

SECTION - B

1. Morality is the herd instinct in the individual.

नैतिकता व्यक्ति में समूहगत वृत्ति है।

2. Excellence is not a skill, it is an attitude.

उत्कृष्टता कौशल न होकर एक अभिवृत्ति है।

3. What people believe prevails over the truth.

लोग जिसपर विश्वास करते हैं वह सत्य पर प्रबल होता है।

4. Our deeds determine us as much as we determine our deeds.

हमारे कर्म हमें उतना ही निर्धारित करते हैं जितना हम अपने कर्मों को निर्धारित करते हैं।

3. WHAT PEOPLE BELIEVE PREVAILS OVER THE TRUTH

The reality of the inherent equality of an individual having two feet, arms and a head may seem commensical to most. Yet for generations the popular belief in the Purusha sukta hymn of Book 10 of the Rig Veda, believed by some to the 'oldest knowledge system' of the world - has led to belief in the hierarchical nature of 'varna' categories - the 'Brahmana' emerging from the head of the primal man 'Purusha', the 'kshatriya' from his arms, the 'vaishya' from his thighs and 'shudra' from his feet.

Just as decades of anatomical study and development of sciences has failed to convince individuals of the 'untrue' nature of caste system, in India, similar notions exist on the other side of the globe regarding racial superiority.

Why then are societies claiming to find the 'truth' of the ~~the~~ universe — the relentless pursuit of 'truth' by individuals and nations seems to be belied by a superiority of belief in determining human behaviour and the order of the world.

In order to more deeply understand their interconnections and relationships, it is important to understand what they essentially stand for. 'Belief' is more simplistic in this sense — standing for an idea in which an individual has investment — what his 'idea of truth' is.

This 'idea of truth' however may be different from 'truth' in the absolute sense. It is here that the definitional challenge starts to pose many problems. Philosophers have attempted to spend their entire lives trying to define 'truth' - and different formulations give different explanations.

Immanuel Kant while providing his 'categorical imperative' points to the universality of duty, law, ethics and consequently, of truth. Yet another formulation of truth under Jain philosophy highlights the relativity of all knowledge - in the doctrine of 'anekantarada' and 'syadarada' - where every observation about reality is prefixed with 'syat eva' - 'maybe'.

In this context, I will explore the idea of belief (someone's 'idea of truth') trumping 'absolute truth' in light of

Kant's exposition - for some part of the essay, while later coming back to the idea of 'relative truth'.

It is often said of individuals, 'what one thinks, one becomes' - the power of belief is such that a seed-having very resources of its own, counters the reality of its minute existence with the power of belief to transform into a massive tree over the years. Similarly the 'weaver bird' by belief in her feral product - creates an elaborate architectural edifice out of bits of twigs and branches.

↳ The story of Dashrath Manjhi is the humane embodiment of the weaver bird. Through sheer determination and belief in his dedication, he fought the truth of 'impossibility' of carving a huge rock to turn it to falsehood.

This positive conception of belief can have a negative comparison as well. The recent widely popular cases of mental depression faced by extremely successful actors Deepika Padukone and Sushant Singh Rajput - led them to disregard the 'reality of their success' with the 'belief that there was nothing worthwhile to be happy about.

Going beyond individuals, entire societies through their collective belief system have led to subjugation of entire communities. The real lived experiences of women during child birth, laborious menial farm labour and handling the 'double burden' of home and office work have failed to bust the myth of the 'abala' (without strength) 'nari' - which continues to determine separation of

the public and private sphere for women.

Central to this conceptualisation of women as different is perhaps the role of religion. Karl Marx once called religion as the 'opium of the masses' - highlighting often the suspension of 'rationality' or 'truth' at the altar of 'faith' or 'belief'. Communities often see other communities as 'alien', - even practice ills like 'child sacrifice' in the name of injunctions from a distant God.

But such ill-based beliefs are not just the domain of archaic religion but also the sphere of so called 'rational economics'. The Tulip trade in 19th century Britain was probably today's version of the stock system - where people heavily invested their entire life savings.

in purchasing various types of tulips seen as markers of wealth. It was this collective belief in its utility which created this bubble - somewhat similar to the stock market of today's age - though a bad sophisticated as the stocks themselves do not have value.

