

Total Marks : 250

Time : 3 Hours

Write two essays of about 1000 -1200 words each, based on any topic listed below

Question 1 to Question 5
125 marks (answer in 1000-1200 words)

(ESSAY)

- Q.1 To read without reflecting is like to eat without digesting.**
ପ୍ରତିଫଳନ ନକରି ପଢ଼ିବା ହଜମ ନକରି ଖାଇବା ପରି।
- Q.2 Feeding India: Turning from Food Waste to Food Security.**
ଭାରତକୁ ଖାଦ୍ୟ ଦେବା: ଖାଦ୍ୟ ଅପଚୟରୁ ଖାଦ୍ୟ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଆଡ଼କୁ ମୁହାଁଇବା।
- Q.3 If you know the enemy and know yourself you need not fear the result of a hundred battles.**
ଯଦି ଆପଣ ଶତ୍ରୁକୁ ଜାଣନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ନିଜକୁ ଜାଣନ୍ତି ତେବେ ଆପଣଙ୍କୁ ଶହେ ଯୁଦ୍ଧର ଫଳାଫଳକୁ ଭୟ କରିବାର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ନାହିଁ।
- Q.4 How wrong it is for a woman to expect the man to build the world she wants, rather than to create it herself.**
ଜଣେ ମହିଳା ପୁରୁଷଠାରୁ ନିଜ ଇଚ୍ଛାର ବିଶ୍ୱ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରିବାକୁ ଆଶା କରିବା କେତେ ଭୁଲ, ବରଂ ନିଜେ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିବାକୁ ଅପେକ୍ଷା କରିବା କେତେ ଭୁଲ।
- Q.5 Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choices, are prepared to choose wisely.**
ଗଣତନ୍ତ୍ର ସଫଳ ହୋଇପାରିବ ନାହିଁ ଯଦି ନାହିଁ ଯେଉଁମାନେ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ପସନ୍ଦ ପ୍ରକାଶ କରନ୍ତି, ସେମାନେ ବୁଦ୍ଧିମାନ ଭାବରେ ଚୟନ କରିବାକୁ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ ନ ହୁଅନ୍ତି।

(ESSAY)

Q.1 Answer

APPROACH:

- **Introduction:** Explain the quote's meaning—reading without reflection is futile, just as eating without digestion provides no nourishment.
- **Body:** Discuss the importance of critical thinking, examples from history, philosophy, and education, and contrast passive vs. active learning.
- **Conclusion:** Emphasize mindful reading as essential for knowledge, wisdom, and personal growth.

Answer:

Introduction:

When the question of reading it primarily pertains to books, yet it can be extended to reading faces, behavior, phenomena etc.

Quote	Author
"If we encounter a man of rare intellect, we should ask him what books he reads."	Ralph Waldo Emerson
"Great books help you understand, and they help you feel understood."	John Green
"There is a great deal of difference between an eager man who wants to read a book and the tired man who wants a book to read."	Gilbert K. Chesterton
"In a good book the best is between the lines."	Swedish Proverb
"Some books should be tasted, some devoured, but only a few should be chewed and digested thoroughly."	Francis Bacon
"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."	Mahatma Gandhi
"To believe in something, and not to live it, is dishonest."	Mahatma Gandhi
"You are what you do, not what you say you'll do."	C.G. Jung

Reflection and its utility explained

One can be a passive reader without going deeper to understand, just taking things on the face value, just taking things superficially without a critical or curious eye or concern. But this attitude defeats the whole purpose of reading because reading should be followed by desired action or reaction, for betterment and improvement or for agreement or disagreement. Reflection is basically thinking on what you have read---- book, article, speech, face, or even phenomena. Reflection reveals the apparent and hidden meanings. Reflection helps us to understand the intent and motives. Reflection motivates, inspires and propels us to action.

The connection and comparison between eating and digesting and reading and reflection

Without 'reflection', 'reading is just 'a collection of dead birds'- wingless ideas, a time pass, a wastage leading to nowhere. Any 'act' including reading must be judged by its 'outcome'. What is the use of 'eating', if we fail to 'digest' because it is digestion which adds to our strength and beauty? The same logic applied to reading means that our act of reading leads to some manifestation in our real acts and expression- this is what 'extended meaning of reflection' is that reading must be reflected in the action and behavior of a reader.

