

Daily Mains Practice Answer 29-07-2026

Q. Paper leaks undermine meritocracy and public trust in governance. Discuss the key provisions of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026. Evaluate its potential to strengthen the credibility and integrity of India's public examination system. (250 words, 15 marks)

Direction: Intro-----Key Provisions + Significance + Challenges-----Conclusion.

Introduction:

Mention this bill and its aim & objectives briefly.

Main Body

Key provisions of the bill

- Enhanced Punishments - Raises the minimum imprisonment for major offences and significantly increases monetary penalties against offenders and organised paper-leak syndicates.
- Debarment of service providers - Debars a service provider engaging in unfair means for 4 to 8 years.
- Special Task Force for investigation - Empowers the central government to refer investigation to any central investigating agency & to constitute a special task force to investigate offences.
- Time-bound investigation - Investigation of an offence must be completed within two months.
- Special Fast Track Courts - Every state and UT to designate a Court of Session as a Special Fast Track Court to ensure swift punishment.
- Timeline for trial - Trial must be completed within 3 months from the filing of the chargesheet & transferred pending cases must be completed within 3 months from the date of transfer.
- Appeals - Appeals lie before a bench of two Judges of the High Court. Appeals must be disposed of within three months from admission. Appeals must be filed within 30 days of the order.

Potential to Strengthen Credibility and Integrity

Significance

- Prevents organised paper leaks through stricter punishments and higher financial costs.

- Protects genuine candidates by ensuring fair competition and merit-based selection.
- Greater accountability of examination agencies through longer debarment and quick trials.
- Protection of meritocracy, ensuring fair opportunities under Articles 14 and 16.
- Restores public confidence in recruitment and entrance examinations by reducing delays and uncertainty.

Challenges

- Laws alone are insufficient without strengthening exam administration.
- Requires secure digital infrastructure, encrypted paper transmission, AI-enabled surveillance, and cybersecurity audits.
- Effective implementation depends on coordination among police, examination authorities, and judicial institutions.
- Preventive reforms such as computer-based testing, randomised question banks, and independent audit mechanisms remain essential.

Conclusion:

Conclude in a positive and progressive manner.

The Amendment Bill is a strong step toward restoring meritocracy and public trust in India's examination system. By imposing stringent penalties, fast-track trials, and accountability of service providers to prevent malpractice and protect students' futures. However, its real impact depends on effective implementation, adequate judicial capacity, and complementary reforms in exam administration.

