Polity & Governance · GS - II

Participatory budgeting can improve the responsiveness and inclusiveness of public expenditure. Examine the potential and limitations of involving young citizens in India's Union Budget consultation process.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 17/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Fiscal priorities, youth participation, demographic dividend, employment, skill development, digital economy, participatory governance, evidence-based policymaking, intergenerational equity, fiscal constraints.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Union Budget is a key instrument for allocating public resources and setting economic priorities. Involving young citizens in pre-Budget consultations can make fiscal policymaking more responsive to emerging social and economic needs.

Potential Benefits

1. **Employment priorities:** Youth perspectives can help identify skill gaps, unemployment concerns and changing labour-market requirements.
2. **Innovation and startups:** Inputs can highlight financing, incubation and regulatory barriers faced by emerging entrepreneurs.
3. **Digital economy:** Young citizens can contribute perspectives on artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure and future-oriented skills.

4. **Participatory governance:** Consultation can strengthen democratic engagement and improve public understanding of fiscal choices.
5. **Intergenerational equity:** Youth participation can bring greater attention to long-term investments in education, climate resilience and sustainable growth.

Limitations

Consultations may remain symbolic without transparent mechanisms to incorporate suggestions. Digital access inequalities, urban bias and inadequate representation of disadvantaged groups can also distort participation. Moreover, public expectations must be balanced against fiscal constraints.

Way Forward

The government should ensure representation across regions and socioeconomic groups, publish consultation outcomes and explain how suggestions influence budget priorities. Evidence-based assessment and measurable outcomes should guide resource allocation.

Conclusion

Youth participation can enrich budget formulation, but its success depends on meaningful representation, institutional transparency and accountability. It should complement, not replace, established parliamentary and fiscal processes.

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