

खण्ड-A / Section-A

उम्मीदवारों को
इस मार्ग में
लिखना मना है।
Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

- 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।

LITTLE STROKES FELL GREAT OAKS

In 2013, an Army Veteran and Social Activist Anna Hazare was very much disturbed with cases of rampant corruption. To eliminate corruption from Indian Administration, he demanded for Constitution for Lokpal. But government ignored his demands. Still determined for his goals, Anna Hazare sat on hunger protest in Ramlila Maidan Delhi gradually.

news of his protest spread. And people inspired from his selfless patriotic Act joined him in this protest. Within just few days, voice of a person became the voice of the nation.

Demand for Lokpal started coming from all parts of India. And finally under building pressure, government succumbed and accepted demands of Anna Hazare. One year later, Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act was passed. So, little but consistent effort of Anna Hazare, supported by little efforts of lakhs of Indians resulted in falling of great oaks i.e., Lokpal Act.

In this essay, we will analyse the different contours of 'little ^{strokes} ~~efforts~~' and 'Great Oaks'. Starting it very first questions that is what is 'little ^{strokes} ~~efforts~~' and what do we mean by 'Great Oaks'. Then our efforts

actions to achieve something are our little efforts. As student studying day and night for years to clear competitive exams.

Similarly, 'Great oaks' reflects our goals, Ambitions, purposes that we dream our intended to attain. As in above example, clearing competitive exam was the Great oaks for the student.

Subsequently, we must be wondering 'Why 'Little efforts' feel great oaks'. Then

our little efforts are just like climbing a ladder. where, we step one ladder at a time but repeatedly doing it results in climbing up the floor. Ramdhari Singh

Dinkar in his famous book 'Rasmi Rathi' has tried to highlight the importance of little efforts by giving example of Ant.

if we see ^{in our history} around, then

उम्मीदवारों को
इस भाग में
लिखना मना है।
Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

NEXT IAS

Buddha in search for answers to his question left his house. He wandered in forest for years. Also, he meditated under Bodhi Tree and endured the attack of Devil named 'Maya'. which he highlighted through 'Bhumisparsha Mudra'. only after putting little efforts continuously for such long period of time, He was able to attain Enlightenment.

In contemporary times, ISRO has worked for years, paving through plenty of challenges in terms of shortages of funds, limited infrastructure capability etc. It was hard work of hundreds of Scientists working day and night, shaped and guided by carefully nurtured work culture, has today put ISRO in list of top space Agencies. Successful missions like Mangalyaan, Chandrayaan, launch of 102 satellites in one go etc are

manifestation of that 'great oaks'.

Various Indian Athletes, also train tirelessly since their childhood. They sacrifice everything ~~but~~ just to keep putting their little efforts. Neeraj Chopra, P.V. Sindhu are few such names whose ^{prolonged} 'little' efforts resulted in winning medals for the country in olympic.

Not ~~always~~ ^{only} little efforts of single entity results in felling of great oaks, but little efforts of many collectively also leads in felling of Great Oaks.

As when thousand little efforts are summed up it makes plenty which ~~is~~ becomes enough for felling ² the great oaks.

In Indian Freedom Struggle

Millions of Indians from Rani Laxmi Bai to first war of independence

to Mahatma Gandhi through his weapon of Satyagraha contributed selflessly for cause of Indian independence. And as a result of sacrifices like Bhagat Singh, revolutionary and political ideas of Subhash Chandra Bose, India in 1947 attained independence.

Women Empowerment

Movement had been also on the similar lines. ~~Starting~~ From the fight against Sati Pratha by Rada Ram Mohan Roy to fight against ^{girl} child marriages by Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar and in recent times to SHGs movements led by Kudumbashree and Deevika. All made their sincere effort to eradicate social evil against women. Consequently, today women are shining in every field like entrepreneurship as Nykaa founder is women, 91space-Kalkara

Chawla etc.

an ecological domain, by 1980s, ozone hole in atmosphere had become global challenge. To bridge the hole, Montreal Protocol was enacted, in which target was set for all countries to eliminate use of CFCs. Hence, all countries across globe took their targets seriously and made their efforts in their own country to replace CFCs with green refrigerants. As a result, ozone hole is bridging and is expected to complete get filled by 2050.

Now, a question that comes to our mind 'is falling of great oaks only about achieving goals or targets'.

In this regard Gandhiji has said that 'satisfaction lies in effort, full effort is full victory'. So achieving

उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना पना है। Candidates must not write on this margin

goal is not important, important is full conviction in our effort. ^{Though} Milkha

Singh finished 4th in olympic 100m race. Still his effort in reaching upto that level is full success. Despite belonging to poor family and lacking on all basic infrastructure required for training, achieving that much is unbelievable.

