risk is to risk nothing at all"

In the 1800s, in pre-Independent India; a woman stood in front of the court. Her husband had sued her for denial of conjugal rights that were to be granted to him after she was forcefully married to him as a child. Divorce was not an option for a Hindu woman at that time, so the court directed, "Either go live with your husband, or choose to go to prison". Without hesitation, she chose prison: a life where she would face physical suffering.

That woman was the ~~first~~ Rukhmabai Raut, the first woman of India to get a legal divorce and one of the first woman doctors of the country. Her ability to take risk at court that day, and face her fears led to international

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debates on women's rights and child marriage, and Queen Victoria herself intervened and granted her a legal divorce.

Her life story echoes the need to take risks in life, or ~~at~~ else our lives might render meaningless if we choose to stray within the limits that seem comfort-able at the time. Straying in our comfort zone sometimes proves to be the greatest risk of all.

As the saying goes, "A ship docked at harbour can never face the storm"; similarly a person who is too comfortable in his lifestyle will never learn how to deal with life problems. If we never expose ourselves to risks, our we can never achieve our truest potential. The whole

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purpose of the ship is to be at sea, helping in communication and transport. In the same manner, the whole purpose of human life is to strive for betterment in all possible spheres of life. Like a ship that is always at shore, a person that denies taking a risk always will remain an object of "all show and no use".

Risk brings change - to our own lives, and to society as whole. Somehow, the will to take risks is ingrained in our innate self nature itself, and denial to of risk-taking deviates us from human nature itself. The early man - must have one day ignited a fire and took a risk of touching it to learn that it has potential to burn. Then again,

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someone else might have taken the risk to use the fire to cook meat - steps like which pushed the human race towards civilization. If our early ancestors were not risk-takers, we might have ~~rem~~ remained primitive beings, held at mercy of nature.

If Christopher Columbus decided to be a man who loved to be inside the comfort of his home, then trade routes that connect the world would never have been created. There is probability that many called him foolish for taking up such great risks and even discouraged such attempts, but had he payed heed to such - he would not be remembered as the man who discovered America. Similar can be said about Vasco da Gama and his expedition to India.

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Many great men from history shows that mostly people who were willing to surpass their comfort zones and explore beyond what was usual, have been able to pen their names into history. This holds relevant for conquerors, innovators, artists and many more. It must be understood that risk-takers are not always welcomed with open arms by ~~society~~ orthodox society, as they are often bearers of change - a concept not always preferred by orthodox members. But, ability to take risks often accompany resilient attitude, that ~~ultimately~~ that ultimately brings positive changes in society. Raja Ram Mohan Roy took the risk of voicing against society's beliefs system of Sati, but he ultimately became

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the one who put a ban on such an inhuman practice. Birubala Rabha also went against the orthodox society and questioned the validity of branding women as 'witches'. Her efforts led to the Ban on witch-hunting act in Assam. ~~It is~~ The life story of ~~pe~~ such people portrays the huge impact of individual risk takers on greater good of society.

Risk does not always entail striving for more comfort or betterment in material gains in life. Sometimes, it involves questioning the very essence of purpose of life itself and moving away from ~~world~~ worldly, materialistic desires. For Emperor Ashoka, his dhamma of peace involved more risk, courage than his battle of Kalinga. If he desired, he could have cherished the victory in battle and lined

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comfortably amidst the wealth acquired. Instead, he took a risk unlike any emperor of the time and became a messenger of peace — an attitude that led him to become Ashoka, the great. Similarly, Gautam Buddha could have lived a life of comfort as a prince and ruled his kingdom. But, he risked to move out of his home and denunciate all worldly desires to become Buddha, the enlightened from Siddhantha.

Risk takers empower others as well. Entrepreneurs like Ratan Tata ventured into business and brought innovation, employment and development. The roots of technological advancement lies in the human curiosity and desire to move away from the usual. From the industrial revolutions to the current age of

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AI, everything developed through innovators who put their curiosity into practical use. The human mind is constantly at work, and people with higher emotional intelligence make use of such curiosity and enter into new ventures to discover and bring betterment.

