

An Institute for Civil Services

IAS TOPPER'S

TEST COPY

KHUSHBOO LATHER

Rank - 98

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).

Name Krushboo LatherMobile No. —Date —Signature Krushboo1. Invigilator Signature [Signature]2. Invigilator Signature —**Remarks**

Fighting corruption is not just good governance but also self defence and patriotism.

According to Transparency International India is ranked 79/176 on its corruption index. The last decade alone has seen major scams like Commonwealth games, 2-G spectrum allocation case and the recent Coalgate scam. Since independence ~~the~~ India has been prey to corrupt forces time and again as permeated in the license quota Raj and seen it cases like Bofors.

Given this background it is important to analyse why we need to fight corruption. This corruption is basically misappropriation of public funds in a government organisation or personal gain, whether material or otherwise at the cost of the country. This definition can also be applied to private sector. However a broader understanding of corruption also includes corruption of thoughts and society and these are practices against the idea of India.

Remarks:

The same thing can be said without using 'I' or 'We' in Impersonal way.

In this essay we will aim to understand the impact of corruption and develop major reasons to fight the same. we define good governance and how it can be achieved in only when corruption is uprooted. We also analyse why it is our responsibility as a country India's responsible citizens to fight corruption.

Impact of corruption

corruption has been a problem faced by empires and kings historically. Kautilya's Arthashastra talks about paying adequate wages to officers and employed spies to monitor them. Similarly Alauddin Khilji ushered in reforms ~~in the nobles~~ in the practices of the nobles who had become prone to debauchery. The Britishers too ^{facel} faced this problem when their own company's officers misused the trading passes system for personal gain. Thus it has been all pervasive in many ways.

economically too there is a high cost of corruption. The direct cost can be calculated in terms of bribes paid, the opportunity cost foregone and the amount of funds misappropriated. There is also an indirect economic cost of corruption. This is the prevalent red tapism which leads to delays. As a result many like foreign investors, choose to stay away from India. The country risk is also high affecting terms of trade adversely. As a result our rank is at 130th.

EO DB Politically corruption leads to an inefficient political system that fails to deliver what was promised. For example in many villages it is found that those collecting wages and ration under BPL schemes like PDS are actually the village elites. This leads to loss of faith in the system leading to bigger parallel governance mechanisms. Naxalism is in fact an ugly outcome of the same. Further it also leads to an adverse equilibrium where thieves with unscrupulous motives become politicians leading to higher corruption.

Remarks

write with in the margins

Eased Doing Business

It also saps the self respect of citizens by diminishing the sense of pride in national society.

Keep proper space between paragraphs it will enhance your representation

Corruption has the most social and cultural implications:

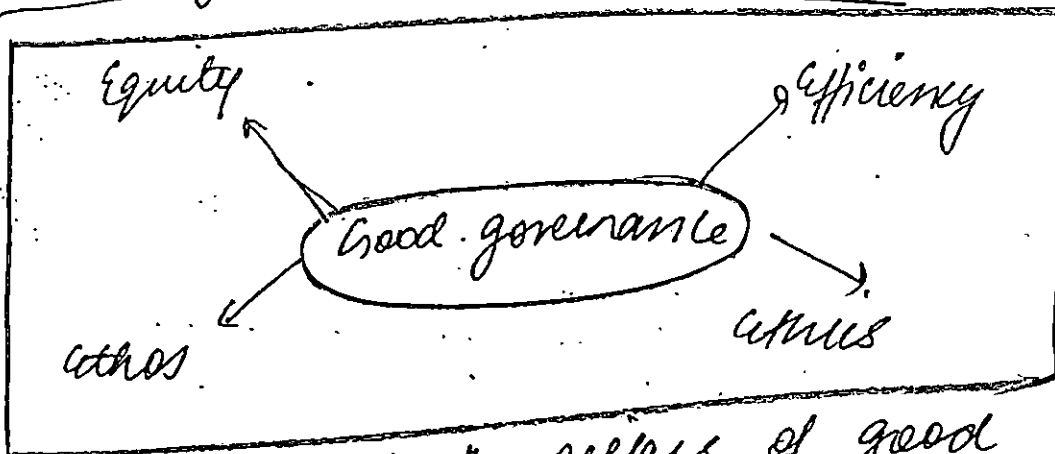
It leads to a culture that blames the government for all wrongs. It perpetuates bribe giving and leads to an unhealthy government-industry complex of quid pro quo. It also erodes the society of moral values like honesty, integrity, kindness etc. which are the cornerstones of a happy society, replacing them with a self-serving, inward looking society that works on the principle of 'Sam Dham Dham Khed' and 'to each their own'. It also perpetuates higher levels of inequality and increasing tensions between the haves and have nots.

