



An Institute for Civil Services

IAS TOPPER'S

TEST COPY

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Rank - 181

Essay



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Roll No. _____

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.

Remarks

(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 Krishan Kumar Singh

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Krishan

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

SECTION - A

1. To be successful in Men's world, a woman must be more man than men.
2. Laws are spider webs through which the big flies pass and the little ones get 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.

To be successful in Men's world, a woman must be more man than men.

The essence of success in human life is a sum product of three essential qualities, i.e. — courage to rise up against the odds, grit and determination, to toil against the hardships, and capability to act when the opportunity knocks your door. Successful people have had one thing in common — they have all

wisen above their identity and distinctions and transcended themselves into a space where there individuality remains the only determinant of their success.

No doubt, our world is a world dominated by men. It's the men who make the choices in all the spheres of life — social, political, or economic. The implicit patriarchy has ensued that women are relegated to a secondary position in both family as well as society. To be successful, they are expected to break the "glass ceiling" that guards the world of men. The men's have made themselves the sexual elites, but women have time and again challenged their domination.

Remarks

This challenge stems from the fact that women can not only equal but better their counterparts through their excellent organisational and leadership qualities.

It is indeed a cause of concern that in 21st century, women still lag far behind men in political leadership. Close to 85% of world's legislative positions are occupied by men and we can count on hands the no. of women head of states. Despite this, history has witnessed enormous leadership qualities in women leaders, right from Razia Sultan to Indira Gandhi. Their ability to break into men's world was

Remarks

not only through their firm leadership qualities and decisiveness, but also through their immense love for motherland and Indian people, essentially ascribed to be feminine qualities. Their toughness and rigidness was often derived from their sincere and deep affection towards the Indian masses. In fact, they achieved it by being more men's world. "Women-like" in a

In the corporate world, there is an acute absence of women CEOs with most of the Fortune 500s led by men's. Women CEOs have often explained this disparity through discrimination b/w sexes right from start-point and over-burdening of women with family responsibilities.

Remarks

Despite this, we have countless success-stories in the form of PepsiCo CEO Indira Nooyi, SBI CMD Arundhati Bhattacharya, and Biocon head Kiran Shaw. None of them subdued their family responsibilities to rise up the ladder. Instead, they demonstrate a successful example of "tightrope balancing act" of family values of commitment, selflessness, and empathy on one side and professional values of integrity, capability-building, knowledge, and organisational leadership on the other. The example of an Australian lawmaker breastfeeding her child in the parliament demonstrates the multi-faceted role women have to play while juggling between their professional & personal lives.

Remarks

The ability to lead different roles at the same time, reflects that women can't be compared with men's benchmark for success in today's world.

In the technological sphere, women have outperformed their male counterparts in all dimensions. They have not only contributed significantly in global R&D, but women like Anita Borg have been legends of development in IT and automation.

The exemplary Tessy Thomas, the missile women of India, demonstrated how women can manage the kitchen-cabinet and missile-cabinet with equal grace and excellence. Her story of success, shows that her achievements are a resultant of her being "more women" — the ability to

Remarks

strong emotional judgements even in a crisis situation and effectively resonate her views to her team, by being a mother-figure to all. She was successful and yet retained her individuality + by being assimilative and accommodative of all viewpoints.

The greatest contribution of women has been in the social and cultural sphere. In the post-World War II world, numerous rights and protest movements have been led by women, and most of them have centred around transgressions of state and big corporates [both, the so-called pillars of men's world] on the rights of minorities and ordinary people.

Remarks

In the Chipko and Apikho movements, they came out for ecological rights of all, not just themselves.

In the Narmada Bachao Andolan, they led the movement to restore water rights for all, not just themselves.

In the LGBTQ Rights movement, they have joined hands as an act of solidarity to humanity, not for themselves. We have seen repeat instances of women emerging as bulwarks of freedom and expression of human race and in the process they don't become more and more women.

Remarks

There is no absolute benchmark for success. A women doesn't have to become like a men and so does the vice versa. For more women to be successful, we don't need to have more men-like women in men's world but rather change the world into a world for humans, where all are free and equal. Not only should women be given greater opportunities to showcase their capabilities but also the gendered inhibitions need to be diluted. — with both men and women be equal stakeholders in the growth of family, society, and nation.

