

NEXT IAS

खण्ड-A / Section-A

उम्मीदवारों को
इस मार्ग में
लिखना नहीं है।
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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।

यह प्रश्न छोड़ दें कि कल क्या हो सकता है, और हर उस दिन को लाभ के रूप में गिनें जो भाग्य आपको अनुमति देता है।

Little strokes fell great oaks

Sri Lanka was praised as ~~the~~ one of the most successful economic models until recently. The 2022 economic crisis brought the nation to its knees. The streets of Colombo were packed with vehicles queuing up outside petrol bunks. Ration dwindles, hospitals run out of critical supplies and the whole nation went dark when imports of fuel dwindled.

The humbling of Sri Lanka ~~was~~ was not a one-day event, rather it was set off long back. Long back when the majoritarian Sinhalese parties promoted ethnic hatred; when the failed power devolution led to civil war; ~~and~~ when the blood and ^{when} from policy sowed radicalism; the populist politics ignored prudent economics. Thus the fall of Sri Lanka was in the making for many decades.

This explains the statement Little strokes, fell great oaks. Oaks are formidable trees with huge, thick barks. Yet, they can be felled down ~~by~~ even by little strokes. The strokes, when applied consistently, acquired great destructive power. Similarly, great empires and institutions have been brought down by continuous weakening actions.

But, do the continuous actions only have destructive power? Don't they possess constructive power for bringing down hardships? How is one supposed to harness this power?

STROKES - The destroyer:

As seen in the introduction, little strokes acquire destruction power when applied for chronic duration. As we see in day to day governance, Corruption is one such power. It is small and invisible, yet is more numerically high.

Though, speed money irons out the barriers, speeds up the process of governance by lubricating, it simultaneously weakens the system from within. The fall of many empires, from Magadha to Mughals were because of this destructive power of corruption.

Similarly, Additionally, owing to the smallness of the assaults, one is not aware of such strokes. To illustrate, the IPCC report talks about tipping points, which are irreversible breakdown of natural systems. The humanity was not aware of their ecologically destructive materialism, production and consumption patterns. The damage is visible only after drastic destruction.

Additionally such strokes also operate in families. A female child is constantly subjugated to discrimination, trivialisation of her sufferings and neglect. These small, yet continuous assaults fundamentally distort their personalities. Of late, they end up living in cocoons as dictated by the society. Thus, strokes, at times, prevent oaks from strengthening in the first place.

Though strokes are sharp and destructive, they are also destructive to the evils in the world. This power can be constructively used in creation or in freeing up liberation.

The creative power of strokes

The liberating power of strokes :-

By continuously assaulting the barriers to growth, one can achieve development. Many of these barriers are formidable that requires perseverance and dedication.

The Indian National Struggle for independence is one such chronic set of strokes that humbled the British. The all out approach involving every small hands - from farmers to workers, from hindus to muslims - that employed a gamut of techniques " , from moderate to

extremism, ~~from~~ including militant nationalism, finally culminated in dethroning the British from India.

Similarly, E.V.R. Periyar consistently attacked various manifestations of oppression. What started as a small, humble protest in Vaikom ~~sp~~ did spread to all parts of the country. Other efforts like the humanity based approach of Gandhi, legal empowerment based approach of Babanubhai Ambedkar among others, have ~~marked~~ enabled the beginning of the end of caste system.

These small strokes can bring down even the elusive inanimate viruses. When the world grappled with coronavirus pandemic, the all out approach of ~~destroying~~ destroying every

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tentacle, enabled our victory over covid. ^{while} social
distancing reduced spread, ~~while~~ government ^{health} ~~welfare~~
measures reinforced hospitals as war rooms,
the scientific community designed vaccines and
community volunteers gave a helping hand. The
inanimate matter, despite being humongous, was shown
its place

Also, ~~Thus~~, the destructive power of the
Machetes. can be used to ^{either} cut oak, or to clear
off the weeds that feed upon the oaks. Similarly,
~~continuous efforts can~~ the strokes can be
used destructively or used to destroy the barriers
to constructive use. For instance, the nuclear
non-proliferation treaty made possible the
constructive, peaceful use of nuclear technology, rather
than imposing blanket bans.

The Wielder of Machete.

It's our duty to ensure that we don't lose our institutions to chronic assaults. Thus, Vigilance is needed in any polity. Indifference to politics must not make us blind to the damages that are done to the polity.

Additionally, Wisdom is needed to differentiate the bad strokes from good strokes. Hitler sold his Nazism in exchange for an appealing Lebensraum. As a citizen, if we fail to differentiate the bad from the good, the loss is ours.

To utilise the constructive power of destruction, as seen in the illustration of Indian independence movement, Perseverance is key. When one attempts to reform society,

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That person is challenging the establishment.

As the privileged would rush to protect theirs,

Courage and perseverance is needed. Dr. Ambedkar

defied failures, death threats to cut down the

oak of casteism.

Additionally, one need to be prudent

in their mission. For instance, Periyar identified

Oppression as the single evil in all manifestations

of discrimination. He was able to give greater

energy towards eliminating oppression, thereby

Succeeding in social reforms.

Otherwise, one may end up

Spending their energy without much outcomes.

The resulting frustration only overwhelms their

Spirits, forcing them to quit in their mission,

Daw Aung Saon Sui Kyi¹⁵ and her trust with

The Myanmar's junta 'tells this.

Not always - little strokes always succeed,
but also they fail. The Mother Earth has
seen many assaults since its origin. But it
has managed to survive, simply because those
assaults are too trivial to ~~over~~ cause any
damage.

