> We can not succeed when half of us are held back

There was a flock of pigeons. It spotted grains on the ground and landed there. No sooner, it started to eat the grains, it realised whole flock is trapped in net and a hunter is moving towards them. Each of them tried to free themselves or fly individually but failed.

Staying calm, one old pigeon in the flock spoke and suggested that all should try to synchronise and fly together. They did and found that they were able to fly along the net and escape from being hunted.

In our lives, we are these metaphorical pigeons who when fly together no hurdle

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can stop us. The flock represents our family, community, society, country or whole world. The bigger the flock is, and the better held together it is, the higher are its chances to succeed.

The story mentioned above is given in colorful book of preschool. It intends to instill a feeling of unity, togetherness and team spirit in the young mind knowing full well it is one of the most important lesson one would need in life.

Yet examples are aplenty that the spirit of message is not absorbed well and not understood by all. We can observe around us failures due to holding back of some.

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Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

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one IMF report estimated that if female participation in India becomes equal to men then India can add 20% additional GDP in next five years. Yet according to recent labour force survey female participation is merely 23% compared to 52% for males. It can only be wishful for us to dream about becoming 5 trillion economy by 2024.

further even if we are able to achieve 5 trillion economy would be a success? India's idea of success is an ancient one. Our ancient texts give a test of Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina, Sarve bhavantu Niramaya to measure success. (All people happy, All people healthy)

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we are far from that ideal. the inequality (oxfam report) is such that 10% top wealthy hold more than 60% of wealth of country and 22% of population lives below poverty line (Tendulkar committee report).

In such circumstances, it is no surprise that we fight and cling onto our developing country status in international fora. meaning we are not only not successful but living out of it by getting aid and better trade deals.

compared to us Nordic countries have gini coefficient of 0.25 meaning high participation and equity in distribution. the

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result is people are not held back and country rank high on all socio-economic development indicators. for this reason they are referred as templats of success.

the question is not whether half of us or a single one of us is held back. Because we have Gandhian ideal of Antyodaya (development of last person) and constitutional obligation of non discrimination and equal opportunity.

the question is why some of us are held back. Firstly involuntary factors like caste based, religion based discrimination and structural issues like gender divide & digital divide exist.

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Secondly the reason could be voluntary holding back. The include feeling of lack of motivation, lack of team spirit or fear of failure. for example the kid in Tare Zameen Par is held back by limitation of teaching methods at school and lack of faith at home by father.

Lastly lack of leadership is one critical determinant of people being held back. In above mentioned movie, new teacher transforms parents, other teachers and kid and brings collective success.

But in real life we are going through crisis of leadership dwarfism where leaders see success narrowly. for example Trump

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withdrawing from climate goals & contributions as he doesn't see success of all as his country's success.

We need to observe at the success stories of our time to re-establish that success is manifestation of participation of all.

Policy making is healthy and successful when all political parties are on board. Otherwise some would put effort in their state and some would not.

Similarly, government schemes are successful only when all participate and no one is left behind. A recent example of Jan Bhagidari in Swachch Bharat mission made it a success story being cited by the world bank.

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However, when some are held back we can not afford to wait for them to strive for success. for their participation itself is dependent on individual initiative.

Rabindra Nath Tagore gave motto of Ekla chalo Re (walk alone) when nobody is there but one has a goal. the people of this creed like Bezwada Wilson to counter manual scavenging and Kailash Satyarthi to eradicate child labour are notably success.

At the same time, we ought to not surrender to cut throat competitive spirit of the day where "owner's pride & neighbour's envy" is becoming parameter

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of success. Success at school is coming ahead, in job beating others at competitive exams and in life depriving others and hoarding of self.

Because, we are all part of one community (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam), we are part of one ecology, we are inter-dependent and we are one (Aham Brahasmi)

When we start viewing ourselves as part of collective it is more likely that no one would be held back. We need to follow reform at the governance, bureaucracy as well as within ourselves.

A case study mentioned by NITI Aayog refers to Pollamkode model where bottom up approach at panchayat level level led to

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reaching zero poverty goal, uplifting socio-economic indicator and caused reverse migration from city to village.

we need to extend such holding together at state, nation & global level. this would bring collective prosperity which is the ultimate success.

In 75 years of our independence we have taken measures like poverty alleviation programs, inclusivity in Education, employment and political representation steps so that everyone have fruits of development.