When the Wright brothers were talking about aircrafts, many envisioned it impossible. Yet, they made it true, through belief and hardwork. Risk accompanies the ability to be 'unique' from others.

When Alexander Fleming invented the penicillin, he had to bring up the courage to risk putting a weakened strain of the pathogen into the bloodstream. But, such a bold step completely revolutionized the ~~medical~~ medical field and modern medicine.

Even, in the cultural sphere, a person who does not risk anything at all seldom brings better change. In

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during the Vaishnavite movement, Srimanta Sankardev continued to promote Ek Saran Nam Sharma, Borgeet, etc., even when his life was at times at risk at the hands of Ahom kings who were ~~for~~ followers of the Brahmanical sect. In Assam, filmmakers like Rima Das have risked to move away from traditional movie portrayals and showcase raw rural life through movies like village rockstar - which has brought her international acclaim.

But, there is also a need to understand that merely uptaking any risk without judi judging the consequences is also not preferable. Risk should be taken within limits - so that it does not endanger our lives, and of others.

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A person who possesses qualities of probity is usually viewed as ~~a person~~ the right risk-taker. Such an individual knows when to take a balanced approach in any situation in life and judge the positive and negative outcomes of one's own actions accordingly.

When we uptake a risky task, it often brings a rush - which brings more motivation to continue. But, ~~it~~ there is a need to properly examine whether such a rush is brought about by dopamine, or by serotonin. Dopamine driven tasks can lead to short time pleasures and bring negative outcomes as well. Many youngsters view ouerspeeding as a risk, an activity that brings a sensational rush. But, such risks are

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largely discouraged as it can put one's own life as well as others' lives at risk. It is often advisable to take risks in those actions that involve a 'two-way door', that is, an action whose effects can be reversed if the outcome is negative.

It should also be understood that simply taking up a risky task does not always guarantee success in the action. We need to understand failure as a an integral part of our life and as a learning potential. Feedback from failure can help us in our future ventures and ultimately assure a meaningful life has been led without much regrets.

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The day Rukhmabai Raut took her stand in the courthouse, she did not know what the future held for her. She was ready to face the consequences of her action, even if it was a negative one. But, the very fact that she took up that risk to voice her stand ~~made~~ brought a such turmoil that laws were bent and new ones were introduced to grant more autonomy to women. Thus, society benefits greatly from people who know to take risks in the right manner and right proportion.

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Resilient Guwahati : Multi-Pronged approach against Flash floods

Guwahati city acts the gateway to the Northeastern region of the country and serves as one of the most important urban centres of the region. Despite its crucial role in the state's developmental scenario, yet the city is marred by certain issues of its own that occur year after year and ~~hinder~~ hinders efficient functioning of the day to day activities. One of the most impactful ~~is~~ issue faced by the city is urban flooding, particularly the problem of flash floods.

Situated in the heart of the ~~the~~ fertile Brahmaputra plains, Assam faces yearly floods as a significant calamity. Rural and urban life are equally impacted by the floods and ~~see~~ also results in loss of

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human as well as animal life. Although the fertility of the Assam region is ~~met~~ a boon brought by the silt from these floods, but it causes havoc and displaces thousands of people year after year. It also leads to crop-loss and post-harvest loss when granaries come into contact with the flood water.

But, the issue of flooding in Guwahati cannot entirely be attributed to the overflowing of the Brahmaputra river. Flash floods in Guwahati mostly occur right after fresh, heavy showers and often subside after few hours of flooding the ~~city~~ city. Flash flooding has become a common phenomena in areas like zoo road, Pukminigaon, Boragaon etc., and brings

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a great amount of hassle to the citizens and also damages the infrastructure.

