

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
INDRAPRASTHA ESTATE, RING ROAD
NEW DELHI**

ANNUAL ESSAY PRIZE COMPETITION-2018

Entries are invited for the Annual Essay Prize Competition-2018. The value of the prize for the competition will be as under:

First Prize	Rs. 10,000/-
Second Prize	Rs. 7,000/-
Third Prize	Rs. 5,000/-

Any competitor who has received a prize on one occasion will not, on any subsequent occasion, be eligible for an equivalent or lower prize. The joint authorship of essays shall not be allowed and any essay with joint authorship shall not be considered for competition.

The topics for the competition are:

- (i) Right to Public Services provided by the State Government – Comparative Study of State Laws and need for a Parliamentary Enactment
- (ii) NPA in Banks Affecting the Development of India
- (iii) Urban Planning in India: Developing an Integrated Approach

The essay writers are expected to cover the following aspects in their respective entries:

Topic: Right to Public Services provided by the State Government – Comparative Study of State Laws and need for a Parliamentary Enactment

The essay should mainly cover the following broad points:

Public service delivery is recognised as an important right of citizens in many parts of the world. In India too, there has been a growing realisation that the credibility and legitimacy of the state depends on its capacity to take care of its citizens. Efficient and effective public service delivery has been a significant challenge for public sector organisations. Many initiatives have been taken by the government to increase citizen satisfaction with service delivery. The adoption of citizen charter and public grievance redressal system has been important steps in this direction. However, years of experience with these revealed that because of lack of legal backing, these could not provide much relief to the citizens. Despite providing the timelines and nodal officers responsible for implementation, citizen charter framework could not provide assured service delivery in most cases.

Given the federal framework of India, the responsibility for service delivery is divided between the Central, State and local governments. Many states have attempted to address the issue by enacting a right to public service delivery legislation. Madhya Pradesh was the first State of India to have enacted the law giving public service the status of right in 2010. The legislation specified the services and departments to be covered. Timely delivery of specified services was mandatory, failing which punitive provisions were introduced. Many other State, such as, Bihar, Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Goa, etc., have since moved in that direction.

There are differences in the nomenclature as well as provisions of these various laws. Their effectiveness in terms of implementation and outcomes has varied too. It is time to look at the state experiences and draw lessons from the comparative picture to further improve the citizen experience of public service. Whether these laws have made any meaningful difference to the state of the citizens, and whether there is a need for similar or different initiatives at the Central level for improving the delivery of public services are some of the questions that need to be examined.

Topic: NPA in Banks Affecting the Development of India

The essay should mainly cover the following broad points:

1. What are NPA's? What has led to increasing NPAs in the Banking Sector?

This section should explain the concept of NPA's and enumerate on how NPAs in India have increased exponentially, particularly since 2014. Are the rising NPAs in the banking sector affecting credit off take? If yes, how?

2. How to curb the problem of growing NPAs? The short and long-term measures that need to be taken to tackle this problem.

This section should include what are the likely short and long-term steps that the government and the banks need to undertake to curb this problem including review of NPAs, Insolvency and bankruptcy code, role of the asset reconstruction company and focus on long term issues such as Improving credit risk management, strengthen credit monitoring, address corporate governance issues in public sector banks etc.

3. Steps taken by RBI and Government in last few years to curb NPAs

The section should explain steps already taken by RBI and government such as provisioning for stressed assets, re-capitalisation of banks,

writing off bad debt etc. How effective have been these steps so far and what are the likely implications of these steps?

4. How NPAs have affected the goal of faster and inclusive growth and development in the country. And what does international experience with respect to NPAs tell us.

This section should focus on the need for a technologically advanced, transparent and efficient banking system in a growing economy like India. The need of the hour is to evaluate the growth of NPAs in India and carry out a comprehensive analysis of the existing policies and structures to ensure that India remains on a high growth trajectory.

5. Conclusion

Policy recommendations to focus on strengthening banking sector regulation in the country and undertake a comprehensive relook into the existing policies and structures to ensure that NPAs don't hamper growth and development of the economy.

Topic: Urban Planning in India: Developing an Integrated Approach

Participants of essay writing competition are expected to cover the following five major headings (approximate word count mentioned in bracket).

1. Definition of an urban area (about 500 words)

The essay writer should be clear about the definition of urban area in India and in other countries. The definition of urban area makes India appear less urbanised than China. Urban area definitions are to be seen critically to suggest definition, which may be more acceptable in Indian context.

1. Evolution of urban planning and influence of western models for urban planning process in India (about 1000 words)

Urban planning is as old as human settlement itself, and archaeologists have sufficient evidence to establish urban planning prevailed in the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America, Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. These human settlements started from the river valleys like Nile river valley, Indus river valley, Euphrates and Tigris river valley and Yellow river valley. These settlements have always been planned, though may not always by governments or according to some set principles of planning.

