

Roll No. _____

ESSAY

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate

- Both sections are compulsory.
- Attempt an essay from each section.
- Each essay carries 125 marks.
- Write each essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- After finishing the first essay, attempt the next on a fresh Page.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

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

Remarks

Name ACHIN GARG

Mobile No. _____

Date 10/11/15

Signature Achin Garg

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

SECTION - A

1. People are sheep. TV is the shepherd.
2. Introduction of technology at early age kills creativity
3. Social Networking: a great invention or the end of privacy?
4. Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

SECTION - B

1. Chanakya may have been from India, but its Indians who never followed his advice
2. Cooperative federalism is the key to mitigate regional inequality and promote national unity.
3. The "temple of democracy," as Indians have long hailed their parliament, has been soiled by its own priests.
4. Make in India is the first stage; the final stage that is, made in India is very demanding.

Social Networking: a great invention or the end of privacy

Ridhima is pursuing her post graduation from United states, yet she hangs out with her Indian friends through Google hangout, follows Indian politics through Twitter and shares her college festival videos through You Tube. Her's is not a lone case, this is what social networking has done to our lives. It has empowered everyone who uses it.

The reach of social networking has been all pervasive. From reducing social distances to international relations, from bringing government closer to people to helping in disaster relief works, from providing news to shaping electoral mandate, social media has left almost no area untouched.

Remarks

Yet, with increasing information, tracking of every one's life has become easier. The privacy has taken a hit with snooping programmes, malicious applications, & so on. It has increased anxiety and even aided terrorism. However, as a disruptive technology, it has called for greater more judicious use for realising its true potential.

social networking is one of the greatest invention of 21st century. It has revolutionised the life way people communicate. Now, ^{some} one sitting in Ahmedabad can talk to not only talk but perform video chat with multiple ~~sitt~~ people sitting at New York, Tokyo, Dhaka, Cairo and so on. This was something unimagined even a few decades back.

People can share their thoughts,

photos, videos and what not with the world at once. It has wiped out distances and brought the world closer, converging into a true global village.

While it has enhanced access to information tremendously, social networking has virtually made every person a reporter. The news today travel much faster on social media with people sharing it, then through conventional means such as

newspaper and Televisions. It is not uncommon to find people writing blogs and travelogues which are virtually used by regular media houses in their mainstream coverage. Today, ^{many} people prefer to read news by through Facebook and Twitter than by through newspapers.

Remarks

Social networking has not left even the world leaders untouched. President Obama is among the most followed world personality on twitter. The first greetings for winning elections come via social networking websites. While this has build a bondhomic between international leaders, it has made the conversation at the top most level ~~to~~ more frequent. This definitely has a positive impact on the relations between countries. At the same time it has helped in sorting out differences & diffusing tensions between nations. The improvement in relations of India-US is a case in point.

At the domestic front, social networking has brought the ministers and national leaders closer to people. While we have

Remarks

many of our ministers going out of town to extend full support to those in distress.

The evacuation of distressed Indians in Yemen and the direct interference of Foreign Minister through twitter is a recent example.

The government is using social networking such as twitter, facebook, etc to convey its programmes and policies to the people. It has ~~now~~ ensured more targeted communication ~~to~~ with lesser chances of

distortion. Further, this ~~a~~ is a two way process with people also responding and giving valuable feedbacks. The large number of responses received by TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) on the issue of net neutrality is a live example of this fact.

Remarks

Social networking has also been used by civil society to raise their voice and protest against unjust policies. The widespread use of was evident in the Occupy Central protest in Hong Kong. The people extensively used social media to communicate among with one another and organised a large scale agitation against the Chinese government decision to scrutinise the applications of the people wanting to become head of Hong Kong.

The ability of the social networking to mobilise masses ~~has been used~~ is being used extensively in elections. The 2014 Lok Sabha elections or the recently concluded Bihar Assembly election speaks volume of the power of social networking. The leaders are becoming more tech savvy and have even set up special social networking ~~sites~~

Remarks

teams to increase their popularity online.

Similarly, in case of disaster, social networking helps in rescue ops and relief operations by helping in identifying stranded people. This use of ~~social~~ smartphones and social networking sites was seen in the cyclones such as Hud Hud, Phailin where constant updated information was been made available using social media.

However, the benefits of social media are not absolute. Critics have argued that it has robbed the right to privacy of the people. Every action is monitorable. The social networking sites know about ~~the~~ almost everything of a person's life. ~~Hey/His~~ thought, preferences, likings, shopping pattern, places visited, etc.. This has increased cases of false impersonation.

