

ESSAY

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate

- Both sections are compulsory.
- Attempt one essay from each section.
- Each essay carries 125 marks.
- Write each essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- After finishing the first essay, attempt the next on a fresh Page.
- 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).

High potential!

*Keep it up!
Also try philosophical essays!*

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Date 19. 7. 2017

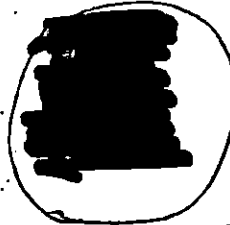
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1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

Remarks

Essay 1



well done!

Excellent, self contained, relevant, structured and effective communication.

Essay 2



good effort!

Some higher order thinking and punch lines, quotes etc. may add intensity in communication. your objectivity is your great plus point.

SECTION - A

1. To be successful in Men's world, a woman must be more man than man.
2. Laws are spider webs through which the big flies pass and the little ones are caught.
3. True equality means holding everyone accountable in the same way, regardless of race, gender, faith, ethnicity - or political ideology.
4. Wise men speak because they have something to say; Fools, because they have to say something.

SECTION - B

1. India hasn't unraveled true potential of its long coastline.
2. We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one.
3. One should like to be able to love one's country and still love justice.
4. Sustainability is about Ecology, Economy and Equity.

Laws are spider webs through which the big flies pass and the little ones get caught.

Laws are the foundation upon which any institution, however small or big, runs. Be it a household, a society, a company, or a nation; without laws any system is bound to fail. Rule of law is a virtue which essentially means no one is above the law. Although, laws have been inherently present in India since the very beginning of civilization, the concept of 'rule of law' was introduced during the British rule. It was intended to promote equality among all, especially in post-independence India.

However, the evolution of laws has revealed some serious lacunas in the system, whereby the rich and the powerful are able to exploit the 'loopholes' and get away with breaking laws, and the poor, on the other hand, bear the burden even when they are innocent. In some cases, who is to blame for this situation? Is it the lawmaker?

Excellent intro!

Remarks

Law implementers; in the justice system? Every other day some big personality is in news trying to break the justice system, and also news of just people dying in jails awaiting their trial; which is clearly unfair and against the idea of justice in our constitution. ~~Let us see who is responsible.~~

Laws in India are made by the parliamentarians and legislators via a well-defined process. India has the reputation of having some of the best laws and policies in the world. However, some issues exist in the process, which often lead to long-term consequences.

To begin with, there is a lack of discussion on many laws, and the parliament often resorts to voice-vote to pass laws in a hurry. Indiscipline in the legislatures often takes focus away from meaningful discussions on laws. Moreover, the lack of expertise in parliamentary committees often leaves loopholes, which are later exploited by the rich. Also,

Remarks

after acts are formed by the legislature, often the executive, or the institution in which the law is meant for, need to make rules and regulations within the act's framework. This practice is often ad-hoc, unsystematic, and unrepresentative.

v. good observation!

To plug these remaining gaps in our otherwise reputed lawmaking, following suggestions should be adopted. More stakeholders should be involved while framing bills and rules so as to ensure equity: Experts on particular subjects need to be invited to committees. Indiscipline and delay should not become an excuse for lack of scrutiny. Moreover, the system should be proactive and visionary according to the demands of society, and not reactive to times. For example, with growing corporate culture, and increasing participation of women in workforce, law makers should have considered the making strict workplace guidelines in time, but it was only done after major rape and harassment cases got highlighted.

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Remarks

Perhaps the biggest 'escape route' for the rich and powerful lies not because of the lawmakers, but the serious gaps in law implementation. Generally, civil and criminal laws are implemented at the district level. Due to prevalence of practices such as bribery, pressure from local politicians, and tampering with evidence; it is not difficult for a rich and influential person to get away with crime. The system is so weak that many times, even an FIR is not filed by corrupt police against an influential person. Instead, innocent poor people, who may have little to do with the case get framed, and rot in jails awaiting their trial while the criminal walks free.

Not just criminal laws, but even economic laws are misused due to poor implementation. The rising NPA problem is because easy loans were given out to the rich, but appropriate rules to

Excellent
very objective
assessment

Remarks

regulate them were not implemented, which has now severely affected the ability of banks to give out loans, and hence poor farmers and micro-industries suffer and get further dragged away from formal credit system. Even environmental laws tend to get influenced by lobbies of industrialists in the name of development, and implemented such the social impact assessments are often skipped, and the poor get detached from their homes to get 'rehabilitated'.