The 2008 financial crisis emerged in the context of a heavily leveraged economy - as the credit rating agencies contributed to a collective belief in the A+ status of major mortgage loans - which however was far from the truth.

It is this post truth world into which we are gradually entering - where what the truth is no longer known or even relevant. Political leaders have latched onto this idea with more enthusiasm than others.

The role of political propaganda through carefully devised speeches, and forwards on social media - has now been seen as instrumental in electoral victory throughout the world. The presence of online 'echo chambers' and social media algorithms which amplify such news have accelerated these trends.

Fake news, in fact is known to spread more rapidly - especially those fomenting hatred. The role of @Anon, an American conspiracy theory group - was seen as instrumental in writing the of Donald Trump.

More importantly, the power of belief increases to such an extent - that the people no longer want to know 'what the truth is'. Technologies like deep fakes may take this phenomenon of a 'post truth world' to newer heights.

The contours of truth in today's day and age are thus heavily wobbly - and absolute truths of objectivity, truth based on actual and material evidence seem to be losing relevance. Yet to say that truth is always a subordinate to belief systems would be a gross exaggeration.

The idea of 'satya' as ultimate truth is seen to emerge in one way or another - as the foundations of only those belief systems which are based on truth have known to last - right from the abolition of slavery in Post Civil War America to the lies of Harshad Mehta in the Satyam scam.

People who hold onto 'truth' # can thus even change the belief systems of others. Raja Rammohan Roy is

his campaign for sati and B. R. Ambedkar in his exposition of caste affirmative policies, were successful in convincing even their staunchest critics - ultimately leading the truth to prevail.

Yet, ~~what~~ is questions of what 'truth' is itself changes from one place to another, one generation to the next and person to person - highlighting the idea of 'cultural relativism' inherent in the anekantavada philosophy discussed in the beginning. One must thus not hold on to one's truth so rigidly that there is no space for change.

In this context thus, our belief systems thus together constitute the truth of society and the frameworks for defining truth. In the milieu of the Ramayana, the idea of

'Ramrajya' or a Wise monarch was the best form of rule - which now has been shifted to the idea of 'democracy'

~~The~~ Vedantic philosophy highlights this multiplicity of belief systems because the nature of reality is simply interpreted by different people in different ways. 'Ekan sat, Vipra Bahudah Vadanti' - There is one Truth - the learned know it by different names.

Thus our belief system as our 'idea of truth' should consistently strive to achieve the best possible formulation of 'truth'. The Varan Sera of Rama - wrote his name on every stone to construct the bridge to Lanka - their belief

gave credence to their aim - making their belief a reality - the rocks began floating on water - ultimately resulting in victory of good over evil.

Moving away from regressive belief systems like the Parusha Sukt hymn, ~~we~~ we should ~~strive~~ ^{strive} to shape our beliefs to create our best version of truth - The idea of 'Carva Dharma samhara' - encapsulated in the very same Vedic literature can be an effective starting point.



SECTION - B

1. Digital minimalism - the path towards solving social media paradox.
डिजिटल न्यूनतावाद - सोशल मीडिया विरोधाभास को हल करने का मार्ग।
2. Big tech - Algorithm without humanity is mental holocaust.
बड़ी तकनीक - मानवता के बिना एल्गोरिदम मानसिक प्रलय है।
3. Agricultural Revolution: Road to progress and prosperity OR to perdition
कृषि क्रांति : प्रगति और समृद्धि की राह या विनाश की ओर
4. Work is meaningful when it develops and exercises the talents, capabilities and skills of workers.
कार्य तब सार्थक होता है जब वह श्रमिकों को प्रतिभा, क्षमताओं और कौशल का विकास और प्रयोग करता है।

BIG TECH - ALGORITHM WITHOUT HUMANITY IS MENTAL HOLOCAUST

"Nothing so vast enters the life of mortals without a curse" — Sophocles

If we look at the problems humanity faces today, and go back to trace their roots — we can find a common underlying theme. These problems are a by-product of something that was once considered revolutionary.

Consider for example — polymers of ethene: they made carrying goods easier, waterproof waterproof

and were durable — they now choke our marine life. Air conditioners could enable man to control the temperatures to his liking — and now melt the polar ice caps. Industries replaced a fragile worker who gets tired and demands rights — these ended up ~~the~~ raising the sea level.

