Society & Social Justice · GS - II

What are the aims and objects of recently passed and enforced, The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024? Whether University/State Education Board examinations, too, are covered under the Act?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2024	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Public Examinations Act 2024, paper leaks, organised cheating, unfair means, examination integrity, UPSC, SSC, RRB, IBPS, NTA, university examinations, State Education Boards, accountability

Model Answer

Introduction

The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, enforced from 21 June 2024, seeks to protect the integrity and credibility of public examinations by criminalising organised unfair practices and examination-related malpractices.

Aims and Objectives

The Act aims to:

1. **Prevent paper leaks and organised cheating** that undermine merit and equal opportunity.
2. **Deter impersonation, unauthorised access and manipulation** of examination systems.
3. Fix accountability on **service providers and persons associated with examination authorities**.
4. Impose stringent criminal penalties to create deterrence.

5. Improve examination security through technological and institutional safeguards.
6. Restore public confidence in recruitment and entrance examinations.

The Act covers examinations conducted by specified central public examination authorities, including **UPSC, SSC, Railway Recruitment Boards, IBPS and NTA**.

Coverage of University and State Board Examinations

Ordinary university examinations and examinations conducted solely by State Education Boards are **not automatically covered** by the Central Act. Its definition is linked to public examination authorities specified in its Schedule or subsequently notified by the Central Government. States can separately enact legislation for their examinations.

Conclusion

The Act is an important step towards securing **merit, fairness and institutional credibility**. Its effectiveness, however, depends on robust implementation, technological safeguards and complementary state-level laws covering examinations outside its present scope.

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