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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
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ANNUAL ESSAY PRIZE COMPETITION-2017

Entries are invited for the Annual Essay Prize Competition-2017. 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 joint authorship shall not be considered for the competition.

The topics for the competition are:

- (i) Economic and Strategic Significance of Coastal India
- (ii) Role and responsibilities of Civil Committees in the Current Environment
- (iii) GST and its implications

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

**Topic: Economic and Strategic Significance of Coastal India**

The essay should mainly cover the following broad points:

**1. Emerging sectors of marine based economic activities**

This section would discuss the role of coastal lines as a source of diversified livelihood opportunities and the technology driven emerging sectors. How important are the emerging sectors like deep sea fishing, marine tourism, biotechnology and marine derived pharmaceuticals for economic growth, nutrition and food security? What is the role of technology and conducive legal framework to benefit from these activities? What are India's opportunities and challenges?

**2. Blue economy:**

This section should analyse the importance of coastal lines for a sustainable model of 'blue economy' which can potentially contribute to development of the region and country as a whole. What is 'blue economy'? What are its basic principles? What significance does it hold for a sustainable and inclusive growth across sectors? What are the experiences of other nations?

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### **3. Maritime security:**

What are the implications of the changing geo-political and strategic environment on maritime security? How a rise in the elements of complexity and unpredictability in external threat along the coastal lines can impact on the country's security challenges? Critically analyse how far recent maritime security establishments and strategies address the security challenges?

### **4. Seaborne trade:**

The essay should discuss the significance of seaborne trade in country's international trade. How India's strategic location in Indian Ocean helped easy access to important trade routes? Rising volume of maritime trade, its composition and economic significance. What is the infrastructure gap in maritime transport and what are the requisite investments for sustainable growth in this sector? What is the strategic significance of ship building industry, what are the challenges it is facing and how the recent supportive measures taken will be helpful in rejuvenating the industry? Can India play a leading role in transshipment traffic in Indian Ocean? What are the geographic and structural challenges for this? Are the policy measures taken in this direction are sufficient?

### **5. Industrial development in coastal regions:**

This section should analyse the significance of port led industrial development of coastal areas by harnessing geographical and other natural advantages. What are the recent policy measures taken in this direction? What are the coastal economic zones (CEZs)? How does the economy stand to gain from CEZs?

### **6. Mining and energy security:**

This section should focus on the significance of India's recent endeavors to tap the unexplored possibilities of mining and energy from oceans. How important are India's deep sea mining of polymetallic nodules and rare earth for economy? What is the strategic significance of deep sea mining for India? What is the significance of renewable energy from oceanic tides, waves and thermal gradient for meeting growing demand for energy in a sustainable way? How far India is technologically prepared to harness the potential of mining and energy from ocean?



### **Topic: Role and Responsibilities of Civil Committees in the Current Environment**

The essay should mainly cover the following broad points:

The idea of committees arose from the need of a focused attention, deliberations or study on a specific topic. Such committees consist of subject matter experts or the people who have the authority to call such experts as and when required. Governments world over have depended on committee systems. The system is increasingly becoming a favoured approach in view of the rising complexities and even expanding sphere of state intervention. However, change in governance paradigm, where citizen participation in the processes is considered necessary to have effective governance and public service delivery, has brought increased attention to committees where citizens are also members of a body to look into specific issues.

In the context of decentralization, an important role has been envisaged for grass root level institutions. There are bodies whose members are citizens only, but they have proved to be effective in realm of public affairs. Though in case of developing countries, it may be said that the state has often played a facilitating role to make such bodies effective. In developed societies, citizens have been able to demand such facilitation from the state. However, such instances are not exclusive and there are instances of both the types in both types of societies.

The essay writers may look into the factors that have given impetus to more demand for citizens' engagement in the governance process and in this context what roles and responsibilities are assumed or indicated by the citizens. The measures to make such committees effective may be discussed to find the necessary and sufficient conditions for them to be able to discharge their roles. The writers may also analyze the domain contestation between the citizens or their groups and the state agencies and to what extent the state is willing to cede ground to such demands. The legitimacy of such arrangements may also be explored.

The competitors need not take up discussions relating to defence subjects as the essay topic is restricted to civil committees.

### **Topic: GST and Its Implications**

The essay should mainly cover the following broad points:

#### **1. Why GST in India?**

This section should emphasize on why there is a need for GST in India? How does it remove the cascading effects on economic agents, how does it deal with the prevailing multiplicity of taxes and tax rates, dual taxation, concessions and exemptions and complexities in business administration? How would the GST improve the tax base and transparency in the system? What are the sectors excluded from GST and why? Will it accomplish the purpose of a uniform tax rates across states?

#### **2. Likely macroeconomic implications of GST**



This section should include what are the likely macroeconomic implications of GST such as its impact of general Prices/inflation, investment, domestic manufacturing and trade, formalization of the economy, tax revenue, fiscal deficit, and governance and institutional reforms in terms of efficiency in tax system, etc.

### **3. Challenges to GST in India**

What are the challenges especially in terms of administrative and technological difficulties that are likely to arise during the implementation of GST focus on the readiness of tax authorities, businesses and classification of commodities to be included under the GST?

### **4. Impact of GST on Centre-State Relations**

What was the need for a constitutional amendment for GST implementation? Will it change the dynamics of centre-state relations? Is GST a good thing for fiscal federalism and decentralisation?

### **5. Do you approve of the present GST model with multiple taxes for different class of commodities? What does the international experience tell us?**

#### **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 be deemed 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 – 2017, 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, 2017. The envelope should be marked "Annual Essay Prize Competition – 2017". 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 the 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**