The point is, it is impossible ^{for man} to create something that is flawless, impeccable, in time and space.

In the 21st century, man set out to create a parallel world: — one without borders, without an identity, without racism and violence — the virtual world of internet, run on algorithms and codes. The aim was firstly, to communicate ^{but} ~~and~~ later morphed into a tool of the 21st century man — just like how a Neanderthal would carry a spear.

Simply put, algorithms are a series of steps, not entirely limited to internet. Anything that happens step wise can be turned into an algorithm — making a tea, cooking food, the steps involved in abhishekam of the presiding deity in a temple, — algorithms are tools.

But this tool is most efficiently deployed by the Big Tech — a network of giant technology companies that permeate every sphere of existence today. Tech algorithms are every where — in Google searches, on ~~your~~ the shopping app we use, on social media platforms.

On the face of it, there is nothing really wrong. Algorithms prioritise things we want to see, and make lives easier for us. They help us make decisions by passing on information that is "relevant" to our tastes. The Big Tech says it is "just a tool".

However, a tool lies there, waiting to be picked up. It does not demand anything from one who uses it. Why is it then a child cannot be separated from a mobile phone today? Or, why do we see people glued to their phones practically everywhere — even in the toilets?!

The answer is complex and yet so simple. The Big Tech have designed algorithms to serve us, yes, but also for a greater purpose — money. One may argue that the best of their products — Youtube, ~~Google~~ ^{Facebook}, Instagram — are free. And they indeed are.

This is because "when something is offered for free, we are the product" (The Social Dilemma). These services are a part of a "attention economy" and caters to what we "like to see", not "what we need" to see. And this is precisely where the problem begins.

If we search for, say, a bucket — Google will filter information based on the data collected in the past. If you happen to not buy the bucket — you'll end up finding it everywhere — on a news item you are reading, on a random history blog, anytime you open the internet you will be reminded of your unfortunate ability to let go of a bucket. This is because Google ~~is~~ ^{has} deployed another software — AdSense to ~~track~~ see what you are up to.

Youtube recommendations, posts and "suggested groups" on Facebook, reels on Instagram - everything is based on how many seconds we stopped at a post, what do we "like" and "comment" and what grasps our attention the longest.

The consequences of this ~~are~~ phenomenon are manifold. To begin with, it deprives an individual of mental agency, introducing and reinforcing his thought process - good and bad. It decreases his mental ability to focus. Research suggests that an average human ~~now~~ now has an attention span shorter than that of a gold fish, which is 9 seconds.

Consequently, we find that most individuals today are restless and anxious - their minds are so used to overstimulation they find mundane things boring. They need immediate gratification - in the form of likes and comments - and Big Tech happily provides them. According to a recent study, around 4% of people in India suffer from some form of mental health disorder.

When this spills over to real life — the consequences are even more disastrous. By creating echo chambers, they distort a person's sense of reality — often leading to radicalisation. That ISIS can influence youth sitting in a some middle-eastern desert is a testimony to this. It leads to violence, destruction and death — the Delhi riots, Udaipur killing, Palghar lynching are tip of this iceberg.

Sometimes, the events are beyond what may be termed cruel. The inhumanity of algorithms were laid bare when a twitter news link of about sexual assault was accompanied by a condom advertisement. This is just how algorithms work.

Similarly, a game of chess was flagged by Youtube's algorithm for using words like "black", "white", "kill", "checkmate". Again, no surprises here — algorithms do what they are programmed to do.

So what exactly ^{causes} leads some series of alphabets in a code to cause a level of despair and agony not routinely seen in the course of history? How does a computer program designed to ease living do ends up doing the exact opposite?

The answer is simply that algorithms are not objective. They are not the tools ~~the~~ the BigTech makes it out to be — they are profit generating machines designed to maximise revenue. They are algorithms without humanity, a mental holocaust of sorts.

Having elaborated on what, why and how these engines are responsible for chaos that we face today, it is worth reflecting on what can be done.

The first step towards getting back a life in control is awareness. Awareness about how they work, why a notification pops up, why an ad appears on our walls.

