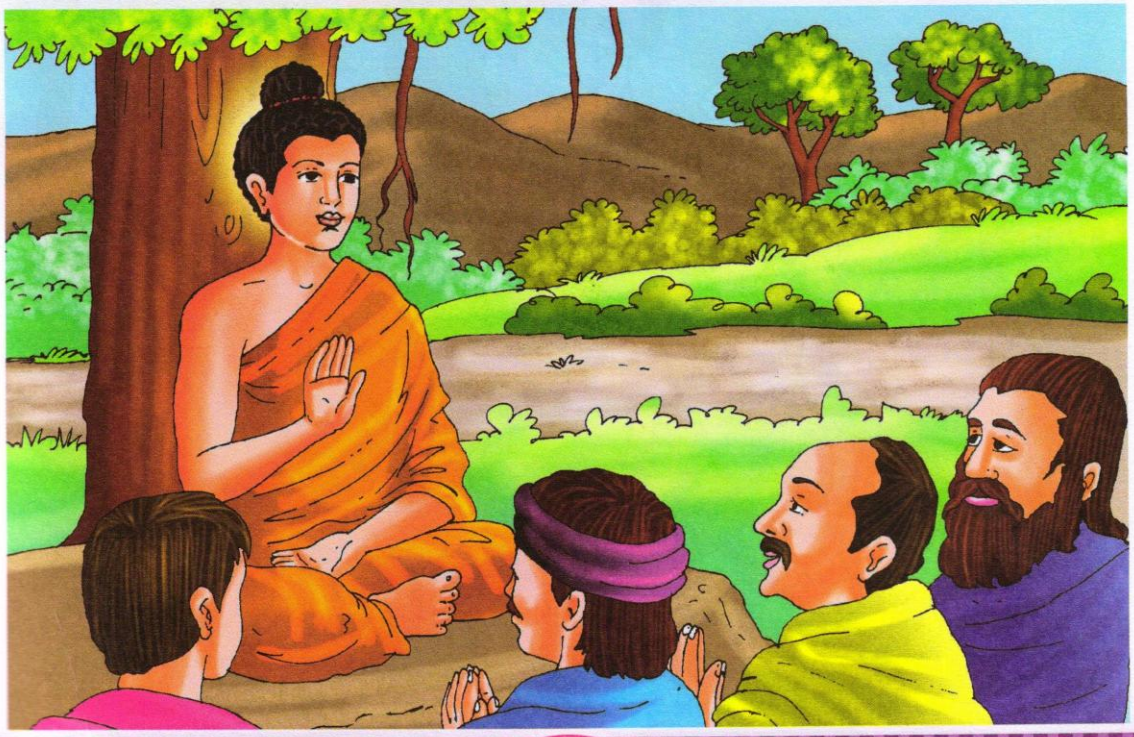
4 Humanity

Ramakrishna Paramhansa, the divine devotee, was a great humanist. His basic concern was the common man. He used to say, Jiva hein Siva hai (Human beings are God). He further said that a person should serve his fellowmen in the spirit of humanity which is the basic quality of a religious life.

Ramkrishna Paramhansa was a good observer, a good listener and a great thinker. In the evening, eminent personalities, philosophers, lawyers, doctors, actors, etc. used to gather round him. Ramkrishna became one of the greatest spiritual leaders of the age. He used to say that property brings poverty. He achieved outstanding intellect through years of meditation. He died at the age of 50 due to incurable cancer of the throat. His chief disciple Swami Vivekananda took forward this spirit of humanism. He organised different charitable missions to work among the people. The schools and dispensaries run by the Ramakrishna missions are rendering a yeoman service to humanity.



Gautam Buddha was an Indian Prince and his main pass time was to lead a luxurious life. At the age of nineteen, he was married to a beautiful girl named Yasodhara. In his leisure time he thought about what life was all about. He was sorry about the miseries of old age, sick dying men and mysteries of death. He asked himself, 'Can these calamities be avoided?' This question changed his life.

One day he left his sleeping wife and son and walked away silently accompanied only by his charioteer, Chhanna. At the age of 35, he got enlightenment at Bodh Gaya. He delivered his first sermon at Sarnath called Turning of the Wheel of Law. His four noble truths/teachings which became sacred for both Hindus and Buddhists were, existence of sorrow, desire is the cause of all evils and it must be removed, sorrow can be ended only by elimination of desires and there must be a way to attain bliss. His last words were, "Be you lamps unto yourselves. Hold fast to the Truth as a lamp. Look not for refuge to anyone beside yourself".

Madame Curie was one of the greatest scientists of the world. She was born in Poland in 1867. She was born in a poor family so she had to work as a governess. Later on she sacrificed her life for the welfare of mankind and discovered radium. The discovery of radium revolutionised science and helped in X-Ray, production of electric power, treatment of cancer, etc.

There are many more people who have served entire humanity. They are Mother Teresa, Florence Nightingale, Guru Nanak, Jesus Christ, etc.

Remember, all creatures are equal and service to them is a wonderful way to show love for them. Humanity is a great virtue. So you should learn to love God and his creations.

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

A. Tick (✔) the correct option :

1. Ramkrishna Paramhansa's basic concern was the ..... man.

   (a) common ☐ (b) great ☐ (c) rich ☐ (d) poor ☐

2. Ramkrishna Paramhansa was a good observer, a good listener and a great .....

   (a) commander ☐ (b) thinker ☐ (c) writer ☐ (d) teacher ☐

3. Gautam Buddha was married to a beautiful girl named .....

   (a) Sita ☐ (b) Radha ☐ (c) Draupadi ☐ (d) Yasodhara ☐

4. Madame Curie was one of the greatest ..... of the world.

   (a) Scientists ☐ (b) Teachers ☐ (c) Doctors ☐ (d) Dancers ☐

5. At the age of 35, Gautam Buddha got enlightenment at .....

   (a) Patna ☐ (b) Bodh Gaya ☐ (c) Kolkata ☐ (d) Delhi ☐

B. Complete the following sentences :

1. Ramkrishna Paramhansa, the divine ..... was a great humanist.
2. His basic ..... was the common man.
3. Ramkrishna achieved outstanding ..... through years of meditation.
4. The schools and dispensaries run by the Ramakrishna mission are ..... a yeoman service to the humanity.
5. Gautam Buddha delivered his first sermon at Sarnath called Turning of the ..... of Law.

C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements :

1. There are few people who have served entire humanity.
2. Ramkrishna Paramhansa was a good observer, a good listener and a great thinker.
3. The schools and dispensaries seen by the Ramkrishna missions are rendering a yeoman service to humanity.
4. Humanity is not a great virtue.
5. There are many more people who have served entire humanity. They are Mother Teresa, Florence Nightingale, Guru Nanak, Jesus Christ, etc.

D. Match the following :

A	B
1. Ramkrishna Paramhansa	(a) great virtue
2. The schools and dispensaries	(b) beside yourself
3. Humanity is a	(c) God and his creations
4. Not refuge to anyone	(d) run by the Ramkrishna mission
5. You should learn to love	(e) a good observer

E. Answer the following questions :

1. Who was Ramkrishna Paramhansa?

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2. What is the basic quality of a religious life?

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3. Who was Gautam Buddha?

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4. What were the noble truths/teachings of Gautam Buddha?

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5. Who was Madame Curie?

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FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

- Find out about different Non-Government Organisations (NGO's) and the work they do for the society.