Internationally corruption puts India on the back foot. ~~where~~ It harms our soft power as a moral society. It also leads to us becoming less favorable destination of tourists, businesses, investors etc. When these issues with corruption it is our moral duty to fight it and usher in good governance.

555

Remarks

Good governance and corruption.



Always
Box
the
Diagram
or
Map

When the pillars of good governance it can be defined as governance practices which lead to transparency, accountability, citizen centricity, citizen empowerment and better access to services for citizens as mentioned in the second ARC report on citizen centric governance.

The aims of good governance can only be achieved when corrupt practices like red tapism for bribes, unnecessary delays, opaque allocation of resources like spectrum, diversion of funds away from public interest etc. can be removed. Thus to bring in Gandhi's 'Suraj' and good governance we must fight - corruption.

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Remarks

This vision of 'suraj' can be implemented by tools like increased use of information and communication technology, instituting citizen charters and ~~enacting~~ the citizen's right to service bill. ~~At the~~ some of these measures have already been taken eg. enactment of RTI Act 2005, digitisation of services etc. This will address the negative impact of corruption on our economy and politics. However the problem is bigger than that and thus we need to fight it as citizens & individuals.

Patriotism; citizens and corruptions

Patriotism is the love we feel for our country because we were born & here. It is this love that makes us cheer for India at sports events and swell with pride when the national anthem plays. It makes us fight for our ~~city~~ country in wars and contribute to its well being via taxes.

to same remarks

The nation from going into morass.

Patriotism can be practiced in many ways but at its core it is about being true to the ideals of our nation as stated in the constitution. Thus by extension it means we must oppose all activities against the 'spirit' of our constitution. Corruption violates this spirit in many ways. ? Ensure clarity

Our preamble talks about equality, unity and fraternity.

Corruption violates the spirit of fraternity by ~~perpet~~ increasing the gap between haves and have nots as mentioned earlier. It violates our duties under Article 51A to protect ideals of independence and to practice a spirit of brotherhood. Corruption by state actors are violative of their Directive Principles of state policy as well.

Thomas Jefferson in his declaration for independence of USA said citizens had a right to revolution if state acts against its spirit. Similarly given how it leads

undermining our nation we must as responsible citizens oppose corruption in the interest of our nation.

Individuals and corruption

while we fulfill our responsibility to the state as good citizens we also have a moral duty to ourselves to stand up for what we believe in for our self defense. Here the broader definition of corruption becomes important.

We need to fight corrupt practices that violate our freedoms like censorship or restriction of freedom of expression. We must fight a corrupt thought process that leads to gender based, caste based etc. discrimination.

Ramendra Thakurkar lost his life fighting these evil practices as part of Maharashtra Andhrashradha Nirmoolan Samiti. His efforts led to enactment of Anti Social Boycott Act in Maharashtra.

Remarks

Instead of gender based, Caste based and other types of discrimination

- Strengthening of institutions like parliament, CAG, Lokpal
- Minimising monopolies

Thus we must fight corruption for our self defense and to prevent from being on its receiving end in the future.

Conclusion and way forward

• Conviction rate should be high. The fight against corruption as legislated in Prevention of Corruption Act 1988, demand for and successful implementation of RTI Act 2005 and judicial pronouncements in various cases like Naresh Gupta vs Coalgate scam must continue. We must never stop asserting our rights as citizens of our country and practising our duties as responsible human beings. We must remember the words of John F Kennedy -

Ask not what your country can do for you, Ask what you can do for your country.

Remarks
V. good

65
125

• Structured, descriptive, relevant intro & conclusion.
Take the write-up to next (higher) level by
→ Adding 'Force' to communication by PUNCHLINES
→ Adding 'Feel' by choosing appropriate words

'Yesterday's score doesn't win you a game today.'

Before the advent of the modern era and even before medieval times India was once known as the 'Golden Bird', the meluha land where all foreign gold sank. It was ~~the~~ at the centre of world trade, at the centre of spirituality. We used the silk route to spread the various facets of our culture. India was a winner then. Yet, yesterday's score doesn't truly win us a game today as seen in India's current situation where 20% are still ~~into~~ poor and we face various environmental, economical, cultural challenges.

In this context we will analyse the above quote in this essay. We will understand the role and importance of our past for today with various examples and conclude with how to harness the value of the past for winning.

Good grasp and understanding

Role of the Past

What we did yesterday is a part of our memory. Thus past's most important role is it leads to building of memories and nostalgia. How we utilise these memories ~~and~~ knowledge will determine whether our yesterdays are important or not.