An indication of your stand conclusion:

Reading is very useful if it invokes reflection as 'thought' and reflection as 'action'. If reading fails to invoke thought and action in us it is futile and wastage of time and energy. But uncritically accepting any thought or action because it has been made in a book is equally dangerous.

Description

Paragraphing

Point	Summary
1	Reading books is crucial for gaining knowledge and understanding past and present events.
2	Reading can be passive or active, with active reading involving reflection.
3	Understanding social and political developments requires reading beyond the surface to grasp deeper meanings.
4	Reflection is not just about thinking; it also involves taking action.
5	Reflection helps in understanding intent, purpose, and motivation, fostering curiosity and aspirations.
6	A crisis in modern life is that people read but do not think, or think but do not act, leading to errors.
7	Like digestion follows eating for good health, reading must lead to good thoughts and actions; otherwise, it is futile.

Conclusion

Reading is very useful if it invokes reflection as 'thought' and reflection as 'action'. If reading fails to invoke thought and action in us it is futile and wastage of time and energy. But uncritically accepting any thought or action because it has been made in a book is equally dangerous.

Q.2 Answer

APPROACH:

- **Introduction:** Highlight India's paradox of food wastage amid hunger. Mention global and national statistics on food loss.
- **Body:** Discuss causes of food waste (supply chain inefficiencies, consumer habits), its impact (hunger, economic loss, environmental damage), and solutions (policy interventions, food redistribution, technological innovations).
- **Conclusion:** Emphasize collective responsibility – government, businesses, and individuals – to ensure food security and sustainability.

Approach:

Here the statement is suggestive of the context - "How to feed Indian population"? Thus the objective is to elaborate and analyze the statement with some topical examples and further suggest ways to achieve the food security.

Quote	Author
"There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread."	Mahatma Gandhi

"Take all you can eat, but eat all you take."	Anonymous
"The goal of food security should be to create a food security culture, not a food safety program."	Fran Yiannas
"Love Food and Hate Waste."	Anonymous
"Food is as important as energy, as security, as the environment. Everything is linked together."	Louise Fresco
"Without sound conservation and management measures, fisheries will quickly become depleted and a basic component of global food security will be lost."	Sigma Gabriel

Introduction:

Establish the statement by justifying that ensuring food security ought to be an issue of great importance for a country like India where more than one-third of the population is estimated to be absolutely poor and one-half of all children malnourished in one way or another.

Body:

Elaborate the statement and try to define the terms Food Wastage and Food security. Food security is not just about availability of food. Food security is built on three pillars:

- a) Food availability: sufficient quantities of food available on a consistent basis.
- b) Food access: having sufficient resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet.
- c) Food use: appropriate use based on knowledge of basic nutrition and care, as well as adequate water and sanitation.

Food wastage acts as one of the obstacle to food security. Food waste refers to the discard of edible foods at the retail and consumer levels. Analyze why Food security is a big issue and what's the current situation globally. Try to elaborate on the international Goals -SDGs and Global Hunger Index.

Then explain the status of food crisis in India as mentioned in HUNGaMA report and what were its key findings. What is the geographical and social distribution of hunger and malnutrition in India?

Further write about the provisions in constitution framework for food security such as Supporting laws, National Food security Bill and policy initiatives by the Government. Analyze the different Government Initiatives and programmes since independence like Food security in Development Plans, Green Revolution, Mention TPDS and RPDS and Schemes like - Midday Meal Scheme, Annapurna Scheme.

Then proceed further with issue of food wasted globally. Analyse the status of Food Wastage in India, the gravity of the problem. Link the socio-economic aspects of food wastage as food wastage due to lack of infrastructure (lack of cold storages, poor transport system, etc); due to faulty agriculture pricing policies; due to fancy ceremonies.

This food wastage also comes at a steep environmental price. Explain the concept of Food Waste and Ecological footprint. Where and how food wastage occurs mostly and thinks about the Impact of food wastage on greenhouse gas emission and climate. What is the impact of food wastage on land use, biodiversity, water footprint and other economic impacts?

Why government initiatives failed to check the menace of food wastage?

Suggest the measure on how can we use Food wastage as an efficient and quick way to attain Food sufficiency. Mention the Global initiatives like YUNGA on how to control Food Wastage and improve Food Security Globally and national and local initiatives to tackle the problem of Food wastage.