Remarks

We need to move away from
a materialist view on success and
shift to a more broad-based, holistic
interpretation of good life, and in
the end, we'll see that both men
and women will be equally successful
in their own ways.

Remarks

B. 1) India hasn't unravelled true potential of its long coastline.

→ India has been endowed with a rich landmass with gigantic Himalayas in the North and a vast coastline along Indian Ocean in its South. The Chinese, referring to India (or the "Lower Kingdom") used to exalt it as a land of fruit - and honey, a bridge between tall mountains and an un-ending watermass. India's long coast has not only influenced various civilizations that have taken shape on its land but has also been a link - to spread India's message

Remarks

and fame across the seas. In the contemporary world, with its rising stakes in global trade and politics, our coastline holds unignorable importance. Our future destiny would depend more on how we use our geography to our advantage than any other factor.

The relevance of our coastline was never lost in our historical developments. The Harappan Civilisation was sustained not only through its self-sufficient production and consumption model but also through trade with Egyptian and Mesopotamian Civilizations via ports like Lothal. The cross-country transport of goods, people, and ideas ensured that India became relevant in the world — a colloquial golden bird.

Remarks

The Greeks and Arabs were enormously benefited by India's progress in philosophy, mathematics, and astronomy.

The influence of Shaivism and Buddhism, travelled far beyond the oceans to SE Asia and Horn of Africa, while it was the coastal towns which first adopted Abrahamic religions in India. Indian coasts, because of their strategic location, acted as receivers and radiators of ideas and goods throughout the centuries.

In the times of Cholas and later Tipu Sultan, Indian coasts also assumed naval and militaristic importance. They were able to maintain their regional

Remarks

hegemony through effectively using India's strategic position, establishing deep sea ports, and building powerful navies.

The long Indian coastline also helped the British, which had a powerful navy, to defeat other European powers in a long-drawn colonial power struggle for India. Britishers, sensing the true potential of India's coast, used it as an important hinge point not only militarily but also in East-West trade.

In the post-Independence India, because of poor infrastructural growth and domestic strife and insurgencies, the nascent Indian state remained obtuse towards its coastline in first few decades.

Remarks

The trade with regional players remained unimpressive, despite geographical advantage and the focus remained on import substitution and protective Isolationism.

Fundamentally, this Inward-looking approach meant that we lost sight of the relevance of our vast, resource-rich coast-line. Our future course of action lies in our commitment to revive the importance of our geography to realise its best potential on all the dimensions of national development.

POLITICAL & STRATEGIC FRONT

India has long seen the Indian Ocean as its own baby and unilaterally declared

Remarks

the region as a Zone of Peace in 1971. As other global powers have tried to assert themselves in the region (like China's String of Pearls and US's Asia Pivot), India has to augment its capabilities in the region to reshape the Indian Ocean geopolitics in its favour. This would not only mean increasing strategic assets in the region or becoming a blue-sea navy, but also strengthening regional ties, forging new economic partnerships (like 10+3 Rim Association and BIMSTEC) and achieve control of important sea lanes. As the global power is increasingly shifting to Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean region, our space in global political space

Remarks

would depend on how actively we can harness the true potential of our coasts:

TRADE AND ECONOMIC FRONT.

India's trade with regional players has been abysmally low and our trade aspirations have been obstinately centred around the grade powers. This has hampered the growth of Indian ports as active centres of local trade. Also poor infra-structure and paucity of deep-sea ports has meant that India's contribution to global trade facilitation has been limited. The SAGARMALA project and other initiatives (like PPP models on port development) could help India

Remarks

leverage the true potential of its long coastline.

Alongside, the Indian EEZ is abound with natural resources — ranging from Polymetallic and ferrimagnetic deep sea nodules to natural gas & petroleum reserves. It presents an opportunity for India to effectively mobilise its resources and reduce its dependence on outside world.

Coasts are lifelines of local growth and if effectively managed and utilised, can provide local employment, reducing migration pressure on big cities. The fisheries sector and specialised coastal agriculture can generate sustainable and long-term perennial employment, if effective infrastructure is developed.

Remarks

Also, coastal regions can host specialised industries like ship-breaking and ship-development to provide strong forward & backward linkage to India's growing steel industry.