A continuation of our initial example shows that while India might no longer be materially a golden bird, we are still a spiritual nation with immense soft power in the world. Thus all ~~was~~ the glory from yesterday was not lost. Next we discuss this ambiguous nature of the past.

Past is irrelevant.

If we look at various sports games, a victory in the past doesn't guarantee a victory today. ~~and~~ even the great players.

like Sachin Tendulkar can get out on naught. What matters is one's preparation for today and luck. Success is 99% preparation and 1% luck and the past is irrelevant in such a scenario.

Similarly, no matter how many levels of the UPSC civil services exam one has cleared in the past and how much they scored, today and the new attempt start with a ~~new~~ clean slate. This is true for any examination be it a school exam, a political exam i.e. elections etc.

This can also be extended to analysis of role of ~~so~~ developing countries in environmental degradation. No matter what or how much a country polluted in the past, despite the principles

✓
Nice example.
examples provide objectivity to your essay.

of common but differentiated responsibilities, today it is our responsibility to contain pollution levels and we share this equally India aims to live this up by contributing as much as it can to bettering the environment condition.

There is also a positive side to the fact that ~~past is~~ ~~irrelevant~~. Just as past success doesn't ^{count} so doesn't past failure. Thus despite Britishers exploiting India as imperialists, for almost 200 years they are one of our important allies because today's relationship is built on realities of today's world where past mistakes don't matter anymore.

Similarly, more recently we have resolved the Doklam stand off with China by ~~not~~ being future oriented and solution focussed instead of dwelling in the past and extending the

177

Remarks

crisis to other sectors of our relation with China. At the same time we can't say that part is completely ~~unimportant~~ as even this resolution was an outcome of centuries of friendly relations with China.

Past is relevant

while the outcome of yesterday may not be important, the actions we took then are.

Thus a sportsman will learn from a mistake they made in the past and improve on it, and not repeat it to become successful today.

more literally, India put up a dismal performance at Olympics 2016 by winning only 2 medals. Yet to improve on this score we will analyse the failures and issues that led to it. A Task Force led by Mr. Abhinav Bindra

Remarks

Any thing which develops a process

Such as

I.R / Bilateral relations

In such cases

past scores do influence

the present

has been setup for the same.

Rome wasn't built in a day and this part is ~~the~~ our first ~~set~~ step towards building something important. In landing on the moon, Neil Armstrong said -

'It was one small step for man but a big ~~set~~ giant leap for mankind'

~~This part~~ Today's space explorations and their success is an outcome of this initial success. This part is relevant as it is a part of the progress that we have made whether it be discoveries like fire or inventions like steam engines, they have all contributed to our success today.

This part becomes relevant when valued appropriately. It is also important because not all achievements are independent of one another. For example,

we invest in human capital
i.e. health and education today
so that we can have returns in?
the future. Outcomes of schemes
like Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao
will impact prevalent social
norms about female labor force
participation in the future.
Investments in health will also lead
to a happier, healthier population.
Thus what we do today affects
our tomorrow just as what we
did yesterday affects today.
How to harness the past?

Given how important yesterday's
score can be for today's
success we must focus on
- harnessing it and recording
it for memory. Building
organisational memory with
schemes like 'Anukool' for retired
personnel is a step in this
direction.

We should also stay
humble in the face of our

Very
good
Articulation
and
Connect

Q30

Remarks

mistakes of the past. Let them be repeated again. For example, in Germany police stations are built right next to Nazi concentration camps so that Germans never forget the genocide and this is never repeated again.

Beyond organisational and country level efforts we must also strive to learn from our own personal mistakes and be humble in the aftermath of success as ~~success is temporary~~ both success and failure are fleeting and our efforts should be directed towards building character and becoming better individuals. For this the role of self introspection is paramount as it develops a high emotional quotient with ability to self leadership and self monitoring. Once we develop these qualities we will be able to ensure that

History has valuable lessons for us and we shouldn't ignore it either. we need to make sure it doesn't become the determining factor in our decisions, & remain mostly a tool.

yesterday's scores are relevant even today. we can then celebrate past for our advantages and remember what Savakar Lal Nehru said -
'The burden of the past pursues us and it is both a burden and an inspiration, for it drags us down and at the same time pushes us on.'

66
127

• Your overall performance is very good in this essay. You understood the topic and provided good content with good objectivity. You provided comprehensive issues.

• Good writing skills - Simple, lucid, easy to understand and grammatically correct language.

• Very good Marks
Keep it UP!

Remarks

