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Q8

Digital economy: A leveller or a source of economic inequality.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Stake:** digital can flatten a fee - or raise a new wall of devices, a language, a data rent
- **One stand:** a leveller when the rail is public and cheap; a new inequality when the phone is the new land
- Move through payments, school/health, labour, data. Keep one honest counter
- Close on a public digital that still has a human counter

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a QR and a failed iris. Stand:** leveller if public and optional-path.
- **Headings:** payments, school/health, labour, counter.

Peg **UPI / DBT** and an exclusion. Close on a human counter.

Note

This is a map, not the full 1,000-1,200 word essay.

Anecdote

A vegetable seller takes a QR. A widow is turned away because an iris did not match. The same digital. Leveller or a new inequality - the topic is that fork in one market.

One stand

- **Leveller:** lower transaction cost, a voice, a transfer that skips a tout. Inequality: a device, a skill, an algorithm that excludes. Write both rooms.

Heading map**What the line is asking**

- **Digital economy:** payments, a platform, a public ID.
- **Leveller:** equalising access to a market.
- **Source of inequality:** a new scarce good (connectivity, a score).

Payments / welfare

- DBT that arrives. Aadhaar that locks a ration.

School / health

- An online class in a blackout. A telemedicine that needs a son's phone.

Labour / data

- A gig that pays by the ping. A data exhaust that is a new oil - not hers.

The counter

Cash was not equal (a tout, a delay). Digital can be the least-bad leveller if a fallback exists. The sin is a digital-only state. **Ambedkar**: the last person must still be able to walk into an office.

Last paragraph

- **Close**: public rails plus a human window. Expand - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Ambedkar

The last person - a digital that cannot be walked into is a new varna of access.

UPI / DBT

The leveller face.

Aadhaar / ration

The exclusion face - peg one case.

Art. 21 / 14

Life and equality - a fallback as a right-cousin.

DPDP / data

Inequality as who owns the exhaust.

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