This dise state of implementation in all kinds of laws, be it criminal, civil, economic or environmental, needs urgent correction. Some steps are being taken such as Criminal Tracking and Network System to digitise records of all criminals accessible to all police stations, so that tampering with records can be minimised. Police heads at district level should be tenured so that fear of job getting transferred by the local politician doesn't influence them. A lot will depend

Remarks

upon the ethical values of police force, and disincentivising them to take bribes and let anyone go with inquiry. Economic and environmental laws can be implemented more effectively ~~by~~ with the presence of independent regulators and institutions free from government control. This will ensure that rich and powerful don't get away with breaking rules with support of politicians, and don't benefit at cost of poor.

A very important link in this chain of the rich getting away with crimes is the role of upholders of law. The most important upholders of laws is the judiciary, which is riddled with problems.

The immense delay in cases works both in favour of the rich, and against the poor. While the rich use their resources to get cases delayed by introducing unnecessary complications, the poor with no access to expensive lawyers keep waiting. And as has been rightly said, Justice delayed is

Remarks

Justice denied. This often results in out of court settlements, whereby the poor people get blackmailed and lured by money to withdraw the case.

Moreover, when the poor gets wrongly suspected in a case, due to inaccessibility to the system, they rot in jails for years before getting acquitted.

Therefore, judiciary needs to urgently take steps to reform these issues. Fast-tracking of cases, filling up the vacancies in courts can resolve the problem of delays and backlogs.

To improve access to the system, many new schemes are being introduced by the Supreme Court for free or low cost legal services such as pro-bono, Middle Income group scheme, voluntary service by lawyers, etc and others to uphold constitutional values.

Not just the judiciary, other institutions are also upholders of certain laws and rules. Legislature itself, apart from making laws, also

Remarks

decides on certain wrongdoings of legislators like defection, disqualification upon conviction etc.

Despite repeated recommendations of law commissions and Election Commission, criminals still continue to be a part of legislatures. Only those convicted for two years or above get disqualified. Rest all, whether famed with heinous crimes or convicted for less than two years, continue giving rise to criminalisation of politics. This is perhaps the biggest manifestation of laws being spider webs through which 'big flies' pass easily, as the legislators have made rules to omit themselves from justice system.

The rich are given opportunities at every level to get away with crimes due to loopholes in the system, as we have seen above. Without fixing these lacunas, the dominance of the powerful and the plight of poor will always continue. However, democracy is does not just

Remarks

work with the above institutions; there are media and civil society which now play a major role in this age of information. They act as pressure groups on the law implementers and lawmakers to prevent them from favouring the rich. With increasing awareness among the people, it has become increasingly difficult for politicians to favour the rich, with fear of being exposed on social media. With this effective transfer of power from the rich and powerful to the society, a change will be witnessed and the 'rule of law' will be truly upheld.

Excellent!

65
125

Keep it up!
use punch lines est. (blended)
and wisdom (quotes) to
add more to the
appeal of ideas and
your communication!

Remarks

SECTION-B

India hasn't unraveled true potential of its long Coastline

Geographically, India is blessed with a nearly 7500 km long coastline due to its peninsular shape. Throughout history, countries with access to the seas have always had an inherent advantage compared to landlocked nations. Access to the sea gives access to valuable resources as well as an opportunity to connect to the rest of the world and trade resources, be it material, knowledge or cultural resources. Till today, majority of world trade is carried out by sea, and hence a having a coastline gives an advantage. Not just economically, but there are also strategic advantages, access to maritime resources. India's immense potential is still yet to be tapped in these areas.

In the highly globalised world, trade and hence trade routes have become extremely crucial. Every major nation of the world wants to have control over crucial strategic trade routes to

Remarks

influences smaller nations. For example, China is constantly in tussles with east Asian countries due to its claims over South China Sea, which is one of the busiest trade routes in the world. India is no exception to this trend, and constantly tries to maintain its influence in Indian Ocean due to its natural access. However, recently China has been trying to undermine India's position in the ocean with its Maritime Silk Route initiative and investing heavily in the infrastructure of maritime nations. India needs to solidify its position by engaging more effectively with the maritime nations in the Indian Ocean by portraying intentions of long-term mutual benefits, and not just vested interests like China. Moreover, it needs to revitalize the initiatives like BIMSTEC, Indian Ocean Rim Association, and even SAARC on the issue of Indian Ocean and play the role of a responsible leader.