Measures like avoid throwing away good food and help preserve the environment and save money in the process, weddings faulted for prodigious food waste, Food Waste-to-Energy Conversion, BUY WHAT WE NEED and EAT WHAT WE BUY campaigns, Love Food Hate Waste campaigns etc.

Example

"Take all you can eat, but eat all you take" initiative by TCS.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), often at the forefront when it comes to social initiatives, has been putting up a message for their staff members in the food court. 'TAKE ALL YOU CAN EAT, BUT EAT ALL YOU TAKE'. It is an attempt to end food wastage and will soon be undertaken at all TCS offices across the country. Every day the food wasted is weighed in kilograms and an update is given to the employees. They also compare the food wasted every week.

Conclusion:

Nation building demands nurturing of our human resource with food and nutrition and achieve good healthy population that will enable India to create quality workforce. In this process, we must acknowledge that Food security is at the base. India has many policies and programmes however, food insecurity and malnutrition continue to be high.

The focus can now be shifted to more efficient eating habits and food culture besides better public delivery systems. Appropriate institutions are needed for better awareness, people-centric programmes and social protection schemes and self-help group approach for Love Food Hate waste culture to be successful.

Q.3 Answer

APPROACH:

- **Introduction:** Explain the meaning of Sun Tzu's quote, highlighting its relevance in strategy, warfare, and modern decision-making.
- **Body:** Discuss its application in military strategy, business, politics, and personal growth. Use historical and contemporary examples. Address the consequences of ignorance.
- **Conclusion:** Emphasize the importance of self-awareness and understanding adversaries for success in any endeavor.

Approach:

This line reflects the individual's strength, self-knowing, ability, firmness on right decision, morality and values, strategic foresight, patience and poised attitude while dealing with any condition whether that will be war, personal goals, life situations, etc.

Being a conditional, and irrational in the nature - statement can be also related with the qualities of planning, self-belief, confidence and the approach towards the success defined in various dimensions.

Quote	Author
Fear is the only true enemy, born of ignorance and the parent of anger and hate.	Edward Albert
Deterrence is the art of producing, in the mind of the enemy, the fear to attack.	Sterling Hayden
Realists do not fear the result of their study.	Fyodor Dostoevsky
The more you know yourself, the more patience you have for what you see in others.	Erik Erikson
The better you know yourself, the better your relationship with the rest of the world.	Toni Collette
Human behaviour flows from three main sources: desire, emotions, and knowledge.	Plato
Start by doing what's necessary then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.	Francis of Assisi

Once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth.	Arthur Conan Doyle
Keep your face always towards the sunshine and shadows will fall behind you.	Walt Whitman
Change your thought and you change your world.	Norman Vincent Peale
Life isn't about finding yourself, life is about creating yourself.	George Bernard Shaw
When you judge another, you do not define them, you define yourself.	Wayne Dyer

Introduction:

Introduce the topic with the description of self, and then proceed to explain self-awareness, understanding of one's capabilities and emotions.

Body:

As discussed in the introduction, establish the statement by justifying it and the relevance of it with dependence on conditions and human nature. The essence is - you should be honest with your own self and know the enemy better than he knows you. Here, knowing yourself means, being aware of a person's strengths, weaknesses, and motivation measured in the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and traits) analysis.

Individuals with Accurate Self-Assessment competence are aware of their abilities and limitations, seek out feedback and learn from their mistakes, and know where they need to improve and when to work with others who have complementary strengths. Accurate Self-Assessment was the competence found in virtually every "star performer".

Further define the importance of understanding others or external forces. With a full knowledge one can always win but with weak knowledge you can always fail. Knowing the enemy enables you to take offensive and knowing yourself make stands as the defensive. It helps in proper planning and taking calculative steps to meet the ends.

Explain the statement in details giving various examples and established that; know the real theme of the enemy as find out advantage and disadvantage of it, as important to know your opponents' strength and weakness as it is your own as stated in the approach.

Another meaning behind this quote aside from probabilities of winning a theoretical battle is the importance of understanding others, in this sense battle is taken to mean any type of personal conflict. It is the sense of developing emotional intelligence. It is important to identify how to handle both superior and inferior forces.

Explain the facts that, if one have fought and win a battle with someone without coming to a greater understanding of that person, one will gain nothing even if he/she won the argument. Similarly if one has fought a battle where he gained a greater understanding of other person and his own, he gained something greater than a mere win and the outcome of the battle itself is irrelevant.

