

खण्ड-A / Section-A

उम्मीदवारों को
इस भाग में
लिखना नहीं 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।

Ans. 1: Little strokes fell great oaks

It is said that Thomas Alva Edison was once dismissed from his alma-mater citing lack of IQ and required aptitude to learn. His mother took on the responsibility of educating him and once dismissed as a low IQ student, Edison went on to give the world, his brightest ever gift - electric bulb. This small story of how globally celebrated inventors shows how small steps can make great oaks fall. All that one

require the sheer hardwork, unwavering consistency and firm determination.

The present essay deals with the same topic in a layered manner. We will discuss the meaning of the topic by traversing range of global and national examples. We shall then see how some big steps failed to create any impact. further testifying to the notion. Then we will see some present big challenges haunting our nation and what are these small steps that we require to face and defeat them.

Now, before verifying the same let us first discuss the philosophy and science behind small steps turning into big successes. Eminent economist and Nobel laureate Herbert Simon says that we as human beings are

full of limitations - physical, mental, biological & intellectual. These limitations don't allow us to forsee all the consequences of our steps. Hence, human being try to substantiate these problems into manageable parts. Another modern management stalwart Charles Lindblom too attest the fact that great successes do not come at stroke of one great blow but are results of what he calls - a lot of muddling through small steps.

Let us see some famous people and events around the globe who testify the fact that indeed great oaks fall by little persistent strokes. Perhaps the most celebrated reference for us Indians would be the story that Alproud Mahmud of Ghazni to attack Samnath Temple for record 17th time. It is said that while escaping from his 16th defeat, he took refuge in a cave wherein he saw

an ant constantly failing in climbing up a wall along with piece of food in its mouth. However, after repeated small successes, ~~that~~ it was finally able to ascend the wall. It is widely known fact that this story inspired Ghazni Sultan to re-attack Samnath.

Today, the world remembers only one name when it comes to the question of greatest conqueror of all time - Alexander of Macedonia. But did he become the same by winning one battle? No, it was his constant small battles with different kingdoms and kings that finally made the world recognize him as - 'Vishva Vijaya'.

Who can forget the struggles of Abraham Lincoln. His becoming the POTUS was not an overnight political win but a result of long drawn battle wherein he fought and lost multiple elections throughout his career. Those small little steps helped him fight and win the greatest battle¹⁰ of his life.

Our Indian freedom struggle is perhaps the best description of the sentence we are discussing. Starting from subtle Fakir (Sanyas) Rebellion (early 19th century) to Bengal renaissance during middle 19th century and through 1857 war of Independence to formation of Congress and start of nationalism by early 20th century, our Independence struggle saw numerous small but important steps that finally got strengthened with arrival of Mahatma Gandhi. The gift we got at the stroke of midnight of 14th August 1947 was result many small steps during last 100 odd years of struggle.

And why just our Independence. The emergence of Pakistan as an Independent republic is also a long drawn battle by Muslim League and its patron M.A. Jinnah. It was these small steps of meeting every Congress demand and asserting own demand of separate nation that finally ended up in form of creation of Pakistan. Jinnah once asserted that - "I alone with the help of my typewriter won Pakistan for us".

In post independent period came many big achievements due to small steps taken by our country but the one stands out is our space programme. With humble beginning in 1969 our pioneer scientists failed many a times in their pursuit to carve a niche for themselves. The workhorse of ISRO - PSLV was result of many failed missions from operational failure of launch vehicle, to becoming only 5th nation to have sent spacecraft to Moon (Chandrayaan) and Mars (Mangalyaan mission) the story of ISRO perfectly sums up the fact that - It is indeed those small steps that fall the great Dances.

One of the celebrated scientific triumph of global mankind is the International Space Station - orbiting our Earth at an altitude of 400 km 16 times everyday. The great space station we see today was assembled piece by piece, over a period of 20 odd years starting from 1990s - all the way to 2010s.

We still remember the emphatic voice of Ravi Shastri when 1965 Dhaw launched that great str towards long on - bringing home the cricket World Cup after 22 years. That triumph came through small steps of improvements made in every segment - fielding, battling, bowling - after first round debacle from 2007 Cricket World Cup.

