Social Credit System and India

# Activities on which it should be based:

* Behaviour

Human Behaviour is a very important factor and it determines how the mind of the person behaves.

* Trustworthiness

Loyalty is rarer than anything else so trust factor is an important deciding factor

* Ratings from suppliers and customers

Every company has a rating and in layman terms, that rating represents the value of the company.

# Technologies used:

**Big data systems**

The goal of the big data system is to form data assets through the collection and exchange of a wide range of data sources, through data governance and development, and in accordance with the internal and external sharing needs of the government, thereby proving a comprehensive, efficient, and reliable data supply chain.

**Fifth Generation cellular network**

Xinhua holds that 5G in combination with big data and AI, will take revolutionary steps towards a digital economy and this will make a huge positive impact on India’s future economy.

**Data analytics**

Behavioural data can include: “collected information on academic records, traffic violations, social media presence, friendships, adherence to birth control regulations, employment performance, consumption habits, and other topics”

**Artificial Intelligence**

It would play a huge role in identifying people and detecting their expression along with predicting future behaviour.

Issues with the systems for India

The foremost problem in implementation of such a social credit system in India would not be the requirement of technological resources, but the incompatibility of such a system with the democratic set up of India and the fundamental rights of its citizens. We need to consider the implications this system will have on the citizens, not just the merits or demerits of the system in isolation. One could say that Article 21 of the Indian Constitution has been one of the most dynamic provisions. There are numerous rights that have been read into this provision such as right to livelihood, right to privacy, right to education etc. (One may find more on this here). This article would be the greatest impediment to the implementation of such a system.

The social credit system proposes to bar people from travelling in trains, renting quality apartments in good neighborhoods, holding certain jobs etc. These restrictions seem impractical for a democracy like India, where people enjoy these as a matter of rights. Further, barring children from getting admission in any educational institution due to their parents having poor social rating may be in direct contravention of Article 21-A, the right to education.

Moreover, since the grading does not take into account the distinction between a civil and criminal wrong, a person's poor rating might very well be a result of a mere delay in the payment of bills or violation of the traffic rule. The system is draconian as it imperils the future prospects of an individual without making informed assessment of the activities. The Indian judiciary has held that the reformation of offenders is an integral part of the justice system in India. The idea is that an individual must be given an opportunity to reform himself to blend back with society. For a system which follows rigorous policy towards past offenders with respect to housing and other public amenities, thereby restricting their chances of merging back with mainstream society, India might not seem a very welcome place.

Another hurdle that shall come into the way of reproducing such a system into the Indian set-up would be the rich jurisprudence on an individual’s right to privacy. The system involves creation of a nationwide database with comprehensive records of citizens. This entails collection, storage and categorization of data regarding each individual of the nation. The aforementioned poses the question of authorities indulging in Cyber-profiling. Profiling in any form by any institution, be it private organizations creating a consumer database or by governmental authorities, has been held as an infringement of the right to privacy in the K.S. Puttaswamy v Union of India judgement. The right to privacy has led to major restrictions on the legislature with respect to passing future legislations.