This can be interpreted in spirituality context i.e. being aware about oneself brings peace and calmness in life. This keeps the mind and soul fresh to be prepared for all unforeseen circumstances in life. As the external forces cannot change but the internal enlightenment can be enhanced for self-empowerment.

However, this line also reveals a truth if we look for it. Every situation has advantages; the need is only to understand this and so look for them. If one doesn't look, he doesn't find and so he may have missed opportunities or advantages that were there for the taking.

Similarly, most of the times it is offered to promote the idea that you will never be defeated or how to win every battle. However it does not say this. The first sentence is the line most corrupted. The key words are "you need not fear the result of a hundred battles". This is very different to winning all your battles. One

should understand there are times a tactical withdrawal or retreat is the better part of a strategy and a perfect tactic.

In other words, risks are reduced to acceptable levels. And that's the job of security. It is not only a good strategy but a basic security responsibility to perform threat and vulnerability assessments, keep them current, and act on their findings. There are many aspects to this strategy. One of them is to consider the psychological aspect of warfare. If your opponent fears you enough, you may not have to fight a battle at all to obtain your objective. Another regards planning.

For example, implementing the plans and strategies appear on the real ground or battlefield, it would be useless, a person should know that, everything is based on the will of Heaven, (here, HEAVEN signifies, time and season, day and night, cold and heat).

Conclusion:

Conclude with the moral laws which rigorously enforced in which areas. Humans along with situational facts have recognized for a long time how important it is to know themselves. This is important in every area of life, but its importance becomes much greater in a strategic context. "If you know your adversary, you'll win half of the time. If you know yourself, you'll win half of the time. If you know yourself and your adversary, you'll win most of the time. If you know neither your adversary nor yourself, you'll lose every time." Important to know, that to live life one must be out in the world. It is always better to experience a thing, then to regret the action not taken.

A decision to act only is going to be successful if the action is appropriate for the situation presented. Having a quality strategy is very important, but being able to recognize the moment to strike and execute various aspects of your strategy is a very important skill as well.

Q.4 Answer

APPROACH:

- **Introduction:** Explain the quote's meaning in the context of gender roles, self-reliance, and empowerment. Highlight its relevance in historical and contemporary feminist thought.
- **Body:** Discuss societal expectations, traditional gender norms, and the shift towards women's agency. Use examples from history, politics, and literature. Address challenges and solutions.
- **Conclusion:** Emphasize self-empowerment, individual agency, and the need for women to actively shape their own destinies rather than relying on societal structures or men.

Quote	Author
"The most courageous act is still to think for yourself. Aloud."	Coco Chanel
"A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture, and transform."	Diane Mariechild
"Do not wait for someone else to come and speak for you. It's you who can change the world."	Malala Yousafzai
"I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship."	Louisa May Alcott
"The best protection any woman can have is courage."	Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Approach:

Men and women are complementary to each other in the natural creation. They do not need each other for biological and procreation urges only, but also as friends and companions for life. Women are mothers, beloved, wives, sisters and friends. Men invariably love and respect their mothers, as they are reminded

how as offspring their whole world was around only one person, i.e., mother. There are examples of deep love between young men and women since times immemorial and some of them became legends.

Man may make a beautiful world for such women who he loves and respects. But these are extra ordinary relations and situations. Generally women, who are weak or fragile due to various reasons, are exploited. No man can create the world, a woman cherishes for a simple reason, i.e., patriarchal mindset. She can create her own world by making indefatigable efforts to empower herself by education, wealth creation, political participation and speaking out against exploitation and subjugation. Many of the women in India and other parts of the world have paved their own way to freedom, power and wealth.

Right from Mahabharata's Draupadi to Razia Sultan and to Margret Thatcher, it is interesting to see what women can do by their personal enrichment, courage and self confidence and how in some cases men remained insensitive and in other cases sensitive to their dreams and aspirations.

Women are dependent on men in the traditional societies. Men are the main bread earners and decision makers. Despite doing all crucial household works for survival such as cooking, washing, taking care of the aged and children apart from all other members including brothers, sisters and husbands, they have little freedom to pursue their own desire as an individual and little or no say in decision making. Although, traditional societies respect women in some stereotype defined roles such as mothers and wives, they are not allowed to alter their roles for the sake of individual progress and happiness. They have been forced for ages to be sacrificing and silent sufferers who would be described as models only if they sacrifice their individual aspirations and freedom at the altar of their defined roles.

