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

**ANNUAL ESSAY PRIZE COMPETITION-2019**

Entries are invited for the Annual Essay Prize Competition-2019. 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 got 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) Water Management
- (ii) Internal Security: Issues, Challenges and Reforms
- (iii) One Nation One Election
- (iv) Gandhiji in Today's World

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

**Topic: Water Management**

**Focus Area to be covered**

- Importance of Water
- Water Resources
- National Water Policy
- Current government's policies on emphasis of water conservation and management
- Impact of Climate Change on water
- Need of Water, for Agriculture

- Water Conservation
- Future of Water Resources
- Managing Water Resources
- How to Overcome the Challenges

### **Topic: Internal Security : Issues, Challenges and Reforms**

***'If men were angels, no government would be necessary'*** -James Madison

Internal security is an act of ensuring and keeping peace within the borders of a nation by maintaining the national law and order and defending its people from threats of internal security. Of late, most Nations, be it developed or developing, rich or poor have been encountering the issues relating to internal security, albeit in varying degrees. Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the Nation be strengthened, and success achieved.

The intensity, frequencies and kinds of threats to the internal security today in 2019 are vastly different from what prevailed seventy years ago. At one level, humankind has learnt a lot from the past and tend to plan for future accordingly. On the other, past is no indication of future threats, given exponential growth in the degree of sophistication in technology. Lack of Internal security may bleed the development and bring the economy to grinding halt.

Then there are issues relating to tackling the youth being psychologically controlled by people who threaten internal security and how to bring back those invaluable human resources, which have already been moved away from the mainstream of society. This calls for participation of the society which has to play a contributory role in healing the nation.

One cannot ignore the glaring fact that misguided youth who have now become a threat to internal security are, in fact, valuable national human resource. Irrespective of the remedy and treatment provided by the law, social healing may be an effective way to minimize the damage. The society at large has to play a concrete role along with the forces already tackling the challenges emerging out of the internal security threats. It would be a Utopian thought to solve problems related to internal security without proactive and consistent participation of society.

Essay writers are expected to trace the origins of threats to the internal security, evolution of these threats over time, analytically dissect the causes of these threats, delineate challenges and give a roadmap of reforms so as to minimise its adverse impact on National interest. It is imperative on the part of Writers to make an intelligible assessment of potential new threats, given changing circumstances like digital revolution, cyber insecurity, just as examples. Those Essay writers who bring out original ideas, connect one idea with the next in a logical manner, articulate the issues, challenges and reforms lucidly with due economy of words without sacrificing clarity, will be accorded due credit.

### **Topic: One Nation One Election**

Elections held at regular intervals are backbone of democracy. Since the independence, the country has strived to ensure that the democratic set-up is not ruptured. The elections for the Parliament and State Legislatures are conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI), but the manpower is sourced from the government machinery.

However, there are several challenges. Complexities have increased so much given the size of the country and the population both, that now elections have to be conducted in several phases in most of the cases and at regular interval as well. Frequency of elections is such that every year there are 2-5 elections in one or the other states, which implies that the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is in force for substantial time in any given year. It would not be odd to say that the country is always in 'election mode'. Sheer magnitude of the exercise is daunting.

To address this problem of country always being in the election mode, which often leads to policy paralysis due to imposition of MCC, an idea has been mooted by Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) and the present Prime Minister is the chief proponent of the idea, to conduct national and state level elections simultaneously.

The essay writers may look into the feasibility of doing the same. There are arguments for both- 'for' and 'against'. They may analyze whether conducting simultaneous elections would be conflicting with the democratic aspirations of the country or not and whether it is legally tenable or would require amendment in the Constitution. Various political parties have voiced their concerns regarding simultaneous elections. Impact of policy paralysis on the economy due to elections can be a good area of analysis.

The writers may analyze the adequacy of the administrative arrangements, right from top to bottom, for conducting free and fair election with fearless participation of electors. Manpower requirement for voting process and counting is enormous. Deployment of Central Armed Police Forces is an important dimension, which can be taken up.

Financial aspect is another very critical dimension. Simultaneous elections may lead to substantial savings, both by the ECI and the political parties, or not. The analysis of conflict between cost feasibility and democratic aspirations may also be very interesting.

The authors may use the statistics relating to elections in terms of increasing number of political parties (National political parties, State recognised parties and registered unrecognised parties), voting population, number of polling stations, manpower deployment- conducting elections and security both, costs for the ECI and political parties, etc.

[B. Debroy and K. Desai prepared a Discussion Paper for NITI Ayog in 2016 titled “Analysis of Simultaneous elections: The What, Why and How”.]

### **Topic: Gandhiji in Today’s World**

Mahatma Gandhi is recognized as one of the ‘founding fathers of the modern Indian state’. He is recognized throughout the world as a hero, and as the man who gained India’s independence from the British Empire using peaceful methods. His concepts consisted of non-violent protests, people living together in harmony; a world without war. His ideas and quotes are relevant even today in helping us understand ourselves and guide us into a safer, calmer world. Gandhiji is remembered for his passionate adherence to the practice of non-violence and his supreme humanism, in every corner of the world. The Tibetan leader Dalai Lama said, “Many ancient Indian masters have preached ahimsa, non-violence as a philosophy. That was mere philosophical understanding. But Mahatma Gandhi, in this twentieth century, produced a very sophisticated approach because he implemented that very noble philosophy of ahimsa in modern politics, and he succeeded. That is a very great thing.” “We have big war going on today between world peace and world war, between the force of mind and force of materialism, between democracy and totalitarianism.” To fight these big wars the common ordinary people in this modern age need Gandhism.