Even though we are not yet there but it can not be termed unsuccess. Many progress ahead such as 271 million

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out of poverty between 2005-15 is no mean achievement.

However from hereon we need to press the accelerator harder. we need to reap the demographic divided, make our country 5 trillion economy, give each citizen a dignified life and most importantly a belief that those who are behind their hand will be held by co-travellers in the shared journey.

In the end, in this Amrit Kaal of 25 years nothing can be more apt as Sabka Saath, Sabka vikas & Sabka Prayas.

Because when 130 crore people are held together no target is difficult, no summit is high enough.

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courage to accept and dedication to improve are two keys to success

Ragini, like everyday was telling bed time story to her children. Tonight she tells the incident of her own life which straightens her life and resulted into her reaching to a successful position in a PSU.

Around 30 years back she was standing outside the movie theatre of her town going through a moral crisis. whether to watch movie from money she had stolen from her father's pocket or go back and admit. the first option had its merits as she had always heard from her friends how wonderful it feels in theatre and besides nobody knows that she had stolen money.

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the later option has no charm such yet she turns back willing to face consequences.

She reaches home & tells her father about everything. To her ~~father~~ surprise, her father was understanding and forgives her. By showing courage her conscience become clean. She understood the value of learning what one wants rather than taking short cuts. this lesson led her with motivation to improve and becoming successful.

It is said "there are no short-cuts in success". the above story exemplifies the saying by highlighting the value of courage to admit mistake because then only one can improve.

In the following essay we would delve onto what is courage and improvement

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what is success and why should we follow courage & improvement path for success.

courage is the ability to do right thing especially in difficult circumstances. courage to admit one's mistake is an essential leadership trait. for example a Nobel prize winner retracted his published paper when he found statistical error.

In atomic habits book the author says gradual improvement sustained over a long period of time one can excell in any field.

courage & dedication to improve are complimentary to each other. As without courage one would not see and admit the shortcomings and therefore improvement would hinder.

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the biggest success for India in this century is attainment of independence. This journey is filled with admission of mistakes and thereafter dedicated improvements. for example in the begining of 20th century congress was marred by infighting and people participation was poor.

It was corrected by 1916 Lucknow session and Gandhiji's arrival brought people participation. thereby it led to independence.

Likewise, for biological success, a species shows courage to move to new habitat and strives to improve and adapt thereby ensures its genetic success. (Adaptive ~~radion~~ radiation by Darwin)

for economic success also the similar courage shown by accepting pre 1991 economic system was not working out. It led to

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quest of reforms and made India 3 trillion economy today, the 5th largest in the world.

In skill learning, a 10,000 hours rule says a person by virtue of putting 10,000 hours of practice become proficient in the skill be it playing an instrument or playing sport. At the core of it is also courage to correct mistakes and dedicated improvement.

However, courage is a scare quality in present time. It is considered more beneficial to cover up one's mistakes than to accept. for example volkswagen a car manufacturing company not did not admit their mistake of reporting lower emissions than actual. the result was loss of public trust and fall in sales.

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Likewise, rather than seeking improvement emphasis is given to shortcuts. Present examples of papers of examinations getting leaks is a manifestation of avoiding self improvement.

The logical question arises when courage & dedication to improve are two important ingredients of success then why are not enough emphasis on them and how to cultivate them?

Showing courage means standing alone which is difficult than standing within the crowd. further, if it is not inline with conventions one would face pushback. eg Socrates showing courage to state Earth rotates around Sun and that was contrary to existing belief. He

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was persecuted for that.

In order to cultivate these two a cultural shift is needed. It starts with socialisation at home where individuals are taught the first lessons of life. later, teachers role is paramount which make student ready for a responsible life.

In economic and governance spheres such initiative must be appreciated. for example culture of entrepreneurship requires accepting failures and setbacks and keep on improving.

In governance also it is desirable to encourage out of box thinking which

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needs courage to accept limitations of existing systems. for example controversy over covid death data can be resolved if courage is shown to accept the statistical flaws.

As a whole, there are other attributes also which are required for success such as positivity, empathy and emotional intelligence. which need to be addressed alongwith courage & improvement.

To conclude, constitutional ideals of scientific spirit and enquiry and reform are nothing but enabling provision for courage and improvement whose adherence by citizens and government would bring success of country.

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