Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examination paper leaks undermine meritocracy, institutional credibility and equality of opportunity in public recruitment and educational admissions. Examine the governance and regulatory challenges involved and suggest reforms to ensure transparency and integrity in public examinations.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 18/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Article 14, equality of opportunity, examination security, NTA, institutional accountability, digital security, Public Examinations Act 2024, investigation, transparency, grievance redressal.

Model Answer

Introduction

Competitive examinations are important instruments of merit-based selection in India. Paper leaks and organised examination fraud undermine public confidence and violate the principle of equal opportunity.

Major Governance Challenges

1. **Institutional accountability:** Weak oversight and fragmented responsibilities can create loopholes in examination management.
2. **Security vulnerabilities:** Paper transportation, storage, digital systems and confidential data may be exposed to manipulation.

3. **Organised networks:** Examination fraud may involve intermediaries, coaching networks and financial transactions.
4. **Unequal opportunities:** Genuine candidates face psychological, financial and academic losses due to compromised examinations.
5. **Delayed justice:** Lengthy investigations and trials can weaken deterrence and institutional credibility.

Legal and Institutional Framework

The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 provides a framework to prevent unfair means in specified public examinations and punish organised offences. Effective implementation requires coordination among examination authorities, law-enforcement agencies and judicial institutions.

Reforms Required

- Secure digital question-paper generation, encryption and controlled access.
- Independent audits of examination infrastructure and vendors.
- Strong whistle-blower and grievance-redressal mechanisms.
- Time-bound investigations and fair trials.
- Transparent communication and timely remedial measures for affected candidates.

Conclusion

Examination integrity is fundamental to meritocracy and public trust. Technological safeguards, institutional accountability and effective legal enforcement must work together to ensure credible and equitable examinations.

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