The next step is actively countering it — not clicking on Youtube recommendations, not "liking" everything that appears on our wall despite liking it, and educating near and dear ones — especially kids.

A long term measure would be sensitising the developers and coders about different consequences that can flow — a former ~~Google~~ Facebook employee confirms that a like button was created to "spread love and positivity" and nobody ever imagined that it could end up distorting and influencing national elections (Cambridge Analytica).

Lastly, an important measure is to bring inclusiveness at all levels — at the level of Big Tech's ~~compa~~ board rooms, at societal levels, in neighbourhood. Promotion of cross cutting identities, Prof. Maynard argues, can help develop long term

tolerance and peace — which is necessary both online and offline.

It is important to acknowledge the fact that never before in the history of mankind, the thought process of societies is controlled by a bunch of young men, in their ~~twenties~~, sitting in the same room in the Silicon Valley.

Everytime a fiery post radicalises a youth to stab a knife through someone's heart, or to burn down a bus on road, every time a disagreement leads to cancelling a person, an uncritical acceptance of whatever technology offers is to be blamed.

We noted earlier that it is impossible for man to create something that is impeccable ^{across} ~~in~~ time and space — ~~there~~ this needs to be realised by the humanity as a whole and everything, including technology, must pass the test of a rational mind.

The goal must be to create systems and algorithms for humanity, with a humane touch.

Srishti Dabas
Rank - 6, 2023

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कृपया इस स्थान
में प्रश्न संख्या के
अतिरिक्त कुछ
न लिखें।

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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
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उम्मीदवारों को
इस लॉशिए में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिए
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The power of perception shapes our understanding of reality.

flying fish... dancing ants.... singing birds... and giggling elephants.... such was the 'perception' of the little boy in the movie 'Taare Zameen Par'. His imaginations shaped his realities. He enjoyed being in his world of dreams, distancing himself from the utterly 'real' world.

Such is the power of perceptions, our beliefs and convictions shaping our victories and failures. The perception of beauty, the perception of intelligence or even the perception of happiness — everything begins from the head and then becomes reality.



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उम्मीदवारों को
इस कॉपी में
कभी लिखना
नाहिए।
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Through this essay, let us explore the various dimensions of perception, the factors shaping it, positive and negative perception and their impacts on reality.

Decoding the Power of Perception

One is often asked whether the glass is half full or half empty? The reply depends on the perception of the person - whether optimistic or pessimistic.

An optimistic person will find opportunity in every difficulty while a pessimistic person finds difficulty in every opportunity.

The outer world perhaps remains the

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कृपया इस स्थान
में प्रश्न संख्या के
अतिरिक्त कुछ
न लिखें।

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उत्तरों को
इस लिमिट में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिए।
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same. What differs are our thoughts
and beliefs. We perceive the world
how we are.

For instance, someone who has a
'Transphobic perception' will shape
his understanding of reality as
'exclusive' and 'intolerant' towards
the LGBTQIA+ community. On the
other hand, someone with a
'Transfriendly perception' will shape
his understanding of reality as
'inclusive' and 'respectful' towards
all sexualities.

And hence, it won't be wrong
to say that what manifests
outside, first occurs inside.

Be it our success or failure,
first we win or lose in our

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में प्रश्न संख्या के
अतिरिक्त कुछ
न लिखें।

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इस स्थान में
जवाब लिखना
चाहिए।
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conviction and then only do we
rise or fall in reality. Because
it is our perceptions which shape
our values, our beliefs, our
attitude and eventually our behaviour.

This takes us to two diverging
roads - one towards positivity
and progress, while the other
towards negativity and disdain.

Prospects of a Positive Perception:
The Path to Prosperity

It is said that someone who
has love filled in her heart
will shower immense love on
the outside world. Such was the



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प्रश्न संख्या को
अतिरिक्त कुछ
न लिखें।

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उत्तरों को
इस स्थान में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिए।
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epitome of kindness - Mother Teresa.
Her positive outlook towards life
made her help the needy and feed
the hungry.

Same goes for social reformers
like Jyotiba Phule, Raja Ram Mohan
Roy, who could perceive positivity
and take the society towards a
progressive path and ultimately
change the reality for many.

