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Q6

The years teach much which the days never know.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2025 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Emerson:** years teach what days cannot - time, compounding, institutions
- **Stake:** patience and memory vs the tyranny of the news cycle
- **Counter:** delay can be injustice

Revision summary

Guidance only.

Banyan vs tweet. **Emerson's** years vs days.

- **Body:** habit, education, infrastructure, **climate**, demography.
- **Counter:** some days are life-and-death. Close on two clocks.

Note

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

Anecdote

A banyan does not look busy. A tweet does. Twenty years later the shade is the banyan's; the tweet is dust. **Emerson** wrote, "The years teach much which the days never know." The essay is about what only duration can teach - and what must not wait.

Heading map**Unpack**

- **Ralph Waldo Emerson**, "Experience": years vs days.
- Years = compounding, character, forest, constitution, **climate**, demography.
- Days = incident, mood, TRP, a viral clip.

Quote to earn: Keynes - in the long run we are dead (the counter-quote: some waits kill). **Nehru** - temples of modernity as a bet on years. **Gandhi** - means as years of practice.

Person

- **Skill, grief, marriage, recovery:** the day of resolve is cheap; the year of habit is dear.
- **UPSC itself:** a year of reading vs a day of panic.

Society

- **Education:** NEP's horizon is a generation, not a press conference.
- **Fact peg:** literacy and TFR (**NFHS-5** around replacement in many states) moved over decades, not news cycles.

State

- Afforestation, groundwater, a metro, a civil service cadre - year-logic.
- **Judiciary's delay:** years that teach the wrong lesson (justice denied).
- **Fact peg:** India's median age is still young; a demographic year-window is not infinite.

Planet

- **Climate:** days of weather vs years of carbon. IPCC is a years-teacher.

Counter

A missing child, a custodial death, a famine week - days must know. **Emerson** is against shallowness, not against urgency. The art is two clocks.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep a daily clock for harm, a yearly clock for building. A republic that only lives in the news feed never plants a banyan. Expand this; it is not the full canopy.

Facts & figures

Emerson

"The years teach much which the days never know" - from the essay "Experience".

National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5)

Fertility near replacement in many states: a years-long shift, not a day's campaign.

Climate

Cumulative CO₂, not a single heatwave, is the teacher - IPCC logic.

Demographic window

A young median age is a years-advantage that closes; policy cannot live only in daily news.