

Q NO. 2 :

o) INTRODUCTION:

There are total five pillars of Islam i.e.; tauheed, salat, saum, zakat and hajj. Each one has its own significance in betterment of humans at individual and societal level. The concept of fasting (saum) is to instill patience and piety in muslims and to promote tolerance across the society. It has multiple beneficial implications which will be discussed in detail in the discourse below.

o) CONCEPT OF FASTING IN ISLAM:

Fasting was obligated on Muslims in 2 Hijri.

→ Literal and Figurative Meaning:

The word 'saum' is used to denote fasting in Islam, which literally means to 'patience' or 'to stop'.

Contextually fasting refers to one of the core obligations in Islam. It is the ibadah which is obligatory on all adult muslims for one specific month. Fulfilling it is mandatory for muslims since Islam gives huge importance to all ibadats.

"We have created jins and humans for nothing but My ibadat" - Al-Quran

→ Fasting as an Islamic obligation in a Specific Month:

Fasting has been made obligatory for all Muslims for one specific Islamic month of Ramzan. The month starts with moon sighting and extends upto 29 or 30 days, till the new moon rises (of Shawal), when the fasting day terminate with Eid.

o) Procedure of Fasting:

Muslims start their ^{fast} day at dawn with the Azan-e-Fajr. Then they refrain from eating and drinking ^{and sexual relations} anything for whole day. The fast is then terminated at the time of dusk with Azan-e-Maghrib.

The procedure continues for 29 or 30 days (as per the age of Moon) without any break.

→ Non-obligatory Fasting:

Some people carry out non-obligatory fasting across the year on random or special occasions i.e. Muharram and Zilhaj, for elevation of their ranks and attaining spiritual strength.

There is no punishment or compensation for leaving non-obligatory fasting unlike obligatory fasting of

Ramzan.

0 IMPORTANCE OF FASTING IN ISLAM :

" We have obligated fasting upon you, as we did upon the previous nations, so you may become pious and righteous"
- Al Quran

The obligatory ibadah of fasting has core spiritual and practical importance for muslims.

Moreover, fasting is very much like by Almighty Allah. He loves how muslims refrain even from Halal things only for Allah's happiness and desire. Thus Allah has created abundant rewards for such muslims, both in this world and hereafter.

" There are total 8 gates of Jannah. One of them is Babul-Rayyan and only those muslims who fast in the month of Ramzan would be entered from this door."

(Al-Bukhari)

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Along with attaining Allah Almighty's love, fasting has other benefits as well. It helps muslims in becoming better humans and integrating humble civic norms into the society along with promotion of equality, humility and tolerance. Its significance in human life is explained below:

◦ IMPACTS OF FASTING ON AN INDIVIDUAL :

◦ Refraining from Wrongdoings :

When muslims, even leave Halal for a day, it strengthens their nafs and helps them in staying away from all wrongdoings which is basic need of being a Muslim.

“ If a person (even when fasting) lies or deceives then Allah does not want from him to stay hungry or thirsty for his sake.”

- Al-Bukhari

o Urge to Pray Regularly:

In Ramzan, the environment is becomes very much virtuous and when people see all others carrying out maximum ibadats, all people start getting regular with their ibadat, especially Salat. The regularity then continues after Ramzan as well.

بِاتِّفَاقٍ وَأَقْبِرُوا السُّلُوفَ وَأَتُوا الزُّكُوفَ ۝

"And establish prayer and pay zakat."

- Al-Quran

o Achieving Allah's love:

Fasting is a means to achieve Allah Almighty's love. Thus the muslim is blessed in the world and hereafter.

"Allah loves the odour from a fasting person's mouth more than the fragrance of musk."

- Al-Hadees

o Instills Patience as Reward Guaranteed by Allah:

Fasting instills patience and tolerance in Muslims as they have been promised the reward from Allah himself. Thus they refrain from unnecessary quarrels.

"Fasting is for me and only I will give the reward for it"

(Hadees-e-Qudsi)

o Promotes Gratitude and Humility :

When people leave food and drinking for whole day, they realize the importance of Allah's bounties and thus they become more thankful for ~~at~~ everything Allah has provided for them.

o IMPACTS OF FASTING ON SOCIETY :

o PROMOTES HUMILITY :

Fasting is a source of humility in humans. They realize that everything they have is from Allah and they should be thankful and not proud of whatever blessing they have.

It strengthens the social fabric with lesser differential perspective between rich and poor.

"Look at the one who is at a lower level than you and do not look at the one at above level for that may keep you from swooning the blessings

of Allah."

(Sahih - Muslim)

- o Promotes tolerance for fellow humans:

With patience comes tolerance and fasting inculcates both.

Humans learn to practice patience by avoiding fighting and arguments and thus it increases their tolerance level for other human beings. They learn to let go of others mistakes.

