UP PCS-J (Mains) 2023

English Language · compulsory paper

Paper printed "2022" (Everest-52), held 23 May 2023. Time Allowed: Three Hours. Maximum Marks: 100. All questions are compulsory. Marks are allotted against each question. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.

1. Write an essay in English on any one of the following topics, in about 500 words: 50 Marks

(a) Conservation of Nature.

(b) The importance of social, cultural and gender equality from a global perspective.

(c) Yoga practices and its clinical effects.

2. Make a précis of the following passage in your own words in about one-third of its length and suggest a suitable title to it: 30 Marks

Most experts in behaviour believe that morality is a uniquely human trait, without which our complex life would never have emerged. But I am convinced that many animals can distinguish right from wrong. Decades spent watching wild and captive animals have persuaded me that species living in groups often have a sense of fair play built on moral codes of conduct that help cement their social relationships. Nature isn't always ruthlessly and selfishly competitive.

Animals possess the emotions upon which a moral sense is built. Chimps and monkeys seem to feel embarrassed. Whales and ravens show signs of falling in love. Iguanas register pleasure. I am particularly interested in social play – the joyful, rough and tumble common to many mammals, especially youngsters – because it has its own social rules of engagement, allowing participants to reinterpret acts that might otherwise seem aggressive. The fact that play rarely escalates into all-out fighting is a strong indication that animals do indeed abide by the rules and that they expect others to do like-wise.

My belief is that a sense of fairness is common to many animals, because there could be no social play without it, and without social play individual animals and entire groups would be at a disadvantage. If I'm right, morality evolved because it is adaptive. It helps many animals, including humans, to survive and flourish in their particular social environment. This may sound like a radical idea, particularly if you view morality a uniquely human and a sort of mystical quality that sets us apart from other animals.

Play is essential food for the brain. Research shows that the more animals play, the bigger their brain grows. Social play seems to rewire the brain, increasing connections between neurons in the cortex. It hones an individual's cognitive skills, including logical reasoning, learning and behavioural flexibility. And it helps perfect survival skills such as hunting and mating, which is essential in later life. Quantifying these benefits of play is extraordinarily difficult, but the more we learn about the way play affects the brain, the more apparent it becomes that the activity is far from idle time-wasting.

3. Translate the following passage into English: 20 Marks

जीवन में सफलता प्राप्त करने और कुछ अलग करने के लिए शिक्षा सभी के लिए एक बहुत महत्त्वपूर्ण साधन है। यह हमें जीवन के कठिन समय में चुनौतियों से सामना करने में सहायता करती है। शरीर में शिक्षा प्राप्त कर पाना आसान है, लेकिन क्या आपने ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों की उन नन्हीं बेटियों का सोचा है, जो कम उम्र में ही शिक्षा से वंचित कर दी जाती हैं? भारतीय ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में शिक्षा के महत्त्व को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार द्वारा बहुत से जागरूकता अभियान चलाए जा रहे हैं। यह समाज में सभी व्यक्तियों में समानता की भावना लाती है और देश के विकास

और वृद्धि को भी बढ़ावा देती है। शिक्षा के जरिए ही भावी राष्ट्र का निर्माण होता है। सबसे पहले, शिक्षा पढ़ने और लिखने की क्षमता सिखाती है। पढ़ना-लिखना शिक्षा की पहली सीढ़ी है। अधिकांश जानकारी लिखित रूप में होती है, यदि आप में शिक्षा का अभाव है या लेखन कौशल की कमी है, तो आप समाज से दूर हैं, समाज में होने वाली गतिविधियों से दूर हैं। नतीजतन, शिक्षा लोगों को साक्षर बनाती है। यह निश्चित रूप से एक सभ्य जीवन जीने का शानदार अवसर देती है। शिक्षा के महत्त्व को सरकार भी समझ रही है और सभी नागरिकों की शिक्षा के लिए निरंतर प्रयास कर रही है।