

P.N 20/9/16
ONLINE COPY

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QUESTION ANSWER BOOKLET

CSE MAINS 2016

GS MAINS
ESSAY TEST IV

Time Allowed : Three Hours

Maximum Marks : 250

INSTRUCTIONS

The essay must be written in the medium specified in the Admission Certificate issued to you. The name of the medium must be stated clearly on the cover of the answer book in space provided for the purpose. No credit will be given to the essay written in a medium other than that specified in the Admission Certificate.

(Examiner will pay special attention to the candidate's grasp of his material, its relevance to the subjects chosen, and to his ability to think constructively and to present his ideas concisely, logically and effectively.)

Marks Detail

Name: MANUJ JINDAL
UPCS Roll No.: D726592
Date of Exam.: 18/09/2016
Test Centre: ONLINE
Mob. No.: 9899429744

Q. No.	Marks
Total Marks	111

Starting Time:- 2:55 PM

Closing Time:- 5:50 PM

Invigilator's Signature

OLD RAJINDER NAGAR CENTRE :-60/19, BEHIND ANDHRA BANK, DELHI-60

MUKHERJEE NAGAR CENTRE:- A -35, 36, BASEMENT, BHANDARI HOUSE

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SPACE FOR TEACHER'S REMARKS

1. Understanding of questions:

2. Structure of answer:

3. Content of answer:

4. Presentation:

5. Any other remarks:

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Write TWO Essays, choosing ONE from each of the Section A and B, in about 1000-1200 words each:

2 x 125 = 250

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ESSAY TEST – IV

Section - A

1. The obsession of children with cartoon networks :
Pros and Cons.
2. Sports and its regulation.
3. Indian classical music at crossroads.
4. The digital divide.

Section - B

1. India's urban future.
2. Desirability of odd-even number cars ply on
alternate days in Indian metros.
3. Prospects and problems of tourism industry in
India.
4. Honest efforts never fail.

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THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

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Ramu is a 70-year old farmer living in a small village of Bundelkhand region. Every month he receives a small pension from government's old age pension scheme directly into his bank account. He has to transfer some of the amount to his daughter studying in Mumbai. Unfortunately, he does not know how to access a mobile application or computer to do so at a single click. He travels 10 kilometers to the nearest bank branch for physically transferring the money. Ramu is one of millions of people in India facing the problem

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of 'digital divide.'

The Problem

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Digital Divide is a problem due to which people of different (generally older) ages, languages, knowledge and training of computers & e-technologies, are unable to benefit from new technological developments. Some are not able to access their bank accounts easily, others are unable to file their grievances, and many even unable to fill applications. This hinders them from accessing government schemes. It also becomes a means of economic and social exclusion as others not facing digital divide move ahead with benefits.

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derived from digital services.

Causes of Digital Divide

Age: The foremost and most

widespread cause of digital divide

is age. Younger citizens tend to

learn digital technologies quickly,

however unfamiliarity causes some

challenges for older citizens. Digital

technologies present a steep learning

curve for anyone, as they need

understanding of the internet, e-mailing,

software and operating a computer

to function. Older citizens may

find themselves in a position where

they have never interacted or even

seen such technologies.

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due to exposure
at school

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This problem is further more concerning as India is home to over ~~90~~ million senior citizens. This number will cross over 300 million by 2030, making India home to largest ^{population} of old-age persons. (NSSO). Therefore, age is currently a major factor contributing to digital divide, and is expected to become even more concerning in the future.

Language: Language is another contributing factor to digital divide. India is a home to multitudes of languages. A variety of dialects are spoken even at short distances within the same states. The new

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digital technologies do not address this feature of Indian society. Majority of software programs are designed in the English language. This causes two problems. Firstly, the local officials responsible for operating the software may be unable to do so due to ^{English} language unfamiliarity. Secondly, the beneficiaries are unable to access the digital technology due to their lack of English language. Hence instead of becoming a facilitator through e-Governance, technology becomes a roadblock for people to access

public services. This problem has been noted in various programs such as enrollment in Aadhar where applications were only in English, and distribution of insurance benefits to farmers where insurance claimants were unable to specify crop failures, and many others.

E-literacy

A lack of training programs about e-technologies is a major contributor to digital divide. officials in government offices are expected to use new e-services, but unaware of basic operational policies and procedures.

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Similarly, Gram Panchayats are not able to provide timely capacity development to local residents to access such services.

This creates an "E-gap" between the services & the service beneficiaries, and results in "e-illiteracy".

