

Test - 1

Section - B

Start writing from the below line:

Smart governance is India's future, yet it hinges on effective execution.

Not so long ago, as a global community we have faced and overcome the Covid-19 pandemic. The long lockdowns all around the world created many governance challenges. Even India was not an exception in this regard.

But as a country we quickly realised the role of smart governance for the

It my message conveyed?
effective Service Delivery. We have created one of its first kind online platform called "Cowlin Portal" for Covid-19 vaccination drive.

This platform played an important role in ensuring smart governance of mass scale vaccination and paved the way to India's Smart future.

Despite of its success, the Cowlin portal also faced some challenges such as data leakage, unequitable distribution of vaccines due to digital divide, vaccine hoarding etc due to lack of effective execution.

Therefore, smart governance success majorly depends on its effective execution.

The hallmark of any thriving democracy is good governance. When the good governance integrates with the new age technology then it leads to smart governance.

With growing technology, Smart governance is inevitable but to make it more holistic we need to work on effective execution.

Going Forward in this essay, let us try to understand various aspects such as, what is Smart governance?, Why it is India's future?, Benefits, Challenges, need of effective execution and way forward for effective Smart governance.

Smart governance refers to use of information and communications technology (ICT) and innovation to promote and facilitate various programs and decisions as part of governance process. Smart governance is not limited to political institutions, it can also be seen as part of corporate governance.

Now let us try to understand, why Smart governance is the future of India?

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In this day and age, Access to Internet and mobile connection became an unsaid and unwritten fundamental right.

Recently we have become the most populous country in the world. With this huge demography it will be difficult to reach every person physically by the government authorities.

One effective work around for this problem is the role of technology in reaching the last mile. The "JAM Trinity" (Jandhan, Aadhar and Mobile) is one such example of reaching last mile through technological integration.

On the other hand, even in Corporate governance we need to integrate Smart governance to make India future ready. Smart technologies such as data driven decision making, using in technology in promotion of accountability and Transparency

Can help in effective Corporate governance and many Corporate Scams such as Sahara, Satyam and Sharadha can be tackled effectively.

Now lets delve into the benefits of Govt Smart governance which will make India future ready.

The major benefit is tackling corruption. It is often said that "Corruption is like Cancer which will eat away the faith of Citizens in democracy."

Important initiatives such as "Direct Benefit Transfer" programs reduced the middlemen through technology integration and reduced corruption. India to become a better democracy in future, tackling corruption is the need of the hour.

Smart governance not only stopped the on-going corruption but also became an important tool to prevent future corruption.

Today citizens have access to information through "Right to Information act". This promotes transparency and accountability of ones actions here by curbing new corruption.

Stopping what is wrong is one facet of smart governance, the other important facet include promotion of those things which are right.

The future of our country lies with effective "ease of doing business". on this front we are promoting smart governance by creation of "single window clearance portals" for business related permissions.

At individual / small scale business level we can see the role and impact of "Unified payment Interface" (UPI) for easy transactions.

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As a country, we dream of becoming "Digital India" through effective smart governance. But this journey is not possible if we won't on the challenges faced in smart governance.

The shift from pen and paper to a digital document is the need of the hour but one should be careful about the challenges too.

Today we can see the huge "digital divide" between urban and rural, women and men. Without equitable access to technology we can't be future ready.

Even people with access to technology faces challenges in the form of "Right to privacy", "cyber threats" etc.

On top of these challenges there are other issues such as lack of integration of different portals and ministries for

effective Smart governance.

The last major challenge for Smart governance is "Peoples resistance to change".

The fear of technology shouldn't be a barrier rather should become an opportunity to learn something new.

Now let us look into the role of effective execution in making smart governance successful.

Most of our government policies, programs and schemes have great vision and are genuinely designed for the empowerment of the citizens. But at the ground level they often face issues with respect to execution.

Execution level challenges include "red tapism", "over bureaucratic attitude", "heavy top-down approaches" and "lack of

Wider vision."

These challenges can be countered through improving clarity in roles and responsibilities, project management through time bound targets, using key performance indicators to understand where they stand vis-a-vis the plan, and developing a bottom-up feedback mechanism.
to understand new issues and integrate the solutions through constant feedback.

When these execution level loop holes are addressed, we will be in a good position to integrate Smart governance with the good governance.

But we also need to work on strengthening our Smart governance infrastructure such as "Digital public Infrastructure" and "Digital literacy", "addressing privacy concerns".

"Countering Cyber threats" etc.

For countries like India, it is also the need of the hour to collaborate with other countries to create better technology for the well being of humanity which can promote smart governance.

The recent on-going collaborations such as "NISAR" project with U.S.A is a step in right direction as it integrates best of the both world's knowledge in creating smart solutions for effective governance of Natural calamities and disasters.

To summarize, smart governance will be the only effective way of governance in the future. To be that future ready we as a country not only need to work on creating efficient smart governance mechanisms but also need to work on

efficient execution strategies to make it successful.

For this to happen, we cannot be mere consumers of smart governance, we must be active participants; we must be co-creators of smart governance.

As said by "Ottovon Bismarck"

"With bad laws and good civil servants its possible to govern. But with bad civil servants even the best laws cant help for effective governance".

Therefore, India's future of smart governance cannot be possible without effective execution of public servants even with best of the best digital solutions.

Good conclusion!