

Daily Mains Practice Answer 10-08-2026

Q. Analyse Kerala's AI governance initiative as a case of policy innovation in Indian federalism. Evaluate the challenges of ensuring public accountability when governance decisions are increasingly mediated by AI systems. (10 marks, 150 words)

Direction: Intro----- Kerala's AI governance initiative + challenges to public accountability-----Conclusion.

Introduction:

Describe briefly Kerala's AI governance initiative (or) describe in general Kerala's uniqueness in education, technology-based infrastructure, etc.

Main Body

Kerala as a policy innovation in Indian federalism

- From e-Governance to AI Governance - Use AI for policy-making, service delivery, grievance redressal and disaster management.
- State as a policy laboratory - Kerala's experimentation allows the State to develop context-specific solutions before they are replicated nationally.
- Cooperative Federalism - Align Kerala's initiatives with the Union's IndiaAI Mission while retaining State-level flexibility.
- Competitive Federalism - Encourage States to compete in responsible, citizen-centric AI innovation rather than merely competing for investment.
- Democratic advantage - Leverage Kerala's relatively strong institutions of local governance and public participation to promote rights-based AI governance.
- Replicable Model - Successful state-level innovations can be scaled across India, while adapting AI to local linguistic and administrative needs.

Challenges of ensuring public accountability

- Data privacy
- Digital exclusion of vulnerable sections - poor digital literacy, connectivity or language access.
- Black-box decisions - Citizens may not understand why an AI system rejected a benefit or why a decision was taken.
- Algorithmic bias - Biased datasets can reproduce or amplify existing social inequalities.
- Diffused responsibility - Accountability may become unclear between officials,

departments and private AI vendors.

- Automation bias – Officials may excessively trust AI recommendations instead of exercising independent judgement.

Conclusion:

Give a neutral conclusion and suggest some measures to overcome these challenges.

