

खण्ड-A / Section-A

उम्मीदवारों को
इस भाग में
लिखना पना है।
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- 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 a dense forest of Congo basin, a young, energetic Elephant was always used to be in a mischievous mood. He was always ballooned with pride that he is the mightiest in the forest. To show his power, he often used to destroy the homes built by the ants with so much passion and hardwork. The Ant community was frustrated and agitated. They decided to teach a lesson to the haughty Elephant.

Next time when he came to destroy their sweet huts, the ~~an~~ army of ants entered his trunk. And they started biting him. The mighty elephant was shouting in pain. All he could do was nothing but to say sorry to the Ants. His pride as big as a himalaya was brought down by the little strokes of the army of Ants.

This is the power of little strokes. They have the potential to shake the mightiest. They have the potential to fall the great oaks. How But how this can be possible? How little strokes in right direction, at right time over a period of time becomes a mountainous one? What is law of cumulative effect? What history tells us about it? All this questions we will try to analyse through this essay.

In the end we will also ponder over the thought that do every little stroke ~~is~~ eventually brings fruit? And what should be our general attitude towards life.

Journey of thousand miles

A long way back in history, somewhere around 1.5 million years ago, the ancestor of modern man Homo Habilis, had discovered fire while making continuous strokes by one pebble on the other. Yu. Noh Haran in his book SAPIENS: A brief history of mankind remarks evention of fire as one of the important reason for deveupement of human civilisation of today.

The one of the greatest invention - fire, too has been made by continuous little strokes. The little strokes might seem very ineffective in the first go, but when a we continuously keep

putting them, they have the capacity to ~~fall~~ the great oaks. Their value can only be judged after looking at the journey travelled so far.

since Ancient times, human has made many inventions that shaped human history. We can bet ~~on~~ that, ~~the~~ none of them was a overnight invention. It took a thousand and thousand of little shakes, before we could innovate something. The journey of 'spinning jenny' which was the lightening spark of industrial revolution is same. Years of hard-work of scientist had resulted in one machine which shaped the whole manufacturing of world.

similarly, we all know that how many times Thomas Elva Edison failed before making a bulb successfully. A bulb - that never lets the sun to settle in our life. He always used to

say, that,

"I haven't failed several times,
I just found another way to succeed."

one can have this kind of attitude only when one knows the importance of little strokes.

prog Little strokes - A deadliest weapon

Many might argue that what a little stroke can do? It can ~~hard~~ hardly do any perceptible change. But these people don't know how one small spark can become a large tract of fire, if gets the oxygen. And history teaches us many examples, of how with great leaders, a spark becomes a fire.

We all know about the famous French Revolution. The discontent-ment was there among the masses. But the revolutionary literature of renaissance period sparked the fire

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of liberty, equality, fraternity among the masses ultimately taking on the mightiest Bourbon dynasty. The ~~dyn~~ dynasty fell like a stack of cards in front of the cumulative little strokes of common masses.

What is the cumulative effect? Law of cumulative effect states that if you put little efforts, no matter how insignificant today they might look, over a period of time they will accumulate and will shake the mightiest. Their additive effect is visible only over a period of time.

James Clear in his book 'Atomic Habits' talks about this cumulative effect. He argues that one percent improvement ~~or~~ every day over one year leads to a additive improvement of 39 percent, making this law of cumulative effect a deadliest weapon of improvement.

similarly, the small little strokes of every citizen of a nation can make the nation better over a period of time. At the time of Independence, India was gripped with poverty, lack of infrastruc-
-ture and malnourishment. All it took was cumulative efforts of the government complemented by the citizens that now the world sees the 21st century as 'India's century'.

It is this little strokes which often helped India to become what it is today. The little strokes of mid-day meal scheme, National food security act 2013, PM-Gati Shakti, etc have effectively made India the giant it is.

Progress over perfection:

Many a times we get frustrated, when we don't get the desired result we want. In this tumultuous times, we need to remind ourselves about the impact of little strokes

over a period of time. We need to keep sailing, till we find a harbour. Because there is always a light at the end of a tunnel. Our efforts add up however small they are, to give us what we deserve.

Abraham Lincoln aptly puts about this thought via a quote -

'I might be a slow walker but I never walk backward'

such should be our attitude to worlds life. We must keep doing our honest efforts to achieve greatness. No one becomes sachin tendulkar in a night. The 'hundred of hundreds' which sachin has made, may look like a giant oak today. But it took him little strokes of 24 years to build that oak. And I am sure that if 'virat kohli', keeps hitting the giant oak with his little strokes, one day he will definitely feel it

Thus what matters ultimately, is not how big stroke you made at one time, rather how consistently you made the little strokes.

