

Regulars

4 To Our Readers

9 Editorial

News and Events

10 Nation this Month



15 World this Month



20 National and International Updates



32 Regional News

Career News

34 Employment and Career News

34 Forthcoming Competitive Examinations

Current Affairs

36 Sports World

39 Memorable Points

41 Economic Scenario



50 DIVYA DARPAN



57 Environment, Ecology, Biodiversity and Climate Change Round-up

INSPIRING YOUTH : INTERVIEWS

60 **Melvyn Verghese**
Topper—Civil Services Exam., 2021
(118th Rank)



62 **Bhawna Nanda**
Topper—Bihar Judicial Services
Exam., 2020-22 (1st Rank)



64 **Kunal Soni**
Topper—Madhya Pradesh Judicial
Services Exam., 2021-22 (9th Rank)



66 **Iteesha Sanghvi**
Topper—Madhya Pradesh Judicial
Services Exam., 2021 (19th Rank)



67 **Vanshita Gupta**
Topper—Madhya Pradesh Judicial
Services Exam., 2021 (7th Rank)



FOCUS

- 69 (1) Global Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC)



- 71 (2) The Breakthrough Agenda : A Master Plan to Accelerate Decarbonization of Five Major Sectors

- 73 (3) Coastal Security in India : Need of the Hour

World Panorama

- 74 (i) India-ASEAN Partnership Enters a New Age

- 76 (ii) Indian Lead in Global Counter-Terrorism Efforts

Personality Development

- 79 The Sun-Dial Inscription

ARTICLES

Economy Article

- 80 Indian Banking Sector : Emerging Trends and Challenges

- 83 New Age Marketing in India

- 85 Kautilya's Vision of Economics

Environment Article

- 88 Management of Stubble Burning for Eco-Friendly Environment

Sociological Issues Article

- 99 Social Disconnect Among Older Adults

International Relations Article

- 100 India-Russia Relations Under Western Scanner

- 104 UN@77

International Relationship Article

- 106 G-20 and India : A Successful Journey

Health and Medicine Article

- 109 *Commiphora Wightii* : Guggal Important Ancient Medicinal Plant

Rural Connectivity Article

- 111 Technology will Change the Picture of Rural India

Space Technology Article

- 113 DART Mission : Successfully Deflected the Asteroid from the Orbit

Biotechnology Article

- 116 Way Cleared For Field Trials of Genetically Modified Mustard

SPECIAL FEATURE

- 118 Key Terms Explained for Competitive Examinations

- 121 Compendium

- 124 Important Concepts in News

- 130 Prominent Historical Personalities of India

- 132 Trade and Industry

- 136 Current Questionnaire

QUESTION PAPER

- 141 Civil Services (Mains) Exam., 2022 : [General Studies-III](#)

OPTIONAL PAPER

- 146 U.G.C. NET/JRF Exam., December 2020 and June 2021 : [History](#)

OTHER PAPERS

- 159 S.S.C. Combined Graduate Level Examination, 2021 (Tier-I)

- 169 Bihar B.Ed. Common Entrance Test, 2022

YOUR PAGES

- 176 Essay Contest

- 178 Debate Contest

- 180 Concentric Quiz

- 183 Test Your Knowledge

- 186 Results



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Make Yourself Worthy of Education

True education is a comprehensive concept. True education encompasses all that goes to make an individual in the real sense of the term. This education builds us not only from without but also from within. The purpose of education does not stop with the acquisition of certificates, degrees or securing a handsome employment. It extends beyond this absolutely limited sphere. Education engenders in an individual the sense of values, an urge for serving not only one's own self or that of the family, but also the larger humanity of which we are a part and parcel. It may be noted that we are what we are, because of the society in which we are born and have our being. This fact enjoins on us the duty to serve, the society, our fellow men and women and all that lives on the earth. It is impossible for us to lead an isolated existence aside and apart from the society. We have to redeem the debt we owe to our society, the society which brought us into being, nursed, nurtured and made us capable of leading a respectable life. Development of self must be accompanied by the development of the human society in which we move and have our being. The purpose of education is to enlarge our vision of the milieu in which we move, to broaden our concept of true development which includes the development of all, and to make us capable of responding to the needs and aspirations of our fellow men and women, who directly or indirectly contribute to our growth and development.

When we talk about a total or a complete human being, we mean not only a physical human being, but something more. This something more is more important than an ordinary human being. The complete human being has a capacity to explore, to examine his inward being. His capacity of going beyond the usual state of mind is the factor which constitutes the 'something more' of the average human being. To make the two—the human being and the human being with the something more—is the real purpose of education. So, the real issue of education is to see that when the student leaves the school, the college or the university, he is well established in goodness, both outwardly and inwardly. The human being is courteous, the something more human being is inwardly courteous as well. It follows, therefore, that education enthrones in the minds and hearts of the students the ideals of loving knowledge and wisdom, service and sacrifice. It is not without purpose that Hindus seek salvation at the feet of Shri Vishnu or His reincarnation—or the incarnation of compassion and wisdom. Let our young men and women treasure these great goals, and strive after them and seek them, because, where your treasure is, there is your heart as well. It is these ideals which need to be religiously cherished and pursued to attain to a higher level of humanity.

In case the ideals of education i.e., service and sacrifice are practised in real life, truth is respected, beauty valued and goodness imbibed, the individual

concerned would have proved worthy of his education. A great educationist, throwing light on the value and importance of education has written that—“Let all that is dark within us be burnt with flame and devil of error be torn away. Education is the most potent and effective tool to redeem our lives—to bring about an individual's development, his emancipation, his cultural regeneration, his economic advancement and training men and women for the diverse needs of a socialistic, secular and democratic society in the present scientific, technological and nuclear age.”