Great leaders like A.P.J. Abdul
Kalam, Lal Bahadur Shastri,
Abraham Lincoln and Nelson Mandela
- all share one thing in common,
their firm belief in reforming
their nations and taking them
to path of success. Such were
these visionaries!

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कृपया इस स्थान
में प्रश्न संख्या के
अतिरिक्त कुछ
न लिखें।

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उम्मीदवारों को
इस हद्दिए में
कहीं लिखना
नाहिए।
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It was the perception of Dashrath Manjhi that made him carve a way across the mighty mountains, or of Sonu Sood who extending a helping hand to poor during covid crisis.

The list of such personalities just goes on and on. Be it Elon Musk who perceives a world with sustainable mobility or Sonum Wangchuk who perceives a world of sustainable living. First, they changed themselves by adopting environment friendly practices (eg: Sonum plants trees whenever he takes a flight) and then only would they aim for changing the world. Wish everyone was like them. but it is not the case.

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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उम्मीदवारों को इस लिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
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It falls of a Negative Perception:
The Distorted understanding of reality

There are people who could not control their negative outlook, thereby causing havoc in the society. Be it Duryodhana who perceived himself to be all mighty and shaped his understanding of reality as one where he and only he is the centre of the universe.

Or be it Hitler who, because of his negative perception of Jews, undertook their genocide. Even the Britishers had perception of whiteman's burden when they treated Indians as barbaric and inferior, leading to the spectre of Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

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कृपया इस स्थान
में एडमिशन कार्ड के
अतिरिक्त कुछ
न लिखें।

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उम्मीदवारों को
इस हिसाब में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिए।
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Fast forwarding to the 21st century,
we see that humans have
created a perception of themselves
as 'Demigods'. They are tampering
with the nature and shaping the
reality of climate change.
Changing courses of rivers, creating
artificial rain, developing
genetically modified crops — all
are taking us towards fury of
nature through extreme weather
events.

Not just ecologically, but also
ethically, we are treading towards
an ethical apocalypse where
our negativities, vices and
hatred are taking us towards
the doomsday.



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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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उम्मीदवारों को इस लागि में नही लिखना चाहिए।
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Be it the rise in terrorism, xenophobia, fundamentalism or extremism, or be it the intolerant mindsets, which led to the death of Mahsa Amini or attacks on Salman Rushdie.

All these negative perceptions of hatred, anger, revenge and superiority complexes, have denied us true liberation.

The treatment given to women as seen from rising cases of marital rape, acid attacks, dowry deaths and sexual harassment at workplace, including online abuse in today's world — all reflect the negative perceptions of a society as a whole.

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कृपया इस स्थान
में प्रश्न संख्या के
अतिरिक्त कुछ
न लिखें।

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उम्मीदवारों को
इस लफिर में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिए।
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actions and gain conformity for our decisions. This approach of being a part of the 'majoritarian' group and not taking the 'Road not Taken' is the cause of our sufferings.

We must remember and remind ourselves time and again that —

'Ships do not sink because of the outside waters but because of the water that gets inside.'

And hence, we need to delve deeper within our own selves and ask ourselves whether our beliefs and perceptions are right or wrong. The inner voice of conscience will give the most pure and authentic reply.

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कृपया इस स्थान
में प्रश्न संख्या को
अधिकतम ध्यान
से न लिखें।

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उम्मीदवारों को
इस हिसाब में
नहीं शिक्षा
किसी
Candidates
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Once we get the reply, it is our
job to rectify the wrong perceptions
and nourish the positive ones. There
is no shame in accepting the
faults and correcting them. If
the Great Ashoka can, why can't we?

Let us imbibe the perceptions of
love, humility, forgiveness,
compassion and kindness, and
transform our understanding of
reality — for a peaceful, prosperous
and progressive world!



