International Relations · GS - II

Digital biometric systems are increasingly being used for international border management. Discuss their potential benefits and challenges with reference to privacy, technological reliability and efficient migration governance.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 09/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Digital border management, biometric identification, facial recognition, fingerprint authentication, migration monitoring, data privacy, cybersecurity, technological failures, interoperability, human oversight and accountability.

Model Answer

Introduction

Digital biometric systems are transforming international border management by enabling automated identity verification and electronic monitoring of cross-border movement.

Potential Benefits

Systems such as the European Union's Entry/Exit System can improve the accuracy of traveller identification, detect overstays and reduce dependence on manual documentation. Digital records can strengthen border security, facilitate information sharing and improve migration management.

Key Challenges

Fingerprint and facial recognition failures can cause delays and inconvenience at airports. Large-scale biometric databases raise concerns about privacy, data protection and unauthorised access. Cyberattacks, algorithmic errors and inadequate infrastructure can undermine reliability. Dependence on private technology providers also raises questions regarding contractual accountability and public oversight.

Way Forward

Governments should establish strong data-protection safeguards, independent audits and transparent procurement procedures. Regular system testing, cybersecurity standards, interoperable infrastructure and human intervention mechanisms are essential. Travellers should have accessible grievance-redressal procedures.

Conclusion

Technology-driven border management must balance security and administrative efficiency with privacy, reliability and individual rights.

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