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खण्ड-A / Section-A

- Q.1 If you look into someone's face long enough, eventually you feel that you are looking into yourself.
यदि आप किसी के चेहरे को काफी देर तक देखते हैं, तो अंततः आपको महसूस होता है कि आप अपने भीतर ही देख रहे हैं।
- Q.2 We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.
हम उस बच्चे को आसानी से क्षमा कर सकते हैं जो अंधेरे से डरता है; जीवन की वास्तविक त्रासदी तब होती है जब लोग रोशनी से डरते हैं।
- Q.3 It is the province of knowledge to speak and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen.
बोलना ज्ञान का क्षेत्र है और श्रवण करना बुद्धि का विशेषाधिकार है।
- Q.4 Drop the question what tomorrow may bring, and count as profit every day that fate allows you.
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।

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इस मार्ग में
लिखना नहीं है।
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Drop the question what tomorrow may bring, and count every day that fate allows you

The mightiest greek god ~~for~~ Zeus, punished Sisyphus, a notorious king for ridiculing gods. Sisyphus was condemned for his whole life to roll a boulder uphill, each time only to fall back. Yet, Sisyphus rather diligently pursued this mundane task. It was as if he was laughing at the 'absurd' nature of nature. Exploring this

absurd, non forgiving, brutal universe becomes the crux of Albert Camus' philosophy of absurdism.

The forementioned story is a lesson for us, how we should live like Sisyphus. We need to give up fretting too much over an uncertain 'tomorrow' and acknowledge and enjoy today that fate has allowed us a chance to live. And it is for this reason, Camus writes 'one must imagine Sisyphus happy.'

The pertinent question at this point is to ask why drop the question? The simple reason is nobody knows if there will be a tomorrow. We may plan and imagine every dream for future we have, yet tomorrow may never be as we envisioned. COVID-19 pandemic showed us how all our versions of future were no where near what really happened.

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People lost their loved ones, children became orphans, migrants died on their way back to home and employees got laid off. Nothing was in control.

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To let go off future worries, we must first realise why its that people are so occupied with future? There are many reasons the primary reason being constant dissatisfaction with present self. Technology and Social media further adds fuel to this fire. We are in a state of constant comparison which at times become unhealthy. This can be seen in the glorification of hustle culture. The hard work ethics of Japan is praised constantly, but what is often relegated to the background is high suicide rate due to work pressure.

Having acknowledged how this era of too much stimulation by constant flow of news and information, we need to find a way to achieve

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a state of tranquility where we live in the present. Stoic Philosophers Marcus Aurelius has an answer to this. He says 'To achieve the state of tranquility, do only what's essential'. This could be achieved by most importantly unplugging from technology. Asian philosophy of Taoism further advocates 'wu wei' or effortless non action. Lao Tzu says 'nature takes care of itself, it doesn't hurry? we constantly feel an impulse to perform or find a solution, but sometimes the best is to let it be, like a wound takes care of itself'.

Lately a counter culture of 'slow living' is emerging ~~against~~ against the modern day hustle culture. It advocates enjoying with peace the present moment, ignoring up worries of the future and enjoy an immense experience. The key is to live in a 'flow state', where the song sings itself, poem writes itself and dance dances

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itself. Philosopher Henry David Thoreau proposes the ideas of enjoying nature and learn from it. akin to it is the Japanese idea of wabi sabi or forest bathing. These steps can help us suspend our worries of future.

The question then is can we totally give up the plans for future? Is it even possible for we live in an uncertain world and hedging against foreseeable danger is a natural human instinct. we have to think about the challenges of future. Various domain confront us with ~~many~~ manifold constraints and we as a society are relentlessly finding ~~so~~ solutions as well. In the space domain, the threat of an asteroid hitting the Earth is grave and scientists are finding solutions in form the DART Mission. Again, space debris holds massive problem, ~~to the~~ that needs to be addressed. Coming to the health sector, as our longevity

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increases, so does the disease burden. There is a constant attempt to find cure of illness that plague us today and how we prepare ourselves for future burden of diseases.

Similarly, in the Environmental field, we are finding solutions for tomorrow through various treaties from Montreal Protocol to Sustainable development goals which are set to be achieved by 2030. Such a trend is even observed in policy and governance where a long term goal and vision is set like National Population policy envisioning population stabilisation by 2045. Economists too make predictions for future like the time for recession, yield, achieving \$5 Trillion economy etc. Lastly, even at societal level we make ~~an~~ laws for a future vision. Changing increasing the marriage age of women is likely to show result only in future in terms of healthy child and empowered women.

