Polity & Governance · GS - II

Comment on the need of administrative tribunals as compared to the court system. Assess the impact of the recent tribunal reforms through rationalization of tribunals made in 2021.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Articles 323A-323B, specialised justice, accessibility, pendency, Tribunals Reforms Act 2021, rationalisation, abolition, judicial independence, Madras Bar Association

Model Answer

Introduction

Administrative tribunals were created to provide specialised, relatively speedy and accessible adjudication while reducing the burden on constitutional courts.

1. Need over conventional courts

Tribunals offer domain expertise in areas such as taxation, service matters and company law. Their flexible procedures and specialised benches can reduce litigation costs and improve technical adjudication. However, excessive tribunalisation may create fragmented jurisdictions and concerns regarding executive control.

2. Impact of 2021 reforms

The Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021 rationalised the tribunal structure by abolishing several appellate bodies and transferring their functions to existing judicial forums. It also sought uniformity in service conditions and

appointments. Government data indicates that 13 tribunals were discontinued through the 2017 and 2021 reforms.

The reforms potentially reduce duplication, administrative expenditure and jurisdictional fragmentation. Yet concerns remain regarding vacancies, delays and executive influence over appointments and tenure.

The Supreme Court's 2025 judgment in Madras Bar Association v. Union of India struck down certain provisions of the 2021 framework concerning tribunal appointments, tenure and independence.

Conclusion

Rationalisation is useful when combined with adequate staffing, infrastructure and judicial independence. Tribunals should supplement, not weaken, the constitutional court system.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP