Polity & Governance · GS - II

Civil services can serve as instruments of social mobility and inclusive governance in a diverse society like India. Examine the role of equal opportunity, educational access and institutional support in making civil service recruitment more socially representative.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 13/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Constitutional equality, Articles 14 and 16, Article 335, UPSC recruitment, educational inequality, socioeconomic barriers, representation of marginalised communities, scholarships, capacity building, merit and social justice, inclusive administration.

Model Answer

Introduction

Civil services play a crucial role in policy implementation and public administration. Their social representativeness strengthens democratic legitimacy and improves understanding of diverse societal needs.

Constitutional and Institutional Framework

Articles 14 and 16 guarantee equality before law and equality of opportunity in public employment. Article 335 provides for considering the claims of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in public services, subject to administrative efficiency. Reservation policies and UPSC's transparent recruitment process support wider

representation.

Barriers to Equal Opportunity

Economic deprivation, unequal schooling, limited access to coaching, digital divides and language barriers can restrict participation in competitive examinations. Formal equality alone may not eliminate these structural disadvantages.

Way Forward

Accessible public libraries, scholarships, affordable preparatory resources, digital infrastructure and quality school education can broaden opportunities. Recruitment must remain transparent, merit-based and constitutionally inclusive. Continuous training can strengthen administrative competence.

Conclusion

A representative civil service requires both fair recruitment procedures and equitable access to educational opportunities. Inclusion and administrative efficiency should reinforce each other in a democratic state.

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