P	DARPAN	AUGUST 2016 YEAR : 11
	Visit us at : www.pdgroup.in	ntents ISSUE : 121
	Regulars	97 All Members of Rioting Mob are Equally Guilty
	To Our Readers	Gujarat High Court
	Editorial	Agricultural Article
	News and Events	98 Plant Breeding : Steps and Methods of Plan Breeding for Disease Resistance
	Nation this Month World this Month	Environmental Article
	Regional News	
34	National and International Updates	100 Climate Justice : A Movement for the Future o Humankind
	Career News	Vividha
	Employment and Career News	103 Compendium
	Forthcoming Competitive Examinations	106 Short Notes : New Breakthroughs in Medical Science
	Current Affairs	Countries of the World : At a Glance
	Sports World Memorable Points	107 Sri Lanka
	Economic Scenario	Annual Report, 2014-15
	IAS Success Planner	109 Awareness, Outreach Programmes and Inter
	Civil Services Examination : Strategies that can Make Your Endeavour Successful	national Cooperation in Earth Sciences Sector : At a Glance
	Inspiring Youth : Interview	111 Prominent Historical Personalities of India
	Ashish Tiwari	
	Topper—Civil Services Exam., 2015 (6th Rank)	113 Current Questionnaire 116 Trade and Industry
	Siddharth Jain	117 Multiple Choice Questions—Environment
	Topper—Civil Services Exam., 2015 (13th Rank)	119 Technological Advancement
	Amit Pal	Question Papers
	Topper—Civil Services Exam., 2015 (17th Rank)	Optional Papers
	Focus	121 UGC-NET/JRF Exam., 2015 : Philosophy
	Sagarmala : A Drive Towards Blue Revolution	126 UGC-NET/JRF Exam., 2015 : Education
	World Panorama	131 UGC-NET/JRF Exam., 2015 : History
75	(i) Modi in Tehran : Looking for New Synergy (ii) India and the USA : Enduring Global Partnership	Other Papers
	Personality Development	135 SIDBI Assistant Manager Exam., 2016 : Genera
78	Learn to Get Along with Others	Awareness
	Articles	138 IBPS P.O. / Management Trainee (Main) Exam., 2015
	Indian Economy Article	General Awareness
	Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana for Empowerment of Rural People	140 SSC Junior Engineer Exam., 2016 : General Awarenes 142 Uttarakhand P.C.S. (J) Exam., 2015 : Genera
	International Trade Article	Knowledge and Law
	Recent Innovation in Regional Groupings : Trans- Pacific Partnership (TPP). How is it Important to	154 L.I.C. Apprentice Development Officers Exam. 2015 : General Knowledge
	India ?	156 National Insurance Company Ltd. (Administrative Officers) Exam., 2015 : Reasoning
	Contemporary International Relations Article	162 IBPS Specialist Officer (Marketing) Exam., 2016
84	India-Central Asia : New Opportunities	Quantitative Aptitude
	Banking and Financing Article	168 Syndicate Bank P.O. Exam., 2015 : English Language
	Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rate (MCLR)	Your Pages
	Career Article	172 Essay Contest
39	Cost and Management Accountancy : An Eminent Profession	174 Debate Contest 177 Results
	Legal Article	178 Concentric Quiz
25	Crime and Juvenile Justice	181 Test Your Knowledge

PD/August/2016/9

Be Sensibly Sensitive

Troubles galore in the world arise because of the fact that we are neither sensible, nor sensitive to the desired level. In personal life as well as in our relation to others, it is of utmost importance that we are sufficiently sensible and sensitive. We can also say that it is imperative for us to be sensibly sensitive. A sensible person knows life in all its ramifications and acts as per the requirement of the situation. Being sensible also means having adequate commonsense. There is need of commonsense at every step of life, otherwise we shall encounter pitfalls and aberrations in abundant measure. A sensible person is respected in family, the society, here, there and everywhere. On the contrary, a man bereft of commonsense does not command respect anywhere. Similarly, we should be sensitive to life's situations. Our reactions to situations must be based on adequate commonsense. Being too much sensitive is fraught with innumerable troubles in personal, familial and societal existence. A too-much sensitive person more often than not faces nervous disorders. But in relation to others we must be sensitive. We should be sensitive to the sorrows, agonies and afflictions of others. Those who pity others' sorrowful lives and get ready to help them are sensitive. Those who are not sensitive to others' sorrows are not really human beings in the strict sense of the term. The whole discussion boils down to the fact that we should be sensitive.

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Quick to respond, is a sensitive person. Slow to react is a sensible person. We need to be both. We must be sensitive enough to smell the rat, but must take our own time to assess the situation, lest we may land our efforts in waste. The great modern thinker, J. Krishna Murthi has written in his famous book "At the Feet of the Master" that "Our higher mind should respond to the desires of the astral body, but must know that it is not 'I' that desires it, but the lower mind. It is the donkey ridden by the rider, that kicks against the pricks."

Although the context of Krishna Murthi's discussion is different, yet it tells in a very illustrative way how one could control and lead in the desired direction the donkey of lower desires. To be sensitive to the stimuli is good, but one must not be led away by them. Being of pure and unpolluted nature, young blood is quick both to respond and react. But one who is able to have control over his reactions, is sure to go a long way of a successful life, because he is the master of the vehicles by which he is destined to go on his journey.

Life is a journey through a series of halts in the worldly sense and through a series of incarnations in the philo-sophical sense. We have come a long way. We have yet to go a long way.

The word journey implies a goal and a road to be traversed. The trio of destination, route and movement ever go together and each has a significance in relation to the other.

Granted, that you have decided your goal or the form of achievement which you have before you. Then comes the road you have to traverse. You may reply that when the goal is fixed, the road leading to it is automatically known. But we are afraid that the equation of goal and road is not so simple as you think or presume it to be. The road may look the same to every traveller, but the atmosphere-the nature of halts and difficulties on it, may be reacted to differently by different persons, because every person is an individual and experiences are not transferable. Each one has his own susceptibilities and capacity to acclimatize and adjust. It is here how we are able to set a favourable equation of the road and the movements. So, it is desirable to have first hand knowledge of the road to be taken and not to undertake the journey at the instance of someone else. In case otherwise, the journey is doomed to be a failure.

PD/August/2016/10