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Please choose one essay from the below mentioned 3 essays writing it in a word range of 1000-1200 words. There will be negative marks for breaching the word limit. Kindly use the WORSHEET provided at the end of answer sheet to organize your essay.

1. Water – A unifying medium or a devisive force?
2. Corruption, even though a matter of the State, is actually a state of mind
3. "Clash of civilizations" – Myth or reality?

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WATER - A UNIFYING MEDIUM OR
A DIVISIVE FORCE.

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Leonardo Di Caprio, 'the titanic' fame actor was recently in news for his social media post. Surprisingly, it was not about an award nomination or his new release. With a picture titled, 'SOUTH INDIAN CITY OF CHENNAI', reeling under water pressure, the UN Goodwill ambassador of Peace & climate change, drew the world attention about the vitality of water resources.

Subsequently, the media broke the news of how water was sent in Railway containers to ease the pressure from neighbouring state ANDHRA PRADESH. The city survived the wrath of Nature through the Spirit of co-OPERATIVE

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FEDERALISM.

This rosy picture of helping a friend in need is not always guaranteed in a country with 1.2 billion population. The bitter spat between states over resources and monopoly over natural assets has been a recurrent phenomenon and an ever widening threat.

The NITI Aayog in its recent COMPOSITE WATER MANAGEMENT INDEX showed a grim picture of how RIVER BASINS, GROUND WATER and other sources of water were poorly managed predicting Major Metropolitan states of Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai to run out of water by 2030. To this bleak outline, is the added issue of INTER-STATE RIVER WATER disputes.

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The history of mankind is abound with examples of how men fought with rigour and valour to win over resources. When civilisations mopped up, WATER moved to be an ubiquitous, irreplaceable resource that determined the extent, exploit and efficacy of the tribe. Wars were won, wars were lost over rivers. Speaking of wars, rivers have saved humanity from wars - Alexander's halt at the Indus River, fearing the mighty flow over the sulbils.

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Water - as a divisive force is a prominent feature of most countries, internally and externally. Thailand and Cambodia over Mekong, Russia - Kazakhstan over Caspian sea, US - Canada over the Great Lakes of North America. However, with respect to India, it is an over-the-top problem.

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with multifarious causes.

Albert Einstein once critiqued that,
'We cannot solve the problem with the
same kind of thinking while we had
creating them'

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India is uncomfortably placed in same old web
that was spun decades ago. The Constitution of
India places 'WATER' both in List I & List II,
opening up arenas of explicit conflict.

Constitutionally, though the areas of
functioning & regulating the water resources have been
demarked, Nature knows no law. With
monsoon failures & droughts every year, the
Governments of various states have been on
tip-toe to guard their resources. Let us take

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the example of Cauvery Water Dispute. A dispute that has lasted almost an entire generation is proof to the failure of existing mechanisms to tackle water issues - as a divider force.

While water runs aflood in North Eastern states, Rajasthan, Bundelkhand, Vidarbha, Marathwada gaze at the soils sans moisture. India is a country of contrasts. To gather the heterogeneous masses towards the same goal is the foremost duty of any government in power.

The social & economic impacts that water issues and the rift between people have on unity is a brawn threat to fraternal sentiments. Incidents of blockade, stopping of

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transportation facilities, boycotting other
State's products are all testament to the same.

Now, this brings us to the question of how
Water has managed to unify people, if not
what can be done?

WATER AS A UNIFYING FORCE - Yay or Nay?

Water, to an extent has managed to
kindle the nationalistic nerves of the people.
Be it the Indus Water Commission on sharing
waters with Pakistan or the constant seasonal
floods in Brahmaputra region, the news of
water impacting the relations with neighbours and
countrymen has pulled people out of their
shells of apathy.

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As cited earlier, states on multiple occasions have come to the rescue of the other when met with dreaded voices of people. The help rendered by Karnataka by in releasing water to Tamil Nadu, the combined irrigation project between Telangana & Andhra Pradesh, the interlinking of KEN and Betwa river, the sharing of water between Punjab - Haryana - Delhi (Yamuna Link canal), the mighty Ganga - managed manfully by the basin states are a clear indication of how planning and foresight can unify people in a country as diverse as its problems.

Nevertheless, this combined ideal of

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waging a war against divisive forces is
plagued with politics and self-interest.

Amartya Sen, in his book 'The Argumentative
Indian' rightly pointed out,

'Human ordeals start on ignorance.

Identifying the problem with clarity

is half way through the solution'

Akin to the above words, the taunting divisive
force of water resources should be approached
holistically.

The Mandate of River Water Boards
has to be set up immediately to ease out
tensions in advance. The expertise & efficiency
should be unquestionable devoid of any

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political vested interests.

The recently formed Jal Shakti Ministry has adopted a 5 pronged approach of Judicious use, conservation of water, Desalination of sea water, Rain water harvesting & sewage water treatment in order to solve the water crises impending imminently.

An overall revolution with water conservation can be achieved only at the grassroots level. Rejuvenating the traditional water tanks like oorani, Eni, Ezhuo can not only gather the local community but also open up avenues to innovate and experiment methods of water conservation.

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Maharashtra, a pioneer in innovation as a means to tackle national issues has come up with a plan to offer financial assistance to farmers in order to renovate Agricultural ponds. This in turn can help the irrigational requirements on a wide scale.

Nothing ever gathers momentum if not complemented by Government policies. The State with its crucial legislative power can set right the water usage methodology by big corporate houses & business establishments. 'Corporate social responsibility' which can be extended to include water conservation and River cleaning.

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India, as a country has been born and
reborn scores of time. With its unmatched
ability to accommodate people from various
cultures, languages, ethnicity, it is marvellous
to ponder upon the journey of her growth.

The lucrative source of Water, as it
stands today has sent shrieks down the
spine of the Nation with reports suggesting
its future scarcity and the imminent state
of helplessness. With the divisive forces over water
taking flight, India must carefully tread the
path of growth by shifting her weakness to
Strength - UNITY.

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The combined effort of polity and people is
the need of the hour. As the bells of war
strike at the very survival of mankind, we must
remember,

It is not about who is right;
it is about what is left.

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For Evaluator's use

Criteria	Marks awarded	Max. mark
Content		75
Language		25
Presentation		25
Negative marks		
Total		125

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WORKSHEET

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