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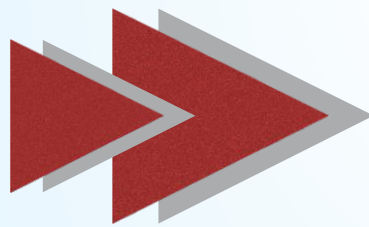
An Institute for Civil Services Examination & Expert Guidance for IAS

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UPSC TOPPER 2018

**MIRKHELKAR
ADITYA D.**



AIR

155

ESSAY TEST PAPER

**"Success usually comes to those
who are too busy to be looking for it."**

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ESSAY for IAS

UPSC - CSE Mains 2018

Under Personal Guidance of

VIKASH RANJAN

(Author, “Fundamentals of Sociology”, “Applied Sociology”)

Test No.	Test -5	Centre of Exam	New Delhi
Candidate Name	Aditya Mirkhelkar	Attempt No.	4 th
Date of Exam	15/09/2018	Total Marks	/250
Reg. No.		Total Time	3 Hrs
Class Room	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distance <input type="checkbox"/> Online <input type="checkbox"/>	Signature of Candidate	Aditya Mirkhelkar

Note:- Please highlight the Main/core Sentence (THESIS STATEMENT) by making **BLOCK** in Every Paragraph. Take half an hour extra time but **Must Highlight Key Sentence.**

THEME :
SPIN OFF TEST
(THINK GUESS & QUESTIONIZE TEST)

1. Indian democracy: Aspirations and achievements
2. Reforms: Road to investment, employment and growth.

Signature of Examiner



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Essay Topic :

Indian Democracy: Aspirations and Achievements

Democracy can be understood in two ways. One, as a form of government and two, as a way of life.

However, the founding fathers of our country ensured that India emerges as a careful mix of the two.

Indian democracy is peculiar in nature. It seeks to ensure socialist ideals of equality, justice within liberal framework that guarantees liberty of thought, action, belief, faith and worship. It also incorporates Gandhian ideals of sarvodaya, sarva dharma samabhava and non-violence.

Indian democracy also accommodates ideas of Dr. Ambedkar seeking protection of weaker sections.

After 70 years of independence it is necessary to understand the journey of our democracy. Its aspirations, achievements and challenges.

Define term
Dlay

Ancient land of Bharatvarsha was not alien to concept of democracy.

A form of deliberative democracy flourished in gangetic plains in the era of Mahajanapadas. Vriji kingdom had multiple Janas or sanghas - democracies. Most famous being shakyas which housed sidharatha who later became Buddha.

Medieval times saw emergence of multiple powers and fragmented polity. At the end of 16th century, a sea-route to India was found. Europeans came in large numbers initially for trade and later ruled the country for two centuries.

The journey of Indian democracy began with the national movement. Initially moderate nationalists aroused political consciousness and national identity. Later extremists, revolutionaries and Gandhian movements ensured that idea of self rule and swaraj reached every corner of the country.

Temporal
Also mention
about
Sanghas &
Samitis

Aspirations of Indian Democracy

After a prolonged struggle for Independence, India emerged as a Independent nation. The 'tryst with destiny' began. Our founding fathers envisaged a modern state relinquishing the past of slavery, feudalism and foreign dominance.

Indian democracy aspires to secure Justice, liberty, equality and fraternity for all. At the same time it seeks to ensure unity and territorial integrity of the country. It aspires to become a welfare state, serving the last man in the que.

our democracy is centred around the concept of Justice - social, political, ~~and~~ economical. It aspires to end discrimination on the ground of caste, sex, religion and race. Political Justice envisage representation for all. It also envisage that every individual would have means of livelihood, necessary to live a dignified life.

Indian democracy aspires to secure liberty of every individual. This aspiration is enshrined in the form of fundamental rights. Every individual is entitled to free speech and expressions, to practice her religion and to be immune from excesses of state.

Our Republic also aspires to become a cohesive society despite the tremendous diversity. Fraternity is the cornerstone of this cohesion. Every person must see others as her brothers or sisters. There is no scope for communalism, casteism and regionalism in that cohesive society.

