1. **Critically analyze the functioning of PRIs with respect to e-governance? How Digital India can help in improving the freedom, justice and good governance at the decentralized local self-government level? Give reasons in support of your answer.** **(12.5 Marks)**

Answer:

- The success of democracy depends on the decentralization of power. For the proper establishment of decentralized system, programmes and policies should be implemented efficiently at local level.
- E-governance has made the provision of services to the citizen in more efficient and transparent manner by implementing various c-governance applications.
- However, e-governance programmes suffer from following lacunas:

a) Lack of technology and infrastructure
b) Poor Identification of beneficiary
c) Digital divide
d) Lack of last mile connectivity
e) Lack of indigenous technologies for cyber security

- Digital India is an initiative of the Government of India to ensure that government services are made available to citizens electronically by improving online infrastructure and by increasing internet connectivity. The initiative includes plans to connect rural areas with high-speed internet networks.
- Digital India consists of three core components. These include: high speed internet services to its citizens in all gram panchayats; online availability of government services and digital empowerment of citizens.
- The vision of Digital India is to transform the country into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It would ensure that government services are available to citizens electronically. It would also bring in public accountability through mandated delivery of governments services electronically.
- Digital India will mark beginning of freedom of choice for the rural people. It will empower the people by aiming at inclusive growth in areas of electronic services, products, manufacturing and job opportunities etc.
- They focus on the local problems and also reduce the heavy responsibilities of the central and the state government and establish democracy in a wider context.
- It will also establish technology for justice as Interoperable Criminal Justice System shall be strengthened by leveraging several related applications, i.e. e-Courts, e-Police, e-Jails and e-Prosecution, e-Kranti - Electronic Delivery of Services
- The increased connectivity will help in providing various facilities to the far stretched places and bring closer the resources and skills hidden from the main stream. Villages will have an increased exposure, the drift toward the cities may eventually slow down as the villages, and small towns have access to the technology.
- Thus the mechanism of Digital India can help in improving Freedom, Justice, and Good Governance at local government level.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Answer the following Questions   **(12.5 Marks)**

1. Centre has come out with a draft National Water Framework Bill, 2016. How far this would be helpful in providing for a mechanism to develop and manage river basin in an integrated manner?

2. Union Cabinet has recently approved proposal for extending several benefits to asylum seekers, discuss the major changes proposal do it and how these changes may affect asylum seekers who have been exploited and subjected to violence since many years.