West Bengal Judicial Service (Mains) 2019

English Composition, Essay and Precis Writing · compulsory paper

Time: 3 hours · Full marks: 100

1. Write an essay on any one of the following topics: (50)

(a) Digital India: a dream or a possible reality?

(b) Law and health services in a developing country.

(c) Sustainability versus the necessity for economic growth.

(d) The protection of the girl child.

2. Make a precis of the following passage and add a suitable title. (25+5=30)

Legendary theatre director Sambhu Mitra and his theatre group 'Bohurupee' staged two plays adapted from the Norwegian dramatist Henrik Ibsen: Dasachakra, based on Ibsen's An Enemy of the People, and Putul Khela, based on A Doll's House. Dasachakra was performed in Kolkata first from 1st July, 1952 and then again from 28th October, 1962. These dates were critical for both Mitra and the new Indian nation. By 1947, when India gained independence from British rule, Mitra had distanced himself both from Leftist groups and from the then monolithic Congress party in power, and possibly identified closely with his principled hero as the isolated public intellectual hounded by 'democratic' masses. October 1962 was another national flashpoint with the India-China border war in which India was humiliated; the ultra-nationalism that followed sparked a witch-hunt for political dissenters, and once again Mitra's hero stood up for freedom of expression and rejection of the mass phobia that closing the tannery polluting the town's drinking water supply would trigger unemployment (a very real issue in 1960s India). Fittingly, the word 'dasachakra' comes from a Bengali proverb to the effect that the mindless masses can make a devil even out of a god.

3. (a) Write a dialogue in about 350 words between two individuals marked as X and Y on the following topic: (20)

'Ecological disasters are man-made, not divinely ordained.'

Or,

(b) Discuss any one of the following topics in about 350 words: (20)

(i) Should social media be fully legislated?

(ii) Should literary studies be made interdisciplinary?

Or,

(c) Give the substance of the following poem and add your critical comments: (20)

Four seasons fill the measure of the year;
There are four seasons in the mind of man:
He has his lusty Spring, when fancy clear
Takes in all beauty with an easy span:
He has his Summer, when luxuriously
Spring's honeyed cud of youthful thought he loves
To ruminate, and by such dreaming high

Is nearest unto heaven's quiet coves.
His soul has its Autumn, when his wings
He furleth close; contented so to look
On mist in idleness, to let fair things
Pass by unheeded as a threshold brook.
He has his Winter too of pale misfeature,
Or else he would forgo his mortal nature.

De Facto IAS