At times, single stroke may result in
the crumbling of great oaks. The Marathas post
Shiraji faced this. Being inherently weak.
They crumbled when received a single blow from
the East India Company.

Thus, the ~~stroke~~ output of strokes
depends of on who ~~welds~~ wields the mallet,
how they wield and who ¹⁶ is the opponent.

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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।

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⑦ Reality is the shadow of ideas

Mahatma Gandhi said, a man is the product of his thoughts, what he thinks he becomes. If a human's themselves are products of their thoughts, then certainly, their actions are also a product of their thought process.

Reality can be defined as what one is able to perceive in the real world. ~~The~~ From the universal truths to the points of human bodies, all are real. It is also includes the

the lives that we envision, ^{and} the goals we set for ourselves. For a child, its future depends on what it wants to become. Thus, the future reality is influence by present ideas.

Ideas could be many - ranging from comprehensible visions to personalised dreams, including delusions which are tough to understand. But, like a ~~sk~~ light source for a shadow, ~~reality~~ realities need ideas. Just like a ~~skd~~ shadow disappearing in the darkness, the realities may become a mirage without ideas.

During the 18th century France, there were widespread suffering of the common people which was the norm of the medieval age. Almost, every community dreamt to release

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themselves from the chains of sufferings, but none could achieve, as early as the French did.

This was ~~possible~~ not possible if not for the ideas of Rousseau, Voltaire and others. Their

Their ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity, strengthened by strict separation of church from state, led to the ~~reality~~ reality of republican governments. The ideas became the eternal source for the mankind, that continue to shape various polities.

Additionally, if one is fortunate, the reality may be better than what one thought. Like shadows being larger than the obstructing agent, reality may be better than initial ideas.

When the government of India initially piloted Direct benefit transfer, it never imagined

multiple benefits. Apart from saving money and fixing pilferage, the DBT scheme has fixed the market distortion, promoting free market economy. Additionally the data on DBT has revolutionised policy making.

But, there is also this possibility of reality being smaller than ~~the~~ what one expected, just like the shadow being smaller than the causative object. When ISRO launched Chandrayaan-2 in 2019, it had ideas to conduct soft landing among many scientific studies.

But in reality, the soft landing failed to materialise, while the other scientific ~~exp~~ experiments were successfully carried. Thus, it is always possible for reality to be smaller than original ideas.

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Also, reality may reflect something
very different from original ideas. Artists, by
creatively using fingers, generate shadows that are
not originally caused by agents. Precisely ~~that~~ ^{the same}
can happen in reality too.

When the Indian Constitution
was written, the noble idea was to provide the
Supreme legislative body with a power to amend
the document, as per the needs. This noble idea
led to a harsh reality of a brute majority
parliament amending basic features of the
Constitution.

Thus, the ideas that were originally
intended for something may be used for
creating ~~set~~ some other thing, mocking the
original idea. Yet, in all the above instances,

The only constant was ideas that are powering reality, however the variation between the ideas and the outputs may be.

This naturally raises the question - of what one must do to achieve the intended reality? The first one is clarity of ideas. If one's mind is clear about their ideas, there could be no second force that to stop them.

Martin Luther king had this clarity of equality of all humans, which resulted in the melting pot of the USA.

Try not to become a man of success, but of values - Einstein, who did many scientific experiments that has improved our understanding of the reality. When virtues are at the foundation of ideas, the reality will be the lowest hanging apple.

Virtues like integrity ensure that our ideas and actions are aligned. When a non-aligned light source and shadow object can produce longer or smaller shadows, ~~a~~ an idea bereft of integrity will ultimately fail. Hitler's idea of Lebensraum was unethical, thus ~~but~~ curtain was brought down over his ideas.

After choosing virtuous ideas with clarity, reality will not automatically descend from sky. Just like a light causing shadow, there has to be a guide for succeeding in realising one's ideas. The Mahatma's name and vision is one such guide for anyone striving for the reality of freedom. From King of USA to Mandela of South Africa, the role of Gandhi can was crucial.

Like a constant light source, there needs a constant effort and perseverance in realising one's ideas. Edison's idea of bulb would have never seen light, if not for his courage and perseverance. One has to strive hard to bridge the gap between ideas and outcomes.

One needs to be resilient in realising their ideas. A single day of darkness can not shut down the power of one's idea. Banting and Best, overpowered the criticism from scientific community. ~~They~~ They finally verified their thesis of in vitro production of insulin. They not only gave new lease of life to Type I diabetes patients, but also strengthened evidence based medicine.

Beyond ideas:

Though, the various aspects of life - social, political, economical - are a shadow of our ideas, there are certain realities which are beyond eternal. The sun is real, earth revolving around the sun is real, mortality of human is real.

These are never dependent on our ideas., rather these shape our ideas. For example, the revolution and rotation of earth and moon, shaped our ideas over the occurrence of eclipses. From the mythologies of various cultures, to the universal acceptance of eclipse theory, some realities shape our ideas.

They expand the imaginative power of our minds, powering many ideas. Realities have

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the power to humble our egos, and thereby our ideas. The reality of ecological supremacy in the form of disasters, has humbled our quest for exploitative development.

Thus, in a way, this concept is a two way street. The present day eternal realities must can shape the egoistic human-centric ideas of ours, which in turn will impact our actions, albeit positively. This in turn may produce scenarios, like sustainable development, which can coexist very well with the all-supreme nature.

(10 pages)

[I'm not able to write beyond 10 pages in every essay, that I attempt.]

↳ please address this.