

Q. 2 Make a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title.

(15+5=20)

In every epoch, civilizations have adorned themselves with the veneer of progress, yet beneath the dazzling exterior, an insidious corrosion spreads unseen. The modern temper, intoxicated with speed, invention, and the feverish multiplication of desires, has cultivated a landscape where the grandeur of acquisition eclipses the subtler music of conscience. Palaces of glass and steel rise, fortunes are conjured in markets that never sleep, and the human creature, dazzled by abundance, scarcely notices the invisible impoverishment that accompanies such plenty. It is precisely in the midst of this brilliant tumult that the gravest reversal has taken place: the scales of value, once weighed in character and honour, have been recalibrated to favour the clang of coin over the calm of virtue. The sanctuary of the home, the tribunal of learning, the very pulpits that should have stood as custodians of higher impulses, now stand compromised, bartering their dignity for the gleam of material advantage. In boardrooms, stratagems are no longer measured by fairness but by profit; in the corridors of power, policy bows before the idol of wealth; in human dealings, affection itself is often appraised by the currency of benefit. The tyrannies born of this inversion are manifold: the fracture of trust between neighbour and neighbour, the degradation of institutions once built to ennoble, and the pitiable spectacle of intellect bent not to enlightenment but to schemes of avarice. What were once the slow, luminous labours of a conscience striving for balance—honesty, forbearance, and humility—are now dismissed as quaint relics, replaced by an unbridled appetite to possess. The new century, with all its mechanisms and magnifications, has taught man to reach outward and grasp, but not to look inward and judge. In such an atmosphere, wealth becomes the only oracle, and character a silent beggar at its door. The paradox of this glittering achievement is that it leaves the spirit famished; comfort expands, yet contentment contracts. Unless a reclamation of moral sensibility interrupts this ceaseless covetousness, the splendour of our progress will merely light a theatre where a hollow humanity enacts its decline beneath the brilliant chandeliers of its own prosperity.

Shallowness of Humanity

In every era, civilizations used to furnish themselves with progress. This progress helped them to blanket the internal corrosion. However, the never ending desire of achieving more and more hinders the beauty of intellect and blinds them from the harm of it. Also, there is a shift of clasp of coins which weighed over values. The dignity is now only associated with the gleam of materialistic advantages. Even in policy making, the ideal of wealth is worshiped. Simultaneously, affection is associated with materialistic benefits. The tilt of intellect is towards the schemes of greed instead of enlightenment of mind and soul. Hence, voracity of human is indeed never ending. The character will remain only a silent spectator one day and will witness the decline of humanity under glamorous chandelier of avarice.

(130 / 360)