SECTION - A

1. Institutions reflect the cultural values of the societies in which they are established.
संस्थान उन समाजों के सांस्कृतिक मूल्यों को दर्शाते हैं जिनमें वे स्थापित होते हैं।
2. He who has a 'why' to live for, can bear almost any 'how'.
जिसके पास जीने के लिए 'क्यों' / कारण है, वह लगभग किसी भी 'कैसे' / परिस्थिति का सहन कर सकता है।
3. The power of perception shapes our understanding of reality.
अनुभूति की शक्ति वास्तविकता की हमारी समझ को आकार देती है।
4. The tree that would grow to heaven must send its roots to hell.
जो पेड़ स्वर्ग तक बढ़ेगा उसे अपनी जड़ें नरक में भेजनी होंगी।

2. HE WHO HAS A 'WHY' TO LIVE FOR,
CAN BEAR ALMOST ANY 'HOW'

Around 2500 years ago, when Prince Siddharth was born in Lumbini, the royal priest predicted that he would leave the throne in search of something spiritual. Siddharth's father made all arrangements to negate this prediction. The prince was confined in the forewalls of palace throughout his childhood.

However, all these efforts went in vain when Prince Siddharth left his family and state on his horse. For he had the "why" to live for rather "explore for", thus would bear/ confront any "how" so as to get enlightenment.

Firstly, this ability to pursue the 'why' is not confined to human species. One can find numerous examples from nature as to how different species take their own set of obstacles in pursuing "their purpose of life". Ants, for instance, carry weight which is multiple times their body mass. Honeybees work day and night, tirelessly to fulfill their own why of existence.

Often, it's the scarce resources or opportunities which drive competition and unleash hurdles. Take for instance, small island states which lack geographical resources. For ~~not~~ realizing their "why" of existence through growth of the economy and country, they have to innovate with what they have. South Korea offers an interesting role model in this regard. By investing in research, human resources, it has born all the "how" to achieve economic advancements.

Similar is the case with Japan which is marred by frequent earthquakes and other natural disasters. It has adapted to these "hubs" through robust disaster management practices for it had the "why" to live and grow.

However, one can ponder as to why should fulfilling the purpose of life be challenging in itself. The answer probably lies in the fact that he who has a why to live for is the one who wants to bring change in the existing order.

Numerous human species would have been born on this planet till now. However most of them submitted to norms of society, lived a mechanical life without any sense of purpose and died one day.

Only a minority of individuals would realize the "why" of their life at the first place, thus placing them apart from rest. Hence, they faced challenge of orthodoxy as well as the fear of travelling on a road less travelled.

Taking an insight from lives of socio-religious reformers such as R.K. Mohan Roy, J.C. Roy we realize that fulfilling the 'why' of one's life is n't a cakewalk. The reformers of the day would have faced the wrath of masses (who might have lacked the "why" of life in state of ignorance). However it was courage and fortitude to face what may come that made these personalities great.

For instance, Dr. Ambedkar right from his childhood faced discrimination of every form. This helped shape the "why" of his life which indeed gave him the spirit to fight against the same evil throughout his life.

The life of Malala Yousafzai (Noble Prize winner) is no different. Faced by attacks and threats most girls of her age in her shoes would have given up. However it was her "why" in life i.e. to promote education that helped her sail through.

Having said this, one can argue that the "why" of an individual can differ from other individual. For some, materialistic pleasure may be of utmost importance, while others may consider service as their goal of life. Be it any sphere/dimension, the spirit of "why" can do wonders, standing against any obstacle that may come through.

Taking the case of how a petrol pump worker turned into a millionaire and business tycoon in form of Dho Shou Dhirubhai Ambani, one gets to realize that nothing is impossible if one has the ~~drive~~ ^{drive} to accomplish the same. However, blind love for one's goal can also lead to compromise in means. Daag Peddles Underworld goons also survive the "how" due to their drive for accumulation albeit by exploiting/using wrong means.

On the other hand, individuals who are moved by a spirit of service & also are able face any challenge.

IAS Gurubiasud Malapatta, was arranging facilities, drugs, oxygen for COVID-19 affected patients despite himself being ill till his last breath.

"As one can truly find oneself in service of others" — that discovery can give a human, superhuman capabilities to give back and impact lives despite any hurdles.

Similar is the case with those who are infused by a sense of patriotism/nationalism. Nelson Mandela spent his entire 30 years of youth & in prison for his "why" i.e. to fight unjust apartheid and liberate his country.

Thus almost any "how" can be overcome if one has the why to live for.

Equally true is the case with those who know their "why" to die for.

Suicide bombers overcome the fear ~~the~~ of their own death for the purpose which they want to sacrifice their life.

