

NEXT IAS

खण्ड-A / Section-A

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

- Q1 Little strokes fell great oaks.
छोटे - छोटे प्रयासों से बड़ी सफलता मिलती है।
- Q2 Judge a man by his questions rather than his answers.
किसी व्यक्ति का मूल्यांकन उसके उत्तरों के स्थान पर उसके प्रश्नों से करें।
- Q3 Great principles, great ideals know no nationality.
महान सिद्धांत, महान आदर्श किसी एक राष्ट्र से संबंधित नहीं है।
- Q4 In struggling with misfortune lies the true proof of virtue.
दुर्भाग्य से संघर्ष करने में ही नैतिकता का सच्चा प्रमाण निहित है।

ee
Soon after independence, our great visionary scientists like Dr. Vikram Sarabhai decided to explore space for the benefit of not only of India but for entire humanity. With their small-small strokes by challenging various hurdles like lack of awareness about technology, lack of international support, lack of R&D facilities and even limited funding. But dedication, hard work and continuous little strokes made this organisation to

NEXT IAS

achieve unexpected oaks even it made India, First nation to reach Mars and even now we became first to land on South-pole on moon through 'Chandrayaan-3'. Yes!! the organisation is ISRO."

The anecdote highlights that how, with little strokes even large achievements can be conquered. This is not a only example, there are many and not only limited only in particular domain but are spread across.

The following essay will discuss about various such achievements through little strokes. It will also analyse why little strokes are essential and are more efficient along with concluding what mechanisms other than these strokes are required to achieve great ~~successes~~.

NEXT IAS

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

In historical context, India is known for large number of such stories where little efforts applied continuously helped in achieving large goals. For instance, when 'Alexander - The Great' was about to attack India, Chanakya sought Mahapadma Nanda's support to defend India. But instead Chanakya faced humiliation. This great man decided to train a normal child. Through continuous little strokes, Chanakya made one of the greatest monarch of his time i.e. 'Chandragupta Maurya' who even defeated Nanda's to ~~to~~ rule united India.

Not only in historical context, even in social arena, soon after Independence, Indian society was facing several challenges like low literacy rate, low life expectancy (31 years), issues of Casteism, discrimination etc. But

NEXT IAS

with continuous efforts of government along with people through various little strokes like Right to Education Act (2009), Ayushman Bharat (Health), Protection of Civil Rights Act (1955), Prevention of atrocities (against SC/ST) Act 1989 etc along with sensitisation of masses led to achievements like literacy rate (73%), life expectancy (69 years). Hence various small strokes helped in achieving these results. But we still face challenges like suicides in ITs because of discrimination etc. This highlights more strokes are needed to eliminate such issues.

Moreover in political domain also, various problems arose in front of newly independent India. In legislature, issue of Aaya raam-Gaya raam (defection), Corruption etc became rampant. The little continuous efforts led to 52nd Constitutional amendment Act 1985 which

NEXT IAS

introduced Schedule X in Indian Constitution to check such illegitimate activities.

Similarly, Executive also faced issues of lack of proper monitoring on implementation of policies, corruption, red-tapism, elitism etc which led to policy paralysis in India. But continuous efforts like introduction of RTI (2005), social auditing, Pragati portal etc brought transparency and enhanced accountability thereby led to efficient executive.

Furthermore, even Judiciary faced several criticism regarding lack of accountability, appointment of favourite J.C.J. (Indra Gandhi), alleged corruption etc which led to several reforms like introduction of Collegium through various judges cases. But still, Collegium again is facing allegations of judges appointing judges thus more strokes are needed to make it more transparent.

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

NEXT IAS

Similarly in Economic Context, India faced issue of poor standard of living, import dependence for food grains, lack of development of manufacturing and service sector etc. But various little strokes in form of Green Revolution, LPG reforms (1991), schemes like Startup India, PLI etc made India 5th largest economy of world along with robust service sector. This highlights efficiency of small strokes to achieve success.

Nevertheless, still India needs robust manufacturing base. Hence, various small strokes are still being taken to promote Ease of Doing Business. Then only vision of \$5 trillion economy will be achieved along with achievement of SDG 8 (Economic growth).

