



An Institute for Civil Services

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To be beautiful, life doesn't require to be big

As India celebrates the birth anniversary of its heroic freedom fighter - the legendary Bhagat Singh in the coming month of September, his brief 24 years of life is a definite lesson that to be beautiful, life certainly doesn't require to be big. With his revolutionary struggles, such as throwing bomb in the Central Assembly against repressive laws to his radical ideas of socialism, and anti-casteism and anti-communalism, Bhagat Singh not only lived a great life but left a legacy to be cherished by Indians across the world till date.

On the other hand, Gandhiji although assassinated and dying unnaturally, was able to wage a protracted struggle based on truth and non-violence against British colonialism. Certainly, long/big life of Gandhiji

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proved to be the greatest blessing for Indians.

This raises the question whether even a small/short life can be beautiful? What is the meaning of beautiful or big life?

Beautiful life can entail wide connotations and multiple meanings. Furthermore, meanings and relative importance can vary from person to person, state or culture. For the tribes in papua new Guinea, preserving their language and traditional ways of life may constitute a beautiful life. While for corporates in towering buildings of America, 6 figure salaries is all that's needed for a beautiful life!!

"Big" life, similarly, can mean a longer span of individual life or can imply fat pay-checks/income, luxury or to accomplish fame and respect. As the typical Ad line goes - "You have one life, make it BIG".

On the following essay, let's see whether and how life can be beautiful even in small settings or limited circumstances! Whether long life may even be a "bane" adding to life's struggle or if the opposite is true? Further, we will see how a beautiful life can be led by all.

Also ask, what makes certain idea of life hegemonic and what obstructs realization of simple yet beautiful life for many!

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When (wo)man takes birth into ~~a~~ this world,
the "clock" of his life-death cycle starts.

As one socialises and comes to terms with
societal hopes, country's problems and life's daily
struggles, everyone, whether, in high rises or slums
strives to live a beautiful life in the future.

Given the social - milieu, one tends to blur the
distinction between "beautiful" and "big" - conflating the
rich with happy or the owels/poor as living somewhat
"lesser life". Nothing can be further from truth. ✓

The lives of great men and women like the
stated case of Bhagat Singh, makes it clear, that

big life isn't a pre-requisite to a beautiful one.

As Ambedkar said and proved with his own story -

"Life shouldn't be long, it should be great" ✓

One should strive for value based, ethical life, a
life of passionate striving and courage/risks. The
likes of Manjunath compromised their lives but not their
ideals hence leaving behind a "beautiful" legacy for
civil servants. ✓

what
gave into
blurring of
vision?

are you
conflating
'big' with
'long'?

Contrarily, large/long life can even prove burdensome. old age, quite literally, is painful for most and rich often live in constant fear of an impending robbery of their hard earned money.

The saying is not just applicable to individuals, but looked closely, seems to hold true across various facets of life. ✓✓

The small community of Kuvaville in Tamil Nadu exudes harmonious living among more than 50 different nationalities while maintaining communal free environment often proves difficult due to tensions between two major communities/religions in India! Similarly, the minority religion Jainism is also one of the most prosperous and educated community in India. This is possible due to the inherent dynamics of small groups which aid in cohesion, exchanges and building mutual trust.

Apart from small communities or religions, the tiny nation of Bhutan by holding the title of "The happiest nation" on Earth, again shows how big isn't the criterion for beautiful!

✓✓ This is more relevant example

Isn't it also because of freedom of these communities?

how is this
part fitting
into demand
of the question?

Large groups often breed confusion, policy paralysis as had been the case of League of Nations needing consensus of all members for any collective security operations. Its failure was one of the major factors for World War - 2 causing 20 million deaths and untold misery across the globe. Compounding it with the 5 membered (permanent members that is) UN Security Council, UNSC has definitely spearheaded a peaceful post 1945 world free of World War 3!

The current predicament of climate change facing mankind also has roots in the striving for 'big' life. The Industrial revolution of 18th century began with the promise of widespread prosperity but ended up threatening mankind's very existence as pointed out by numerous reports starting from Brundtland to IPCC.

Small life entails simplicity rather than complexity. Napoleon's ideal for laws was one that "comprehensible by a lay man and fits in the pocket".

The 40 odd central labour laws on top of 100s of state laws stalling India's employment and in turn the growth story, poor policy-makers have yet to take a lesson from Napoleon's preachings.

Outside the political-legal sphere, even in space, the room has been to go small! ISRO with a small budget (Rs. 10,000 crore) is a lean and mean body successfully dishing out series of successful proud-worthy missions. Its Mangalyaan mission was in fact on a budget "smaller" than the Hollywood film "Galaxy". Going small is actually a boon, as it forces innovation (suited to India's context), efficient operations and less wastage of public resources.

Even in the naval infested red corridor, the success of Greyhounds (small elite commands battalions) of Andhra Pradesh shows small is an advantage even in strategic operations. The same was proven in Balakot and Uri surgical strikes.