"

Whenever someone tries to argue or fight with you, just say, "I am fasting."

(Al-Hadees)

- o Instills Helping Behaviour:

As people go through severe hunger and thirst, they realize the sufferings of underprivileged ones. Thus their will to help others is rejuvenated and they involve themselves in more acts of charity and zakat.

- o Promotes Muslim Unity:

With more and more people coming to Mosque for regular prayers as well as the Taraveeh, it promotes cohesiveness and integration, leading to muslim unity at large scale.

~~Q NO. 4~~ :

→ Conclusion :

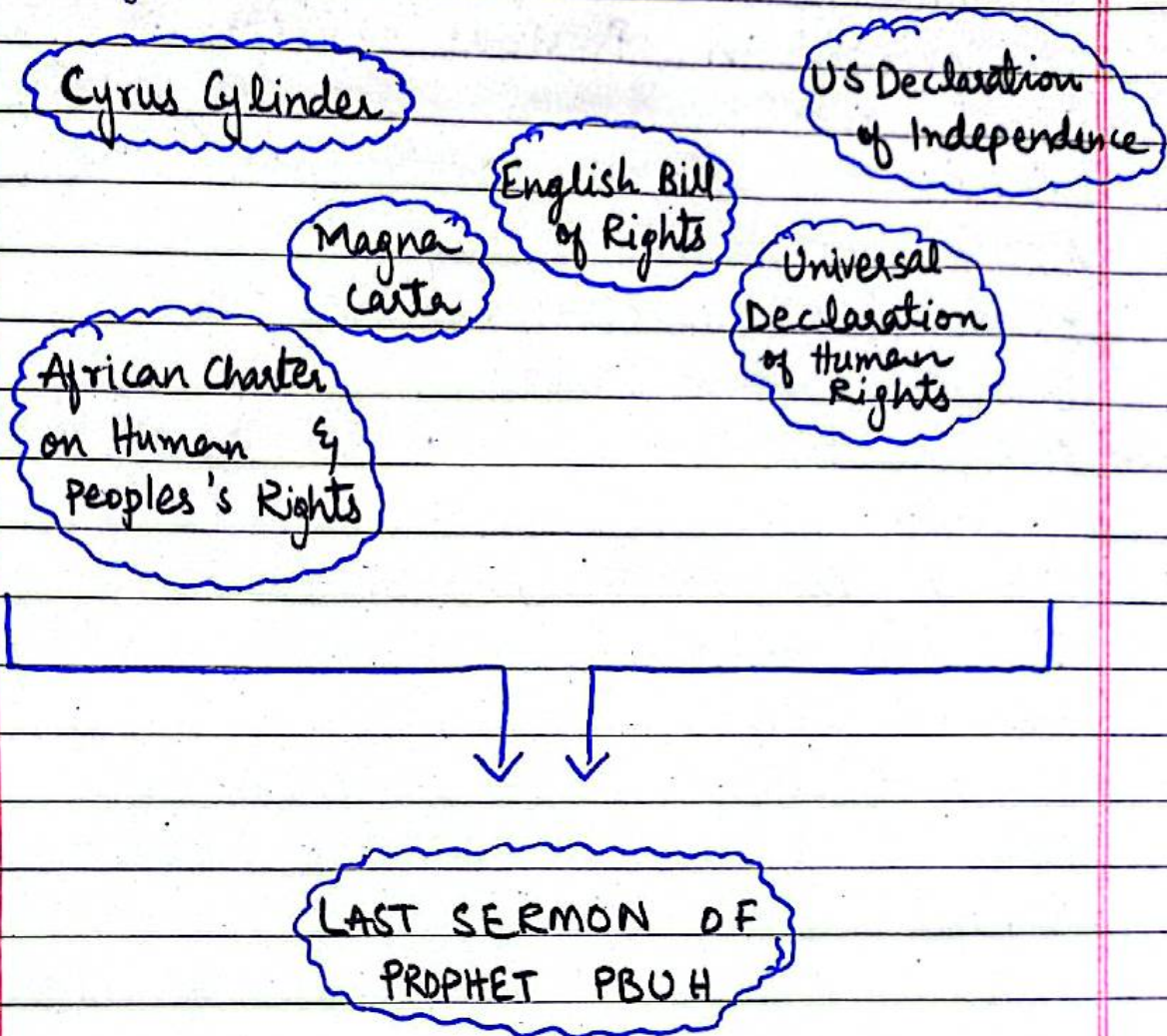
Fasting is an important ibadat in Islam which has numerous positive impacts on Muslims in individual capacity as well as at societal level. Thus it is essential for Muslims to observe fasting with full vigour and practice the values of Ramzan, throughout the year for a better life in this world and hereafter.