Even in ecological sphere, not only India but entire world is facing challenge of global warming, climate change, land degradation,

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

NEXT IAS

6th mass extinction etc. Thus various little strokes like creation of UNFCCC, UNEP led to Coordinated actions to tackle Climate change in form of Paris deal, International Solar Alliance etc.

These little efforts brought some success too. For instance, recent IPCC report highlights that ozone hole started repairing which shows success of various small strokes like Montreal Protocol. Not only this, our Forest policy which seeks for 33% of land as forest is getting success as recent IFSR report highlighted increment in forest and tree cover to 24%.

Thus, little efforts are bringing watermark changes. But since Climate is severe challenge hence much more strokes are needed to achieve the obligations of Paris Climate deal 2015 which highlighted to halt

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

NEXT IAS

temperature rise upto 2°C till this Century.
 Not only this, even in technological sphere,
 there has been large impact of these little
 strokes. For instance taking the case of
transportation sector, small strokes like invention
of wheel which later on led to Ox-cart
 which further led to steam engine railways
 (James Watt) along with motor car (Henry Ford).
 On further strokes, invention of Aeroplanes,
rockets and now invention/work on Hyperloop
 is going. This shows little efforts applied
 continuously brought landmark changes.
 But, there are some negative changes too in
 technology like misuse of darknet, dual used
technologies like drones, development of weapons
of mass destructions etc which have
 potential to bring entire humanity to end
 within seconds. Thus as highlighted by
'Yuval Noah Harari' in his book '21 Lessons

NEXT IAS

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

for 21st Century' whereby there is need to put regulatory mechanism so that such double edged swords should not go on unchecked. Hence, little efforts are still needed to make science benevolent to entire humanity.

Furthermore, in international context too, history taught us how world went through various wars including havoc of World War I and II which led to emergence of several little strokes in form of League of Nations which later on led to United Nations to promote international peace and security. Even India in form of NAM (non aligned movement) led to resolve several issue through dialogues and diplomacy which prevented any World War III yet which shows how these little strokes fell great oaks. But, recently Russia-Ukraine war emerged

NEXT IAS

which even have potential to start world war III as entire globe is getting impacted due to high inflation, supply chain disruptions, food insecurity etc. Hence, more efforts are required to check these challenges.

Similarly, in ethical context, various thinkers like Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Buddha etc gave various virtues to lead a moral life to promote humanity and peace. But soon we have realised how world has entered into domain of individualism, selfishness, greed, materialism etc which needed various little strokes to rebuild a moral society.

Thereby countries like India are promoting various values like 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (G-20) which talks about entire world as one family. Hence various little strokes are still needed to make or to achieve the desired society which is based on morality, principles, values etc.

NEXT IAS

Thus little strokes are essential as they bring gradual changes rather than radical changes which even face strong resistance. But, there are several other aspects too along with these little strokes i.e. humanity, hard-work, Compassion etc. Because then only these little strokes will bring changes which are beneficial for entire world.

Therefore it is rightly said —

e Little strokes fell great oaks?

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

NEXT IAS

खण्ड-B / Section-B

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

- 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।

Q.5 The whole purpose of Education is To
Turn Mirrors into Windows

Q.6 A village with the name Piplanti
once known for barren and deserted
land devoid of water availability,
vegetation and even issues like poverty,
female foeticide, malnutrition etc. were
rampant. But soon with dedicated efforts
of an educated leader, this village got
turned into a model village based on
principle of 'eco-feminism' whereby an

NEXT IAS

on birth of every girl child, 111 trees are planted along with FD in bank through contribution from villagers which can be withdrawn only after age of 18. These efforts helped even in tackling malnutrition, female foeticide along with conversion of barren land into forest land which is ^{now} known for greenery. This leader is also awarded with Padma Awards and can be often heard in Prime-Minister's 'Man ki Baat' episode. Yes!! Shyam ~~sundar~~ Sundar Paliwal - Sarpanch of Piplantoli."

The anecdote highlights that how in Piplantoli village various problems or realities of that time can be considered as mirror which with the knowledge helped visionary leader to transform it into window of diverse opportunities.

NEXT IAS

The following essay will discuss how education helps in understanding mirror and thereby helps in analysing how these mirror can be transformed into window which is access to different, changed and reformed world. It will also discuss, is it needed to transform every mirror into window along with how this purpose of education can be fulfilled.