The nation got a further thumbs up when we talk about some abrupt big step taken to fulfill big aspiration - but ending in failure and misery. The best example to attest this fact is crushing defeat of Maratha Empire in the third battle of Panipat. While all the erstwhile great empires had become so by facing and winning many small wars such as Mughal Empire, the Marathas wanted the same at stroke of hammer. And it was destined to be doomed.

The atrocious hostile attitude of Pakistan and its aspiration of becoming South Asian military power made it attack India there within 50 years of its formation - defeated every time, apart from getting geographically smaller too.

The rise and fall of 'League of Nations' between two world wars is yet another example to prove the fact that big challenges are best met with small meticulous & well thought-out steps rather than going all out big for it.

But is that always the case? If we flip the pages of history, we do come across some events and examples which prove contrary. We do have some big-bold steps resulting into bigging success at times. The best case study is the New Economic Policy of 1991, that we adopted. Within a decade of the same, the growth rate clocked an average of 7% and export / Import touched new record high. Today we are on verge of becoming world's 3rd largest economy and a big share of credit goes to the NEP of 1991.

The demonetisation policy is another such example. Introduced with the intent of formalising our economy and strengthening

tax base, the step has resulted in increase in tax base from 72 lakh (2017) to 1.2 cr. (2022). With the number of return filers increasing every fiscal.

The bombing of twin cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by USA after witnessing fatal blow at Hawaiian Naval Base - Pearl Harbour is also an example to attest the fact that some big achievements come by going for bold big steps.

At this juncture, it becomes pertinent to realise that our beloved country is also under constant pressure of global and national challenges posing as giant Goliath in front of weak David - our country. These great tasks need meticulous and persistent small steps on behalf of us to successfully defeat them.

The greatest challenge perhaps, not just to our country but to entire mankind is global warming and climate change induced

extreme climatic events such as forest fires, melting of glaciers, extreme cyclones, floods etc we need to act collectively to mitigate and reduce the risk. The vital steps such as CPRI, Panchamurt, Green Grid Initiative, NAPCC etc are those small strong steps which can take us to reach the Paris Climate Goal at the earliest.

The second most thorny challenge is economic inequality. The latest Oxfam Report says that Top 1% Indian own 40% of her wealth while bottom 50% share 3% of it. This is a mockery of Article 38, Part IV of PSE which directs our state to establish a national social order. This needs to be addressed in suitable manner. The formulation of economy, the target of doubling farm income and Atmanirbhar Bharat policy are right steps towards the same.

At social front, we have more complex giant oaks in the form of unaddressed poverty (multidimensional), hidden hunger, malnutrition, inferior women position, LGBTIQ+ issue etc.

These need to be dealt categorically to create what our founding father expected way back in 1949 - when they handed over to us our Constitution. Human Reservation Bill, Naxal Tehar judgement, NITI Aayog's Baseline Indox etc. are steps needed to down the giant oak.

The lofty challenges that our country has set for herself such as 5 Trillion dollar economy by 2025, doubling farm income, becoming 2nd largest economy by 2027, achieving the SDGs by 2030, attaining developed ~~was~~ country status of 2047 and going carbon neutral by 2070 under Panchamrit target are self imposed oaks that need to be knocked down with persistent small steps encompassing - social, political & economic spheres - all in a holistic manner.

This will require realisation of carbon call made by our PM - Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas our Sabka Prayas. Only by a collective effort in form

Of small steps we can feel any potential of
expecting great challenge.

As, M.L.King Junior says - If you
can't fly, then run, if you can't run, then
walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but do
whatever it takes to reach your goal.

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खण्ड-B / Section-B

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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।

Ans. 5: The whole purpose of Education is to turn mirrors into windows.

"Students need not to be taught what to think, but rather how to think".
This simple declaration by Maragaret Mead shook the very base of Education system prevalent during early 20th century. The purpose of education, to her, was not to produce assembly line of trained human being but a person capable of free-thinking and producing out of the box solutions.

Indeed, human civilisation had never seen and would perhaps never witness, a more potent and stronger weapon than this Education. Education can turn a cruel Anglumaal bandit into a lay follower of Buddhism. Education can make an emperor realise the importance of Dhammaghosha over Bhacpghosha. Education can turn a child as dumb as Edison into a world renowned scientist and above all, Education can turn a country ~~under~~ then coming off ^{from} colonial clack of ~~more~~ 200 years into world's 5th largest economy within 75 years of its independence.

