

1. The Right to Privacy is an essential foundation for Right to Freedom. Is there any conflict between the Right to Privacy and national security? (150 Words)

**Answer:**

- Technological enhancements to the delivery of information and services have enhanced lives, but at a cost. The very systems that we turn to for efficiency and convenience are vulnerable to cyber attacks and other acts of terrorism.
- Thus government is gathering information for purposes of national security but indirectly it is snooping into the private lives of citizens.
- The thin line between privacy and National security create the conflict.
- The most important job of government is to “secure the general welfare” of its citizens. Security is a common good that is promised to citizens.
- But the conflicts have arisen because very little real information is available about the working procedure, technical capabilities and privacy safeguards in the public domain. There has been no debate in Parliament or outside about the level of surveillance citizens should be put through or whether there should be red lines when using intrusive surveillance mechanisms, even when technology presents an option.
- Further tighter security controls can also be used to target particular ethnic and religious groups in a way that is unfair and biased.
- Thus due weight needs to be given to both privacy and national security.
- Government must focus on strengthening national security, while upholding the basic right of civil liberty based in our country’s Constitution,
- With new technologies, the country’s privacy laws need to be updated and mass consumer surveillance needs to be regulated.
- Surveillance should enhance not undermine trust in democratic institutions. Governments need to justify the need for any massive, non-targeted, and indiscriminate collection of individuals’ data.
- Increased transparency, accountability and coordination among government and private industry can help put consumers back in the driver’s seat when it comes to their privacy.
- Apart from increasing public awareness of threats to privacy, States must “regulate the commercialization of surveillance technology”.

## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

### **Answer the following Questions**

1. Press freedom and good governance are not mutually exclusive. They support each other while promoting a country's economic and human development. Comment.  
(150 words)
2. SHGs have succeeded in delivering financial inclusion, but for them to evolve as viable business enterprise requires a different approach. Analyse in the context of the twin goals of rural growth and promotion of women's entrepreneurship.  
(150 words)