**Syllabus subtopic:** Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

**News:** Very soon, Cabinet meetings in Uttarakhand government will go “green” as no paper will be used for the meeting; even confidential documents of the Cabinet will be circulated to the Chief Minister, the chief secretary, and the concerned departmental heads through email only.

**Prelims and Mains focus:** about the recent move by UK govt, e-governance and its benefits, challenges and achievements so far

**Context:**

- The **Gopan department, which looks after affairs of the state Cabinet**, has been working on **“e-cabinet” project** on a war footing so that the next Cabinet meeting could be so.
- According to an estimate of the Gopan department, **around 20,000 sheets of papers are used for each Cabinet meeting**. On average, more than 15 matters are put up for discussion in every meeting. Each such proposal takes up more than 10-15 pages, and more than 20 sets of each proposal are prepared for distribution. After the meeting, a Cabinet note of each agenda is sent out. **E-Cabinet meeting of the future will save this waste of paper.**
- A secure **Local Area Network (LAN)** is being developed and laying of cables is underway to connect the Cabinet room with a section of Gopan department from where Cabinet notes will be circulated.

**Present scenario:**

At present, copies of the agenda are delivered at a minister’s office or residence a day before the meeting and often they are not able to study it in advance, especially if they are out of town. But this will soon change.

**How will the process go through?**

- Every minister will be provided with a screen-touch laptop with certain specifications. Agenda of the meeting will be sent to each minister via a virtual private network (VPN) and a message will be sent on their mobile phone informing them about the delivery of the agenda. Ministers- who will also be provided individual login and password- will be able to study the agenda any place any time. During Cabinet meet too, they will read the agenda on laptop only.
- After the meeting, minutes of the meeting and the Cabinet note will be sent to the concerned persons through the same network via e-mail and an SMS will also be sent for information.
- Training of ministers and their private secretaries and other concerned officials has already been done.