Gandhiji once remarked that live as if you were to die tomorrow and learn as if you were to live forever. This small line underlines the everlasting purpose of education. It makes one civilised being - a socially aware, responsible and mature animal.

That, the real purpose of education is to turn measure of ideas, aspirations and wishes into countless windows of opportunities, realities and possibilities is aptly summarised in our latest National Education Policy, 2020. It talks about the cardinal values that is must for completeness of a person. It underscores the values which is desired in an educated being in the form universal human values - love, compassion empathy etc, democratic values - equality, justice, brotherhood, and professional values pertaining to each service one wish to choose as a vehicle to serve the fellow mankind.

In a nutshell, these qualities and values are not only desirable for possibility of an educated individual but also for establishment and continuance of a peaceful & progressive society. Our ex-President Dr. Kalam also stresses the real purpose of education as one that leads to flowering of universal peace & prosperity.

The idea of such an education first fits best in our ancient education system emerging from eternal vedas & upishads and institutions such as Nalanda, Vikramshila, Odantapuri and Taxila mahavihars. These universities ~~was~~ were centres of free thinking and rightly produced luminaries such as Aryabhatta, Vallabhecharya, Madhavaacharya etc. They also used to attract foreign education enthusiasts such as Al-Beruni, Fa-Xpan, I-Tsing, Xuan-Zang etc. who are epitome of 'educated beings'. These universities provided them the right opportunities and guidance that helped them turn their ideas into possibilities and realities.

The zeal however took a backseat during medieval period with relative decline in importance of education and popularity of Bhakti tradition. The only remarkable free thinking episode appears to be the idea of 'Sulh-i-Kul' of Akbar and his idea of Din-e-Ilahi.

The onset of colonisation further deteriorated the innovative zeal of education with regressive Company policies inspired from Macaulay Report and Anglicist-orientalist debate. The University Act of 1904 by Cuzson dealt a further blow to the spirit of free education by restricting the scope of tertiary education. However, the never-say-die attitude of Indians resulted in ~~our~~ not only political freedom but intellectual freedom too in 1947.

Post Independence, it was realised by our visionary political leadership very quickly that menace of poverty, hunger and under-development can be firmly fought by a holistic education policy only. This realisation resulted in establishment of IITs, IIMs, UGC, AIIMS and NCERT to rebuild the education ecosystem of our country. Gradually, the spirit of free education led to establishment of more educational institutions such as NITs, KVS, NVS, etc.

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The timely intervening into education policy such as National Curriculum Framework 1986, amended in 2005 and National Education Policy, 2020 are all taking our education sector towards the same purpose which was one landmark of our identity for global education system and others.

However, with changing times and development paradigms, there has been a marked shift in the understanding of practical purpose of education as well. The rapid technical strides the world has made in last 3-4 decades, which ushered ICT revolution and the onset of the process of globalisation and neo-liberal philosophy has changed the educational discourse radically.

The increased corporatisation and era of multi-nationalism means the purpose of education would never be the same. And indeed

It is undergoing substantial shift. Now, the focus is more on producing a person capable of earning in \$X-figures than a person who is ethically and morally a complete human being.

The culture of material success measured in the form of salary, social status and position has fuelled ~~the~~ ^{an} education ~~which~~ type which is again back to producing assembly line of doctors, engineers, lawyers and managers. There is market shift to rote learning and information cramming. Raghuram Rajan says - In age of Google, the idea of passing any competitive exam on the basis of cramming some facts makes no sense. Still there is hild much of students for coaching classes at now famous cities such as Kota, New Delhi etc. The increased societal and parental pressure to get into prestigious institutions such as IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, etc. has again closed those opportunity windows which education was supposed to open.

And the effect is also vivid, manifesting itself at all possible levels. The increased urge of individual success has made every person more anxiety prone and depressed. The series of suicides being witnessed at perestroika institutions attest the same. India is slowly turning into suicide capital for students. This was never the purpose of education.

At social level, the effect is now more stark with rising crimes against humanity. The sexual attacks in USA, France, England, the communal violence in India, Pakistan and African nations and ethnic clashes all over globe such as those happening in Manipur and Palestine etc are all because ~~the~~ of misplaced priorities the successive education policies are giving to.