If we try to analyze the secrets of Gandhi's success, we would probably find Faith and Action and Populism, the three most important aspects of

his life. Gandhi's extra ordinary communion with the masses of ordinary people was another of his secrets. He has inspired and will continue to inspire many political, social and religious leaders all over the world. Gandhiji left many valuable sayings for the modern man to fight for goodness in society in a non-violent way. "Good" Gandhiji said "travels at a snail's pace." "Non-violence" Gandhiji said "is a tree of slow growth. It grows imperceptibly but surely." And then "Mere goodness is not of much use." He stated. "Goodness must be joined with knowledge, courage and conviction. One must cultivate the fine discriminating quality which goes with spiritual courage and character." The modern man can also take great wisdom from what Gandhiji said, the seven social sins: Politics without principles; Wealth without work; Commerce without morality; Education without character; Pleasure without conscience; Science without humanity; Worship without sacrifice.

His teachings and experiments are more valid today than ever before, especially when we are trying to find solutions to worldwide greed, corruption, violence and runaway consumptive lifestyle which are putting a very heavy burden on the world's resources. Gandhiji gave India its very first lessons of tolerance, non-violence, Satyagraha, the Quit India Movement, the Dandi March, and of belief in one's own faith. He not only played a crucial part in India's independence, but also brought it up as a mature nation on the international platform.

Further it is also relevant to add here that 'Cleanliness is Godliness' was the motto of Mahatma Gandhi, Father of Nation. He demonstrated, propagated and insisted for individual and community cleanliness throughout his life. He had a revolutionary vision about making India clean. 'Revolutionary', because he was probably the only leader of his time who realized India's emancipation was possible through sanitation, not just independence. "Swaraj ought to begin with our streets," said Gandhiji. Connecting the issues of cleanliness and untouchability, Gandhiji emphasised the fact that it is extremely unjust to look upon those who do scavenging to be of the lowest social status. He insisted that each one of us should be our own scavenger. Keeping this idea of cleanliness and sanitation in his mind, he said, "I will not let anyone walk through my mind with their dirty feet." Selecting Mahatma Gandhi as an icon of Swachh Bharat, India has once again re-established its conviction in the Father of the Nation.

Gandhiji worked on various aspects like decreasing unemployment, reducing friction between individuals and social groups, which has a positive impact on mental health at the community as well as on the individual level. India faces many challenges in the New Millennium for attaining the objective of Inclusive growth and reducing the Great Divide

between the haves and the have-nots. Mahatma Gandhi understood the flaws of the Percolation or top-down development model where power-relations were centralized. Bapu's paradigm of society is governed by the principles of interdependence, complementarity, fraternity, consensus and participatory management. Only Inclusive growth will lead to sustainable development. In this context Gandhiji's concept of development namely Sarvodaya through Antyodaya, implying the welfare of all through the weakest of the society holds great value.

Therefore, the essay should focus and try to answer the following:

- What may be the relevance of Gandhiji in this all-pervading materialistic, agnostic and consumerist culture?
- What is the significance of Gandhiji to the modern world and what is the secret of his success?
- Taking a lead from the 6 principles that Mahatma Gandhi followed: Truth Nonviolence, Vegetarianism, Brahmacharya, Simplicity, Faith what are the lessons for future?
- Do they actually mean anything to us anymore? Are Gandhi ji's ideas of the past, or should we try and follow in his footsteps today also?
- What are the basic issues of social change prescribed by Gandhiji as the institution of human dignity and equality, which lead to the realization of the inseparability of ends and means; and the urge towards a rational and scientific view of life?
- Focus on the application of the Gandhian economic model through rural Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to attain the objectives of inclusive growth and sustainable development in the New Millennium.
- 'Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat'. Cleanliness is not just the responsibility of government but all citizens, including those who work for the government. But, what was Gandhi's clean India dream?
- Mahatma Gandhi lived to set an example. "My life is my message." His life's doings show us that it is possible to live in a world of peace and a world in which matters aren't solved by fighting and violence. Therefore, why shouldn't his ideas be relevant even in this century?
- Are we too bound by our efforts to create new weapons of violence in order to defend ourselves? Are we too concerned about how we are to keep ourselves safe, rather than make sure that others are coping too?
- If he died for his ideas and visions for the world, then should we not reconsider what they actually mean to us today, and how they can be applied to our everyday life. So, are his ideas relevant in the 21st century?
- Gandhian Values- Are they completely relevant today and will they remain so in future as well?

- Who will make it relearn the moral values, and who will inculcate in the people, as Gandhi ji did, a sense of the responsibilities which fall on every citizen of a free society?
- What do we resolve to do as we celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi?

### **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 – 2019, 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, 2019. The envelope should be marked “Annual Essay Prize Competition – 2019”. The entries received after the due date may not be entertained.

The essay will be adjudged by a body of judges and the award of the judges shall be final. The institute reserves the right not to make 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.

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**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**