Remarks

and even identity theft ~~that~~ theft in some cases. A person makes a fake online account on say facebook and claims himself/herself to be a celebrity. While it on one side makes the followers vulnerable, it also affects the life of the celebrity or the leader who has been impersonated.

Further, the snooping programmes such as the PRISM of US and others

takes data without the permission of the public, ~~and~~ thus jeopardising their privacy. It ~~not~~ makes people vulnerable to unnecessary harassment by law enforcing authority.

In some cases, the social networking sites are used for spreading ~~to~~ spams and other malicious programmes. Given

that smartphone has too much of personal information, these viruses and programmes steals data and many times make them available on the web. The instances of leaked pictures of people on the internet are not uncommon. In other cases, the fraudulent transactions on bank account affect financial privacy of people. The hackers hack into smartphones/computers using social networking and somehow manage to get information of bank accounts and other financial details of the people.

Then, there are various instances of ~~rad~~ extremists groups using social networking to break into the religious life and radicalising the youths through false propoganda. ^A ~~The~~ large number of people are found joining the D Islamic.

Remarks

state through this route. This has posed threat to the lives of people and the to the peace and stability in the world.

While social networking has reduced privacy, the use of this disruptive technology has also made our lives better. Social networking has been like a two-edged sword. ~~The~~ However, it is for us to reduce the negatives of ~~soo~~ this technology.

A careful use ~~and~~ through properly understanding the technology can reduce the threats to privacy. Using greater security measures, refraining from using sub standard websites, avoiding spams, malicious links, ~~and~~ etc. can help in this regard.

Social networking like most of the

Remarks

~~Inventions~~ is a disruptive inventions will take time to adapt and reach a stage where the threats are ~~not~~ reduced.

However, for the time being, it is the users to endure and use this technology for the positives it offer.

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Remarks

GIS SCORE

Remarks

Cooperative federalism is the key to mitigate regional inequality and promote national unity.

In terms of population, Uttar Pradesh matches 5th largest country, i.e. Brazil, Maharashtra and Bihar matches Mexico and Japan respectively. Such is the large scale of Indian states. For taking the millions of India out of poverty to development will therefore require a cooperation between Centre and State.

The essay will see what is cooperative federalism and how can it reduce regional inequality and promote national unity. However, since the path is full of challenges, essay will also suggest a few solutions to overcome these challenges.

cooperative federalism signifies that the arrangement of power between Centre and States is not an end in itself but is means to achieve welfare of people. Although the Indian Constitution does not use the word federalism for India, however, lately, various interpretations such as by the Supreme Court has come to signify that States India is a federation with states having independent existence.

This is important because in such a large with 121 crore people (census 2011), Centre alone cannot work for the development. Even states are not all equal. While there are some more developed states such as Tamil Nadu,

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Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, Karnataka, etc. who are at an advanced stage of economic development, there are many others especially the Empowered Action Group (EAG) states ^{such as Bihar, UP, MP, Rajasthan, Odisha, etc.} which lag behind both in economic and social parameters of development.

This inequality is evident from the fact that the only few states such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu & Delhi garner almost two-third of the GDP in India. Further, these states have better infrastructure than EAG states which are caught up in a vicious loop of poor infrastructure leading to lower development.

backwardness & poverty

low investment both domestic and foreign.

Remarks

Even in social parameters such as infant mortality rate (IMR), maternal mortality rate (MMR), fertility rate (TFR), education, health, sanitation, etc., there is wide disparity among the states with EAG states performing poorly as compared to Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, etc. Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & Jharkhand account for half of India's poor. The fertility rate in Bihar & UP, and Rajasthan is still above 3 against a national average of 2.3 and less than replacement levels^(2.1) in southern states.

This regional imbalance has fuelled various problems such as the left wing extremist and insurgency. The lack of economic opportunities in these states such

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as Jammu & Kashmir and North Eastern states of Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, etc. has diverted the youth to anti-social activities. Further,

further, the inability of the state to control left wing extremism in states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, etc. have largely been due to backwardness and lack of development.

The large scale violence perpetrated by the anti-social and anti-national elements affects the unity of our nation. It makes the nation vulnerable and even enemy countries use such groups for fuelling unrest in the country.