You might not be able to travel to mt. Everest in one go. But if you make a little journey everyday, take rest and resume the journey again, I'm sure, one can easily surpass the mighty Mt. Everest too.

Consistency is the key

If you ask a sparrow to build a nest in an hour, everyone from the bird family will laugh at us. But we are aware of the fact how beautiful and creative nests the birds build for themselves. This becomes possible only because of their consistency in little efforts.

A There is a dictum in marathi language. - 'Thembhe Thembhe Tale sache' meaning 'small small

drops, fills the pond! This small efforts bring about desired output which might seem impossible at the start. When the majdoor kisan shakti sangathan in Rajasthan started to question the government about their various schemes, who would have thought that, this small small drops would make the pond of citizen empowerment in the form of Right to information act 2005.

In the same way, there is a dictum that 'every effort counts'. However small it may be, but if it is in right direction and consistent then it will bring a change. The small act of switching the fan everytime we step out of the room can help us to gear with the giant oak - Global warming. Such is the power of little strokes!

Does every little stroke counts?

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We have talked enough about the effectiveness of small action. But is it a sure shot guarantee that every small effort will eventually bring fruit? No guarantee at all. How can you think of a fruit, if your small efforts are not in right direction? India's small strategies of containment, lockdown, testing would not have been successful to contain COVID-19, if they were not implemented in right direction.

Similarly, your objective and intention ^{behind} ~~of~~ little efforts also matter. You can not win the hearts or a race with malicious intents. Pakistan's strategy of Bleeding India through thousand small cuts in the form of terrorism, has not yielded them any significant result yet. How can their little efforts be not counted? It is because of their ill intentions behind

those little strokes that they always feel short to face the Giant Oak - Indigo

Thus to summarise, yes, little strokes have immense potential to shock even the toughest. (like our story's elephant). But this can happen only if your efforts are in right direction and have bonafide intent. Of course, how can one forget about persistence and consistency. They are a must to achieve something great. Hence to conclude in the words of Robert Frost,

"The woods are lovely deep and dark
But I have promises to keep.
And miles to go before I sleep.
And miles to go before I sleep"

only when we travel the miles with our little strokes, we will be able to reach to the tip of a giant oak.

खण्ड-B / Section-B

उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है :
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- 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।

WE CAN NOT DESPAIR OF HUMANITY,
SINCE WE OURSELVES ARE HUMAN BEINGS

A young married women in her mid twenties, was abandoned by her alcoholic husband from the house. She had no roof to live. She used to sleep on the railway platforms. One she was frustrated with her destiny. and more with the dying humanity of human beings. One fine evening, a beggar on the platform came to her and asked for whatever food she could have. At first thought she felt angry as she herself was hungry stomached since many days. But

within a flash of second, she thought

'I must not despair of humanity
since I myself is a human being.'

She gave whatever she had to the beggars
and soon started to cook for the whole
beggar family on the railway platform.
Further, she herself was an orphan,
but she took responsibility of many
~~the~~ orphan children. Hence ~~was~~ she
was fondly called as 'Mai'

yes! I am talking about
the great social worker from Maharashtra
- shri - BINDHUTAI SARKAR. Every
one knows her as the 'mother
of orphans'. Her doors used to be
always open for anyone in need.

Her story has a great
lesson for all of us. She did not ~~had~~
have good experience with the humanity.
At times, she used to think about
committing suicide, but instead of
that, she kept believing in humanity
and started from herself because

she knew that she herself is a human being. Hence instead of feeling despair about humanity, she started embracing it.

In this essay, we will delve deep into the thought of humanity, how at times one can feel despair about it; but how one should not lose the hope in such situations. We will also try to analyse human nature and how one can mould it to the betterment of all.

Humanity - The Greatest Virtue

'If I had to choose between non-humanity and violence, I will choose violence' - These are the exact words of the Father of our Nation - Mahatma Gandhi ji. For him humanity was always the highest virtue which everyone should possess. Humanity is being humane, being compassionate for others, being rational in thought process.

It is the gift we have received from the nature. Because of our critical thinking ability and emotional intelligence, human being can have and can nurture the value of humanity. It is nothing but a concept of 'universal Brotherhood' taking a notion that everyone is equal.

It this value of humanity which makes ourselves distinct from the other species of animal kingdom. And whatever progress the human being has made so far, would not have been possible without the 'wheel of humanity'.

Indian philosophers like Swami Vivekananda through his vedantic philosophy always talked about being humane towards every creature.

He often used to say,

"service to others is the true service to ourselves".

A hope or despair?

