Polity & Governance · GS - II

The growing influence of global digital platforms has made their relationship with national governments an important issue of digital governance. Critically examine the need to balance platform accountability, freedom of expression and national sovereignty in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 19/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Digital sovereignty, intermediary liability, IT Act 2000, Section 79, content moderation, freedom of expression, data governance, platform accountability, regulatory transparency.

Model Answer

Introduction

Global digital platforms increasingly influence public discourse, information flows and economic activity. Their regulation requires balancing national sovereignty, citizens' constitutional freedoms and corporate accountability.

Need for Platform Accountability

- **Content moderation:** Platforms must address unlawful content, misinformation and online exploitation through transparent procedures.
- **Legal compliance:** Intermediaries must follow applicable Indian laws and due-diligence requirements.
- **User protection:** Effective grievance redressal and transparency are necessary to protect users.
- **National security:** Cooperation with lawful investigations can help address cybercrime and threats to public order.

Challenges in Regulation

1. **Freedom of expression:** Excessive content restrictions may undermine Article 19(1)(a) and encourage arbitrary censorship.
2. **Platform power:** Global companies exercise considerable control over content visibility, account access and digital communication.
3. **Regulatory conflicts:** Differences between national laws and corporate policies can create jurisdictional disputes.
4. **Transparency deficits:** Unclear moderation decisions and limited accountability can weaken public trust.

Way Forward

India should promote transparent content-moderation standards, independent grievance mechanisms and proportionate regulation. Government directions must follow due process and constitutional safeguards. Regular engagement between regulators and technology companies can reduce conflicts while protecting public interest.

Conclusion

A balanced digital governance framework must ensure that technology platforms remain accountable without becoming instruments of arbitrary censorship. Constitutional freedoms, rule of law and transparent regulation should guide India's digital ecosystem.

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