Additionally, sometimes we put our effort with full conviction but still we end up in failure. But as Nelson Mandela said 'Failure is not in falling down' but when we refuse to stand back'. So in case of ~~the~~ failures, we need to stand again and ~~make~~ learn from our mistakes and move ahead. As Edison failed 1400 times before he invented Bulb. And those efforts, he integrated his failure in his

process, leaden from it and tried again.

So far, it is very much clear that our little efforts in one way or another leads to feeling of 'great oaks'. Despite this, we don't put efforts. As most of times, we lack on necessary courage required in doing that effort. As in Manipur Violence, when two women were paraded naked. No one ~~had~~ dared to stop this as they lacked courage. And I'm sure if anyone has stepped against it then his little effort must have casted stepping stone for others to join him/her against that parade.

Sometimes, our limited ability to comprehend the problems, also leads to failure of putting effort. As still in Indian society, many orthodox

उम्मीदवारों को
इस भाग में
लिखना मना है।
Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

Social practices are prevalent. But we ~~fail~~ to are unable to recognize it as problem. Consequently, we end up supporting social evils instead of speaking against it eg. caste practices.

Additionally, some times we put effort but our effort are misdirectional. This happens because of lack of guidance. And ultimately our efforts go in vain. G. in civil service preparation, aspirants often ~~lose~~ deviate from target because of lack of guidance.

on few occasions, our efforts doesnot have that conviction.

As Bureaucrats with elitist mindset, often focusses only on doing their work just by adhering to rules. They don't care about sufferings of people, hence ends up in poor governance.

So, ultimate question that comes up is 'How to address this challenges'. As Aristotle said 'To move world first we should move ourselves'.

Therefore firstly we have to step out of our comfort zone and should take the discomfort of thought to comprehend the problems.

Then we have to set our goals as per problem rectification demand. After this need is for guidance and right amount of conviction. For this we can take inspiration from our role models or seek the advices of our 'guru'.

ultimately everything hinges on consistency. It can be developed through developing perseverance and patience

उम्मीदवारों को
इस भाग में
लिखना गना है।
Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

NEXT IAS

like that of Anna Hazare.

To sum up, we should follow guiding principles of Swami Vivekananda 'Arise, Awake and not stop until success is achieved'. But at the same time our efforts should be based on Bhagavat Geeta's 'Nishakama Karma' philosophy. Only then 'our little ~~effort~~ strokes fell great Oaks'.

उम्मीदवारों
इस भाग में
लिखना नहीं
Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

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।

उम्मीदवारों को
इस भाग में
लिखना मना है।
Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

REALITY IS THE SHADOW OF IDEAS

In Ancient India, Caste System was very rampant. Society was divided in four Castes, where Shudra's lowest in the hierarchy had to serve other three Castes namely Brahman, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas. This societal Reality was result of ideas that Shudras has originated from the foot of Brahma while top three from head, torso and thigh respectively.

But in medieval times, with advent of ideas of Advaitabad,

which advocated the human souls are part of Supreme Soul (the Brahma).

Based on this idea, concept of equality emerged. Thus people started seeing new 'Societal Reality' that is everyone is equal and should be treated with dignity.

So, it is very clear that with different shadow of ideas, concept of our Reality gets influenced. Just like Indian society in medieval and Ancient times. This brings us to the question like 'what is Reality' and what is 'ideas'. Various scholars have tried defining 'Reality' but still there is no single standard definition. Though Reality can be grouped into two parts Absolute Reality and subjective Reality.

Absolute Reality is something which

is present. This we will discuss in detail later. While Subjective Reality is what we perceive to be true. Hence it differs from person to person or society to society. Now, ideas can be seen as our values, beliefs, etc. ~~or our perception~~

These ideas shape our perception of looking at things. This perception plays a crucial role in analyzing the data or information that we receive from seeing things and hence influences our Reality. Like when we see a glass half full with water, one can see half filled glass & another can see half empty glass. Though both is true but these reality reflects differences in our perception.

In initial phase of our freedom struggle, 'Reality' of independence was seen as mere free from British Rule. As this Reality was

उम्मीदवारों को
इस मार्ग में
लिखना पना है।
Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

NEXT IAS

based on ideas of freedom, equality, liberty, which our middle class attained through western education.

But Gandhiji changed the definition of 'Reality'. And he said that independence should not only from British but also from social evils prevailing in the society like untouchability. Gandhiji's Reality of Independence was based on ideas that he garnered while traveling across India and seeing sufferings of people.