ENERGY FRONT

A large share of India's energy requirement is met by conventional sources. Since India's required demand may increase from ~ 200 GW to ~ 2000 GW by ≈ 2050 , it has to meet a great share of this demand from other sources. In this scenario, not only we have to bolster our exploration and mineral resources trapped in ocean bed, but also augment unconventional

Remarks

energy sources, like coastal wind, energy, tidal energy, and Thorium-based nuclear energy.

CULTURAL FRONT

Our coasts have hosted important centres of cross-country movement of religious, spiritual, and cultural ideas and played an important role in establishing our ideological power in the region. To revile and reinvent our ideological prowess in vast Indian Ocean, we need to implement initiatives like PROJECT MAUSAM so that our coasts become important underpinnings of our soft-power in the world.

Remarks

ECOLOGICAL FRONT

The rise of global warming has spawned fears for not only the small island states but also in various coastal regions, including ours. On the Ecological front, we can gain the trust of other nations by sustainably using our coastal resources and being firm to our commitments on Climate Change protocols. This would also mean properly training & capacity-building of our own coastal communities along with state-of-the-art technological system to predict natural disasters in coastal regions.

SECURITY FRONT

To upscale our strategic dominance, we

Remarks

need to ensure the security of our coastal regions, not only through inter-state warfare preparedness but also through active Intelligence - Alert - Act systems on Trans-national crimes such as terrorism, piracy, and child/women-trafficking. Coasts are our outlets to the outside world and secure coasts would ensure a secure nation.

To sum up, we are yet to fully unravel the true potential of our long coastline that spans from Rann of Kutch, a marshy scrub to Sunderbans, an evergreen mangrove. For the diverse and heterogenous nation, it

Remarks

It is only the coastal sea that offers homogeneity. The real birth of "Idea of India" lies in finding the true scope and potential for our coasts — the determinants of our past, present, and future. No doubt, we have miles to go before we sleep (or be content).