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If the worry about future is valid then how can we drop the question of tomorrow. The answer is to realise dropping the question doesn't mean to not act in present while we still have time. What we do today will decide the future. To illustrate this we need to understand how to buckle the negative impact of climate change, we need to plan our course today. IPCC reports have consistently given us call for action today and now. If we don't act today for a net zero economy, warming over 2°C is inevitable leading to catastrophe.

To act today and count it as a profit, we need to invest in building our capacity. We need to invest in having a clear goal and vision for ourselves. We need to keep achieving small goals in our way. Acting today entails

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unleashing our true potential and
be prepared for a long haul.

As the saying in snand movie goes,
'Life should be big not long'; we too

must adhere to it in our act
today. we need to make each
day count. Not worrying about

tomorrow doesn't mean giving up
on future strategies, but to put

our soul in the work we do today.

At the same time, we must not
give in to the comfort of

non action because it may
hamper our growth. The key is

a balance as taught to us by
Asian philosophers like Lao Tzu &
Buddha.

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खण्ड-B / Section-B

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- Q.5 Truth, like a torch, the more it is shook, it shines.
सत्य, मशाल की तरह है, इसे जितना अधिक हिलाया जाता है, यह उतना ही चमकता है।
- Q.6 Art is I; science is We.
कला मैं है; विज्ञान हम है।
- Q.7 Only the dead have seen the end of the war.
केवल मृतकों ने ही युद्ध का अंत देखा है।
- Q.8 Act as if it were impossible to fail.
कार्य ऐसे करें जैसे कि विफल होना असंभव ही था।

Act as if it were impossible
to fail

once a tortoise challenged a rabbit for race. Having faced constant ridicule and being laughed at, the tortoise decided to take upon himself to train to run and defeat the rabbit. Rabbit was overconfident in his ability. When the day of race came, all the jungle animals gathered and watched closely. Halfway through the race, rabbit took a nap believing tortoise couldn't ever win. He overslept, and upon reaching the finish line,

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saw tortoise had already crossed it and thus won. He faced humiliation and despair.

The conventional folktale shows how tortoise acted as if it were impossible to fail, despite all odds being against him. It is said fortune favours the brave and brave are not afraid to take risk and to act. Tortoise exhibited a growth mentality, he believed in challenging himself and to break upon the cozy shell of comfort.

Often in life, it becomes important to act without the fear of failure because fear of failure breeds a comfortable non action. We start overestimating our capabilities, we never tried to find our. We delude ourselves with illusions we mistake as happiness. To conquer failure, one needs to accept that we will have a difficult path, contrary

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to conventional morality and society's standard. Nietzsche says only an 'Urmensch' (i.e. an overman) can conquer fear. He risks above slow morality and sets and achieve goal which were deemed impossible by others.

Not everybody can be an Urmensch, but we sure can learn certain traits from him like challenging oneself to be above heard instincts. This yields beautiful results as we learn from the story of Rosa Parks, a black rights activist. She stood up against apartheid culture rather than going by the conventional behaviour.

If we don't act as if it were impossible to fail, ~~no~~ we wouldn't have ever accomplished any greatness whether an invention, a discovery or an artistic masterpiece. Einstein provides us with fortitude, when he says, 'I didn't fail a thousand times, rather I learned a thousand ways'.

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how not to do a task? Acting is important for it provides us with novel ways to achieve something a larger goal. And if we don't act we become one with fixed mentality. Pablo Picasso would never be so great today had he been scared to show to the world his novel waveform called cubism. Stand up comics like George Carlin or Louis CK wouldn't be as famous had they given up in to fear.

Our history is replete with countless such examples. Social reformer Raja Ram Mohan Roy took upon himself the arduous task to cleanse hindu society of evils of sati. In his pursuit, he convinced William Bentinck to enact a regulation. Had he been afraid of failure, countless innocent women would for long been thrown into pyres. Channu Bani is another living example of how she confronted several men promoting child marriage.

Despite hardships, her relentlessly pursued has today made workplace safer of women after the enactment of POSH Act.

The story doesn't stop here, India as a nation has shown how the failure of fear didn't deter it in its space missions. Despite the challenges, India launched Mars orbiter Mission in its maiden attempt and become the first country to achieve this feat. This growth mentality is a holbed of innovation. The story of Samstrong Pame IAS illustrates this. He crowd funded a stretch of road to ensure connectivity between two remote village. Acting without fear of failure also ensures success as we learn from the story of Dashrath Maiphi how he successfully built a road, connecting his remote village to nearby town.