However, even in traditional societies there had been a few examples of women who dared to break free and pursue their interest and claim their shares in decision making or power structure, they did it successfully. But even for them it was not easy in patriarchal societies. Some societies, nevertheless, were matriarchal and they placed women in high esteem and shared power with them.

Changes in man woman relationship with progress

But as civilization progressed and violence became institutionalized in form of trained army and organized war, the relationship between men and women added newer dimensions more in the shape of contractual relationship flowing from feudal mindset of patriarchal social structure. Men assumed a superior position and women a subservient status simply because courage, valour and even wisdom were monopolized by men while women were confined to womanly jobs- giving birth and rearing the child and making men happy. The ancient culture still had much respect for women, but during the medieval times women became a possession of men for fulfilling their desires.

The moment a woman decides to be her own self or aspires for a share in decision making or works for her empowerment and freedom, she has to face resistance and suppression from men in the traditional societies.

Women started asserting their individual aspirations in due course, especially in modern times with progress, but it was not a cake walk. In modern societies women are coming out and getting opportunities to pursue their own interest and even claim their share in the power structure.

The roads have been rocky, but the women who endured and struggled for freedom and empowerment made their way to unimaginable heights. Women sought education, started earning to achieve self reliance and putting stakes for political power. With empowerment their stakes and recognition increased. Today there are approximately 50 women CEOs in India, one of the highest in the world and at the top positions in bureaucracy and teaching. Some got family support; others made it on their own.

But problems far from over and society's mindset suffers from consumerist and commodity like depiction and outlook about women. Nirbhaya incident in India or Mukhtaran bibi in Pakistan epitomize the male mindset even in modern times.

Conclusion:

Some of the women got ample support from men and some faced resistance. Experience, however, shows that as long as women do not make genuine and consistent efforts with courage and self confidence, fathers and husbands cannot change the world for them. Even own people go against women when they want to be free. It is, therefore, their own empowerment, which can change their destinies and fulfill their aspirations. Educated societies provide active support to their daughters and wives in their endeavors towards freedom, progress and empowerment. There are examples of mutual cooperation and role reversals between men and women in modern societies. However, even in modern societies there are double standards and skewed behavior against women.

It may be concluded that men and women are treated as equals in modern times at least on conceptual level, but practically women still require to struggle and fight for dignity and respect through their empowerment rather than dependence on men.

Q.5 Answer

APPROACH:

- **Introduction:** Explain the essence of democracy, linking it to informed and responsible voting.
- **Body:** Discuss the role of education, media, and political awareness in shaping wise choices. Highlight risks of uninformed decisions using historical and contemporary examples.
- **Conclusion:** Emphasize the need for civic responsibility and informed participation for democracy's success.

Quote	Author
"The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter."	Winston Churchill
"A democracy is nothing more than mob rule, where fifty-one percent of the people may take away the rights of the other forty-nine."	Thomas Jefferson
"Democracy is not the law of the majority but the protection of the minority."	Albert Camus
"The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all."	John F. Kennedy
"Democracy is based upon the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people."	Harry Emerson Fosdick
"The health of a democracy depends on the choices of its citizens."	Franklin D. Roosevelt

One of the most easy and beautiful definitions of democracy was given by Abraham Lincoln 'Democracy is the government of the people, by the people and for the people.' The form of government which is based on majority has many advantages. It is elected by the people, so its legitimacy is unquestionable in the sense that while choosing the government people have exercised their right to franchise for choosing the governments which they think would fulfill their aspirations and lead them to their desired and deserved destinies. A majority based government was also praised by thinkers like Aristotle because it will give power to the poor and represent the will of the poor people rather than rich people because the poor are

usually a majority. Aristotle said, 'In a democracy the poor will have more power than the rich, because there are more of them, and the will of the majority is supreme.' However, majority based governments are prone to carry the prejudices, fallacies, values, and preferences of the people who are in majority. Majority may be guided by considerations which are affront to the principle of equality and justice, freedom and liberty. Majority may decide to form a government which safeguards its interests, privileges and dominant position vis-à-vis minorities. In such a situation what is the guarantee that democracy would succeed in achieving its avowed goals of liberty and equality, justice and development to all? It is, therefore, vitally important for democracy to succeed that people make an educated and impartial decision to choose the best and the most talented leaders in terms of vision, values and ability to deliver development and justice. The statement of great American President Franklin D. Roosevelt- 'Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely'. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education- needs to be seen in this perspective.