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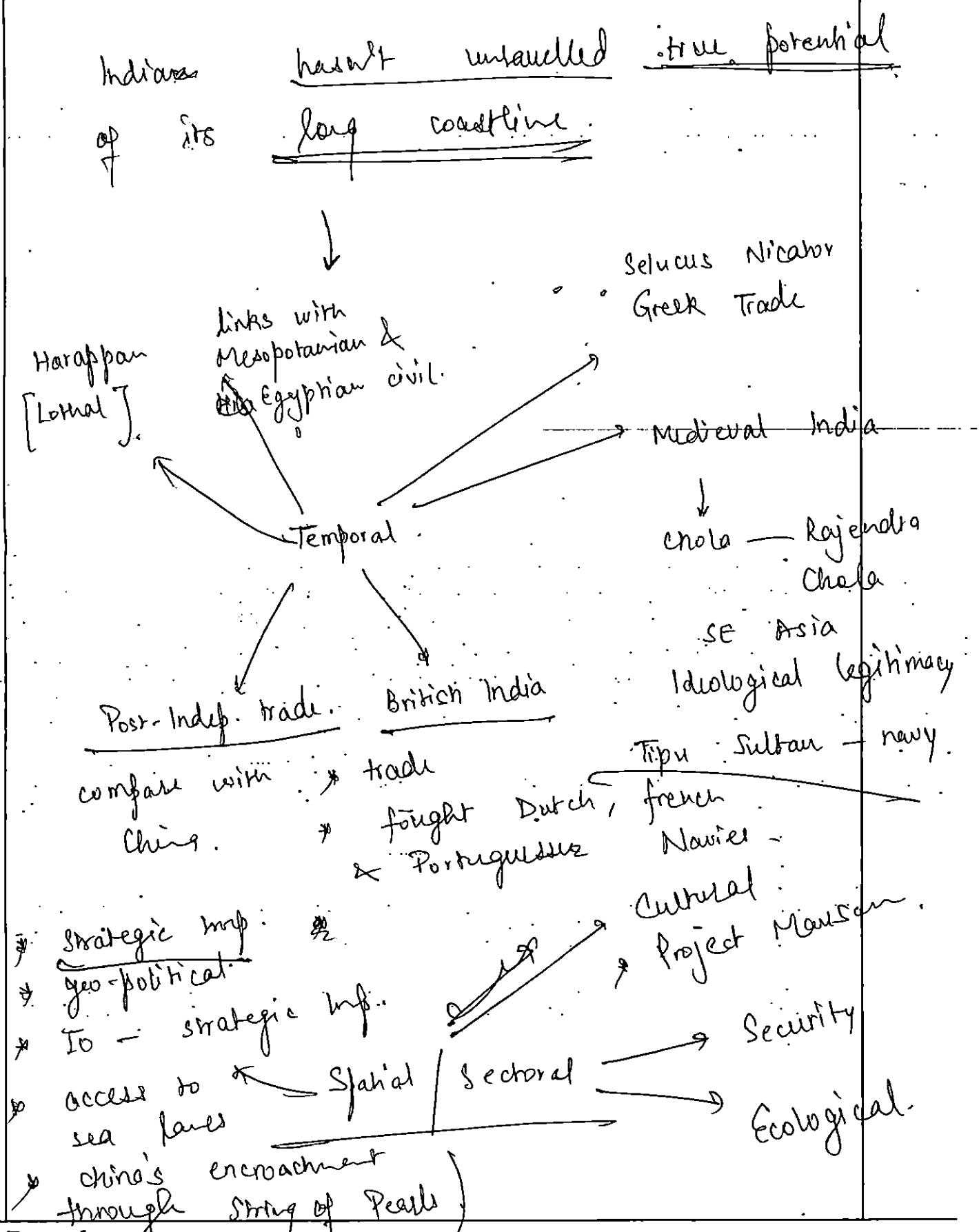
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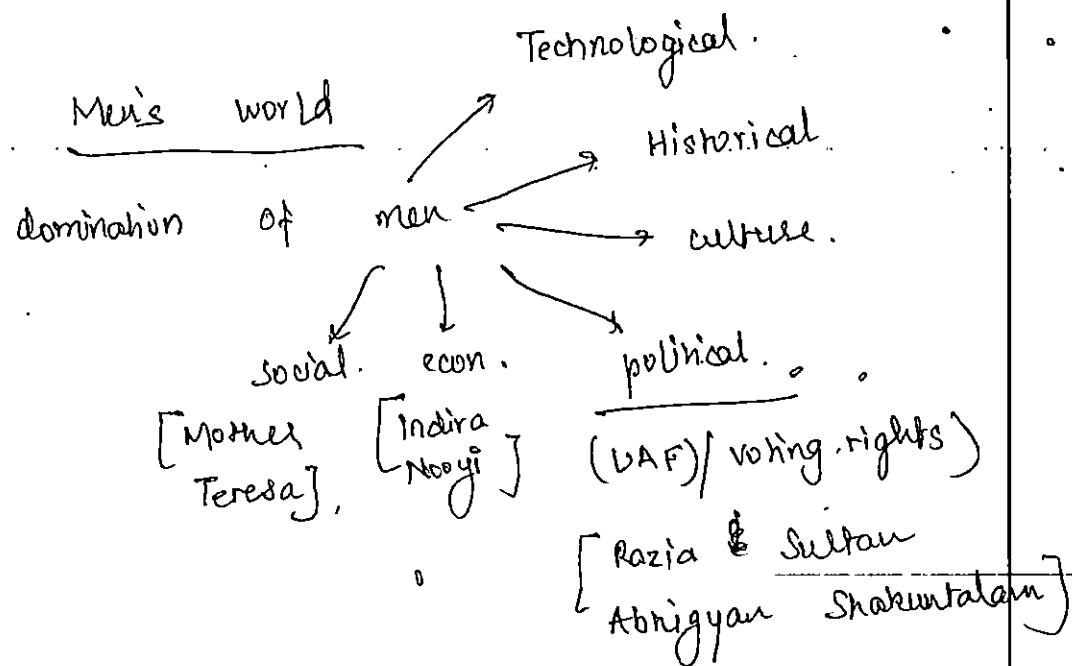
* real power — who controls IO & Po
(not A Ocean)

Economic

* Regional trade (PMN, FMS), Growth, dev., Employment
* Fishing, Resource mobilis'n

fisheries explor'n

Remarks



more man than men.

- gendered identity should disappear.
- come out of social & family obligations.
- eliminate the inhibitions to reflect their true individuality.

Remarks

Success → Courage to fight back. Wise up.
Success → Persistence to hold
Success → Capability to act.

Remarks