Sidelining Women

Male heads of the families are generally appointed as main receiver of benefits. This automatically excludes women from being able to exercise their rights and claims over multitudes of services. Due to this, women face even greater

First time
men e-
literacy



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instances of digital divide. A
Survey conducted by McKinsey Global
Research in Indian rural households
indicated low awareness among
women about entitlements to
services in health. This is further
worsened by digital enrollments
where ~~the~~ illiterate women are
unable to access services such
as pre-natal and post-natal
medical benefits and so on.

Security Concerns

Lack of trust among many
about e-technologies
people, both in urban and rural
areas further contributes to digital

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divide. Many individuals who use digital technologies for the first time, lack confidence in its security. This is also a result of reports on a large number of frauds and cyber crimes in recent times. Such individuals prefer to opt-out of digital services, thereby furthering digital divide.

Interoperability and Connectivity

Digital divide also have some technical problems due to poor broadband facilities, and multiple software programs unable to integrate with each other.

Poor broadband facilities in

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Far-off villages delays connections and thereby renders these services useless. Similarly, due to multiplicity of ~~to~~ softwares in each different service, integration of different services has become a technical challenge. For instance, pension and insurance may have different e-platforms, but same beneficiaries. This leads to ~~to~~ confusion, duplicity and leakages of services as well.

Solutions to Digital Divide

The vastness of India's population, its diversity and technical challenges contribute to causing a

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digital divide. However, various solutions have been envisaged to address it as well.

Firstly, training centers have been established across districts to train officials as well as citizens in use of e-technologies. This addresses the problem of age and reduces the difficulties faced by old-age citizens in using e-services. Such centers have also become part of Skill India to skill the youth in information technology, & thereby converging the goals of Digital India and Skill India.

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Secondly, governments in States have launched e-applications in vernacular languages. Even the Center government has mandated the use of e-translation services for automatic translation of English into regional languages.

Thirdly, Digital 'Highways' have been envisioned to connect over 2.5 lakh villages across India. This will solve the problem of 'connectivity' faced by banks, community service centers and so on. Fast internet connections will remove

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the digital divide between rural and urban India as both will have access to similar ~~kind~~ ^{internet} services.

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Further, cyber security has been boosted by setting up National Cyber Security Center, and a comprehensive policy on this has been ~~of~~ drafted. Reserve Bank of India is also taking steps to make banking transactions secure. Aadhar has finally been provided with legislative backing to enforce privacy & security concerns. This will bring many people into the fold of digital technologies.

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Digital divide will further be reduced

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There is no doubt about the fact that digital technologies offer tremendous potential to solve India's many problems. They reduce corruption and leakages in delivery of services, they are transparent and more accountable, and they are swift in providing relief to people. The major constraint to this ~~is~~ ^{is} Digital Divide, caused due to myriad of factors. The path ahead for India's new e-Governance plan, and Digital

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India mission is clear. If digital divide is addressed quickly & effectively, the day when India is a digital economy and knowledge hub is not far. This will become a success story when Ramu's 10 kilometer travel to a bank branch is reduced to a ^{single} click on mouse or mobile phone.

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Your focus
is not focused
on the essay
topic

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PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS OF TOURISM INDUSTRY

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IN INDIA

✓ Tourism is one of the oldest practices of humans. Since the ancient times, travellers have crossed geographical and political barriers. This travelling across the seas and mountains included trade missions such as those along the silk route, religious tourism such as those heading to holy Mecca and Medina, and scholars such as Hsuan Tseng, and Fa-Hien - travelling for academic & knowledge gathering.

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Today tourism has become far more convenient. Globalization has made tourism accessible to millions. Additionally, countries ~~attract everyone~~ promote tourism to boost their economy, employment as well as their cultural capital. Countries such as the Maldives and Seychelles earn as much as 70% (approximately) ^{of their} GDP from tourism sector. Countries such as France, Italy, Spain & Greece not only earn tourist dollars in a large scale but also use tourism as a tool to spread their culture across the world.

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Tourism has also emerged as a 'sunrise' industry in India. India's vast geographical, cultural, historical, architectural and cuisine diversity is a magnet to ~~attract~~ attract millions of visitors. At the same time, the tourism industry also faces problems.

PROSPECTS

The geographical and environmental diversity of India is unmatched. A tourist can skii on the slopes of Auli in the Himalayas, and also go for a swim in the backwaters of Kerala the next

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day. This immense geographical availability of mountains, deserts, beaches, coral reefs, mangroves and dense forests form an attractive international destination.

The National parks of India are home to biological ^{diversity} & wildlife that is indigenous and exotic.

The rhinoceros in Assam's Kaziranga, and white snowleopards of Sikkim's mountains make for immense prospects in attracting wildlife enthusiasts.

