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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
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NEW DELHI

ANNUAL ESSAY PRIZE COMPETITION-2022

Entries are invited for the Annual Essay Prize Competition-2022.

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:

Annual Essay Prize Competition 2022

- (i) Socio-economic Changes in Post Pandemic period
- (ii) Fourth Industrial Revolution and Governance
- (iii) Evolving Role of Women in Leadership and Society

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

Topic: **Socio-economic Changes in Post Pandemic period**

Focus Area to be covered

TOPIC 1. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGES IN THE POST-PANDEMIC PERIOD

In the post-pandemic period, many changes have taken place in the realm of socio-economic spheres. The changes and challenges due to covid pandemic are not limited to the socio-economic context alone, but their implications have been noticed in domestic outbreaks and healthcare systems. The major impacts of the Covid pandemic have been noticed on employment, poverty, status of women, food security, and global trade. The pandemic has incurred a fathomless loss in economic well-being and social capital formations. Unstable environment for individuals, loss of business activities

and loss of employment are the major offshoots of the Covid pandemic, impeding and decelerating the pace of social development and economic growth. The sufferings of the vulnerable viz. destitute, women, disabled, children, slum dwellers, etc. have escalated, jeopardizing lives and livelihoods. Though the blockchain triggered by the supply chain has adversely got impacted, the equity-based resilience to address the issues has been a unique stride that our government has undertaken. The society and economy to bring back to “business as usual” has led to new forms of communications and cooperation, imaginative design thinking, new styles of management, as well as new tools and forms of participation in various public policies. These have given rise to a ‘new normal’ for lives and livelihoods.

The public health, supply chain of the agri-food sector, transport system, travel, trade, logistics and freight distribution, the transformation of the labor market and workforce rights have undergone a seismic transformation in order to cope with the ‘new normal’. The receding role of social institutions in shaping and reshaping the social order and practices have got new definitions in the new normal. The existence of virtual space and virtual community, ‘work-from-home’ culture, being extra cautious on infectious diseases, more attention on ‘AatmaNirbhar’ (self-reliant), reduced intensity of division of labour, and prime orientation to survival have gained reasonable grounds in the post-pandemic period. In juxtaposition, high levels of nonperforming assets, particularly SMEs and inadequately capitalized banking systems are given attention to ‘build-back-better’. The importance of preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response and recovery are the widely spread and acknowledged mantras to rejuvenate and resurrect the socio-economic lives across the sectors. In order to boost and strengthen the socio-economic conditions of the people, major policy interventions are required with regard to healthcare infrastructure, livelihood, vulnerable sections and various humanitarian issues. The post pandemic period has finally heralded a disjunction where societal strength can be catalysed through imbuing sum total of individuals’ effort.

As such, the focus area of the essay may consist:

1. Agriculture and allied activities related issues in the post-pandemic period,
2. Manufacturing sectors, both forward and backward linkages in the post-pandemic period,
3. Non-performing assets (NPAs) and an inadequately capitalized banking system, and private cooperate sectors in the post-pandemic period,

4. Effectiveness of the implementation of fiscal and monetary policies in the post-pandemic period,
5. Major disability, health care and gender gap concerns in the post-pandemic period,
6. New dimensions of socio-economic transformation in tribal life in the post-pandemic period,
7. Improving employability of reverse migrants through skilling in the post-pandemic period, and
8. The psychological well-being of households suffered from irreparable damage and the post-pandemic period.

TOPIC 2 **Fourth Industrial Revolution & Governance**

Focus Area to be covered

This paradigm shift – the fourth **Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0)** – is characterised by the fusion of emerging technologies in the physical, digital and biological spheres (See Figure 1). The popular technologies enforcing this revolution include Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Data Analytics, 3-D printing, Internet of Things (IoT), nanotechnology, quantum computing. Driverless automatic vehicles, robotic arms carrying out surgeries, used in production process are some of the key examples of outcomes of Industry 4.0. Despite its name, the concept of Industry 4.0, is not solely about manufacturing industry rather it has reduced gap between manufacturing and services. The broader connotation of Industry 4.0 includes concepts such as smart transportation and logistics, smart buildings, oil and gas, smart healthcare and smart villages and cities. Therefore, it is concerned with the digital transformation in, and of, global industrial markets with an impact at macro, meso, small and micro levels. Industry 4.0 is of particular relevance for all aspects of Sustainable Development Goal-9 i.e. build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. In addition, it has wide-ranging implications for most of the other SDGs both from the side of supply and demand.