Apart from that, Indian democracy aspires to become a strong procedural democracy. It envisage strong institutions, separation of powers among them and effective checks and balances among them. citizen's participation and free and fair elections are part of our procedural democracy.

Achievements of Indian democracy

The biggest achievement of Indian democracy is that it secured democracy itself. At the time of Independence experts highlighted that India lacks essential pre-requisites for democracy.

Ours was a cleaved society of mostly illiterate individuals and a poor economy.

Similarly positioned other third world country countries saw democracy being replaced by dictatorship. In this context, our achievement is noteworthy.

Another achievement of our democracy is that it secured our territorial integrity. Challenged from within (Naxalism, Insurgency in North East, demands for Khalistan and Droidistan) and outside (claims by Pakistan and China). In this context, we have been largely successful.

The most striking achievement of Indian democracy is poverty alleviation. At the time of Independence, 70% of our people

were living in poverty. Today, it has reduced to less than 21%. This achievement is unparalleled in the world. No democracy has been successful to alleviate poverty faster than us.

India is also the largest democracy. In 2014 elections, around 750 million voters participated in elections. Apart from that elections at state level and local level are frequent, free and fair. Today, we have more than 3 million representatives of people at various levels.

Talking about achievements, India has preserved liberty for her citizens. It has been achieved through combination of judicial, legislative and executive actions. Individual's right to life and liberty has continuously expanded. Freedom of speech and expression of individuals and media is protected despite being a diverse society. Individual and communities exercise their right to religion in our democracy.

Apart from that, our democracy has been successful to uplift historically oppressed classes. Through a strong affirmative action, we have achieved empowerment of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and women. They participate with equal zeal and equal dignity in public affairs. Notions of untouchability and purity has reduced considerably.

However, despite these successes, there are certain challenges that prevents our democracy from being a successful democracy.

Challenges of Indian Democracy

The biggest challenge confronting Indian democracy is decline of her institutions. Parliament has been reduced to arena of political struggle. Individual members has been reduced to numbers because of excessive control of Party. To supplement these issues, problems of colourable legislations, misuse

of ordinance route and frequent disruptions of parliament hampers its functioning.

Our Judiciary has been the ultimate ~~guarant~~ ^{protector} of constitution. However, it is marked with plethora of problems.

Today, in our courts around 3 crore cases are pending. Average time taken by a case is 15 years. Apart from that, allegations of corruption, nepotism and uncertainty are frequent.

On the substantive part of democracy, we face many problems. Though elections are free and fair, they are marked with identity politics, criminalization of politics, blatant use of money and muscle power. It has led to reduced participation of people in politics. Our Loktantra (republic) has been reduced to Matapatra (ballot).

Another challenge remains that of social harmony. Our society is still crippled by communalism and casteism. These social tensions not only reduce civic

Cohesion but also hampers dignity of individuals.

Though we have become a sixth largest economy, inclusive growth is missing.

The burden of poverty is disproportionately taken by women, children, tribals and dalits.

Apart from that huge regional disparity in growth is observed. The flourishing western and southern India, contrasts drastically with poverty of eastern and North-eastern India.

The disparity is ever growing.

Liberty of individuals is compromised at more than one occasions.

It is not only artists, intellectuals who face restriction on their liberty but also millions of poor for whom subsistence is

more important than liberty. Liberty of undertrials, LGBTQ community and religious minority is \pm compromised often.

However, despite these challenges, achievements of Indian democracy are quite astonishing. The journey of a newly decolonized poor country has been

remarkable. Today, we are not just a democracy but also economic and technological powerhouse.

Achievements of Indian democracy are great but even greater is the prospects of our democracy. Today, our democracy has matured. Federalism, Grass root democracy has stabilized our republic. Free media, vigilant judiciary and growing civil society participation would ensure democratic functioning of our institutions.