The cultural aspects of India form for/excellent

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educational as well as recreational modes of tourism. Every month of all seasons is filled with myriad of festivals in different parts of the country. 'Baisakhi' in harvest season in Northern India, and 'Durga puja' in West Bengal are sights of religious customs, songs, colours, dances and variety of cuisines. Similarly, the festival of 'Chap-char Kut' in ^{the} North East, 'Onam' in South India and 'Dandiya' festival in Western regions, all provide entertainment to a curious crowd of tourists.

Write small paragraphs
one idea
one paragraph

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Arts ^{of India} - both performing arts, and sculptural & architectural arts are endowed with a deep historical, mythical and religious character. The 'Kathiyetti' form of Sanskrit drama, in Kerala and classical dances are performed across local theatres. World Heritage destinations such as Mahabalipuram temples, Ellora caves, Ajanta caves, Taj Mahal, Forts of Rajasthan and many more offer immense tourism potential. Such places can offer employment for local guides, restaurants, hotel services, bus & ferrying services and so on. These multitudes of economic services / have potential

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to create large amount of revenues for the government as well as local residents.

This prospect of economic benefit is well exhibited & proved by the state of Kerala. It has transformed local state economy by creating a destination for national & international tourists.

The campaign of "god's own country" complemented by training of local citizens in becoming a visitor friendly destination has boosted tourism immensely in Kerala.

Recently, project such as "MUZIRIS

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HERITAGE CITYⁿ was launched to create a tourist circuit based on historical trade routes & markets of Kerala. ~~Such~~ This also won an international award for tourism in Europe, thereby further strengthening the tourism prospects in the state.

Such potential prospects are present in every state due to cultural & historical depth of the country.

Another immense prospect is offered by Medical & Education Tourism.

Thousands of tourists already flock India due to high quality

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but affordable medical treatments. Private & public hospitals have succeeded in attracting patients to get medical surgeries, treatments, cosmetic change-overs by well-trained, globally renowned Indian doctors. Similarly, thousands of students from Africa & Asian countries join Indian universities for higher education and skill development. This brings millions of dollars in revenues, employment, housing demand and tax money for government. Medical & education tourism are teeming with great potential for India.

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PROBLEMS

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The prospects are many but problems also surround them. These problems are limiting the potential of Indian tourism. They range from infrastructure, training of human capital, tourist friendly culture, access to North Eastern States and visa regime of India.

Infrastructure and human capital remain bottlenecks due to absence of good roads, railway facilities and airports. Lack of connectivity hampers tourists from making long visits. The India Tourism Association (ITA) has estimated that over 40% of tourists visiting India limit themselves

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to the Golden tourist quadrilateral of Agra, Jaipur, Delhi and Jodhpur due to lack of road connectivity to other nearby areas. Destinations in interior of the country are left out despite monumental historical & cultural sites and richness.

The government has undertaken massive pan-India connectivity programs to address this problem. The programs such as civil aviation policy and PM Gram Sadak Yojana should address these connectivity issues.

A well-trained segment of tourist operators are a must.

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to tap into prospects of tourism.

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Tourists face the problem of
quacks across major tourist cities.

A spirit and culture of "~~Astithi~~
~~Devo Bhava~~" can only be inculcated
through ~~capacity~~ development, education,
skill & training of guides &
tourism operators.

The ~~government~~ can
converge ~~Skill India~~ with Tourism
Ministry to train such individuals.
Policies, procedures, rules & guidelines
could be framed for them, &
Certifications provided. This will
boost the confidence of tourists
in India's tourism capabilities.

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North Eastern States get disconnected & excluded from tourism map of India due to the "Inner Line Permit" system. This restricts entry of both citizens & non-citizens into the north eastern. This serves as a barrier to promoting tourism in these states.

Similarly, strict visa regimes for foreign visitors & poor infrastructure to address their questions and concerns leads to loss of visitors. The Global Report on Tourism by world economic forum ranks India's visa regime as one of the bottom 25%. This

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Problem is immediate.

Government has addressed this by revamping visa requirements for many countries, introducing visa on arrival, and incorporating e-visa for many friendly countries. This has been the first step towards ~~a~~ a friendlier and 'open-arms' approach towards tourists.

Further, the government has also envisioned tourist circuits in the North-east to bring the region on ^{the} tourism map of India. The Heritage City Scheme and National Religious & Cultural Circuits offer tremendous potential for a new emerging tourism industry in India.

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It is clear that India's tourism potential is unmatched. As famously said, "India is not one country, but a multitudes of thoughts, religions, customs, traditions, languages, architectures and foods that offers pleasure of visiting multiple countries in one trip." India is so vast & varied that itself offers a trip around the world to whomsoever visits it. The problems discussed are also as varied as potential^{of tourism}. A concerted ~~effort~~^{effort} by the government and citizens in addressing these and treating the tourists ~~are~~ as their valued clients can truly make India a top tourism destination in the world.

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This margin
is well
structured