Mohanjodaro and Harappa in Indus Valley civilization, 3500 BC, were well-planned and compact towns with blooming art and culture, spreading over other countries like Mesopotamia. Ancient India

followed strict rules and regulations of Hindu Shastras and Puranas till Moghuls came and established towns as per the Islamic culture. Important towns of ancient India were Pataliputra, Ayodhya, Hasthinapuram, Rajagriha, Kanchipuram, etc. Towns of medieval period were Fatehpur Sikri, Shahjahanabad, Jaipur, etc. Towns, which came up during British regime, were Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, Allahabad, Lahore, Nagpur, etc.

With advent of Industrial Revolution in Western Europe in 19th century, new ideas of urban planning were shaping human settlements. The principles of renowned scholars, which influenced the modern urban planning throughout the world, should be critically assessed to bring out the positive points. Work of a few prominent philosophers like Sir Ebenezer Howard's Garden City concept which continued to be popular among Indian planners till late 20th century; Raymond Unwin's for concept of Central City with Satellite towns and communities in its periphery; C.A. Perry's advocacy for neighbourhood unit model; Patrick Geddes' trinity of place, work and folk; Le Corbusier's ideas in his work of architecture and planning and Dr. C.A. Doxiads' idea of interrelating man with his environment.

History of Urban Planning in India should be studied and summarised as few of these concepts are still relevant and are overshadowing the western concepts being followed since colonial period.

2. Effectiveness of western urban planning approaches for Urban India assessed. (about 750 words)

Colonialism diffused or rather imposed these western urban planning systems in India and other countries under colonial rule during 20th century. These systems were unavoidably based on certain assumptions of the time and space, which often were not so effective and appropriate for colonial urban India, where these western models were diligently followed. British colonial authorities introduced new urban concept of racial spatial segregation while establishing new towns and also influenced the development of existing ones in India. Trade dictated their focus to develop port cities like Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi, Colombo, Singapore and Hong Kong. Effectiveness or ineffectiveness of these western models in Indian urban areas during those time and at present need to be critically assessed in this section.

4. Characteristics and status of Master Plan of urban areas in India. (about 1000 words)

Modern Urban Planning being followed since 20th century is top-down process producing rigid end-state plans like master / development plans, which are usually mono-functional producing unproductive urban environments. Master Plan is a statutory document having map-

suggesting areas for various land-uses. Indian urban population are residing in 7935 towns and cities (Census 2011) of which only limited urban areas have Master Plan or Development Plans. A Master Plan is essential for the planned development of an urban area, as in its absence growth occurs in haphazard manner. It is observed that even in urban areas with Master Plan, unauthorised and unplanned growth is rampant.

Since the beginning of 21st century Master Plan approach has been criticised, especially for being ineffective in cities experiencing rapid growth and the pressures of globalisation. Major drawback of Master Plan approach being absence of resource component – finance, human and natural resources, which resulted in its poor implementability. Further, the Master Plan approach was no longer compatible after the 74th CAA, which widened the role of local government and also gave a platform to stakeholders in decision-making. Need for new paradigm in context of holistic approach to be established in this section.

5. Recent changes in urban planning in India (about 1750 words)

The 21st century saw the advent of IT revolution, which has made possible to discard age-old techniques of planning and adopt IT-enabled techniques for better and faster preparation of Master Plan. For preparation of Master Plan, the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) rechristened as Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHA), got Urban and Regional Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) Guidelines prepared in 2014, which replaced the earlier Urban Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (UDPFI) guidelines, 1996. UDPFI guidelines were the reference document for executives – professionals, administrators, etc., of the urban local bodies and other parastatals of small and medium towns and cities across the states. Keeping the latest guidelines into consideration, assess whether the suggested approach is sufficient to address the urban issues comprehensively. Finally, suggest a holistic approach to urban planning for India.

General Guidelines for the Essay

The essay should be in English or Hindi language. The length of an essay should be approximately around 5000 words. An essay exceeding 5500 word limit shall not be accepted. The contestant must indicate the total number of words of the essay, failing which it shall not be accepted. All essays must be typed in double space on only one side of the paper and those entries which do not adhere to the stipulation shall deemed to be rejected. It should be submitted in triplicate under a “nom-de-plume” or “alias”. The full name and address of the competitor should be mentioned on a separate sheet and enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the nom-de-plume on the outer cover with the following inscription.

Annual Essay Prize Competition – 2018, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi

All essays should be sent to the Director, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Indraprastha Estate, Ring Road, New Delhi-110002, by Registered Post, so as to reach him not later than August 31, 2018. The envelope should be marked “Annual Essay Prize Competition – 2018”. The entries received after the due date will not be entertained.

The essay will be adjudged by a body of judges and the decision of the judges shall be deemed final. The institute reserves the right to -- not give away any award -- if none of the essays submitted meets the necessary standard. Any essay which receives an award shall become the joint intellectual property of the author and IIPA.

N.B. Intending competitors who wish to seek any further clarification may write to the Director, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Indraprastha Estate, Ring Road, New Delhi-110002