

NEXT IAS

खण्ड-A / Section-A

- Q.1 Little strokes fell great oaks.
छोटे - छोटे प्रयासों से बड़ी सफलता मिलती है।
- Q.2 Judge a man by his questions rather than his answers.
किसी व्यक्ति का मूल्यांकन उसके उत्तरों के स्थान पर उसके प्रश्नों से करें।
- Q.3 Great principles, great ideals know no nationality.
महान सिद्धांत, महान आदर्श किसी एक राष्ट्र से संबंधित नहीं है।
- Q.4 In struggling with misfortune lies the true proof of virtue.
दुर्भाग्य से संघर्ष करने में ही नैतिकता का सच्चा प्रमाण निहित है।

1. LITTLE STROKES FELL GREAT OAKS.

In a remote village, there lived a couple. One day, while the husband was working, his wife went to give him his lunch box. However, there was a huge mountain between the house and the workplace. While climbing, the wife slipped and fell with serious injury.

The mountain blocks the village from the nearest hospital. Thus to go to the hospital, one has to take a long route. Unable to reach the hospital in time, the wife died.

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The incident deeply affect the husband and he vowed to cut the mountain. The man was Dachakatti Majji.

He cut the mountain with bare hand along with a chisel only. Many people called him lunatic. However, his aim and perseverance made the impossible possible.

In this essay, we will explore the meaning of 'little strokes fell great oaks' and try to understand the phrase with different aspects of life. We will explore how it applies in real life, with learnings from history, examples from economy and evidence from society, finally we will try to understand the importance of patience and perseverance in our life to succeed.

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The phrase 'little strokes fell great oaks' implies that no matter how big and tall an oak tree is, it can be cut by a small axe. But no matter how strong the axe is, it requires several strokes to make the impact. The big tree will not fall by a single blow of the axe even if the axe is very sharp.

This can be observed from a story.

There were two men, one weak and other strong. They were given a task to pluck a horse's tail. The strong one tried to grab the tail of the horse as a whole and pull it. But it cannot complete the task. However, the weak one adopted the technique of plucking single strand at a time. In little time, he completed the task. This shows how perseverance ensures success.

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Rome was not built in a day.

Similarly, it can be observed that India did not become independent in a single day. It was through efforts of our brave freedom fighters that British left India. The rise of nationalism was not ignited suddenly. It was the contribution of various revolts and rebellion. The revolt of 1857, the inspiration from personalities like Rani Lakshmi Bai helped in the national awakening.

Also, with rise in regional movements and unity of each individual various mass movements like Non Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement were possible. A long persistent struggle with a zeal to succeed and attain freedom helped in achieving the independence.

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Moreover, The significance can also be observed in the developmental progress of India. India after independence was a backward agrarian economy. Many thought that India would also face the fate of balkanization. However, with proper planning, it ensured stability and was able to provide food security. The path was not smooth with various downfall as can be seen with structural regression from 1966-1980.

But at the same time, initiatives like Green Revolution, changing industrial policies helped bring the economy back. This was not through a single stroke. This required constant resolution to improve the mistakes and undergo changes in order to come out of the vicious trap. Further the LP reform ensures gradual development taking India forward with making India one of the fastest growing nation.

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Light gain makes a heavy pause.

India had become one of the fastest growing nation. But there was various issues ~~it~~ that plagued India. One of them was poverty. The recent Multidimensional Poverty Index reported India has reduced the multidimensional poverty from around 25% in 2015-16 to around 15% in 2020-22.

This progress was not achieved with a flick of hand. It was with various programmes and welfare schemes that made many people out of poverty. The vision of inclusive growth along with bottom up approach helped the society improved.

India which was once growing at near zero rate of growth at the time of independence is now a 3 trillion USD economy aiming to reach 5 trillion USD economy.

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Change in Perspective is the Need of Time

Like the evolution of India, the importance of each and every effort to achieve success is true in personal life too. A positive mindset with never giving up attitude is required to succeed in life and overcome obstacles which may seem impossible.

In this regard, a great inspiration is the life of Thomas Edison who invented electricity. He was ostracized by the society and nobody believed in his work. He had several failures in his experiments. However, it was his optimistic perspective that led him to be one of the greatest inventors. He saw his 1000 failures as an opportunity of how to not make mistakes. He learned from the mistakes and succeeded eventually.

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Awake, Awake and stop not till the goal is Reached!

The story of Thomas Edison teaches us the importance of patience and perseverance.

Through it, one can achieve various great things which seem impossible at the beginning. It must be applied by every individual so that they can succeed in life, especially youth of the society.

It is the youth who are the future, who will shape the world. As a student, one must never give up even in the face of thousand failures and aspire to learn from it. One must trust the process and eventually, it will make an individual great human being. One must remember the various lessons from the past to endure and persevere to reach one's goal.

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In conclusion, it is important to remember that every individual has potential. Various great companies and brands like McDonald, Starbucks etc also face the same challenges. They did not become multinational brand in a single day. One must not lose hope and be optimistic and believe in one self.