Re-think if
this expansion
is relevant?

However, no generalisations should be made. It's imperative to point that even small

can be best and big can be beautiful!

Small nations like Bhutan have often found themselves squeezed "like an egg between two boulders" of India and China as the recent Doklam crisis indicates. On the other hand, the "ASEAN

Morale" as foreign affairs experts term it shows how solidarity among small nations into a larger grouping can breed prosperity in economic and strategic security.

In an individual's life, the benefits of joint family such as love of siblings/cousins, values from elders etc. indicates that "big" life can be beautiful. Moreover, there are trends of personalities famous stars to go for "cryo-preservation" in the hopes of being revived when someday technology matures in the future. Thus, the craving for big life is nevertheless lodged deep inside humans! ✓✓

same as
last page
reflect!

So what is an ideal life which is beautiful?
Big or small? Although mired in controversy,
one should not value life in terms of length
or wealth (bigness) alone, there's need for
broadening the concept of a beautiful life. This
will definitely solve many of our society's challenges
such as rising suicides and depression (even among
rich) for those who struggle to make it big!
The case of Bill Gates who despite making large
empire (typical definition of beautiful life lived), is
donating on "small" ~~causes~~ yet important causes such
as \$100 million for AIDS prevention in Africa or
sanitation improvement in India. It shows satisfaction
and happiness is earned in "meaningful life" rather
than long one.

Our education system should incorporate this
lesson. The "Happiness Curriculum" is Delhi is already
gaining positive feedback from parents who see their
children more happier in their lives and desisting from

the urge to go on 'social media' to portray a 'big' / 'happy' life.

The State should similarly opt for sustainability in economic growth. This gains significance as the Industrial Revolution 4.0 has started to revolutionise economy but can entail a huge price on environment if not regulated properly.

Victor Frankl chronicling his experience, as prisoner in Nazi Concentration camps, in his book → "Man's Search for Meaning" articulates that even in the gravest of suffering, the (woman) derives meaning in small hopes and wishes such as reuniting with his/her family or getting to savour a full meal.

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Beautiful thus doesn't require a big life to be lived!
✓
Essay has some sections that aren't particularly relevant as pointed, and a few expected sections couldn't be seen -
you should have explained why popular notion of life has become that of a big life and what follows does it have?
what can be a more broadbased meaning of life?
does one have to necessarily live a socially significant life to call it a beautiful life?

Industry 4.0 is the biggest gamechanger of present and future

Yuval Noah Harari in his book "Sapiens" has described the brief history of humankind from the Cognitive revolution to Agriculture revolution to scientific revolution. The phases of the last two-three centuries of scientific revolution have seen astonishing progress from the spinning jenny and powerloom to telephone lines, internet, micro-chips and supercomputing, the strings of achievements have been dizzily fast.

Now, woman stands at the cusp of another great revolution i.e. the Industrial Revolution 4.0 which will blur the lines between the physical, biological and technological as we move into the future. It builds on Industrial Revolutions of the

dense point
could have
explained
a bit?

past based on "steam power", "electricity" and "electronics" / "Information Technology" yet very different

could give a glimpse of 3 other industrial revolutions past! and broader in scope.

Let's analyze, how Industrial Revolution 4.0 set to be the biggest game changer of not just present but future too. Whether it faces any challenges or poses any threats? further, how can humankind reap the best dividends out of this great revolution that is unfolding.

Industrial Revolution 4.0 promises a future that is utopian to the least and impossible to grasp fully. It will involve technologies such as intelligent AI powered machines capable of human-level cognition. We can imagine human cyborgs with chips inserted in the brain to augment our capabilities. or 4-D printing in new age factories of the future. From biotechnology to nanotechnology, from smart manufacturing to quantum computing, Industrial Revolution 4.0 is set

to dazzle humankind.

No other revolution comes close.

Any change of economic model such as Kassidy
fare to welfare state and current neo-liberal, neither
any changes in political agenda can hope to compete
with the magnitude / scope of changes that Industry 4.0
promises.

On the economic sphere, we can expect to

see ultra-high efficiency logistics due to predictive
AI based technologies. Amazon has already rolled out
the feature in some American towns where a product
is pre-shipped to a location based on high probability
that the customer will order it soon!

The industries will shift from current
"assembly-line" manufacturing to decentralized, innovation
driven 4D printed or 3D printed products. This will
create complex, customer-tailored products like prosthetic limbs
at fraction of environmental costs. It will boost
productivity in the economy and reward talent.

Drone based technologies and nanosensors
have already found their way to Netherlands farms.
The real time data down to a 'single potato'
about soil health, water requirements, optimum temperature
is already revolutionizing concept of food security
methods. Netherlands shows the world a glimpse of
farming of the future!