Revolutionary freedom fighters like Blagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru, Khandu Lambose and others happily embraced death for their "why" that was ~~to~~ to liberate their motherland.

Analogously, Socrates choose to drink poison rather than leave the city of Athens. The "why" for his life was to promote injust rationality, inquisitiveness and refusal to submit to dogmas. On similar note, Madam Curie died by radiation due to her own research.

Great personalities like them knew their purpose of their life very well and thus had the conviction to face any obstacle.

However, what happens when one fails to identify one's purpose or 'why' in life?? Modern world is marked by numerous such stories when after accumulation of all the success one faces an identity and existential crisis.

This may accentuate to depression or suicide as was the case with the owner of cafe Coffee Day.

Similarly, one may also lose the purpose of their life, thus obliterating the views. Demands of legalizing Euthanasia reflect how despite all the means ("how") to sustain life, people are willing to accept silent death. Reason for the same lies in the fact that a "why" is essential for humans to lead a meaningful life.

When endowed with a "why",
a man can even break a mountain
by his drive as was done by
Dashrath Manjhi "the mountain man"

It's rightly said that
"Where there is a will, there is a way"

Section - A

(3) Humans are evolutional creatures gifted with the power of rationality.

"Tigers got to hunt, birds go to fly,
Man got to sit and wonder,
Why? why? why?"

Tiger got to sleep, birds got to land,
Man got to tell himself 'he understand'

Man is the most intelligent creature that ever walked on the planet, though less muscular than many other creatures and much slower than its counterparts. Yet, the current era, we live in is called as Anthropocene by many intellectuals. The reason is 'Reason' itself. Human birth has been viewed in ancient texts, mythologies as divine intervention, a rarity availed by the fortunate ones. The rationale being the Brahmashtra of 'capacity to reason'. The

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Rationale for such high regard lies in human's reason to think beyond its needs guided by natural compulsion. Unlike animals, the inherent distinction between man and other creatures is 'power of rationality'.

In this essay, we will explore into the concept of Rationality, the factors behind the power of rationality bestowed on humans. We will dive deep into the legitimacy of calling humans 'rational', the limitations of human reason and what the future holds for full flourishing of human rationality.

RATIONALITY: The concept

Rationality refers to a state of reasoning. When we set not the basis of natural instincts rather look into the layers of phenomenon. A rational human being has a vision not just an eyesight. Theoretically, the discourse of Rationality came into public sphere

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at the end of Medieval mentality. The era of modernity marked by enlightenment and renaissance in Europe. The end of religion (looking at world through other lenses) gave way to Emergence of reason (analytical thinking on own).
However, the history of human evolution depicts a different picture.

THE TALE OF HOMOSAPIENS

Yuval Noah Harari in his book "Sapiens" dates back human evolution as dominant species to the development of cognitive mind - the discovery of fire. Since then there is no looking back. From being one man army to developing army of men, it is humans unique ability to cooperate and work towards common goals by attaching meaning to them.

This event leads to generalisation all humans as rational, which

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itself is an irreversible way of observing things and events. Hence, how far, can we say that human beings are rational and utilising the gift of rationality remains a contested subject. It is a well established fact that human beings possess the gift of rationality, a more developed cognitive sense. But just like other creatures man has natural instincts and desires too, which leads him to use his/her superpower of rationality in either ways, sometimes rationally and sometimes irrationally too. Taking the argument ahead, we have a 100 years old example when Alfred Nobel on a morning read his obituary in a newspaper, which was printed by error, he was filled with remorse and guilt. It read - "Dynamite King dies" and described him as a "merchant of death" which motivated Nobel to start the biggest organisation working for global peace - "Nobel prize".

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It is one of the plenty examples of how human reason has been used for disempowerment and empowerment both. The truth of today is no different than the past, let us dive into the resounding success of power of rationality.

HUMAN: As a Rational being

Back then, humans were consumer of raw food, hunters and gatherers, the scenario is jawdroppingly different as the world today demand food as superfoods, genetically modified to suit varied disputations. Humans caged in leaves and barks, sheltered in caves have come a long way to wearing all weather textiles and live in smart homes.

The liberating experience of human rationality has entered multiple dimensions and spheres of human life.