Education : Transforming Mirrors into Windows

The purpose of education is to better understand our surrounding. This is not only understanding but also to bring several changes which can benefit entire humanity.

In historical context, education helps in understanding our past. When India got

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

NEXT IAS

Subjugated by Britishers who justified their rule through 'white men's burden' but educated Indians knew our rich past like harappa which was far superior to Western counterparts. Thus, education helped in debunking mirror i.e. 'white men's burden' theory and led to window of freedom struggle movement to make India an independent nation.

Similarly, education helps in understanding society too. The present social context whereby various issues like Communalism, regionalism, inequality etc became day to day phenomena can be understood by education. Their solution like sensitisation of masses, use of NGOs to spread brotherhood, peace, promoting value education to build a peaceful and unified society etc is the

NEXT IAS

purpose of education which is symbolic expression of window to be transformed from mirror i.e. issues of communalism, regionalism etc.

Not only this, our political system also have several challenges like criminalisation of politics, corruption (Horse-trading), red-tapism in executive, lack of transparency in judiciary etc. These mirrors can be analysed with educational knowledge and can turn into window where clean politics, well aware voters, responsive executive and an accountable and transparent judiciary exists. Thus such reforms are sought by various organisations and institutions like Election Commission of India, Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR).

Similarly, in economical context, Dr. Raghuram Rajan through his book 'I do what I do' highlighted various challenges like

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

NEXT IAS

rising inequality (Oxfam $\rightarrow$ 1% richest owns 40% wealth), destruction of limited resources, prominence of greed over need etc are prominent challenges of now. Thus these mirrors have windows in form of Sustainable development whereby even need of future generations will also not get compromised. Hence, education purpose is to change these ~~mirrors~~ mirrors into windows.

Not only this, haphazard human activities are causing large scale ecological damage which are leading to challenges like extreme weather events like cyclones, heatwaves, forest fires in arctic region etc. Thus these mirrors has to be analysed with the help of education and a better world in form of green consciousness where every living creature has equal rights can be established. This window needs an educated education which is based on value education

NEXT IAS

along with environmental consciousness. Then only the present human greed can be tackled to promote green economy.

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

Even in technological context, education is leading to various innovations. But present mirrors in various form like breach of privacy, jobless due to automation, digital divide, gender divide, cyber bullying, weapons of mass destruction etc needs to be tuned into window of more egalitarian technology where each individual can have equal access along with equal opportunity thereby leading to inclusive development.

Similarly, present world faces various ~~more~~ challenges like divided world order, rising authoritarianism, USA-CHINA rivalry, Russia-Ukraine conflict, biased global institutions like IMF, existence of static bodies like UNSC which

NEXT IAS

needs reforms to present current world order. Hence these mirrors need a turn into window which can highlight a more relevant global governance, more credible global order. Therefore various countries like India want to turn these mirrors through G4 and G20.

Even in ethical context, world is becoming more self oriented, national interests and getting priority over global interest, selfishness, materialism etc are on rise. Hence these mirrors need to turn into window of more cooperative world based on values of mutual respect, compassion, selflessness so that each nation can survive with dignity.

Does all mirrors need turn into windows

There are several good practices already existing in world. For instance, our

NEXT IAS

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

Culture having values like tolerance, Compassion, respect to elders etc doesn't need any change rather there is need to strengthen them further.

Similarly in political context, our constitutional values like equality, liberty, freedom, dignity etc do not require any change.

Not only this, even our economic system is largely environmental conscious. Hence should be further strengthened. Our traditional values like treating earth as mother promotes nature consciousness. Hence such principles do not need any window.

Even in international relations, relations are guided by principles of mutual respect, non-interference, peaceful co-existence which are based on Panchsheel ideology. Hence do not require any turn.

However, mirror has to be decided. Those aspects which have positive attributes like

NEXT IAS

Values based aspects, they do not need any Window, rather these mirror itself are windows.

But these mirrors which have negative attributes or need some reforms has to be turned into windows.

Hence, the purpose of education is to identify what is right and what is wrong. Based on these mirrors, it should be decided what changes are required to make it more beneficial for entire humanity. Then only such mirrors should be turned into windows which can have more global acceptance and can ~~serve~~ serve larger human interest.

उम्मीदवादी को
इस भाग में
लिखना नहीं है।
Candidates
must not
write on
this margin