Society & Social Justice · GS - I

Do you think digital technology promotes social empowerment? Explain with examples.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2026	GS - I	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Digital inclusion, access to information, education, financial inclusion, e-governance, social media, women, rural population, digital divide, misinformation, privacy, cyber risks

Model Answer

Digital technology can promote social empowerment by expanding access to information, services, markets and opportunities. It enables individuals and communities to overcome geographical barriers and participate more actively in economic and civic life.

Digital platforms have expanded access to online education, telemedicine and government services, particularly through e-governance initiatives. Digital payments and financial technology have strengthened financial inclusion, while platforms such as self-help group networks can improve women's access to markets and information. Social media also enables marginalised groups to express concerns and participate in public discourse.

However, empowerment is not automatic. The digital divide based on income, gender, geography, literacy and accessibility can exclude vulnerable groups. Misinformation, cybercrime, privacy violations and algorithmic biases may also create new forms of inequality.

India's emphasis on digital public infrastructure demonstrates the potential of technology for inclusive development, but meaningful empowerment requires affordable connectivity, digital literacy, data protection and accessible design.

Thus, digital technology can become a powerful instrument of social empowerment when technological expansion is accompanied by inclusion, rights protection and responsible governance.