

iv. Write Q. No. in the Answer Book in accordance with Q. No. in the Q. Paper.

## PART-II

**Q. 2 Make a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title. (15+5=20)**

In every epoch, civilizations have adorned themselves with the veneer of progress, yet beneath the dazzling exterior, an insidious corrosion spreads unseen. The modern temper, intoxicated with speed, invention, and the feverish multiplication of desires, has cultivated a landscape where the grandeur of acquisition eclipses the subtler music of conscience. Palaces of glass and steel rise, fortunes are conjured in markets that never sleep, and the human creature, dazzled by abundance, scarcely notices the invisible impoverishment that accompanies such plenty. It is precisely in the midst of this brilliant tumult that the gravest reversal has taken place: the scales of value, once weighed in character and honour, have been recalibrated to favour the clang of coin over the calm of virtue. The sanctuary of the home, the tribunal of learning, the very pulpits that should have stood as custodians of higher impulses, now stand compromised, bartering their dignity for the gleam of material advantage. In boardrooms, stratagems are no longer measured by fairness but by profit; in the corridors of power, policy bows before the idol of wealth; in human dealings, affection itself is often appraised by the currency of benefit. The tyrannies born of this inversion are manifold: the fracture of trust between neighbour and neighbour, the degradation of institutions once built to ennoble, and the pitiable spectacle of intellect bent not to enlightenment but to schemes of avarice. What were once the slow, luminous labours of a conscience striving for balance—honesty, forbearance, and humility—are now dismissed as quaint relics, replaced by an unbridled appetite to possess. The new century, with all its mechanisms and magnifications, has taught man to reach outward and grasp, but not to look inward and judge. In such an atmosphere, wealth becomes the only oracle, and character a silent beggar at its door. The paradox of this glittering achievement is that it leaves the spirit famished; comfort expands, yet contentment contracts. Unless a reclamation of moral sensibility interrupts this ceaseless covetousness, the splendour of our progress will merely light a theatre where a hollow humanity enacts its decline beneath the brilliant chandeliers of its own prosperity.

**Q. 3 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (20)**

The sudden outbreak of hostilities between India and Pakistan on 10 May 2025 marked a watershed moment in



morally. Otherwise, it will be doomed forever.

The progress of <sup>every</sup> human civilization has unseen loopholes. The search of more and more material gains masks the beauty of conscience because the modern man wants overnight progress, irrespective of the consequences that follow. The value once given to character and honour is now being bestowed upon the wealthy and powerful as the custodians of these values have been corrupted. In almost every walk of life, fairness has been replaced by profit and wealth has

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become an idol to worship. Lack of trust, degrading institutions and the use of intellect, solely for gaining ~~material~~ <sup>monetary</sup> benefits

have corrupted the human nature. The resulting civilization is known only to grasp more and more instead of holding itself accountable before conscience. The result is discontentment and empty soul. In order to prosper in a true sense, humanity needs to develop morally, otherwise it will be doomed forever.

Topic: Prerequisite for a Progressive Civilization.