Some of the main reasons Guwahati faces the problem of flash floods can be understood from its geography and demographic structure. Guwahati lies in a low-lying area, surrounded by hills on almost all its sides. This causes rain-drenched clouds to hit the hilltops and bring large amounts of rain in and around Guwahati. Also, surface runoff that includes loose soil, debris and water content contributes significantly to the issue of flooding. ~~water~~ Huge amount of water trickling down from the Meghalaya hills, Nilachal hills etc. causes flash floods in areas like Khamapara; as reflected by the CM of Assam himself.

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The population density of Guwahati is quite high, mainly fuelled by push factors of migration from nearby districts and the neighbouring states. Most people who migrate to Guwahati is search of better employment and lifestyle. This has led to urban settlements in unplanned manner in a lot of areas. Kaphayand settlement, ~~the~~ unsustainable construction has ~~to~~ further put a chokehold on the city.

There is also the problem of illegal settlements and encroachment of nearby wetlands as a result of that. Sibako beel near of Guwahati had become almost ~~to~~ useless as a water sink due to ~~the~~ illegal ~~encroachment~~ encroachment, until the government intervened. Settlements on the hills are

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also witnessed around Guwahati, that decreases the capacity to hold the rainwater and also makes it prone to erosion.

Since, the population is quite dense; it leads to decrease in space availability for large and small water reservoirs to exist. Existing ponds, swamps are being filled up with soil and construction is carried out on them. Settlement in these areas further reduces the water's scope of dispersal, which ~~ultimately~~ ultimately leads to flooding on roads and amidst human settlements.

The drainage system of Guwahati is also quite old, some parts of it date back to the colonial era. Thus, they often fail to tackle the modern problem of flash floods. Human behaviour also plays

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a significant part in the issue. The people have a tendency to throw garbage on the roads and drains that causes blockage of the drainage infrastructure. This slows down the process of rainwater movement through the drains, which is why flash floods persist for a few hours. Authorities are also reluctant in proper garbage disposal system and periodic cleaning of the sewers.

Thus since, the problem of flash floods in Guwahati arises from multiple reasons, tackling the issue needs a multi-pronged approach to address the underlying issues from the grassroots level. Various initiatives ~~have~~ are being conducted by the government, and NGOs to bring effective

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solutions to ~~a~~ the problem that visits the city annually. ~~the~~ ~~despite~~

Some effective solution to the problem of flash floods, a multi-pronged approach is required right from the stakeholders involved to the initiatives undertaken. A long-lasting, successful solution can only be achieved through a coordinated cooperation from individuals, different NGOs and the government. Similarly, the initiatives should target different causes of the flash flood from the grassroot level instead of aiming for a short-term, temporary solution.

To tackle the issue of handling the excess water from the surface runoff, stormwater drains are being constructed in different parts of the city on experim-
-ental basis, with capabilities of future

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improvements according to catered needs. Ecoblock technology has also been introduced in some areas that can soak up the excess water in a short period of time. The Guwahati Municipal Corporation have also taken the bold initiative of bringing massive pumps that can suck up the excess water, which can later be released into ~~the~~ the nearby waterbodies.

Another major issue behind the flash floods is the unprecedented amount of plastic waste that chokes the drainage system of the city. For this purpose, the BMC has taken up initiatives of cleaning up the plastic dumped on roadsides, and market areas. Household garbage collection is also now encouraged to separate the

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waste into recyclable and biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, to further ~~atteto~~ ease up the process of recycling. The 'Bahini basin' cleanup initiative is another notable project taken up by the Assam government to allow efficient flow of the floodwater out of the city ~~an~~ into the Brahmaputra river. This involves sewage cleanup and desiltation.

Human interference into the natural ecosystem in and around the city is also responsible for the problem. Encroachment into nearby water bodies have become a major problem in the recent years. Encroachment clearance in the nearby Silsako beel, can be viewed as a positive step towards ~~to~~ tackling the issue, although many places still remain victim to illegal encroachment.