The political effect can be witnessed by simplest fact that from zero criminal representation in our maiden 1952 Lok-Sabha we have almost 45% of representatives

with criminal background in the 17th Lok-
Sabha. There was a time when the temple of
democracy was adorned by men of values such
as Sardar Patel, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Dr. Ambedkar
and our first PM. Pandit Nehru. But the same is
not the case today. Courtesy, decreasing education
standards of our society.

And not only at domestic level, we
are witnessing moral degradation at international
level also. A world created by the contributions
of Aristotle, Plato, Marx and Hegel has been
slowly losing all its intellectual value and
the idea of international humanitarianism once claimed
by the likes of Albert Einstein, Robert Frost and
our own Rabindra Nath Tagore. The frequent ethnic
clashes in developed countries such as France, USA,
the ongoing useless and destructive Ukraine-
Russia war, the uprising Sino-India clashes
are all because we have forgotten the real
purpose of education.

Let us stop and remember by introspecting where we began and where we stand today. Are we surely the successors generations of people who have inherited us this world such as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Galileo, Copernicus, Aryabhatta, Mahatma Buddha and the very recent Mahatma Gandhi and Desmond Tutu?

Where all we are failing? The answer could be the 'purpose of education'. We need to realign ourselves with the vision of these stalwarts. Recalibrate the entire system to realise the ideas, values and

aspirations required to open the windows of possibilities and opportunities again. We need our mirrors of ideas to turn into visibility & window of possibility again.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has once quipped that "I believe that if a country has to become great, there are those people whose contributions are going to be important - father, mother and teacher."

We need to create an ecosystem where free thinking and out of the box thinking prevails. We need to invest handsomely into human resource development. For that NEP, 2020 indeed shows us the path, but to walk that we need to collect some resource such as improving tertiary GER from present 24% to at least 50%. We need to boost the expenditure from present 3% to UNESCO recommended 6% of GDP. The R&D investment which still is 0.2% and way below the average 2% of global top 12 economies need to go up and that need substantial contribution from private sector as well, which stands at patently 30% of cumulative domestic R&D expenditure

A pupa slowly changes into a caterpillar by wrapping silk over it and turns into a ~~moth~~ fly inside the cocoon. But a time comes when it has to break free the cocoon and fly. Our primary education represents the pupa stage & secondary education the caterpillar one. The break free point is our represented by our Universities wherein the real transformation of mind into wisdom of realities takes place. We, hence, need an integrated approach to ensure that the real purpose of education is served.

Indeed ROME was not built in a day. and therefore a small step today will turn the story into success tomorrow.



Space for Rough Work



Space for Rough Work

Little strokes fell great oaks

① [Intro - agenda - Elson .

describe - meaning.

② why - Simon - Lincoln, Maslow - needs - hierarchy.

1. think eg. historical -

history [

→ not always -

- Big step going value -
- ① 1857 revolt
 - ② League of Nation
 - ③ Mahatma Popiah - III Panipat.
 - ④ Pak attack India - 3 times.
 - ⑤ Gandhi leading in Dr. Ambedkar.

Not always

- ⑨
- PS - Pearl Harbor - Bomb Jap.
 - Ind. - spring NEP, 1991.
 - Demon - 2017
 - Green Rev.

Present challenges

- ⑩ limited social-eco. issues
 - economic - ineq.
 - 5T\$ to 2x for more
 - pol. - corruption fed. privatization period.
 - Dem no by 2017
- ⑪ small steps
 - climate -
 - socio-eco -
 - pol -
 - eco -

Panch. for Ren. Int.
weaker eco
poor
malnutrition
more scarc

- Sabhi sath, Sabhi Uden, Sabhi Uch - Sab Prayas.

⑫

M.C. Kargh.

- ③ Ghazani - ant
Alexander -
Edison -
Lincoln -
M.C. King, Mandela.
- ④ Ind Freedom struggle
Ambachur -
L. Jinnah -
- ⑤ sci [PSW prog → change
ISS -
- ⑥ Cont - Aam Harang - Lokayukt
2011 triumph indian team
small Q - cap. field
Law of India - bow
ball.