Reality of Women Empowerment
until few decades back were seen in seeing their male counterparts. They were seen only in role of mother, daughter and sister. As this reality concept was motivated from orthodox and conservative principles of Indian Society. ~~But~~ with emergence of modern education, international women empowerment movements, and examples of women successes in different

NEXT IAS

fields, ideas of women's role got changed so does the reality. As a result today they are participating in hand to hand with men in all fields.

Few see development of their religion by hurting the interests of other religious groups. Their reality is shadow of manipulative ideas given by orthodox leaders. Terrorist leaders like Majeed Saeed preach for Islamic upliftment through violence upon Hindus. At the same time, few see their religion upliftment in helping others. Langars in Gurudwaras is fed to all irrespective of their caste or religion at free of cost. Hence their 'Reality' is driven by ideas of compassion and tolerance.

Nowadays, concept of development has different definitions.

उम्मीदवारों को
इस भाग में
लिखना नगना है।
Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

Few countries are driven by ideas of development through natural resource exploitation. like china constructing massive dams to divert river water. Brazil doing massive deforestation in Amazon for industrialization. on the contrary, few countries see their development by conserving nature and using its resources responsibly. Bhutan give utmost importance to environment conservation. Hence, different sets of ideas has given different reality of development.

In India's foreign policy,
in initial years, they adopted the policy of non-Alignment, based on ideas of decolonisation and not getting entangled in cold war disputes. But over a period of time, India dropped its non-Alignment policy and adopted

'Strategic Autonomy'. As their ideas got changed to advancement of national interest, securing themselves

from volatile neighbourhood. So Reality of India's foreign policy changed with change of ideas.

India's Border Security realities are also driven by their ideas of possible threats. Initially, maritime border security was not given equal importance as per land border. But after 26/11 Attack's, this biasness was removed. With advancement of technology, possible threats are also getting sophisticated like drone attacks. Hence to have robust border security, laser guns and smart fencing are being deployed.

moving ahead, there is

उम्मीदवारों को
इस भाग में
लिखना मना है।
Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

NEXT IAS

very interesting discussion that are being done across the globe by different scholars. This is discussion of 'Reality of success'. Here also, this reality is reflection of shadow of its ideas. Teleologists believe in Reality of success in only achieving the intended goals. As they are driven by ideas of outcome.

While Deontologists defines it in adherence to ^{moral} path. They support their argument based on principle that 'Satisfaction lies in effort, full effort is full victory'. As ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 mission is not seen as failure because they as a team given their best effort.

So far, we discussed about various ~~two~~ aspects of subjective reality as shadows of ideas. But at the

उम्मीदवारों को
इस भाग में
लिखना मना है।
Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

Same time there are certain Reality which does not need shadows of ideas. These are Absolute Reality. like Sun Rises in East, phenomena of global warming. Though ideas play important role in acceptance of these reality. As IPCC reports have given different ideas of impact of climate change. So the world has now recognized this problem of climate change.

So these absolute realities are always present, ideas through scientific research, questions, discoveries merely help in accepting or finding these realities. Henceforth, we saw the significance of ideas in our concept of Reality. But our various reality concepts has issues. ~~This~~ This is also attributable to our ^{shadows of} ideas. of ~~Reality~~

Firstly narrow band of ideas. limited ideas in terms of values and beliefs are limits spectrum of perception and thus the reality. Practices of animal sacrifices on festive occasions are result of this narrowness.

Secondly, ignorance to gather ideas stagnate our spectrum of perception. Hesit of staying in comfort zone coupled with chalta hai attitude are ~~manifested~~ curative factors. Nowadays we seek knowledge from whatsapp university without validating it.

Thirdly, manipulative ideas inculcation makes our reality ~~strong~~ flawed. Radicalization drives by ISIS are best example of it.

Lastly, vested interests of few restricts the reality despite

NEXT IAS

having sufficient ideas. As politicians use caste, religion, region as grounds for votes. Even they are well aware that these are not the reality of development or empowerment.

So, the question that comes to our mind is how to properly and adequately gather the ideas. Then first we should focus on accumulation of ideas. This is possible only when we are driven by principle of 'only wisdom is knowing that we know nothing'. Then we can wonder for more ideas.

For this various methods like reading about leaders and history can help. In addition to this roleplays, travelling to different places, meeting and talking with new people can help

उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है।
Candidates must not write on this margin

accumulation of ideas and perspectives -

Further, there should be ability of questioning and critical examining everything. This works both ways questioning ourselves and the events of outside world.

In the end, Swami Vivekananda rightly said 'Truth can be stated in thousand ways', yet each to be true'.

~~But~~ So to have better understanding of reality, we need broader perspectives. This is possible by having curiosity to accumulate ideas. Just like Bhakti saints of old in medieval times.