Democracy is a government elected by the majority of the citizens of a country. All eligible citizens are meant to participate equally - either directly or, through elected representatives, indirectly - in the proposal, development and establishment of the laws by which their society is run. Several variants of democracy exist, but there are two basic forms, both of which concern how the whole body of all eligible citizens executes its will. One form of democracy is Direct Democracy, in which all eligible citizens have direct and active participation in the political decision making. In most modern democracies, the whole body of eligible citizen remains the sovereign power but political power is exercised indirectly through elected representatives; this is called a representative democracy or democratic republic. But there may be many gaps in the cup and the lip. In the first instance if the majority do not turn up for voting then democracy does not remain representative. For example, when the voter turnout is small or the winning political party or the leader musters less than fifty percent of the eligible votes, then such a government cannot be said to be representative in the true sense. Secondly, the democracy often ends up representing the powerful and the privileged and ignoring the powerless, the voiceless, the meek, and the poor. Thirdly modern democratic elections are marred by brazen and unscrupulous use of money and propaganda to influence the opinion of the people. The tailored mandates through monetary considerations, all pervading advertisements and power packed election campaigns may or may not represent the real will of the people. Propaganda is also a very important part of modern democratic elections- it is often based on the belief that an untruth repeated several times may be taken as truth. Propaganda may be divisive, emotive or based on a very narrow group interest blurring the vision of the people and obstructing their capacity to take right decision. Plato was very cryptic in his remark on democracy-

'Democracy... is a charming form of government, full of variety and disorder; and dispensing a sort of equality to equals and unequals alike.' This remark tells us about forced equality among people with different abilities and qualities by democratic governments in the name of equality and justice. Laski therefore pointed out that democracy has a tendency to become a 'mobocracy' devoid of vision and reason and more enthused by slogans, charisma, passion, and narrow group interests. In such a circumstance, people need to have lots of information and sufficient education to choose wisely the democratic governments which can bring prosperity, justice and happiness.

The man who gave the most popular definition of democracy, the great American President Abraham Lincoln, rightly warns against the failure of people in choosing right governments- 'Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters.' Choosing a government wisely means that people vote for their shared national dreams, collective well being, socio-economic progress, peace and happiness, and not on the basis of narrow interest or to safeguard their unjust privileges and dominance. Woodrow Wilson explains such ironic situations- 'The government, which was designed for the people, has got into the hands of the bosses and their employers, the special interests. An invisible empire has been set up above the forms of democracy.'

People who vote for formation of democratic governments are prone to be misled because of a variety of reasons. Lack of education and information along with economic insecurity are the most important reasons that make them vulnerable while making decisions. They vote on the basis of propaganda, advertisement, monetary considerations, only because the truth is kept away from them, untruth is rained rather bombarded on them and they are not in a situation to keep them insulated or remain in their elements to take right decisions. In electoral language a popular term i.e. 'wave' has been devised to explain such situations, which sways the people in a particular direction, even when it may not be the best or right choice. 'Waves' are created and they do not lead people, they compel. Popular psychology is tailored by the political parties through excessive use of media and money, slogans and false promises etc.; individual voters have no option but to be swayed. It all happens because people do not have sufficient education or information. While lamenting on the peoples' information level Winston S. Churchill goes to the extent of giving an argument against democracy. He says, 'The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.'

One of the greatest enemies of an educated and informed choice is propaganda. Propaganda is one of the most potent weapons of modern politics. A prominent contemporary thinker, Noam Chomsky, rightly says, 'Propaganda is to a democracy what the bludgeon is to a totalitarian state.' Propaganda is mainly carried through massive advertisement campaigns, electioneering with unrealistic promises and announcing populist but unsustainable welfare policies and even distributing money and other materials such as T.V sets, Micro ovens, Bicycles, Laptops, to tilt public opinion. Those who have watched Indian elections will not be surprised to see all these. There are promises to build religious buildings, to get reservation in jobs, to settle aberrant minorities and repel constitution provisions meant for minority appeasement, to distribute free lunches so on and so forth. People fall prey to such propaganda because they are neither educated enough and nor do they have minimum economic security.