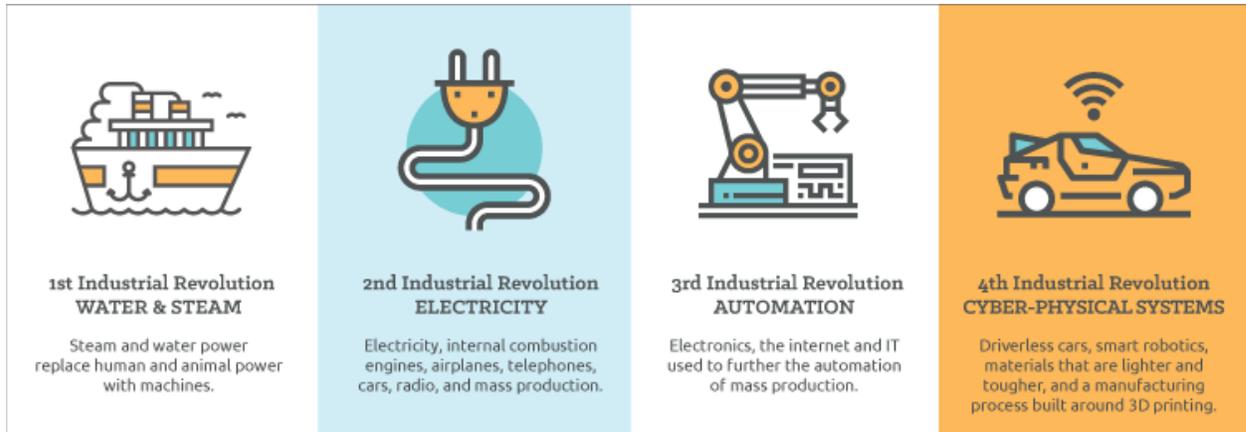


Figure 1 Industrial Revolution – A Paradigm shift

Industry 4.0 is based on six design principles namely **interoperability; virtualization; decentralisation, real-time capability; service orientation; and modularity** (See **Figure 2**).

Similar to any other disruption, the Industry 4.0 has the potential to turnaround human lives and presents to humankind a myriad of opportunities and challenges. It promises for substantial reduction in the cost of transportation and communication, improvement in the quality of life and productivity and efficiency sky rocketing. But there are dangers like widening of the inequality gap, disruption of labour forces and an increasingly tenuous relationship between the citizen and the state.