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The government is also planning for construction of ~~ponds~~ artificial ponds around the city to act as natural reservoirs for the excess floodwaters. Plantation-drives and stricter regulation for settlement in eco-sensitive areas like the Garbhanga reserve forest ~~have~~ also are also being planned.

But, the efforts are still not adequate as the city still faces the problem of flash floods after even a short shower. In fact, many claim that the problem has worsened in the past few years - a short rainfall often means being stuck in traffic or waterlogged streets for hours and hours. ~~diffusing~~ diffusing the excess population stress and unplanned urban settlements should be one of the main motives in the present hour.

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Infrastructure projects like Guwahati ring road, development of Dibrugarh, Tezpur etc in with city-like facilities need to be completed faster.

Citizen awareness is another significant requirement for better outcome. Use of nudge approach and incentivization through citizen awards for affirmative action towards keeping the city clean can be implemented. Strict fines and penalization should be implemented for loitering and the government agencies need to undertake ~~eff~~ garbage collection in an effective manner.

The goal of smart city mission and developing Guwahati along these lines remain incomplete if the issue of flash floods is not addressed at the earliest. Investment under Advantage Assam, different infrastructure projects etc. can be impacted if the core

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issue is not addressed. Also, human capital of the state cannot be used to the full potential without addressing the issue that affects their daily life. ~~Guwahati~~ Thus, there is a need to shift the focus from 'Guwahati as a city of flash floods' to 'Guwahati - a city of development and urban planning'

QUESTIONS

SECTION A: (125marks/1200 words)

Q1. Experience without theory is blind, but theory without experience is mere intellectual play."

প্রশ্ন ১. তত্ত্ব অবিহনে অভিজ্ঞতা অন্ধ, কিন্তু অভিজ্ঞতা অবিহনে তত্ত্ব কেবল এক বৌদ্ধিক খেল।

Q2. "Hope is a good breakfast but a bad supper."

প্রশ্ন ২. "আশা এক উত্তম প্রাতঃ আহার কিন্তু ই অপঃ নৈশ আহার।"

Q3. "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

প্রশ্ন ৩. "এজন মানুহৰ চূড়ান্ত মাপকাঠি তেওঁ আৰাম আৰু সুবিধাৰ মুহূৰ্তত ক'ত থিয় হয় সেইটো নহয়, বৰঞ্চ প্ৰত্যাহ্বান আৰু বিতৰ্কৰ সময়ত তেওঁ ক'ত থিয় হয় সেইটোহে।"

Q4. "The greatest risk is to risk nothing at all."

প্রশ্ন ৪. "কোনো ধৰণৰ সংশয়ৰ সন্মুখীন হ'ব নিবিচৰাটোৱে হ'ল আটাইতকৈ ডাঙৰ সংশয়।"

SECTION: B (125marks/1200words)

Q5. Celebrating Teachers' Day

প্রশ্ন ৫. শিক্ষক দিৱস উদযাপন

Q6. Mahapurush Srimanta Sankaradeva's Teachings in the Modern World: A Pathway to Peace, Justice, and Spiritual Liberation Amidst Global Uncertainties

প্রশ্ন ৬. আধুনিক বিশ্বত মহাপুৰুষ শ্ৰীমন্ত শংকৰদেৱৰ শিক্ষা: বিশ্বৰ অনিশ্চয়তাৰ মাজত শান্তি, ন্যায় আৰু আধ্যাত্মিক মুক্তিৰ পথ

Q7. Resilient Guwahati: A Multi-Pronged Approach against Flash Floods

প্রশ্ন ৭. স্থিতিস্থাপক গুৱাহাটী-আকস্মিক বানপানীৰ বিৰুদ্ধে এক বহুমুখী পদক্ষেপ

Q8. Ethical Guardianship in National Parks

প্রশ্ন ৮. ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয় উদ্যানসমূহত নৈতিক অভিভাৱকত্ব