

Roll. No. \_\_\_\_\_

# Essay

Time Allowed: 1½ hrs.

Max. Marks: 125

## Instructions to Candidate

- Attempt one essay
- The test carries 125 marks.
- Write the essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

*(Examiner will pay special attention to the candidate's grasp of his/her material, its relevance to the subject chosen, and to his/ her ability to think constructively and to present his/her ideas concisely, logically and effectively).*

## Remarks

1. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name: SWARNIL KHARE

Mobile No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date 15/10/16Signature Swarnil Khare

1. Environmental crimes are more serious through their additional costs.
2. Money is the barometer of a society's virtue.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES ARE MORE SERIOUS THROUGH  
THEIR ADDITIONAL COSTS

Environmental crime may be defined as an act which leads to a reduction in the quality <sup>and state</sup> of environmental resources present on Earth. Such crimes are more serious than other crimes because of the additional costs that are attached to them. The additional costs were not just economic but also human and ecological costs. There are also costs associated with remedying the damages done by the environmental crimes. Although the crimes are often committed to save costs in the short run, the long term costs of such crimes is huge. Further, these crimes do not impact a single country but the whole of mankind. Thus, the costs associated with an environmental crime are huge. The paragraphs that follow will look at what qualifies as an environmental crime, why such crimes are more serious than other crimes and the different costs associated with such crimes. Some

provide  
example  
to  
elaborate

ways to counter the crimes and the associated costs would also be explored. The essay would also look at certain specific cases where such crimes are serious not just because of the costs, but due to other factors.

In the beginning, it is important to understand what qualifies as an environmental crime. Acts that lead to unsustainable destruction of forest resources that is deforestation is an environmental crime as it reduce the stock of forest resources. Similarly, unfettered extraction of natural resources through mining without considering sustainability of the resource being extracted, is an environmental crime. Release of unwanted chemicals that is pollutants into the air, water or earth beyond the limits specified is also a crime. Greenhouse gas emission beyond the targets decided at national and international levels is an environmental crime as it causes global warming. Finally, release of radioactive wastes into the environment as happened in Chernobyl is also an environmental crime. Most of the above crimes impact not just the <sup>surrounding</sup> environment but the <sup>global</sup> environment. This

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makes it necessary to understand the costs associated with such crimes.

The most obvious cost associated with an environmental crime is the economic cost. As the crime leads to a deterioration in environmental resources, many remedial measures have to be taken. Further, there are also long term economic costs such as fall in agricultural yields and rehabilitation efforts. But the costs are not just economic and such crimes often have associated human costs. The loss of life and destruction of property that is caused by these crimes can not be measured in economic terms. Threat to human health and fall in life expectancy are other human costs. Loss of species diversity and reduction in stock of natural resources are some ecological costs associated with such crimes. It becomes necessary to explore all these costs in detail.

First, let us look at the economic costs that are associated with such crimes. An environmental crime such as release of harmful mercury into a lake would lead to a situation in which mercury could have

to be removed from the water body. This would lead to additional cost - either for the firm or the government.

Further, these crimes generally lead to impact on human and property which make rehabilitation efforts necessary.

For example, the Bhopal Gas Tragedy led to creation of a Bhopal Gas Relief and Rehabilitation Department in Madhya Pradesh Government. This is a huge burden on the finances of the state - an economic cost. Past environmental crimes

such as unrestricted industrialization by our predecessors have increased the need for curbing emissions in present.

This is a huge economic cost to the industry as they have to either adopt new technology or buy carbon

credit. Finally, there are various long term economic costs associated with environmental crimes. A decline in

agricultural productivity with global warming, extreme

weather events including monsoon due to climate

change and increased probability of disasters are some of the

long term economic costs.

However, the costs of such crimes also have a human component. Such crimes lead to death of people

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in large number as happened in the Chernobyl disaster. Further, such crises cause pollution which impacts human health and reduce life expectancy. In the long run, a rise in sea levels could lead to submergence of vast areas under sea leading to migrations and displacement. Further, an increase in erratic events such as floods, droughts and cyclones increase the vulnerability of humans to the forces of nature. This is associated to the ecological costs of such crises.