Qs NO. 4 :

→ INTRODUCTION :

Multiple human rights charters have been declared across the history of human civilizations. All those charters emphasized on alleviating the dignity and respect of human beings no matter their gender, color, cast or creed. Though great in number, none of the charters were as comprehensive as the last sermon of Prophet (PBUH) which focused on all humans across all spheres of life in both individual and societal capacity. The detailed analysis of last sermon as comprehensive charter of human rights

is given below.



o) Human Rights Charters Along the History :

Numerous charters and declarations were made regarding human rights including ;

- o) Cyrus Cylinder (539 BC)
- o) Magna Carta (1215)
- o) English Bill of Rights (1689)
- o) United States Declaration of Independence (1776)
- o) Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- o) African Charter on Human & People's Rights (1981)

o) Human Rights Related Components Covered in Previous Charters:

Each charter covered some key concepts related to human rights including;

- o Abolition of slavery
- o Freedom of religion and worship
- o Equality among races
- o Rule of law; no one above law, including the king
- o Right to life, liberty, property e.t.c
- o Right to education, work and equal pay
- o Right to social security
- o Right to dignity
- o Duties of individuals towards their community.

All of above given components were collectively covered in all charters separately, none of the charters was cross cutting, comprehensive and holistic like the last sermon delivered by Prophet (PBUH), whose core components are discussed below.

o) LAST SERMON — THE COMPREHENSIVE HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

Prophet PBUH delivered the last sermon during Hajj-tul-Wida in 10th Hijri. It is a comprehensive charter of human rights and its core topics

are discussed below.

o) Equality among all humans:

In the last sermon Prophet¹⁰ greatly emphasized on the equality of humans regardless of their color or creed etc. During the sermon Prophet¹⁰ stated.

"Any black man over any white man, any white man over any black man, any non-arab over any arab and any arab over any non-arab, has no superiority, except for the most pious ones".

o) Dignity of Human Life, Property & Honour:

The sanctity and honour of human life, property and honour were clearly declared by Prophet PBUH during the last sermon.

"Your lives, your property and your honour are sacred to you like the sanctity of this day, in this month, in this city".

o) Rights and Treatment of Women:

Prophet PBUH emphasized upon the rights and treatment of women more than 1400 centuries ago, that

the other chapters realized so late after a long period of cruelty towards women i.e women were not even regarded as human beings equal to men before 18th and 19th century.

“O people! Keep fearing Allah in your dealings with women.”
He^ﷺ stated during last sermon,

“It is true that you have certain rights over your women but they have rights over you too?”

o) Prohibition of Injustice :

Prophet (PBUH) also emphasized on just treatment towards one another and refraining from injustice which is one of the components scarcely found in previous chapters.

He^ﷺ stated;

“Beware! Do not go astray after me, striking each others' necks (killing one another).”

o) Abolition of Riba (Interest) :

Prophet (PBUH) abolished the concept of interest through his sermon where He^ﷺ stated,

“All dues of interest shall be abolished and you will

neither inflict nor suffer
any inequity".

This was also for the betterment of humans since interest promotes a cycle of oppression and easy money through which the lender's hold gets unequally stronger over the recipient.

The above discussion explained how many things were missing from the charters separately that were in detail discussed in the last sermon of Prophet PBUH.

⇒ Conclusion:

The Last Sermon is a comprehensive and detailed charter of human rights which covers all essential aspects. If we as Muslims follow it in true sense, it won't be long that we'll be able to take over the world.

Q5 :

→ Introduction :

Muslim Ummah is greatly disunited today due to various reasons including sectarian and ethnic differences along with extremism and other key issues.

If the leaders as well as the muslim community work for collective good, their core strength, unity, will be back and there won't be any oppressed Palestine, Yemen, Iraq, Myanmar and Kashmir e.t.c.

D) MEASURES TO UNITE MUSLIM UMMAH :

o) Role of OIC :

All leaders of OIC should make policies i.e economic unification and uniform judicial system to promote unity among muslims.

o) Anti-sectarian Awareness :

Awareness campaigns should be run by public-private partnership in Muslim countries to promote anti-sectarian themes which promote muslim unity rather than division.

o) Global Level Events Promoting Muslim Unity:

Cultural events by Muslim countries should be conducted at global level to leverage art and colors to promote muslim unity.

o) Raising Voices plus Practical Steps For Oppressed Muslims Across Globe:

All Muslim Countries should become one voice and one hand to help their muslim brothers in pain and to provide monetary and commodity based aid for them.

o) Preaching Harmony in Jummah / Eid Sermons:

o) Intervention in Curriculums:

o) Role of Media in Promoting Muslim Unity:

o) Conclusion:

By leveraging these measures ~~we~~ muslims can reignite their Ummah strength and stand against all unjust and oppressive hands tackling Muslim strength across the globe.