Cooperative federalism becomes important in such scenarios. State governments

alone do not have the resources for ensuring all round development of ^{the} state. Similarly, Central government sitting in New Delhi cannot effectively implement its programmes & policies in far flung areas located in various states. Hence, the cooperation between both becomes important.

The formation of NITI (National Institute for Transforming India) by abolishing erstwhile Planning Commission which was accused of too much centralisation is ~~seen~~ being seen as a step to foster cooperative federalism.

NITI will ~~have~~ ^{has} a team of Chief Ministers of states and the Prime Minister to strengthen cooperation. Further, it will also have regional teams consisting of Chief Ministers of a particular region.

Remarks

such as Central India, North Eastern India, etc. to increase state-to-state cooperation.

By strengthening cooperation at the top level, the projects are being monitored regularly for timely implementation. Further, focus has been on upliftment of backward areas by improving infrastructure in these areas.

The acceptance of Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) which ~~also~~ recommended a radical shift in the financial decentralisation is another step to foster cooperative federalism. Greater financial resources with the state will enable them to frame and implement policies according to their needs, thus reducing Centre's interference. Although questions have been

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raised over ~~set~~ states' capacity to spend these funds, but the guidance of centre and replication of best practices from one state to another will help in overcome this ~~step~~ obstacle.

This is seen as a major step to reduce regional disparity as the policies and programmes will be more focussed now.

Another area of cooperative federalism is the paradiplomacy. The involvement of states in foreign policy of the nation, especially, where the people of the states are concerned ~~with~~ can increase balanced regional growth and bring about greater unity. The involvement of West Bengal, ~~or~~ Assam, and other Meghalaya, Tripura

In the recently concluded ~~is an~~ land Boundary Agreement is an example of this. Similarly, the contribution of Chief Minister of West Bengal in Banga water sharing with Bangladesh is another example.

However, cooperative federalism is easier said than done. There are concerns from state over Centre transgressing its boundary and so which reduces the scope of cooperation. Then there are political issues which overpower the cooperation. This is more visible when the ruling party at the Centre and state are different. Concerns are also raised over states' capacity to implement big projects. This becomes true especially for smaller and backward states where

the institutional apparatus is still not developed and leakages are high.

~~The~~ However, these challenges can be overcome by taking various measures. Building capacity at state level is one such thing. Then the gains to reach to the people, decentralisation to the bottommost level by strengthening Panchayati Raj institution is a must. Greater funds to the panchayats, providing them greater power and training them can help in reaping the benefits by the bottommost section.

This is important because cooperative federalism would not be able to reduce disparity and strengthen

unity if the people don't feel empowered. Further, in this competitive world focus needs to shift towards ~~cooper~~ competitive federalism where states compete with each other by initiating reforms for the investments. This will make the governments more responsive ~~and~~ which will ultimately help the people and reduce backwardness. Using technology such as ~~Aadhaar~~ TAM - Tam Dhan,

Aadhaar, Mobile for better targeting, can help.

The ultimate aim of welfare of people by reducing inequality and strengthening ~~to~~ national unity can be achieved with a greater cooperation between the 3 legs of government,

Centre, state and local governments.

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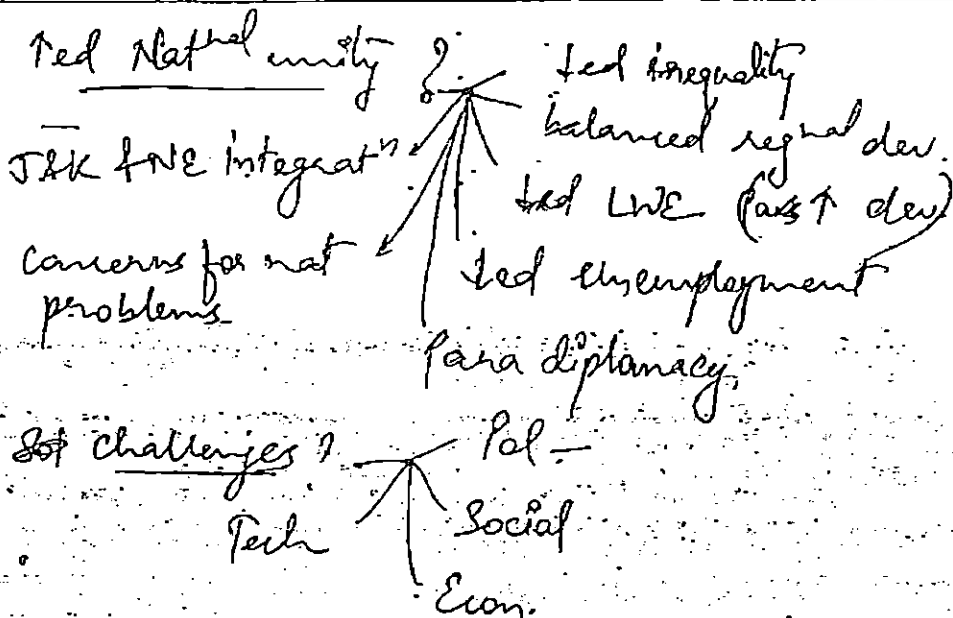
GS SCORE

