

Mains PYQs - GS-II (2025) (Q. 7 - 9)

7. e-governance projects have a built-in bias towards technology and back-end integration rather than user-centric designs. Examine. (150 words, 10 marks) (2025)

Direction: Intro ----- Built-in bias + User-centric neglect & recent initiatives----- Conclusion.

Introduction:

Define e-governance with some e-governance initiative examples like Digital India Mission, UMANG, DigiLocker, CoWIN, GSTN, e-Courts.

Main Body

Built-in bias towards technology & back-end integration

- Projects mainly driven by technology rather than citizens' convenience.
- Not sufficient guidance & support - Beneficiaries often depend on Common Service Centres (CSCs) to access the benefits.
- Digital infrastructure over user-specific
- Multiple authentication processes like Aadhaar OTP, mobile OTP, face authentication, etc.
- Administrative focus - Focus on data integration & coordination.
- One size fits all design - Several portals initially offered only English/Hindi interfaces, limiting access for citizens speaking regional languages.

Neglect of user-centric design

- Digital illiteracy
- Complex User interface
- Lack of accessibility & network issues
- Language barrier
- Privacy & Security issues

Recent shift to user-centric design

- Bhashini initiative - AI-based translation enabling government services in multiple Indian languages.
- Improve internet connectivity - PM-WANI scheme
- Digital literacy campaign like PMGDISHA to train rural households in basic digital

skills.

- Initiatives like masked Aadhaar, DigiLocker, etc.
- Adoption of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) - Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, eSign, Account Aggregator create seamless, interoperable, citizen-centric digital services.

Conclusion:

Conclude by giving some ways, like the SMART Governance model, citizen-centric design, etc to realise the vision of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance."

8. Civil Society Organisations are often perceived as being more anti-State than non-State actors. Do you agree? Justify. (150 words, 10 marks) (2025)

Direction: Intro--- perceived as anti-State actors (or) not perceived as anti-State actors---
--Conclusion.

Introduction:

Describe briefly about the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) - no power, no profit-oriented organisation.

Main Body

Yes, CSOs are often perceived as anti-State actors - some examples.

- Criticise government policies & projects - Especially on environmental protection, human rights, and development projects, and file PILs against government actions on this.
- Mobilise public protests - Participation in anti-CAA protests, Narmada Bachao Andolan, environmental campaigns.
- Expose corruption and maladministration - Using RTI movements.
- Question development projects - Oppose projects affecting forests, tribal rights, and biodiversity.
- Foreign funding controversies - Cancellation/suspension of FCRA registrations of NGOs over alleged violations.
- International advocacy against State policies - Raises concerns on human rights and environmental issues in international forums.
- Campaigns against strategic projects - Oppose projects like mining, nuclear, and infrastructure projects.

(OR)

No, CSOs are not perceived as anti-State actors, but act as non-State actors - some examples.

- Support government welfare programmes & deliver essential services - Assist in

Swachh Bharat Mission, Poshan Abhiyaan, disaster relief measures, rural development initiatives, etc.

- Empower marginalised communities - Promote livelihoods and financial inclusion for women workers.
- Strengthen transparency & accountability - Social audits under MGNREGA conducted with civil society participation.
- Support disaster management - Provided food, medical aid and other essential things during the disaster emergency situation - like the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Promote democratic participation - Organizations like Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) improve electoral transparency through candidate disclosures.
- Bridge governance gaps - They work with government in education (Pratham), child rights (CRY), health, sanitation, and skill development where State capacity is limited.

Conclusion:

Conclude with a balanced view like CSOs act as a bridge between Government and the people, etc. In a democracy, constructive criticism, advocacy, and public participation strengthen—not weaken—the State.

9. India-Africa digital partnership is achieving mutual respect, co-development and long-term institutional partnerships. Elaborate. (150 words, 10 marks) (2025)

Direction: Intro---- mutual respect + co-development + long-term institutional partnerships-----Conclusion.

Introduction:

Describe the India-Africa relationship briefly.

Main Body

Achieving mutual respect

- South-south cooperation - Sharing experience rather than imposing it.
- Affordable and inclusive technology - Focus on low-cost and affordable technologies.
- Demand drive approach by India - implemented based on the needs of the African Countries.
- Examples include e-VidyaBharti and e-ArogyaBharti (e-VBAB) network for tele-education and telemedicine & Pan-African e-Network Project provides telemedicine and tele-education services.

Achieving co-development

- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) - Sharing experience from Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, and CoWIN.

- Recently, Gana has agreed to use India's UPI payment.
- Capacity Building - Scholarships, digital skill development, training government officials, entrepreneurs, and IT professionals.
- FinTech & Financial Inclusion
- Health and Education - Telemedicine services, online higher education and professional courses through Indian universities.

Achieving long-term institutional partnerships

- Institutional cooperation - Between universities, research institutions, and technology centres.
- Collaboration in cybersecurity, digital governance, AI, fintech, and startup ecosystems.
- Partnerships to facilitate digital trade and e-commerce under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
- Growing cooperation through multilateral forums such as the G20, International Solar Alliance (ISA), etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude in a positive and progressive manner.