Every individual must remember the wise man who in spite of adversity used his wit to overcome his trial. All the great personalities became great only by passing through numerous adversities. Thus, as Swami Vivekananda said:

"Every work has got to pass through hundred of difficulties before succeeding. Those who persevere will see the light sooner or later"

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खण्ड-B / Section-B

- Q.5 The whole purpose of Education is to turn mirrors into windows.
शिक्षा का सम्पूर्ण उद्देश्य दर्पण को खिड़कियों में बदलना है।
- Q.6 To dwell is to garden.
निवास करना बगीचे के सामान है।
- Q.7 Reality is the shadow of ideas.
सच्चाई विचारों की छाया मात्र है।
- Q.8 We can not despair of humanity, since we ourselves are human beings.
हम मानवता से निराश नहीं हो सकते, क्योंकि हम स्वयं भी मनुष्य हैं।

8. We cannot despair of humanity, since we ourselves are human beings.

On 6th and 9th August, 1945, the US dropped two atom bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki respectively. This led to annihilation of the entire region making it the only time a nuclear weapon is used against someone. Such incident shows how humanity has fallen in the name of power and greed. However, we cannot despair humanity since we ourselves are human beings. As a human being, one has emotions which can uplift the humanity.

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In this essay, we will explore why we despair humanity, the negative impacts of downfall of humanity and how it is leading to downfall of society globally. We will also try to understand various features that we possess as a human being and why we cannot despair humanity. Then we will find solutions to uplift the humanity and restore the balance of society. Finally we will try to understand how every human beings are same and why they need to coordinate and cooperate.

Gandhiji once said that there is enough for everybody's need but not for everyone's greed. This can help in explaining the changing nature of human beings affecting their humanity in various aspects of life.

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First of all, with the changing time, the aspirations of human beings evolved. From a subsistence way of life, it is moving towards consumerism. This change has led to various negative impacts harming everything in the surrounding. The change in way of life impacts others like a domino effect.

Such can be seen from the impact of climate change. With the greed to have more and rise of consumerism, the ecological balance is hampered. The rise in emission of greenhouse gases impacts not only human beings but all biodiversity with the resultant global warming. Also, the greed made human beings self-centric and egoistic. It results in not considering the consequences of every actions it took.

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Not only greed but the rise in the desires of human being to control power leads to diminishing humanity. The tendency of forgetting the value of other's life tends to make people despair humanity. This can be observed from various instances of war around the world both internally and externally.

The recent Russia Ukraine war can be living example. With the objective of controlling power, it ignores the casualties it caused with the loss of numerous lives, various livelihoods, and the externalities to the surrounding with rise in inflation, disruption of supply chains and increasing poverty. Such incidents make people devoid of trust and turn everyone to do anything for survival irrespective of consequences.

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Another aspect can be seen in terms of rigid mindsets which creates inequality and discrimination in the society. This is detrimental to public welfare and standards of living of an individual. It can be seen from instances of patriarchy, caste system and communalism.

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An example of such mindset is the ~~low~~ behaviour towards women considering them inferior to men. The instances of female feticide, dowry system, domestic violence and sexual abuse make people question if there is humanity left inside a person. The rise in murder, gunshooting in school and rape cases adds to the doubt resulting in mistrust and solidifying the downward fall of humanity. Such aspects of life induces people to despair humanity.

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However, one must not forget that we are all human beings. Each and everyone of us has both bright side and dark side. We as human being thrive in this world because of humanity. Human beings are unique because of their capability to learn, avoid mistakes and ability to ~~incubated~~ inculcate basic moral principles.

The story of Angulimala is a great example of how one can inculcate moral values. When he met Buddha, seeing how ~~he~~ Buddha did not fear him and how he was calm led to Angulimala becoming his disciple following Buddha's way of life bringing compassion and kindness in the society. Human beings greatest ability is to change ourselves.

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Therefore, instead of despairing and not believing in humanity, one must try to bring the change. This can be done by ~~bring~~ bringing the change in oneself first. The greatest example of this is Mahatma Gandhi who first used to adopt the principles he preached before telling others to do the same.

One must not forget that to err is human and to forgive is divine. Only by self act, one can free oneself and move forward. It can bring change by being as an example. After Apartheid when Nelson Mandela became president, he made the Judge who imprisoned him as just of honour. Also, his body guards were white individuals. This serves as an example of how a small act can change perspective of everyone.

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From the above examples, we can see that human beings are capable of change. Thus, we must find ways in which we can inculcate tolerance, compassion, empathy among human beings. This will lead to revival of humanity with every individual knowing what is right and wrong.

To execute this, one must first understand the emotions of others, what they are going through. This will help bind net. people bridging the emotional gap. Then, the most important pillar is education which can turn mirrors into windows. It will lead to evolution of individuals with various perspectives, having scientific temper.

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As Swami Vivekananda said,
 "Education is the manifestation of perfection
 already in Man". So, through education,
 One can inculcate ethical principles, moral
 values and thus helping every individual
 connect with others, letting them
 know the value of humanity.

Humanity is a link which helps humanity
 human being thrive on this earth. Absence
 of humanity will turn everyone into a
 barbaric individual who will eventually
 become extinct. Humanity preserves
 the natural balance and enhances the
 life standard of every individuals
 helping in their growth. Therefore
 to despair humanity means giving
 up on human beings itself which will
 be the root cause of deterioration.

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In conclusion, one must remember that human beings has potential to achieve great thing only if they trust each other, cooperate and coordinate with each other. Only by ~~behave~~ seeing other individuals as human being like one self, understanding them and realising the consequences of one's actions can the standard of living be improved.

Such actions are happening all around the world now with development of international organisations like World Bank, United Nations and other welfare organisation.

India is leading in this aspect with spreading its core values like 'Varudera Kutumbakan' encouraging every individual to see the whole world as one.

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Therefore, one must realise so that we are all human beings and by believing in each other, humanity will thrive leading to sustainable, efficient and inclusive growth.