Today, we are not far from our aspirations as a country. To realise ~~our~~ these aspirations we need strong, committed and ethical individuals. Individuals who raise their voices against injustice. Individuals who ensures accountability of our institutions and individuals who believe that democracy is not mere a form of government, but a way of life.

Essay Topic :

Reforms: Road to Investment, Employment and Growth

forming and reforming is the hallmark of nature. Reforms are ubiquitous in nature and in public life. Reforms are not mere changes but reforms are desirable changes to achieve a predetermined objective. Reforms are progressive and deliberate. They lead us to a better future.

In India, reforms have been the feature of governance. From reforms we understand various types of reforms such as economic reforms, legislative reforms, judicial reforms and so on. These reforms have changed the nature of our democracy and economy throughout.

Today, investment, employment and growth are necessary to achieve well being of our citizens. To spur investment, employment and growth we require holistic

reforms.

Indian economy which was the biggest economy till 17th century, was reduced to a backward and poor economy at the time of Independence. It was marked with huge poverty, poor infrastructure, low savings and investment rates and stressed agriculture. Reforms were necessary to secure growth of the economy and livelihood of her citizens.

In this context, India adopted a mixed economy. It adopted five year plans approach to economic planning. Initially, the focus was on two aspects. First, in agriculture land reforms and increasing irrigation coverage. Second, development of heavy industries to achieve self-reliance. Nehru-Mahalanobis model focussed on it.

But it was under the leadership of PM Indira Gandhi, focus of economic planning shifted. Socialism overpowered capitalism in the mixed economy. Reforms

such as Nationalization of banks and coal industry, focus on garibi hatao and legislations like MRTP Act, 1969 were carried out. These reforms led to excessive restriction on private enterprise.

The need for reforms were realized. It was the leadership of Rajiv Gandhi that initiated reforms. But the big bang reforms of 1991, known as LPG reforms changed the economy starkly. It opened our economy for world, industrial licensing was abolished, currency convertibility was started. These reforms led to unprecedented growth of Indian economy.

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However, today our economy is ~~stagnant~~ undergoing severe changes. It mandates reforms to boost investment, employment and growth.

Need of Reforms

After the LPG reforms, Indian economy observed the so called 'jobless growth'. The boom of services sector was

Incapable of absorbing the new workforce. Though we have achieved more than 6% of growth rate, adequate quality jobs have not been created. Unemployment co-exist with underemployment in our economy.

Apart from that, manufacturing sector has stagnated in last two decades. It constitutes only 15% of our GDP, employing less than 12% of workforce. The growth of manufacturing sector especially labour intensive one, has been hampered by regulatory cholestool.

Another major aspect that warrants reforms is agriculture sector.

Today, it employs 47% of the workforce but constitutes only 17% to the GDP. Severe disguised employment is the characteristic of Indian agriculture.

Banking and financing sector demands reforms. It is marked with ever increasing NPA problem. Apart from that

reduced credit growth in the economy hampers investment in the economy.

Also, our economy transformed from 'socialism with restricted entry' to 'market economy with no exit'. It has given rise to the so called chakravarty challenge. It results in misallocation of productive resources of the economy. End result being capital locked in less productive enterprises, lowering investment in productive sectors.

Also, labour market is facing many problems. First, casualization of labour. It results in employment without social security. Second, low female participation in labour force. It is only 27% and in urban area only 17% compared to 79% of for men. And third, employment in unorganized sector. It results in lack of access to technology, market and resultant inefficiency.

The end result of these issues is stagnated growth rate.

Despite having potential to grow at 10%, our economy is being unable to cross the 8% mark.

Thus, reforms are necessary in this scenario.

Road to reforms

From the point of view of employment, investment and growth, we require holistic reforms. Reforms in factor market [land, labour, capital and entrepreneurship] needs to be accompanied with judicial reforms, executive reforms and reforming human capital.

