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Q3

Philosophy of wantlessness is Utopian, while materialism is a chimera.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2021 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Two failures:** wantlessness as a dream; materialism as a mirage
- **One stand:** walk a middle path - enough, not nothing, not endless more
- Move through person, economy, ecology, policy. Keep one honest counter
- Close on need versus display

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with sadhu-poster and mall-ad on one bus. Stand:** enough, not none, not endless.
- **Headings:** self, growth, planet, welfare, then one counter.

Earn **Gandhi** and **Buddha** or **Ambedkar**.

Close on floor plus less theatre.

Note

This is a map, not the full 1,000-1,200 word essay.

Anecdote

A sadhu on a poster; a mall on the other wall of the same bus. One says want nothing. One says want this. Both are selling a freeze-frame. The line names them: Utopia and chimera. A clerk between the ads has rent due on Tuesday.

One stand

Gandhi's need-not-greed is not wantlessness. A floor of nutrition is not materialism. Write the chimera of GDP-as-self and the Utopia of a nation of saints - then a livable middle.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Wantlessness:** a spiritual extreme - also a lecture the comfortable give the hungry.
- **Materialism:** things as the only real; a chimera because the hole is not shaped like a car.
- **Utopian / chimera:** both fail as sole public philosophy.

Self

- Santosh vs a wedding chandelier (cousin of **Socrates** 2025). **Buddha's** tanha.

Economy

- Growth that lifts a floor is not a chimera; growth as identity is.
- **Peg:** undernutrition beside luxury housing - two errors in one republic.

Ecology

- Endless more is a chimera the planet will not fund. IPCC as a physical veto.

State

- Welfare is not anti-spiritual; it is how wantlessness is not forced on the landless.
- **Conspicuous official spend:** materialism in khaki and khadi.

The counter

- **Ambedkar:** a hungry man is not 'simple'. Do not baptise poverty as wantlessness. And do not baptise a billionaire's ashram as the middle path. Rights first; then talk of enough.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** raise the floor, lower the theatre. Expand - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Gandhi

Need versus greed - enough as ethic, not as anti-development.

Buddha

Tanha - craving as the hole a chimera cannot fill.

Ambedkar

Do not spiritualise hunger - the counter inside the quote.

Nutrition vs luxury

Two worlds, one republic - peg without fake decimals.

Art. 21 / DPSPs

A legal floor so 'enough' is possible.