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In political arena, humans today have developed a rule based order through social contract contrasting to the wild, savage living of state of nature. From the corollary of Might is Right, humans have developed a system of human rights.

The spirit of cooperation, mutual assistance and co-existence has lead to a community of various structures well created to fulfill physical, emotional, financial and spiritual quest of humans, in the form of family, village, society and state and even international institutions of global governance, to ensure peace and security. Humans have travelled leaps and bounds from discarding the LBIBTQIAT as discarded to now celebrating the new revalued identities.

The waves of Globalisation and

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urbanisation have made inroads for
cosmopolitan world order.

Human power of rationality
has revolutionised education through
Audio-visual digital technologies. The
human might has made it possible
to make 'designer babies', humanoid
like Utopia Vyomitra. Ever since being
a dependent on natural phenomenon
of sunrise, rainfall, we have come
a long way to developing Artificial sun
(Tokamak) to spread light and energy
of innovation and artificial rains
through cloud thinning evergreening
our farms.

Thus from being missionaries,
expeditioners and thinkers who penned
future through blood & ink, to
being Einstein, Jeslar and Murky,
human genius has put vehicle a
vehicle on the Red planet, man on
the farway moon and ironically
the plastic bag in the Ocean!

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Yes, this brings us to other side of the coin, humans as evolutional creatures, utilising the gift of nature for killing the very foundation of nature.

Rationality of humans: A half baked cake

Though humans were gifted by vision, yet they failed to understand it for eyesight. We walked on the Moon, we saw the Mars, we are heading towards the interstellae, but how do we live on earth? We need to ask the fortune teller!

Humans through their mindless living and conscious clouding has made the oldest democracy wage wars on vulnerable states, deprive the rights of its own black citizens. The rise of Nazim and Fasism through popular vote is a black spot on the gift of rationality provided to humans.

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Though, humans created the institutions of family, state but in the midst of it all, started behaving like "Demigods"; whether the patriarch in family or abuser on street. There are no reasons to cheer for equality, as everybody wants to empower the women, but who's preparing the men for these empowered women?

The lament of isolation doesn't stop there, the deterioration of relationship between man and society is one part, the bigger downfall is in relationship between humans and nature from space debris, greenhouse gases emissions resulting in the very destruction of planet and its survival to plastics in deep marine food chain and as high as in snow capped mountains.

The warning of Stephen Hawking about developing Artificial Intelligence to its full potential leading

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to end of human race is not exaggerated. The unidirectional focus of man being consumer of goods has lead humans to ethical lows of interfering with genes of animals and plants in guise of new innovations and path breaking discoveries.

The animals and wildlife is seeking shelter in its own abode and facing the consequences of irreversibility of humans in increasing instances of forest fires, melting of glaciers, flash floods and drought.

As Shakespeare held - "to do a little good, do a little wrong". The wrong has been done, its time to reflect on irreversibility and internalise the true gift of power of rationality.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a step forward in ensuring

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inclusive growth and equality of opportunities. The pink pyjamas flying over white house symbolises the dawn of new era of Reforms and Realiberation. The sabarimala judgement global recognition of LGBTQ3 rights are primary steps. In context of economic slump post covid-19, there is need to pay heed to IMF data which states incorporating women in economic participation will lead to a growth of 27% in GDP. The mantra of 'Navii Tu Navayami' (women you are worshipped) needs to be enthused. The Glasgow summit of COP-26 is a small island of hope amidst wide ocean of climate induced hazards. The target of Carbon Neutrality by 2050 by developed countries and 2070 by India needs to be worked upon not just by state, but by global community through lifestyle for environment (LIFE)

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There's a need to follow principles of human values in developing technologies for global good and adherence to Non-proliferation treaty on Nuclear weapon.

Thus, just like right use of rationality, made or transformed Alfred Nobel from being 'Merchant of death' to 'merchant of peace', human beings in all en-companing terms should strive towards full flowering of the gift of power of rationality.

The vision for Global peace and harmony is broader in scope, safer in its terminology and better in every form. Let us make the mother earth flourish with peace and prosperity by its most rational children's efforts : the Humans. As they say, to understand the purpose of life in life of purpose. Let's use power of rationality for a life of purpose.

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