Outside industries and farms, the the
most important social domains of education, health and
skills can be expected to see dramatic changes.
Already China has deployed AI powered robots as
nursery classroom teacher assistants. Children ask questions
practise new languages and correct their grammar all
while playfully engaged with a "cat-looking robot".

In Ireland, NITI Agency is a bold pilot, has
partnered with Qure.ai company to deploy AI tools
for TB screening in deprived districts. Numerous
studies have shown potential of AI based machines
to diagnose TB, cancer etc at a higher accuracy
than seasoned doctors/surgeons.

The world of skills will see a change too. Not just the requirements of data scientists, biotechnologists etc. it seems to proliferate, the task of skills is set to see paradigm change from institution led to personalised, own paced programs such as Massive Online Learning Courses (MOOCs)

Industry 4.0 will not just change our external but ourselves too. With the ever closer integration of biotechnology in our lives apart from digitentials (such as glucose monitoring chips embedded in body) and nano robots to deliver drugs, the humans may soon become part of the revolution, quite literally. Technologies such as google glasses, virtual reality, headgear, newborn launched by Elon Musk (project in progress) shows how technology might pair up with humans to script history of 21st century.

The political aspects of our lives can be instant, robust communication can boost enriched too.

worst the
very defn of
human condition
and policy
undergo
drastic change?

participation of people in democratic policy making
which is today restricted due to hassles of
engaging directly with our political representatives.
Not just the country, the world can come together
overcoming the barriers of boundaries and check posts.

The borders may not go irrelevant but
with technologies like space based observation and
surveillance drones, laser guided walls, robots manning
the risky forces, security will undergo radical
transformation leading to better safety and peace for
the people. ✓

However, the 4th Industrial revolution
brings with it hosts of unpredictability and policy
moral / economical / environmental challenges.

firstly, the pace of technological progress is unprecedented
and even beats theories / ~~the~~ any past assumptions of
gradualism. The future is here and now. And we
need to cope with it in real time.

4th Industrial revolution and the front of

new technologies it entails, can further the inequalities already existing in our society. The Altketty papers highlighted that 1% of Indians own 70% of all wealth in India. This gap between the rich and the poor will only get wider as the knowledge, digital and financial literacy is enjoyed only by the few and only few can afford such technologies. Inequalities even between nations maybe created, the Global North and Global South may further drift away in prosperity. We can already see China through "Made in China 2025" trying to get a lead in technologies like AI, robotics, 5G, semi-conductors. This has precipitated the undergoing trade war that threatens peace across the world and hinders global growth prospects.

Further, a cocktail of futuristic technologies creating the "frontier" and can may go out of human control like Terminator and can "monitor" as shown in movies like Terminator. This raises serious moral issues. creation monitor itself. The recent episode of the Tianhui (China based researcher) who modified genome of long embryo in the past ✓

of AIDS prevention shows the "regulatory headaches" the world is going to face going forward.

The environmental impact of 4th Industrial Revolution is really "the elephant in the room" as our previous experiments with steam engines and mass production in factories have today pushed mankind to the brink of civilizational collapse. IPCC predicts havoc with rising sea levels submerging islands and coasts, threatening our energy, food and health security.

↓
How is
IP4.0
linked with
this? Explain
more -

As Charles Dickens eloquently put it in his novel "The Tale of Two cities" - "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." It was an age of wisdom and an age of foolishness. Similarly, the predicament facing humankind is based on how we choose to use these technologies and shape them. It can either be misused for geo-politics and breed inequalities or can be used as facilitators for astonishing results such as "knowledge economy", "efficient production" and

augmenting human capacities to the fullest of its potential.

Since the scope of Industrial Revolution is global, the efforts to shape its future has to be global too. Governance models need to change for regulating technology use such as prohibition on human cloning / genome editing or offensive use of Artificial Intelligence.

For truly reaping the benefits of Industry 4.0, Amartya Sen's Capability approach needs to be used as the yardstick. Investments in upskilling and reskilling youth will truly reap demographic dividend else it might well turn into a demographic disaster - social unrest and protests. Tools of AI, robotics, tele-medicine can itself be used to prepare workforce for an era of Industry 4.0.

Investments on social security need to be made. The concepts of Minimum Basic Income need to be piloted early as automation is

already risky jobs and threatening unrest.
Education system needs to shift to "Continuous Learning paradigm" such as recently started in Finland and National University of Singapore.

Any discussion about minimum basic income?

Micro, Small and Medium scale enterprises need to be integrated in formal sector, given technological capabilities and infrastructure/financial support to leverage the benefits of the Industry 4.0 which will essentially favour MSME led decentralized product manufacturing.

finally, as human evolutionary progress indicates, man has always longed for greater happiness and boundless productivity. With careful planning and capabilities, Industrial Revolution 4.0 will truly emerge as the biggest game changer for present and future.

"The future is now"

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Excellent

Just factor in minor inputs given inside - Rest everything seems fine -

As said in earlier papers, just tame your desire to cite thinkers disproportionately - Good Luck!