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Always Ahead

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Essay for Mains 2024

Essay Test - 03

Time Allowed: 1 .5 Hour

Max Marks: 150

Name: MINAL NEGI

Test Date: 21/07/24

Email Address: _____

Mobile: _____

Important instructions:

Write an essay on any ONE of the following topics:

- Stick to the word limit: **1100-1200 words.**
- Ideal time: **1.5 hours.**

The purpose of writer is to keep civilisation from destroying itself.

"Books are the proof that humans can do magic" - Anonymous.

Amidst the bustling traffic, the mundane daily routine and all societal obligations, reading a book by the window side with a hot, piping cup of tea brings one to peace. It is surprising yet wonderful how flipping a few pages everyday can uncover the best version of a human.

However, when one reads beyond the lines written, there is a writer thinking hard & trying to pen down the best letters to create a masterpiece. Each book in a bookstore is the unsung win of a writer who speaks volumes in each word he puts down. In a world where everyone is chasing tangible achievements, it is a writer

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who overlooks all of it to see beyond reality & bring it to reality through a book.

In this essay we shall acknowledge the tremendously difficult job of a writer. We shall see how since ancient times, literature has kept civilisations from falling. How seminal works of some great authors have become milestones in human history. How some of the best pieces being written are keeping the youngsters sane. Alongside, we shall see how writers have become a voice of the voiceless by bringing the pain of the vulnerables to the forefront. As a conclusion, analysis of shift from reading culture shall be the focus.

India is a home of great saints like Ved Vyas, Valmiki and many more who produced seminal works in Sanskrit and

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Hindi languages. The Vedas, epics, Upanishads have kept the Hindu civilisation from vanishing even after being ruled by foreign rulers. When Lord Mayo said, "A single bookshelf of a British library is better than all Indian literature," he seems to have missed all of the above while eyeing the prosperous Indian wealth he had to drain.

Spanning across borders, Machiavelli saved the great Roman civilisation from collapsing under the influence of degraded church. Through his book 'Republic' he separated church from politics, thus creating a secular state. Italy otherwise would have fallen under papal influence.

As we move forward in the timeline, Rachel Carson's 'The Silent Spring' brought the environmental issue to the forefront. When greedy and

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uncaring humans were busy in building industrialised cities and high speed engines, It was Carson who could see the miserable picture of nature.

Her work led to the famous Stockholm Conference in 1972 which was followed by multiple global initiatives like UNEP, Rio summit, SDGs etc. The environmental values of today are rooted in a young woman's book.

Not only have writers influenced such global events, they have also become a voice of the voiceless. Mary Wollstonecraft's book, "Vindication of rights of women" sets the feminist values on burning coal.

Her work was followed by Simone-de-Beauvoir's, "The Second Sex" which happens to be

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one of the sharpest blades to attack the patriarchal society. Shulamith Firestone's, "Dialectics of sex" is seen as the origin of queer theory. It was her spark that set the present day LGBTQIA+ rights movement on fire.

After being subjugated for years under white colonialism, Anna Julian spoke for the black community through her book "A voice from the global south". She also highlights the chains of intersectionality which grapple black women!

Talking about civilisation and barbarism, the horrors of anti-semitism in Germany are kept alive by Anne Frank's famous work, "The Diary of a Young Girl". Such literature lets the world to

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keep itself reminded to not fall for totalitarian systems ever again, thus upholding the liberal values.

Such works prevent humans from repeating the futile exercises & committing grave mistakes, already done in history. The classic works of the above listed writers have shaped the course of human evolution and kept the global civilisation from falling.

Adding to the rich literary heritage, India's contribution remains impeccable. Noble prize winner Amartya Sen's "The Idea of Justice" challenges the eurocentric notion of Justice which differs from that in the third world nations.

Sen has also highlighted the miserable condition of poor in his book

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"Poverty and distribution of income in India". The present day public policies are highly influenced by his ideas.

On the rung of acknowledging the writer community of India, Shashi Tharoor highlights the wrongs done by colonial masters in his bestseller, "An Era of Darkness". It was followed by his famous Oxford speech which brought the colonial wrongs in-front of the world.

Writers of the world selflessly continue to uphold human civilisation and still remain in oblivion. The Young generation keeps itself sane with motivational works of Mark Manson, Victor Frankel, Gaur Gopal Das and many more.

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The stewards of human civilisation are moulded from a nascent age with books meant for expecting mothers. A healthy and positive childhood becomes easier with books from expert and experienced minds.

Moreover, writers have strengthened cross-cultural connections. 'Ikigai' and 'Ichigo Ichie' are some of the examples which introduces the world to ancient Japanese techniques of good life.

However, the spare time that was once consumed by books is being attracted by social media and digital entertainment. Libraries have lost their role in most cities. Reading rooms of colleges are mostly empty. Books find it hard to make a place for themselves under gift wraps.

A However, the avid readers keep the writers alive. The magnetic ink of kindle might have replaced yellow pages of books. The bookmark feature of an i-pad might have replaced the sticky notes, but the reading culture will forever flourish.

Moreover, the expanding community of authors will hardly ever shun its job of shaping human civilisations and lead the history with a gaslight. It remains important for us to acknowledge their vital efforts.

If today humans see a developed yet sensitive version of themselves, it is because of the inevitable job of writers. It is well said by Camus, "The job of a writer is to prevent itself from destroying."