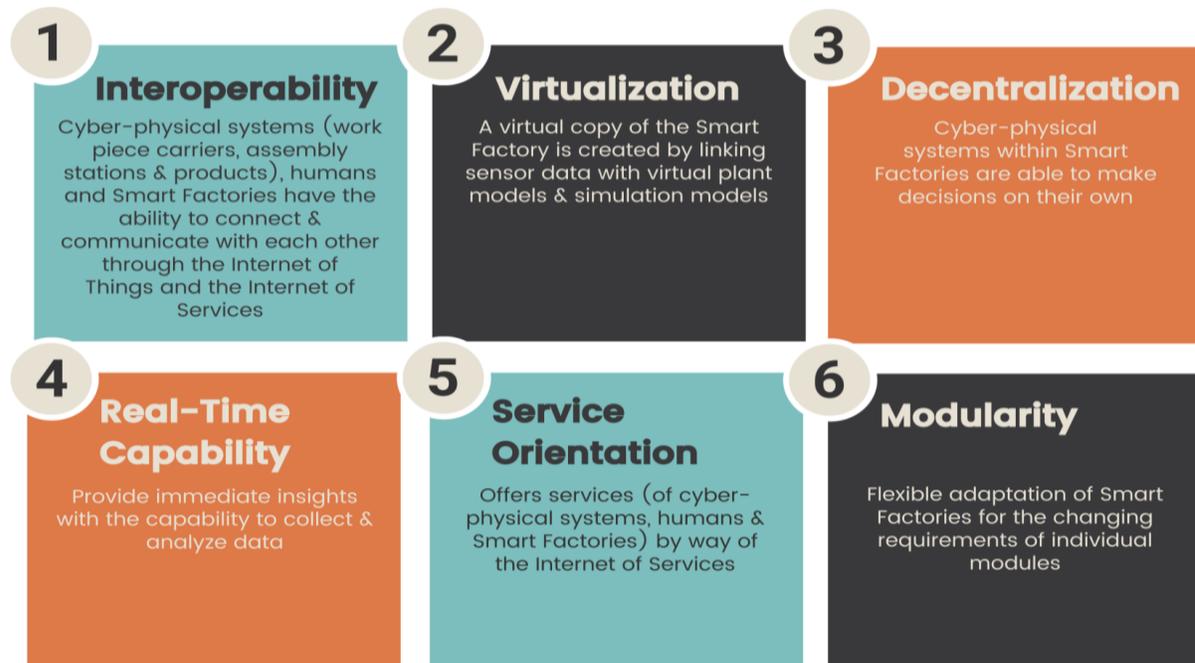


Figure 2 Industry 4.0 Design Principles

The invasion of technology and data revolution will inevitably alter the face of governance and democracy from its current manifestation. Technology and information will decentralise and localise power to the lowest denominator in the society, thereby

empowering the common man in ways never witnessed before. On the one hand, the government is expected to play a role of facilitators and deregulate industry for wider adoption of technologies for better efficiency, agility, innovation, customer experience and improved sustainability. But on the other hand, government is expected to regulate and ensure that benefits of Industry 4.0 are accessible to the segment of India Inc. that comprises some 60 million enterprises and contributes to 45 per cent of the country's total manufacturing output i.e. to the MSME segment. The government is expected to play a crucial role to encourage employment and bridge the skill gaps for successful implementation of Industry 4.0.

The authors expected to critically examine the reforms initiated by government to promote Industry 4.0 and suggest measures to ensure benefits it's to reach the masses.

Topic 3 : Evolving Role of Women in Leadership and Society

Focus area to be covered

Building an Egalitarian Society: Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya

Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya, the Government of India's motto, is a very inclusive slogan that aims to develop a society for the welfare and pleasure of everyone. Following this course into the future will undoubtedly result in an Egalitarian Society. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), women hold just 24% of senior positions globally at the top business leadership levels. There are even fewer CEOs of the world's major firms. Women account for just 14% of leadership posts among India's senior officials, which is particularly concerning. India ranks 136th in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index.

Women continue to be underrepresented in boardrooms and governments throughout all modern industrialised nations, accounting for less than 6% of CEO positions at S&P 500 corporations (Thomas, 2018) and less than 5% of global national political leadership posts. While the gender gap has narrowed, the obstacles to women's advancement in the business and political spheres remain significant.

In terms of the number of women in Parliament, India is in the bottom quartile. Despite a peak of 14.39% of women MPs in the Lok Sabha in June 2019, India is still worse than 140 countries in terms of female representation in Parliament. The global average for the proportion of female legislators was 24.6%. Despite obstacles, women are advancing to leadership positions in many countries, even at the highest levels of organisations and governments. The media often covers business executives like Sheryl Sandberg, prime ministers like Sanna Marin, and international organisation

heads like Christine Lagarde. Their presence puts the glass ceiling metaphor to rest: there is no absolute barrier prohibiting women from achieving such positions. The advancement of women into leadership positions is gaining traction. As more women serve as capable leaders, it will no longer appear unusual that a woman is in control. Indeed, female leaders have come to represent modernism and forward-thinking leadership because of their link with contemporary activism. Women can be advanced into leadership roles by strengthening a system that encourages educating them about the global leadership proficiencies through a setup that encourages career development, diversity and work-life balance to help achieve organizational goals.

Within the context of a democratic polity, our laws, development strategies, plans, and programmes have all attempted to progress women in many fields. The approach to women's affairs has shifted from welfare to development since the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-78). In recent years, women's empowerment has been regarded as the primary issue in establishing women's positions.

The essay writers may emphasize any one or more areas mentioned below.

1. Stereotypes about leaders and women
2. The future for women as leaders
3. Changing social and cultural patterns of the society
4. Beating the Odds: Women in Leadership
5. Different Policies of Governments for inclusion of women in leadership and Society
6. Gender and Sex : The changing dynamics
7. Building an Egalitarian Society

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 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 – 2022, Indian Institute of Public

Administration, New Delhi

All essays should be sent to the Director General, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Indraprastha Estate, Ring Road, New Delhi-110002, by Speed Post and soft copy through email: trgiipa@yahoo.co.in, so as to reach him not later than September 15, 2022. The envelope should be marked "Annual Essay Prize Competition – 2022". 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.

N.B. Intending competitors who wish to seek any further clarification may write to the Director General, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Indraprastha Estate, Ring Road, New Delhi-110002