

UPSC

For Practice Purpose Only

उम्मीदवारों को
इस हाथिए में
नहीं लिखना
यहिए।
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A Man who wants to lead the orchestra
must turn his back on the crowd.

'WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE LEADER'? asked
a teacher from elementary school children.
Different students came up with different
answers, some saying Prime-minister,
some taking name of Sports-person or
historical figure. Then a girl gets up
and says that she feels her mother
is the greatest leader. The reason she
mentioned was - "She never even lets us
know that she is leading and managing
our house, its only her absence that
we understand it."

In this essay we will explore
from various dimensions how Anonymity
for a leader and staying away from
limelight is quint-essential for a leader

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इस हार्शिए में केवल प्रश्न संख्या लिखें।

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"Bade-Badai Na Kare,
Bade-Na Bole Bole
Rahamin Heera kab kahe
Lakh take mera ~~so~~ mol."

(Great people never boast about themselves just like a diamond never praises itself of being expensive.)

So let us first start by asking ourselves one very important question - What does it take for any leader to turn his back on?

Though the questions at the face may seem a simple one but it involves some rare-qualities, that are hardly seen in today's era. It requires a lot of Humility, selflessness, patience and emotional intelligence. At the face, it may seem simple but these are actually

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very hard to develop and practice in daily life.

Also one may ask - 'Why does it matter?' Why not let someone who is working hard take the credit. The question does have merit and in the following paragraph we will try to answer that.

Let's learn it from an example. Have you ever wondered why Gandhiji never took a political office? Yes, you are right. That's because he did not want to dilute his focus and unwavering commitment towards swaraj and towards working for the most marginalised (samudaya) through antayodaya).

So while facing the crowd a leader may get accolades but at the same-time there is always a risk of losing-out the main focus.

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Also, the crowd usually suffers from "TRANSIENT MEMORY PHENOMENON." To understand this lets recall Neeraj Chopra - the 2020 Tokyo olympics gold medalist. For one long year he attended various felicitation ceremonies around India but what after that?

In his case thankfully he returned back to USA after 1 year for training and won Diamond league and didn't lose his focus. But the point is people remember you for a very short time, its your responsibility to be consistent in your efforts towards a goal or else it would be considered a one off shot. 'Tukka' in our society.

Similarly another question that comes is what impact does anonymity or staying away from limelight bring?

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I cannot answer it any better other than the words of Sardar Vallabhai Patel who used the phrase "Steel framework of India" for honest and hardworking civil servants.

Just like the steel-framework is not visible from outside but makes the building stand similarly civil-servants working anonymously ensures the smooth governance of country.

Also, how can we forget the over 250 people of constituent assembly who sat for over 2 years to give us the best constitution in the world. That's the power of keeping your back on crowd while leading.

However, this is just one-side of the story. There are few pertinent questions against it as well.

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What about the face-value of a leader?
If we don't let the leader to come in
the front or what about the phrase -
Leading from the front?

This is indeed an important
aspect. Example of Metro-man E. Sreedharan
comes to my mind. There were several
projects that got support from investors
merely on the basis of the fact that
E. Sreedharan was one-off the directors.

Similarly personalities like Nelson-
Mandela or Martin Luther King who became
face of Anti-Race struggle in South
Africa and United States respectively.

Having a leader does carry a face-
value and a lot of impact on public.

Also what if the purpose
itself demands public attention? our

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freedom struggle was reignited in January, 1915 because of a face right? It was Gandhi who in 1920 - after Chauri-Chaura incident decided to call-off non-cooperation. We can imagine the outcomes in terms of life he might have saved because he was the face.

Another issue with turning back on the crowd is that it will affect the fundamental principle of Transparency and Accountability in governance. Suppose we are at a Bank for cash withdrawal and there is no-cashier. To complain about it we seek manager but there is no manager - who will be held responsible and accountable.

All the more important is to ask ourselves, that how will he command respect of people, unless he faces the crowd.

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So, now we see both sides of the story. we saw how being in limelight was an issue as also being away from it.

This has even been made more complicated by 'social-media'. Here everyone wants to be famous and 'Anonymity - is a myth' in this era. So what needs to be done is that we find a middle-path, something like Buddha suggested the 'Madhyam marg'.

Looking into today's requirements we need leaders who command great-respect in public. Role of Prime-minister taking a vaccine-shot to remove vaccine-hesitancy was only because of the public-respect that he commands, but at the same time,

we need leaders who are emotionally intelligent. who are not driven by fame,

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rather use their popularity for coming-up
as role-models and setting up examples.

He must be ready to lead from the front
but also to push from the back and
even not being into the picture altogether.

If we are able to generate such selfless
leaders it won't matter whether -

our master faces crowd or band
while leading orchestra.

A few lines of poet Dushyant Kumar
comes to me as a quality of leader -

"Sirf hangama khada karna
mera maksad nahi

koshish hai ham hadd me
sunat badalni chahye

Mere sine me nahi to tere
seene me shi

Ho kahi bhi aag lekin
aag jalni chahye"

- Dushyant Kumar

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(I do not intend only to make hue & cry
but also to change the circumstances.
The fire towards that should remain
ignited if not within me then may be
within you.)