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Every great philosopher around the globe right from Socrates to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar talked about humanity as a hope of life. It is the ray of light in the tunnel of darkness. We all know about the plight of migrant workers during covid-19. But it was the humane nature of Idali Amma of Chennai, who gave the migrants meal free of cost, came as a ray of hope in migrants journey back home.

Such ray of hope, gives confidence to the man to fight one more time. No matter how many adversities like covid-19 will come, until there is humanity like in the form of Idali Amma, we will face every adversity with full courage.

But the corona covid-19 had given bitter stories about humanity to us. While the needy ones were

dying because of lack of oxygen, remedies drug, the cruel nature of human was busy in hoarding it. They sensed profit in a situation which demanded humanity. So how can ^{one} count on humanity? As a hope or a despair?

Well, we must agree that these are instances of inhumanity due to the inherent selfish nature of man. But few mangoes here and there will not be able to rotten the whole orchard, if we take care of it. Rather than feeling despair about humanity, one must ask a question to themselves - what they have done for the humanity? The honest answer of many ~~is~~ would come out to be 'NOTHING'!

Humanity - A give and take process

One must not blame on others for their inhumane nature. Before that one must look into the

'mirror of self' and then only blame others. How can we chirp about the inhumanity shown by the rich people towards the poor, when we ourselves never look back at the pleading beggars on the signal?

It is a good thought to ponder upon. The famous social reformer 'Gadga Maharaj' always used to say 'cleaning starts at home'. One needs to clean their mind, needs to be receptive towards the others, should strive to help others. Then only the 'ripple effect' of your action will set in. Then only humanity can become hope instead of despair.

It is our moral responsibility, being a human that we must become an ambassador of humanity for the world. A small sixteen year girl had taught us the message of hundred years. Greta Thunberg, the climate activist from

~~sw~~ Switzerland, without sitting at home criticising the humanity, took the road - a less travelled by. She staged a protest in front of the parliament for action against the climate change. She is the ambassador of hope for the generation to come.

Hence, we must realise, that humanity is a two way process, a process of give and take. One cannot expect others to be humane, if you yourself are not. All we need is a chain of reaction. A series in which one helping the other and other helping the another. Only when this chain becomes at an autopilot mode, then only we will be able to proudly call ourselves as human beings.

If Kailash Satyarthi, had not rescued a child from child labour, he would have been a criminal in future. But now that rescued child is a teacher somewhere in

school,, shaping the future of the next generation. This is the kind of chain reaction we need, only then this world can become a heaven to live. A famous hollywood movie 'Godfather' has a dialogue,

"first look into yourself, then only the world will look at you!"

this aptly summarise, the quest for being human. It is on the shoulders of rational and compassionate humans like us, the cannon of humanity rest. A cannon of peace and love. It is our responsibility to fire that cannon so frequently that the cannon of violence will not get any space.

Journey from human being to being humane

The most precious achievement one can earn in his life is the journey from ~~be~~ a human being to become ²⁷ a humane being.

One can complete this journey only by travelling on the 'back of humanity'

Humanity is the catalyst in our quest for humane Society. BHAGVAT GITA in one of its verse talks about how to behave humanely,

"One should not treat others the way One does not like to be treated with".

Such is the simple process of acting in a humane way. One should always put themselves into the shoes of others before thinking about doing any act.

Gandhiji's Talisman also talk about the same. We must act as if our act brings some benefit to the poorest of poor. Then only our act can be considered as a humane act.

Then only we will be able to uphold the humanity.

Our acts determine the way others act. If we say 'sorry' in a polite manner, ²⁸ no one will dare

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to slap you. He would also learn from you the act of politeness and would try to emulate in his behaviour. It all starts with a small step - an insignificant yet significant step.

Every coin has two sides

Does every act of humanity gets comes back as an act of humanity? can't say certainly. We all know about Nirja Bhanot, the brave girl of India. All she was doing was her 'duty of humanity' to serve her passengers but at what cost? At cost of her life. The hijackers mercilessly killed her.

What was the worth of her humanity if it could not save her life. Yes we all must feel sorry for her. But if we look at the incident from the wider angle, we can definitely be proud of her. Her bravery has saved the life of many hundreds.

Hence, humanity always prevails.
we need to be optimistic about it
and should not feel despair. Our
journey as a human being would
be tasteless if we not fill it with
the sweet taste of humanity.

In the end to summarise,
yes there may be many challenges to
humanity, but it is the human
being themselves has the responsibility
to restore it because as aptly
quoted by Pandit Nehruji

"Humanity knows no boundaries,
if it comes humanity, then nationality"

— * * * —
