

GS SCORE

TEST - 04

Roll No. IAS - 8969

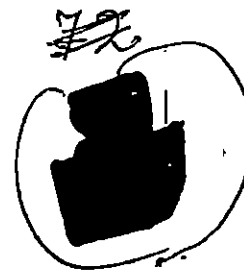
Essay

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

cross, to the point and a helistic treatment
Keep it up!

1. Invigilator Signature

2. Invigilator Signature

Name Monica Deraguchi

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Date 18/9/2017

Signature D. Monica

1. The Indian democracy has fallen into the 'morass of power play' and the politicians have become 'gamers' rather than 'servants' of nation and its people.
2. Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choices, are prepared to choose wisely.

Q2

Democracy is considered as one of the best forms of government across the world. This essentially stems from its basic principle - that of collective ownership of ~~power~~ by the people.

Democracy is rightly defined as a form of rule

By the people
Of the people,
For the people.

The sanctity of a democracy rests in the fact that it is chosen by the people and thus has complete legitimacy.

However, democracy doesn't and hasn't always produced the best results in terms of development, poverty alleviation, better law and order or better basic public services.

This essay aims to unfold some of the intricacies linked to undelivering of the democratic process. One of the primary factors is electoral choices. If the voter doesn't exercise his vote with responsibility of a good citizen, it is difficult to expect good representatives.

Simple & concise but a good intro!

THE POWER OF DEMOCRACY

Democracy places real power in the hands of people. It was the lack of this self-governing power, which led to our continued exploitation by the British. The demand for 'SWARAJ' and ~~also~~ for Lokmanya Tilak and other leaders and subsequently for 'PURNA SWARAJ' was during the ^{historic} Raholi session in 1939 was a recognition of this powerful tool - Democracy.

Remarks

India was the first country to adopt Universal Adult Suffrage post-independence. The forefathers of our country like Jawaharlal Nehru, Patel and Ambedkar placed a huge trust on their countrymen and women. The literacy rate at the time of independence was less than 20%, this didn't stop them from providing voting rights to the people. A large number of women came out to vote in the first elections in 1952, showing their commitment to the idea of democracy.

V. good observation!

Through this right, people have not only supported the governments but also voiced their dissent. The elections of 1977 when Congress party lost was an example to it. It is through this made of dissent and discontentment that the

Remarks

Indian democracy has changed from being an one-party dominant system to a multi-party vibrant and robust democracy.

good and informed observation

However, when we look more closely, democracy has given rise to electoral politics - which has its ugly and opportunistic sides.

ARE WE CHOOSING THE RIGHT REI
ARE WE MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES?

Having seen the responsibility and power that a voting right gives let us look at the pitfalls in the system.

Why don't we make the right choice always? Voting behaviour doesn't always follow a rational thought and analysis. It is mostly emotive and prejudiced stemming from the attitudes.

Excellent analysis!
good arguments

Remarks

and see around us. Thus, politicians have acted upon the emotions and have tried to appeal to them through means like religion, caste etc. caste identity has become a means of vote-bank politics in India.

Prejudices in addition to emotive appeal, play a huge role in electoral politics. Politicians fan the prejudices among communities to create animosity between them but also gain votes at the end of the day. People end up paying a very huge price for electing these sort of politicians.

Communal riots seen in various parts of the country stand as an example to these.

Apart from the indirect appeals above, politicians directly appeal to the voters through small economic

Remarks

incentives like loan waiver, free houses, laptops etc. some other illegal means such as doling out alcohol, free food packets and other freebies are also rampantly used during elections. These have caused a huge loss to the public exchequer and reduced the government's fiscal space to investment in development infrastructure.

Experts have repeatedly labeled loan waivers as "BAD ECONOMICS" however they continue to persist. Psycho logy predicts this sort of a behaviour i.e. people overlook the long term disadvantage and just concentrate on short-term gains. Politicians, take advantage of this easy free.

In addition to doling out freebies, the "internet age" has given

contained, well placed relevant dimensions of wrong choices & consequences.

Remarks

Some new tools to the politicians. Internet and social media have served a great purpose by bringing awareness to the people. However, internet is a double edged sword. It could serve both vice and virtuous purposes. With increase in fake news, social media brainwashing and swaying public opinion by painting a one-sided, biased picture voter choices have undergone a sea of change.

CHOOSING WISELY: CAN PEOPLE BE EMPOWERED?

Having seen the multifarious ways in which voter choices can be swayed to undermine the power and responsibility embodied by democracy, let us see how these can be avoided.

Democracy is only as robust as the 'democratic' institutions which

Remarks

facilitate its functioning. Our forefathers were diligent in identifying this crucial link. They have set up an independent strong, institutional constitutional body - The Election Commission. Election commissioners like TV Sesham etc have revolutionised the system and made election a exercise which stands true to its principles. The failures of these very democratic institutions have given rise to military rule and anarchy in the neighbouring states of Pakistan and Myanmar.

Top-down procedures like setting a model-code of conduct (MCC) and significant judgments by the supreme court banning use of religion and criminal elements from contesting have gone a long way. However, more bottom measures through community based awareness have to be

Remarks

taken up. The panchayats and urban local bodies could be a starting point for such empowerment as have been set up with that very idea.

Democracy is the upholder of equality, liberty & freedom of expression and secularism. If people voluntarily give this constitutional provision, in return for short term gains, they are not just failing themselves but also the future generations. Thus, empowerment to make the right choices has to start—start from homes, from schools and colleges. We should collectively fight to preserve the spirit of democracy and move towards the India of that our forefathers dreamt of.

Remarks