1. **Despite the successful implementation of many e-Governance projects across the country, e-Governance as a whole has not been able to make the desired impact and fulfil all its objectives. In this context discuss the implication of Digital India programme on e-Governance in the country.** **(250 words)**

Answer:

- E-Governance in essence, is the application of Information and Communication Technology to government functioning in order to create 'Simple, Moral, Accountable, Responsive and Transparent (SMART) governance.

- Many initiatives such as Bhoomi project of Karnataka; FRIENDS project of Kerala; EBiz Portal has brought transparency and accountability, empowered citizens through access to sharing of knowledge on specific field such as farming, and marketing of products, etc but in the broader aspect it has failed to bring desired impact.

- The reason is Digital divide, which deprives the people most in need of government services from the benefits of e-government due to lack of internet access or the lack of skill to use it.

- Thus Digital India programme would help in strengthening the back-end infrastructure.

- The vision of Digital India aims to transform the country into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy and not only to promote the e-governance.

- It aims to provide broadband highways, universal access to mobile connectivity, public internet access programme, e-governance: Reforming government through technology, eKranti - Electronic delivery of services, Information for all, Electronics manufacturing: Target net zero imports, IT for jobs and early harvest programmes.

- e-Governance would be promoted through a centralised initiative to the extent necessary, to ensure citizen centric service orientation, interoperability of various e-Governance applications and optimal utilisation of ICT infrastructure/resources, while adopting a decentralised implementation model.

- Public Private Partnerships would be preferred wherever feasible to implement e-Governance projects with adequate management and strategic control

- The positions of Chief Information Officers (CIO) would be created in at least 10 key Ministries so that various e-Governance projects could be designed, developed and implemented faster.

- It would also bring in public accountability through mandated delivery of government's services electronically, a Unique ID and e-Pramaan based on authentic and standard based interoperable and integrated government applications and data basis.

- The impact of Digital India would be cross cutting, ranging from broadband connectivity in all Panchayats, Wi-Fi in schools and universities and Public Wi-Fi hotspots. The programme will generate huge number of IT, Telecom and Electronics jobs, both directly and indirectly.

- Hence the Digital India Programme will pull together many existing schemes which would be restructured and re-focused and implemented in a synchronized manner to improve the implementation of e-governance in the country.
- A thorough Digital inclusion drive is required on the lines of financial inclusion to fill the digital divide and increase awareness. This would be done through cheaper and universal internet connection availability.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Answer the following Questions

1. Critically analyse the reasons behind the rise in importance of All India Services vis a vis other Group A services. (250 words)
2. Drone use for civilian purposes have immense applications but also poses regulatory challenges. Examine. Also evaluate whether India needs a policy for regulating drone use? (250 words)