At this junction, we need to find

ways as to how to cultivate this 'never give up' attitude. Philosopher Søren Kierkegaard says 'anxiety' is a great motivator. Himself anxiety ridden, despite dying at an age of 42, he published countless volumes of philosophies. Anxiety breaks upon the shell of cozy comfort. However, it is a double edged sword as he himself acknowledges.

Other possible ways to put oneself in action are inspiration from role models like Gandhi and Luther, who put their whole life in pursuit of a goal, never deterred by impediments on their path. Their autobiography could provide the guiding light. Additionally, we can learn from folktales and mythological stories. The story of a spider who fell from the web, yet never stopped trying is one such. We can also hit and try and learn on our way.

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Yet, no matter how hard we try, how much ever we stop being afraid of failure, yet we still fail and in the process hurt ourselves. Poet

Charles Bukowski interestingly said

'Don't work too hard, Don't try too hard
It's right there, ~~not~~ staring at you'

Sometimes, it is as if we are not made for a particular task, no matter how hard we try, yet to others, it may come naturally, as if it were for them, staring at them.

Philosophy of the Law of Reverse effect says the same, the harder we try, the more elusive the goal becomes. It becomes a wild goose chase. In Economics, there also is a theory of comparative advantage, we say that each country has a natural flair and advantage in only few resources and should thus focus on them, and not run after all other. These all these seem

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as if universe saying that acting without fear may actually backfire.

The real meaning behind such illustration however is to remember acting without the fear of failure doesn't mean one will not fail rather how ~~in~~ ~~to~~ from each failure there should be a learning. We need to overcome it, as we see how ISRO made the nation proud once again ~~to~~ with the launch of Chandrayaan 3. ISRO built better and learnt from the failure of Chandrayaan 2.

we have to aim for the stars, while keeping our feet on the ground. come what may, distractions or maya, illusions or hallucinations, we should not be led astray by false goals.

Q1) Drop the Q, what 2 row may bring, count as profit everyday that fate allows. → acknowled

a gift

Space for Rough Work

→ lining the present

Q → why? drop the Q.

Lao Tzu - Wu Wei
effortless non action

1st e/c world uncertainty
full the stimulations
war / epidemic /

'Shourdism'
→ lamus

universe Bould.

here conclude
do remarkable
things today, not in future Zeus.
Too much comfort - blamper
grow

Sisyphus Story ←

into

yet, establish why Premise is true
→ our actions lie today

→ What? How?
what to do to
achieve it?

- 1) flow state
- 2) law of reverse effect
- 3) Stoicism

→ That is the real meaning.

Build capacities today.

→ Marcus Aurelius - 'So
only what is essential'
y meditations.

4th But, still have to think about

- 1) Space - design, DART mission
- 2) Health - cure of diseases
- 3) Politics - Policy goal long term
- 4) Environment - SDGs
- 5) Economics - Recession, Hong Kong

wabi
Sabi

1) Lao Tzu -
Nature doesn't
hurry, yet takes
course of itself.

why it happens
→ contentment / lack
disatisfaction
→ not race

Ensta trend
→ the unhealthy
the action

eg: Japan → people
dying young

2nd
→ hustle
culture

→ slow lining

→ Schopenhauer

Henry David

Thoreau - forest

→ anand Moni
Concl: Zindagi Bad

attention
economy &
→ too much
stimulation &
news & info

Act as if it were impossible to fail.
I do, not think

evaluated
thought

Space for Rough Work

Intro: Rabbit & Tortoise story.

why → how → growth mentality

- ↳ challenge oneself
- ↳ break the shell of comfort

Eg: Gandhi Ji - S. Africa → Independence.
Peasant / Santhal revolt.

→ why is it important?

✓ failure breeds a comfortable non action
fear of

→ b/c Nietzsche → ^{to rise above} slave mentality → Ubersch

→ Kierkegaard - anxiety fuels

How
↳ never give up
Bukowski ☹️

- ↳ Hit 2 trial
- ↳ Role Model ✓
- ↳ Spider story.

↳ for beautiful results
victory to those who worked
stood up
↳ eg! Rosa Parks.

Learn

- ↳ sometimes back fire
- ↳ know your limits
- ↳ can't be chasing
- ↳ law of Don't try;
its right there.
- ↳ realise the 'comparative advantage' theory.

→ what happens if we don't.

↳ no great inventions would ever be done.

↳ fixed Mentality -
applause for what we know

↳ Limit servant

↳ Ashok Khemka
↳ Arun Prasad Pami

↳ India - MOM space

↳ Social reform

↳ climate change

↳ vulnerable country VS - LDC

↳ MC ruhta

↳ Bhamwari Sena - Child Marriage

conclⁿ: aim for stars, but keep your feet on ground.