

Write TWO Essays, choosing ONE from each of the Section A and B, in about 1000-1200 words each: 125 x 2 = 250

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SECTION A

1. Bharatiya Sanskriti, Tolerance and Food Governance.
2. Technological innovation, economic development and right to privacy
3. "Swaraj in Ideas" as basis of education.
4. Water security in India

SECTION B

1. "No one is wise by birth. Wisdom results from one's own efforts".
2. Net neutrality: a free and open internet.
3. Polar geopolitics: security, sovereignty and stewardship
4. "Material welfare is not an end in itself but merely a means to a better intellectual life".

Water security in India

After Chandrayaan, Mangalyaan images shows possibility of water now on Mars. Earlier Chandrayaan confirmed presence of water crystals on moon!
But, the question arises why so much of technology investment just to detect water?

Come closer, "China making dams on Brahmaputra, thousands of farmers commit suicide in Marathwada region, riots broke out in a colony over the issue of water tanker".
Does these events ring a bell? Or they are just some random observations?

Rather, "water security" is the common thread, which connects these random dots of "chaos theory".

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Jal hi jeevan hai or water is life, and is paramount for individual as well as nations security was realised by our ancestors and it's proof is

- "Rani ki Vav" - Patan Gujarat a world heritage site, which was constructed to preserve water.

- Johads, a small tank like structure in Rajasthan which is still prevalent Today clearly points out that

"water security" in India, was concern since ancient times.

However, in contemporary times it can be observed that too an extent, we've taken "water" as a resource to be granted and

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use it like, we have unlimited supply to it.

The WHO and other important reports in fact strengthen this claim; that we have over exploited our water resources, as compared to 1300 ~~kubic~~ meters water availability few decades back it has reduced to 1000 and by 2030 it'll be reduced to 830 and then, the "over exploited" hotspots in Indian map will shoot up from few hundreds to over 500 hundred. ✓

Now, the question arises, if we have Indian ocean surrounding us, and abundant rainfall. How is that, we face the issue of water security?

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The answer lies in the fact that at individual level, societal level and at National level we've been careless and reckless.

We waste water during daily chores like shaving, washing vegetables, using RO purifiers which consumes 5 litres of water, to produce 1 litre of water even when simple options are available.

At societal level, we observe that in agriculture, which is a water intensive sector, lot of water is wasted by inappropriate method of irrigation, unscientific sowing of crops, for instance "sugar cane" a water intensive, and exhaustive crop is sown in areas like

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Marathwada, which results in indebtedness of farmers and farmer suicides, we export large amount of Rice, which requires around 5000 lit. of water (1kg), in a way we are exporting 5000 lit. of "virtual water". It could be saved if we adopt - "SRT" systematic rice intensification technique.

Even in manufacturing, companies like COKE, and other industries indiscriminately exploit water resources without any social responsibility.

However, there are some factors like China constructing dams on Brahmaputra, or in Tibetan plateau which is origin of almost 10 important rivers or some climatic

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Changes which are not due to anthropogenic sources are beyond our control

But, despite these things we've to keep in mind the deep and disastrous impact this over exploitation of "water" can cause.

It can not only result in "water wars" - as propounded by

Strategist thinker Brahma Chellany

between countries as it'll be the next "oil". but, it will have adverse impact

on health of the people, Poor will be the most adversely affected

lot. Diseases like Diarrhoea,

Cholera and other communicable

diseases can take a toll on

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nation. It'll not only slow the growth of the economy, but will reduce flow of investment from outside thus hampering development of rural / urban India & the aim of - "inclusive growth" will remain a distant dream.

Now, who is responsible for this grim scenario?

Government due to flawed policies like subsidies on electricity on diesel pumps for agriculture, lack of uniform water policy, inadequate and weak functioning of National Water Commission and ground water authority can be partially blamed. The irresponsible citizenry has to bear, the burden of other half.

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However, "Der Ayaad, Durust Ayaad"
- Better late than never, a
Pushko saying is apt in
current scenario.

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Government realising this is
undertaking various measures like
doing aquifers mapping, establishing
water use associations, formulating
an overarching legal framework
for ground water / surface water
according to 12th five year plan
rejuvenating Ganga, and trying
to reduce water pollution,

Promoting "more crop, per drop",
philosophy, advocating use of
drip / sprinkler irrigation and
reducing ^{waste &} recycling of water.

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separation of feeders, breaking energy-
& reduction of water table nexus
collaboration with countries like
Israel to import latest water
efficient technology, and moving
forward in mekong-ganga cooperation.

further,
we must not forget that "Technology"
will play a crucial role in
ensuring a "water secured" India

thus, investment in R&D should
be promoted so innovation &

Products like

- Potable filter by CSIR
- Mask II handpump by CSIR
- Biotablets by DRDO
- New water technology - by Singapore
- Nalgonda technique by DRDO

can be promoted.

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However, it is the individual and society at large which are the most crucial stake holder in ensuring water security for India who, by - "attitude / behaviour change" and following a ethical / moral work frame work can contribute immensely in making India a "water-proof" nation. even, small measures like Rain water harvesting at individual's house can go a long way and Jamil Nandy has shown this, how from a water stressed, state we can become a water surplus state. And if one state can do this, why not others?

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Countries like Singapore, Netherlands realised the importance of "water security", and it is now for us to take crucial steps in this direction or else, the day is not far, when instead of a "water exploration mission on moon/mars" we've to launch a mission to find traces of water on earth and ensure our very survival!

A) Approach is good.

B) Point for history. Nice use of good numbers.

C) Structure has to be improved. Arguments are to be refined.