Environmental crises often have ecological costs that are associated with them. The first casualty of such a crisis is the flora and fauna at the site where such a crisis takes place. In the long run, it can lead to extinction and loss of species diversity. <sup>unrestricted</sup> For example, extracting resource from forests has caused extinction of tigers in South East Asia. Further, such crises can cause irreversible changes to biogeochemical cycles such as

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water, carbon and nitrogen. These cycles are crucial ways in which environment recycles its minerals and altering them can reduce productivity of environment. Finally, such crimes reduce the carrying capacity of the environment and thus makes sustainable development even more difficult.

However, there are Other reasons which make these crimes very serious. These crimes affect not just a small geographical region but the whole world as the environment is a shared resource of the world community. Thus, Chernobyl disaster led to deposition of nuclear wastes not just in Soviet Russia, but also in some nearby East European countries. Further, these crimes often lead to irreversible changes and no cost can remedy the damages caused. For example, the Ozone hole causes skin diseases which are difficult to treat and irreversible; the submergence of small island countries is also irreversible and cannot be remedied through additional funds. Finally, it is very difficult to

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reach a consensus on these issues inadvertently. The environment is a global common and hence, is governed by not one country but by all countries. While ordinary crimes can be tackled by the laws of one country, an international effort is needed to tackle environmental crimes which impact all. This makes resolution of such crimes all the more difficult.

Given the global nature of the problem, the effort to tackle <sup>environmental</sup> international crime too has to be global. The world should adopt the 'Polluter Pays' principle at the global level and corporates and countries found indulging in such crimes should be sanctioned. Further, to stop unfettered extraction of resources and to stop release of harmful gases into the atmosphere, international treaties on implementation of existing treaties is necessary. The Paris Agreement is soon to come into force and the Montreal Protocol is soon to be amended, but their execution by the world community would be key. At the national level, regulators such as Andra's

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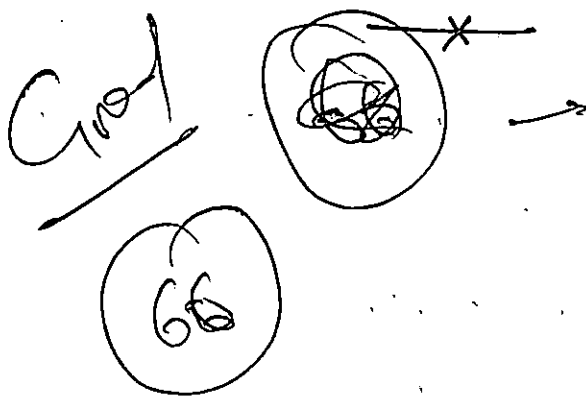


CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) should monitor violation of Indian laws and enforce penalties to prevent such crimes. Further, the world should arrive at an environmental liability law where parties responsible for such crimes pay for rehabilitation of victims of the crime. India's nuclear liability law can be a template for such a global law. Finally, responsible Corporate Governance by Corporates around the world and strict monitoring and enforcement by sovereign governments can ensure that such crimes do not take place.

In the preceding paragraphs, the costs associated with environmental crimes were discussed. It was also explained that threat of global environment degradation due to acts of one player, and measurable nature of changes makes the problem unmanageable. Some measures to tackle environmental crime such as international conventions, liability laws and stricter enforcement were also discussed. As per the Indian

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Constitution, protecting the environment is every citizen's duty. Thus citizens too must take steps to prevent such crimes by raising awareness about them. As the state is also entitled to protect the environment and natural resources, the government too must take proactive measures to prevent such crimes. The costs associated with such crimes must be shared by all set by various governments to achieve sustainable growth. Thus, governments, civil society, citizens and the international community must come together to make sustainable growth possible.



Also,  
 discuss role of  
 technology &  
 solar energy  
 among other alter-  
 nate energy sources

Also discuss - grassroot innovation  
 & individuals role in combating  
 the problem of climate  
 change.

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