Polity & Governance · GS - II

“Digital technologies can improve transparency and accountability in public administration, but their effectiveness depends on appropriate safeguards.” Discuss with reference to GPS-based employee attendance systems.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 19/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

E-governance, transparency, accountability, administrative efficiency, GPS-based monitoring, data privacy, cybersecurity, proportionality, grievance redressal.

Model Answer

Introduction

E-governance refers to the use of information and communication technology to improve public service delivery, transparency and administrative efficiency. GPS-based attendance systems are an example of technology-driven administrative monitoring.

Main Body

Benefits of GPS-Based Attendance Systems

1. Improved Accountability: Digital records can help verify attendance and reduce unauthorised absenteeism.

2. Administrative Efficiency: Real-time monitoring can simplify attendance management and reduce paperwork.
3. Transparency: Digital records can make attendance verification more consistent and auditable.
4. Better Service Delivery: Regular staff availability, particularly during night shifts, can improve essential public services.

Challenges and Safeguards

1. Privacy Concerns: Continuous location tracking may intrude into employees' personal lives.
2. Technical Errors: GPS failures or network issues may produce inaccurate attendance records.
3. Cybersecurity Risks: Location data must be protected from unauthorised access.

The government should ensure limited data collection, secure storage, transparent rules, correction mechanisms and human review before disciplinary action.

Conclusion

Technology should strengthen accountable governance without compromising privacy and fairness. A balanced, transparent and proportionate approach can improve administrative efficiency while protecting employees' rights.

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