Net Neutrality

A free and open internet

Dreams, are something which are common to every individual and. Best thing about them is that, the span of their wings is unlimited through which they travel unimaginable distances.

The Dream of a small teenager boy Raju, who is a tea vendor is to become - "Bill get". (not Bill gates!!)

"Bambals" as they are now widely recognized - owners of "flipkart" never "Dreamed" of breaking into the list of Indian billionaires just after 8 years of their graduation.

These dreams were or in future will be realized through "Internet"

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Internet, is the tool which gave wings to the dreams of young entrepreneurs to launch their idea which revolutionized the "e-tail" market in India.

However, in recent times the Internet too, has lost its "neutrality" very much like prejudiced / stereotyped humans. Due to which "Net neutrality" debate a feature of west, has been started in India

The debate which has been alive & kicking in U.S for ^{one} past decade has been initiated in India.

and at the very heart of debate are two important values

- freedom - openness

which interestingly, are integral to humans as well. Thus, it cannot be denied that "Internet"

is now behaving much like humans.

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But, what does "neutrality" of internet means? The answer is simple. Very similar to "Biasness" of humans, net neutrality refers to the process of treating all the data - image, video, text etc. alike without any discrimination.

However, Problem arises when different stakeholders, define net neutrality in different manner from their perspective.

The definition of net neutrality of content provider is different from definition of telecom service provider and consumer's interpretation will be different.

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These different definitions gives varied interpretation to the values

- free - open.

Thus, throwing up questions like whether internet should be freely provided to some, and charged to some? another question is whether it should remain free for all developers or the accessibility should be charged?

Same, goes with "openness" - whether apps on internet should be accessible to few who pay for them or they should be open to all?

There are some difficult questions and cannot be dealt in silos.
Net neutrality has to been seen in wider context and not just

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as an issue of APPS / over the top service providers, or even the revenues of telecom service providers.

On a wider canvas, societal cost, accessibility of internet to the ~~internet~~ to unconnected rolling out Digital India, and bridging of digital divide issues too needs to be addressed.

It is true, that in principle the "net neutrality" should be adhered to since, it has many advantages for

instance,

promotion of innovation,

creativity - which has given

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Rise to firms like Flipkart, Snapdeal, etc. which now gives competition to well established firms like Amazon.

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It also enhances, the choices, accessibility of services to the people and protects the very fundamental right of freedom of expression (Article 19).

any kind of discrimination, or superfast lanes or slow laneing on internet, will not only stifle the innovation, it'll also give rise to the monopolies of few larger companies and demotivate the young entrepreneurs.

Just imagine, Airtel by it's
"Zero Rating" plan providing

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free access of 30 sites like flipkart etc to consumers, without applying charge of internet on them. and, for other sites/apps applying variable charges. will it not discourage small entrepreneurs? or in that case facebook's multi billion dollar initiative internet.org will do the same.

Some sites like you tube which can pay hefty amount to operator can open fast but others like daily motion will be slow to load. won't it be discriminatory?

Due to these reasons - Facebook was called as a gate keeper of internet traffic, controlling the data if internet.org would've been allowed

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to quote.

However, there is other side of story too!

Now, if we look from the perspective of Telecom service Providers, they are providing the infrastructure or "pipe" to content providers and through free voice calls etc they are eating away the revenues of TSPs.

Is it correct? especially in India where data usage is less as compared to voice usage (opposite - globally; where data usage is high).

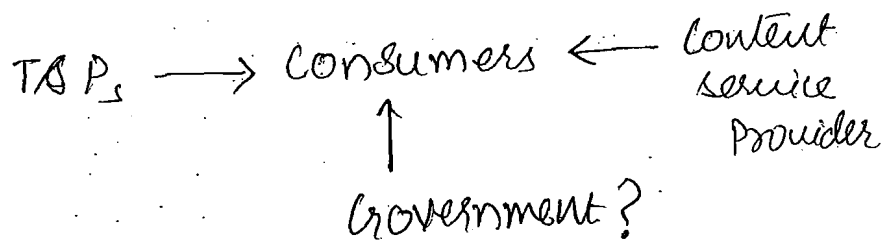
But, the consumers like Raju who wish to become Bill get using internet the concern is choices and prices.

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Another important stakeholder
- Government of India is
concerned about security and
regulation of internet so, that
it does not become a tool to
create threat to law & order
problem

So, what is the solution for
this catch-22 conundrum?
How can a balance be
reached between



Countries like Estonia have
found a solution, through

a wide spread discussion & deliberation.

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Thus, keeping the "consumers" and societal interest i.e., Public interest at the core various stakeholders can deliberate, discuss and debate so that a robust, legal framework for ensuring "Net neutrality" can be established.

It should be kept in mind that - "differentiating is not synonymous with discrimination"

The data can be differentiated but not discriminated in the form of Throttling - speed, content; choices.

And as experts, says that Perfect net neutrality is not possible because technology

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automatically differentiates between
Packets, thus we should
try to achieve a "middle ground"
like facebook which has
transformed its internet.org
to free basics which is
more open and more free
where, any developer with
minimum requirement can upload
the app - or there is
a app in UK which
reimburses you if you download
some data.

These type of innovative solutions
along with a proper regulatory
framework by Government

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in the form of
- updated IT act
- uniform encryption policy etc
which not only ~~keeps~~ ^{upholds} the
principle of "net neutrality" but

also ensures security and
safety of citizens and nation

(like registering Apps and
not licencing them) can go

a long way in enriching
the debate of "Net neutrality"

- free and open internet

and help the children ~~with~~

~~dreams~~ like Raju to

fulfill their dreams of

becoming next Bansals! or

why not "Bill gates"!!

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A) you have
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B) write
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