Divisive politics on the basis of religion, caste, language, provocations to far right nationalism to muster maximum votes, identity based political formations, appeasement of minorities, evoking greed in people (even buying their opinions) are all equally inimical to a successful democracy. The only assurance against these evils is that people remain cautious and vigilant. This is possible if the press and media remain unbiased. But expecting unbiased media today is analogous to asking for the impossible. Media is playing the role of iconoclast and king-maker both. It not only misinforms, but it also ruins the established images. It acts to enhance the corporate interest- right or wrong. Media is at, many times irresponsible and a sensationalizing medium of communication. However, a section of media remains upright, truthful and remain guided by the highest ideals, despite humongous temptations. People must know about the good sections of the 'fourth state' and the difference between sensationalism and information, forming the public opinion and polluting the public opinion, giving a platform for constructive discussion rather than wrecking up controversy.

Democracy based on divisive politics, ignorance and false propaganda never leads to prosperity and happiness. Martin Luther King Jr. warns, 'Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.' We often hear that there is a difference between 'grass root leaders' and 'armchair or drawing room intellectuals' capable only of causing a storm in coffee cup. This compartmentalization indicates towards a bitter reality- if you are able to connect with people by satisfying their unreasonable or unfair demands you support massive support of people and you are a grass root leader and if you reason and give an educated argument over the relevant issues, you lose people's appeal and you become an armchair leader. People have been constantly made to believe that there is a real difference between these two kinds of leaders. It needs to be revisited- why such a chasm in the two kinds of leadership do exist? In fact this divisor is a crafted division. There are things which are right and there are things which are wrong. If people aspire something that is dangerous, a leader should tell them that is so. If a thing is right a leader should try to convince people about it. But a chasm is deliberately created by the vested interests. Isaac Asimov reacts very sharply against such trends- 'Anti-intellectualism has been

a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.'

Democracy is very often hijacked by the strongest interest groups. In the name of free enterprise or in the name of equality, a small group of people are perpetuated in power with the help of these groups. People are worse off or condemned to remain under the same plight while the stronger interest groups go on maximizing their power and profit. In India, labour groups, peasants, rural people, poor people lack even the most basic facilities of life such as primary education and healthcare, ventilated houses, potable water, a safe medium of cooking, all-weather roads, etc., despite big promises by the political parties. The metropolitan cities or some of the constituencies of dominant leaders might have seen some development, but generally, people have to base their hopes on the natural momentum of growth and development rather than government-initiated efforts. Meanwhile, billionaires are created; they influence government policies in their favour. Rightist or leftist intellectuals make people, in effect, guinea pigs, experimenting with a variety of policies while people unendingly wait for Gandhi's Gram Swaraj or Nehru's Tryst with Destiny. The hopelessness sometimes becomes so frustrating that we feel the way John Adams feels- 'I do not say that democracy has been more pernicious on the whole, and in the long run, than monarchy or aristocracy. Democracy has never been and never can be so durable as aristocracy or monarchy; but while it lasts, it is bloodier than either. ... Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide. It is in vain to say that democracy is less vain, less proud, less selfish, less ambitious, or less avaricious than aristocracy or monarchy. It is not true, in fact, and nowhere appears in history. Those passions are the same in all men, under all forms of simple government, and when unchecked, produce the same effects of fraud, violence, and cruelty.'

Conclusion:

The best guarantee against the failures of democracy is a vigilant, educated, and economically self-reliant citizen. This is a necessary condition but not sufficient one. People must elect their leaders wisely. The sufficient condition is that a society slowly develops a value system and culture in which only the truly talented and honest people are placed in positions of leadership, be it in parliament, bureaucracy, or the social arena. Favoritism, nepotism, marketing and propaganda should not influence peoples' reason and capacity to take right decisions. It is apt to quote Franklin Roosevelt in this regard- Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country. Education is very important for taking a wise decision. Thomas Jefferson highlighted this by saying that, 'it is an axiom in my mind, that our liberty can never be safe but in the hands of the people themselves, and that too of the people with a certain degree of instruction'. This is the business of the State to effect, and on a general plan. A state which wants democracy to be successful must take steps to educate people. Only then a country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or exercise their revolutionary right to overthrow it. Democracy must be built through open societies that share information. When there is information, there is enlightenment. When there is debate, there are solutions. When there is no sharing of power, no rule of law, no accountability, there is abuse, corruption, subjugation and indignation. Education is the greatest healer of democracy and peoples' participation the greatest savior.