Remarks

To allow India to unravel its true potential, it first needs to regain its strategic advantage in the Indian Ocean. Major untapped potential lies in the economic sphere. India lacks world class infrastructure even at its major ports. This leads to increased turnaround times, higher costs, delays in vessel berthing, & delays in clearances, which disincentivises ships to harbour on Indian ports, and instead go ~~the~~ to the nearest Colombo port, which has become the trans-shipment hub for the region.

V. good
and
objective
relevant
exposition

The recently introduced Sagarmala initiative will go a long way as far as port infrastructure is concerned. It aims to invest highly in ports to increase their capacity, reduce time and costs etc. Moreover, the new Foreign Trade Policy has reduced the number of forms for export and import, and the custom clearance has also been simplified by the SWIFT initiative. The recent PPP Project

Remarks

for the Enayam Port in Tamil Nadu, India's newest major port, is expected to begin a culture of private investments in ports. This port can also compete with Colombo Port to act as the trans-shipment hub for the region. However, the implementation of these initiatives will be crucial for unraveling the true potential, which remains to be seen.

Not just port infrastructure, port connectivity remains a major disadvantage. Due to poor connectivity to the hinterland, trade efficiency is reduced. Again, Sagarmala initiative has a component to increase connectivity to ports via roads and inland river routes. This will ~~lead~~ also lead to increased activity in port towns as new opportunities will emerge, and even existing livelihood activities like aquaculture will become more profitable. Therefore, it will kickstart port-led development of the economy.

Remarks

GIS SCORE:

In fact, port-led development is also being pushed by the initiative of Coastal Economic Corridor, proposed by the government. If export-oriented production is incentivised in this corridor, it will tremendously increase efficiency and competitiveness of our exports by reducing logistics costs. In the long term, this will lead to an export-led growth, as witnessed by China.

Apart from ports, sea bed mineral exploration activity in our EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) also needs to be kickstarted. Mapping and extraction of valuable minerals can reduce our import requirements of these minerals. Coasts of Gujarat have tremendous potential for natural gas extraction, which still contributes less than 10% to India's energy needs. The recently unveiled Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP) can help accelerate this process.

With India committing itself to increasing its share of renewable energy in its overall energy

Remarks

needs, ocean energy remains to be explored. India needs to further its research and experiment in wave energy, Tidal energy and ocean thermal energy to lower their costs. All these still remain unconventional sources, and in experimental stages. Just like the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for solar energy, India needs to mobilise coastal nations for aggregating efforts in ocean energy forms as well. Even newer energy forms are being explored such as offshore wind farms, which don't use ocean water per se but will remove the hurdle of acquiring large tracts of land for wind energy.

Very good!

With this tremendous potential in several areas, however, there also are some potential issues which can arise if care is not taken.

Climate change and global warming is a threat to the ~~was~~ whole world, but the most vulnerable are the coastal areas and low lying areas.

Remarks

They will be the ~~first~~ ones to be hit by rise in sea levels, and efforts need to be made to further our ~~eff~~ targets for reducing a greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing reliance on renewable energy. All efforts to tap the potential of coastline are in vain, if in the long-term the coasts will get submerged.

Also, Ecology of the ~~coasts~~ shouldn't be damaged, and balanced development is required so as to not affect the rich biodiversity of the coasts. Recent example of olive ridley turtles not ~~to~~ migrating to Odisha coasts portrays the severity of this challenge. Proper precautions need to be taken while setting up machines in the oceans, and accidents like oil spills should be avoided. Another issue is of maritime crimes which can be a major hurdle for port-led initiatives by disrupting trade, and therefore adequate security measures should be adopted.

Remarks

Port-led development is the future of India's rise due to its tremendous potential in multiple areas. The recent recognition of this potential by the government has set the path for future development via investments in coastal initiatives. This will not only ~~to kickstart~~ ^{revive} the dormant investment climate, but also create ~~to~~ large number of opportunities for livelihood and employment. However, it needs to be ensured from the very beginning that this development is sustainable and balanced.

Very good!

Excellent!

6.5
12.5

Remarks