First and foremost reforms is required in land acquisition. Present Land Acquisition Rights and Rehabilitation Act, 2013 is restrictive in nature. The mandatory

clause of consent of 80% of the landholder along with social impact Assessment prevents investment in our economy. It is necessary in this context, that land banks are created by state governments where private players need not to worry about other aspects.

second area of reforms is labour reforms. Highly complex and restrictive labour laws such as Industrial relations Acts, prevents growth of labour intensive industries. Apart from that growing casualization of labour and low female participation demands labour law reforms. The initiative of government to codify labour laws in 4 codes needs to be comprehensively conducted.

for investment, we require reforms in third factor market capital. In this context three reforms are necessary. First, streamlining GST regime. second, enactment of Direct Tax code. third, easing the compliance through technology

adoption. Apart from that reforms in banking sector is necessary to accelerate credit growth.

Apart from that, we require judicial reforms. In the world Bank's ease of doing business report, we rank among the lowest in enforcing contracts. High judicial pendency, uncertainty of judgement, delays and excessive government litigation are hampering our performance. It is necessary to promote commercial courts, alternative dispute resolution methods.

Reforms in bureaucracy are also required. The infamous red tape needs to be replaced with red carpet. Bureaucracy needs to be transformed from regulator to facilitator. Adoption of technology, minimizing human interface would reduce rent seeking. It would promote investment by private players.

But no reforms would be adequate, unless we carry out reforms to strengthen human capital. In this sector we require three kinds of reforms.

One, building educational capabilities of our students. Our higher education sector needs to be the torchbearer in Research and Innovation. Our students need to aspire to become job creators and not job seekers. The vision of start-up India and stand-up India would be unrealized otherwise.

Second, inculcating skills to make them employable. Despite availability of millions of job seekers, employers find it difficult to hire employable workers. The mismatch in demand and supply of skills need to be addressed.

And Third, improving the productivity of our human capital. Healthcare and nutrition is of paramount importance in this quest. Healthy children would grow into productive workforce.

Thus, holistic reforms are necessary to achieve high rate of investment and growth and reducing unemployment as well as underemployment.

Today, we enjoy the demographic dividend. 65% of India's population is under 35 years of age. It provides us a tremendous opportunity to transform India into a advanced economy.

However, challenges in this road are steep. It requires uncompromising commitment towards reforms from all sections of country - Education institutes, private companies, Judiciary, executive and legislature. In absence of reforms it would be difficult to harness the demographic dividend.

thus, to emerge as the New India which is free from poverty, economic reforms are necessary. Time has arrived that we reform our economy to realise the vision of 'Sarvashreehta Bharat'.

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REMARKS : ESSAY-1

	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Average	Poor
(i) Introduction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) Temporal Illustration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iii) Sectoral Elaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iv) Content-Knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(v) Contextual Justification	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(vi) Paragraph Alignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(vii) Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(viii) Visibility of Thesis-Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ix) Visibility of Topic Sentence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(x) Novelty-Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(xi) Language Competency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(xii) Legibility- Readability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Overall Remark:-

Intro - Good
 Temporal - visible
 Sectoral - Good but scope to add more spheres of aspirations & achievement of Indian day.
 Content - Good. Also, mention some initiatives taken for different sectors & different sections of people that would help to address challenges before day and bridge gap b/w aspirations & achievements of Indian day.
 Also, give your suggestions.

Conclusion ⇒ Good

⇒ Alignment ⇒ Presentation of content + coherence in content + Topic sentence visibility = Good

68



REMARKS : ESSAY-2

	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Average	Poor
(i) Introduction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) Temporal Illustration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iii) Sectoral Elaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iv) Content-Knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(v) Contextual Justification	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(vi) Paragraph Alignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(vii) Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(viii) Visibility of Thesis-Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ix) Visibility of Topic Sentence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(x) Novelty-Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(xi) Language Competency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(xii) Legibility- Readability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Overall Remark:-

Intro - Good
 Temporal - visible
 Sectoral - Good scope to add more spheres
 content - Good. Also discuss challenges to bring reforms in various sectors of economy to ensure growth, employment and investment.
 Also, mention initiatives taken to provide thrust to growth, investment and employment. Give your suggestions also.

→ Alignment = Good
 Topic sentence = visible
 → Conclusion = Good.



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