Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the role of digital infrastructure mapping and Census-related data in improving rural and urban planning in India. Examine the associated challenges.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 02/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Evidence-based policymaking; infrastructure gaps; digital governance; resource allocation; data accuracy; privacy and cybersecurity; digital divide; interdepartmental coordination

Model Answer

Introduction

Reliable demographic and infrastructure data enable governments to understand local needs and design targeted development programmes. Digital mapping can strengthen this process by making information easier to update, analyse and use.

Role in Development Planning

1. Targeted Resource Allocation: Mapping roads, schools, healthcare facilities and water supply helps identify underserved settlements and prioritise public investment.

2. Improved Service Delivery: Geospatial databases can support infrastructure monitoring, emergency planning and coordination between government departments.

3. Rural–Urban Planning: Comparable information can reveal regional disparities and help integrate transport, housing, sanitation and healthcare planning.

Challenges

Incomplete records, outdated information, inconsistent data standards and limited technical capacity may undermine reliability. Digital exclusion in remote areas and risks of unauthorised access or misuse also require attention. Infrastructure surveys must be distinguished from the population enumeration conducted during the Census.

Way Forward

Authorities should adopt common data standards, verify field information, update databases regularly and train local officials. Strong cybersecurity, privacy safeguards, transparent governance and interoperability between departments are essential. Public participation can help identify errors and improve local data quality.

Conclusion

Digital infrastructure mapping can make development planning more responsive and efficient, provided it is supported by reliable data, institutional coordination and robust safeguards.

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