17.06.2025

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

The digital divide In India reflects deeper socio-economic disparities & poses a Challenge to inclusive development." Examine the factors contributing to the digital divide & suggest measures to bridge the Gap. (15 marks/ 250 words)

Digital divide is Gap between individuals at different social economic levels in access to, use of ICTs (Information & Communication technologies) & Digital Skills. former is the skills use of Basic digital devices & later is broader set of abilities (e.g sending emails, content creation etc).

Challenges due to digital divide

① <Regional Basis> (Rural - Urban)
· Lack of availability or affordability of interest & digital devices.

(e.g) access to Broadband Internet Connectivity is 71% to rural areas & 86% In Urban areas. areas
acc to Annual Modular Survey

② | Community Basis :- Marginalised Community often have Lower income weaker education leading to lower digital adoption (e.g) <25% Among SC, ST
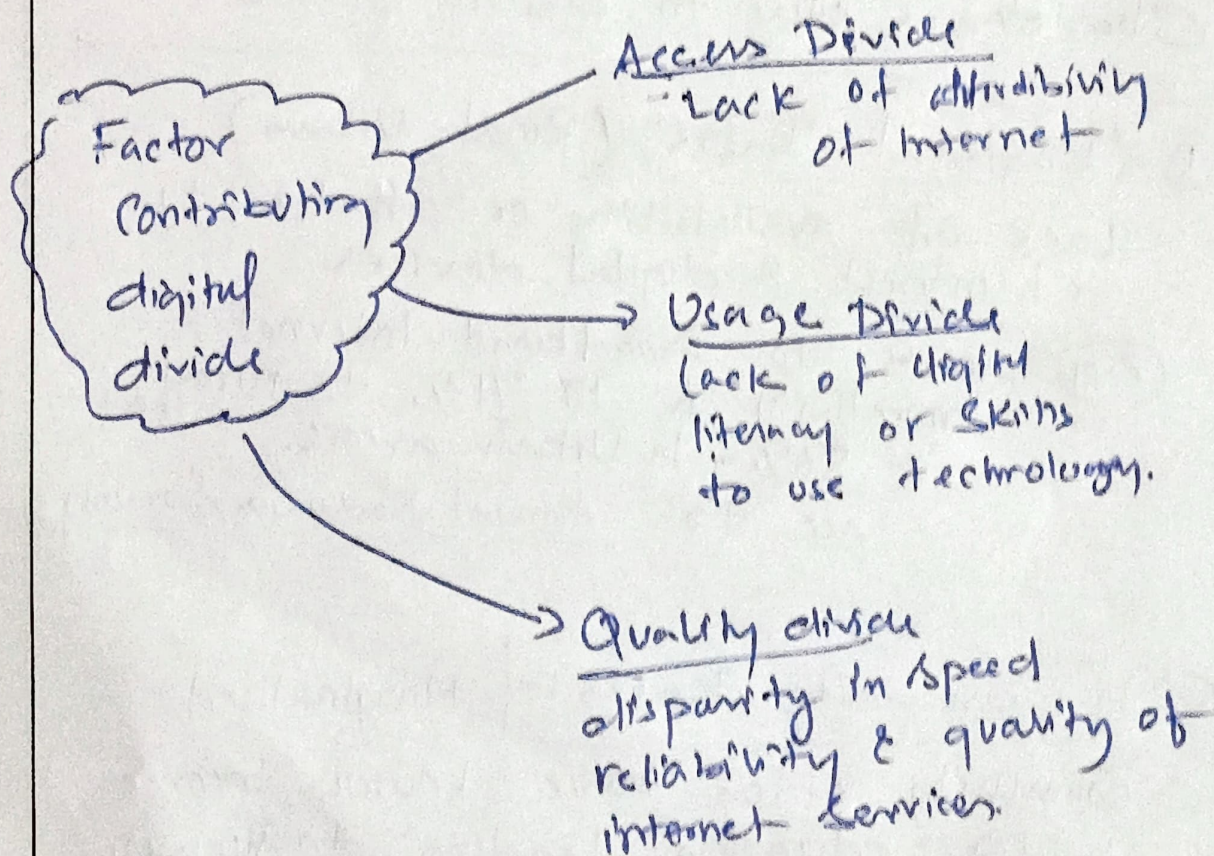
are digitally literate.

→ Gender Norms → Some Conservative Societies women are denied access to Phones - Internet

(Ex) Only 24% Women (Vs 49% Men) use Internet (NFHS-5)

(5) Economic basis :- High Cost of devices Costly Internet Packs & Lack of electricity. (Eg) 10% of Income In Poor households goes to mobile recharge (World Bank & CSDs-Lokniti study)

Access Divide
Lack of affordibility of Internet

Factor Contributing digital divide

Usage Divide
Lack of digital literacy or Skills to use technology.

Quality divide
disparity In speed reliability & quality of internet services.

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## Way forward :-

1) <u>Digital Literacy training.</u> — Teach basic tech usage
   - e.g PMGDISHA trains rural citizens to use smartphone

2) <u>Curriculum Reform</u> → Include digital skill in schools syllabus
   - ⓐ Delhi govt' tech module in public school

3) Community Workshop :- Local Language based tech training.
   - e.g NGO-led digital camps in tribal regions.

~~Conclusion~~.

Bridging the digital divide is essential for inclusive development social equity & digital empowerment digitally Inclusive India is key to ensuring "no one is left behind" in digital era.