

United Service Institution of India
'USI-War Wounded Foundation Joint Essay Competition 2025'

Subject: Courage and Resilience - Personal Journeys of War Wounded Achievers

Concept

1. The essay on the subject should be approached keeping in mind the following:

(a) Since Independence, the Indian armed forces have fought major wars and conducted operations along with ongoing counter-insurgency and anti-terrorism operations. Despite increasing battle casualties, soldiers have never been a burden on the military or society. The stories of war-wounded personnel showcase extraordinary courage and resilience. Many have turned their struggles into sources of inspiration, using their challenges as opportunities for growth both during service and after retirement. Numerous veterans continue to advocate for mental health awareness and create supportive communities for fellow soldiers. These stories demonstrate that war scars, whether visible or invisible, do not define a person's life. The journey of war-wounded achievers reflects human strength, shaped by a deep commitment to the nation.

(b) The experiences of war-wounded soldiers are powerful stories of resilience and courage. We can create platforms for documenting their stories to improve the process of sharing these journeys. Supporting veterans through rehabilitation, mental health resources, skill development, and recognition ensures future personnel continue to uphold the military traditions.

Rules

2. The competition is open to all members of the Indian Armed Forces, the Territorial Army, the Assam Rifles, the Senior Division of the National Cadet Corps, the Paramilitary Forces, the Police, and the Civil Administration in India, including retired personnel. Entries from foreign nationals are also accepted.

3. Essays must be between 3,000 and 4,000 words in length, including footnotes. The word count should be mentioned in brackets at the end of the essay. **Entries that do not specify the word count or exceed the prescribed limit are liable to be rejected.**

4. Essays must be written in English, printed on one side of the paper, and double-spaced. Hard copies should be submitted in **triplicate**, along with a soft copy sent via email to usi.wwfessay@gmail.com.

5. Hard copy submissions must remain **ANONYMOUS**, with no identifying details of the author included in the essay or the covering letter. **A sealed envelope must accompany the essay, containing a paper with the author's name, address, and email. Service officers must also provide their personal number, rank, date of commission, unit, address, and email.** The title of the essay should be written only on the outside of the envelope. These envelopes will be opened only during the USI Council meeting, after the judges have finalized their decision.

Essays violating the anonymity rule will be rejected. Additionally, the email forwarding the soft copy must have only the essay title in the subject line.

6. The essay must be an original work by the author. Proper citation of sources is mandatory in the prescribed format. **Jointly authored essays will not be accepted. Entries found guilty of blatant plagiarism will be disqualified, and disciplinary action may be recommended.**

7. A panel of three judges appointed by the USI will evaluate the essays based on the following criteria:

- (a) The extent to which the essay provides **fresh insights** into the subject.
- (b) Whether the essay, in whole or in part, is **suitable for publication**.
- (c) Understanding of the subject.
- (d) **Logical development of the theme** and coherence of thought.
- (e) Quality of **language and expression**.
- (f) Proper use of footnotes and bibliography, as applicable. **Essays lacking footnotes or a bibliography will be rejected.**

8. The decision of the judges will be final. They may recommend a **First Prize, which includes a cash award of ₹15,000 and a certificate**, and a **Runner-up Prize, which includes a cash award of 10,000 and a certificate**. Winners will also receive gratis Life Membership of the USI. Additionally, the winning essay(s), if recommended by the judges, will be published in the USI Journal.

9. The Institution reserves the right to **withhold awards** if the submitted essays do not meet the required standard. Cases of plagiarism will result in disqualification.

10. **Copyright** of all submitted essays will remain with the **United Service Institution of India**.

11. All essays should be sent to the Director General, United Service Institution of India, Rao Tula Ram Marg, Post Bag No.8, Vasant Vihar PO, New Delhi - 110 057, with a submission deadline of **15 September 2025**. The envelopes should be clearly marked as '**USI-War Wounded Foundation Joint Essay Competition 2025**'. Soft copies must be emailed to usi.wwfessay@gmail.com. **Essays received after last date will not be accepted..**

12. For any queries or clarifications, please contact the **DirectorCMHCS**, at usi.wwfessay@gmail.com.

Style Sheet

13. All essays must conform to the **USI style sheet**, available at: <https://www.usiofindia.org/page-details.php?slug=stylesheet>