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Cooperative Fed is the key to mitigate inequality and promote national unity.

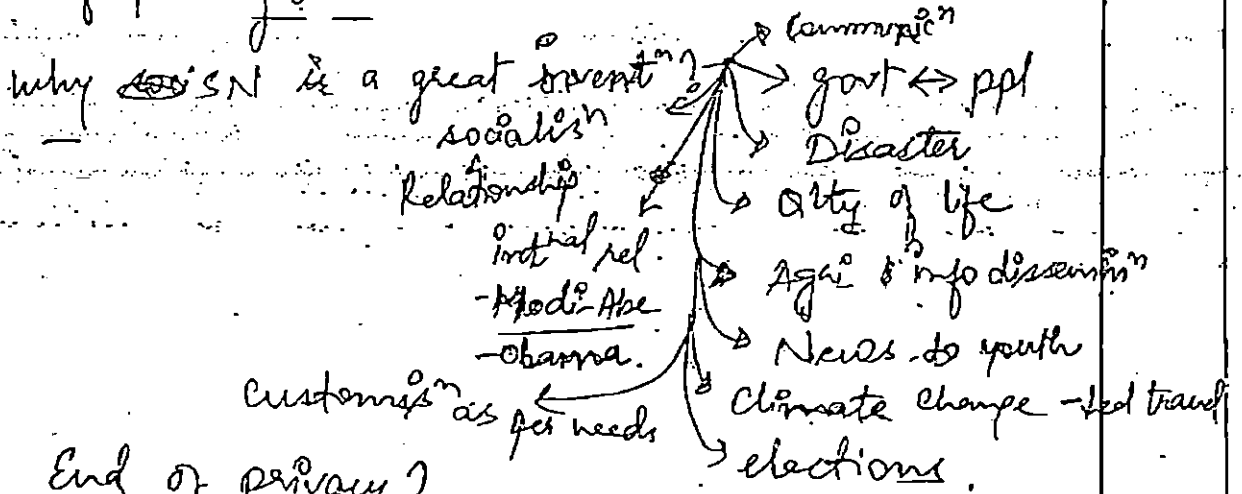
- what is cooperative fed? ← state + C we are
- what is the extent of regional inequality & causes?
- How to curtail inequality? →
- ————— ↑ national unity? →
- what are the challenges?
- solutions & way ahead.

↓ inequality? → Team of C+S.
 NITI - regional teams.
 too broad area?
 @ 14th F% (FFC) - Fed fin. devt.



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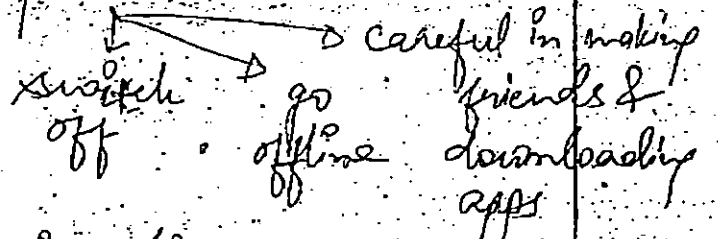
Social Networking: a great invention or an end of privacy?



End of privacy?

- ↳ life open book
 - ↳ apps → taking info from smartphones
 - ↳ tracking via GPS
 - ↳ ppl glued all the time
 - ↳ real vs virtual life
 - ↳ shopping habits, preferences, likings → all known
 - ↳ govt snooping prog
 - ↳ anxiety, connected yet alone
 - ↳ Threats of terrorism - IS - radicalisⁿ of youth
- ↳ an end of privacy?

Tech < merits / demerits } depends on use



At Regulation
Way forward

- ↳ Just like other inventions - disruptive tech
- ↳ time to adapt & settle
- ↳ both internal & external govt regulatedⁿ law enforcement

Remarks

Remarks