

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



**6<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

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1.	THE PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS (PREVENTION OF UNFAIR MEANS) BILL, 2024
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## THE PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS (PREVENTION OF UNFAIR MEANS) BILL, 2024

**SOURCE:** [THE INDIAN EXPRESS](#)

**TAG:** GS Paper – II **Indian Constitution, elections, Statutory body**

### PRACTICE QUESTIONS

#### Mains

**Q. Discuss the key provisions and objectives of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024. Analyze the potential impact of the proposed legislation on ensuring the integrity and fairness of public examinations in India. (250 Words)**

### WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ The Public Examination Bill has been introduced in Lok Sabha on February 5, 2024. It aims to prevent the use of unfair means in public examinations conducted by specified authorities.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BILL:

- ❖ **Meaning of 'Public Examinations':**
  - ☛ Refers to examinations conducted by authorities specified in the Schedule to the Bill or notified by the central government.
  - ☛ Includes various entities such as **Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission, Railway Recruitment Board**, and others.
- ❖ **Meaning of 'unfair means' :** The **Section 3 of the bill lists 15 actions** that amount to using unfair means in public examinations 'for monetary or wrongful gain'. The acts include:
  - ☛ Leakage of question paper or answer key or part thereof and colluding in such leakage.
  - ☛ Accessing or taking possession of question paper or an optical mark recognition response sheet without authority.
  - ☛ Tampering with answer sheets including optical mark recognition response sheets.
  - ☛ Providing solution to one or more questions by any unauthorised person during a public examination.
  - ☛ Directly or indirectly assisting the candidate in a public examination.
  - ☛ Tampering with any document necessary for short-listing of candidates or finalising the merit or rank of a candidate.
  - ☛ Tampering with the computer network or a computer resource or a computer system.
  - ☛ Creation of fake website and conducting fake examination.

### PUNISHMENT...

● An examinee indulging in unfair means will be punished with imprisonment of up to 3 years and a minimum fine of Rs 1 lakh

● Those who, in conspiracy or otherwise, indulge in unfair means or abet to contravene provisions of the act, will be liable to imprisonment between 5 to 10 years and fine between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore



● A person, who in conspiracy with the examination authority, attempts or indulges in unfair means, will be punished with imprisonment of 7 to 10 years and a fine not less than Rs 1 crore



● An examinee who has been convicted under the act will be debarred from public examinations for 2 years

● The law provides for attachment of assets and property of those convicted



- ☛ ➔ Issuance of fake admit cards or offer letters to cheat or for monetary gain as illegal acts.
- ❖ **Punishment for offences :**
  - ➔ **Persons-in-charge** held personally liable for offences committed with their consent or connivance.
  - ➔ **Institutions** found guilty may have property attached and forfeited, with recovery of examination costs.
  - ➔ All offences under the Bill are **cognizable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable**.
  - ➔ Central government may transfer investigations to **central investigating agencies**.

#### PRINCIPLES HIGHLIGHTED IN THE BILL:

- ❖ **Standardization:**
  - ➔ Introduces standardized procedures for conducting public examinations across different educational boards and institutions.
- ❖ **Transparency:**
  - ➔ Ensures transparency in the examination process, including question paper setting, evaluation, and result declaration.
- ❖ **Fairness:**
  - ➔ Promotes fairness by preventing malpractices such as question paper leaks, unfair evaluation practices, and bias in result declaration.
- ❖ **Accountability:**
  - ➔ Holds educational boards and institutions accountable for maintaining the integrity and quality of public examinations.
- ❖ **Quality Assurance:**
  - ➔ Implements measures to ensure the quality and reliability of examination systems, including robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

#### COMMON ELIGIBILITY TEST (CET):

- ❖ The CET is a proposed exam in India that aims to replace multiple entrance exams conducted by the **central government for non-gazetted government roles and public-sector banks**.
- ❖ It was proposed by the government of India in the Rajya Sabha on March 14, 2018, to avoid and prevent any kind of irregularities and cheating that were happening in the multiple entrance exams.
- ❖ The CET will be held **twice a year**, and there will be different CETs for **graduate level, 12th pass level, and 10th pass level** to facilitate recruitment to vacancies at various levels.
- ❖ It will be conducted in **12 major Indian languages**, and there will be an examination center in every district.
- ❖ The CET syllabus varies greatly, but the basic topics under the most common sections are general awareness, quantitative aptitude, and reasoning.
- ❖ **However, it has not been implemented yet**, and there are concerns about its acceptance among government circles, its capability, the technology infrastructure, and how scalable it is.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

- ❖ Expected to **instill confidence among students**, parents, and stakeholders in the examination system.
- ❖ **Aims to reduce instances of irregularities and unfair practices** associated with public examinations.
- ❖ Seeks to align examination processes with international standards to enhance the **global recognition of Indian education**.

#### CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

- ❖ **Implementation:**
  - ➔ Ensuring effective implementation of the provisions outlined in the bill across diverse educational boards and institutions.

- ❖ **Capacity Building:**
  - Requiring capacity building initiatives to train examination personnel and stakeholders on the new procedures and standards.
- ❖ **Monitoring and Oversight:**
  - Establishing robust monitoring and oversight mechanisms to prevent violations and ensure compliance with the bill's provisions.

#### **CONCLUSION :**

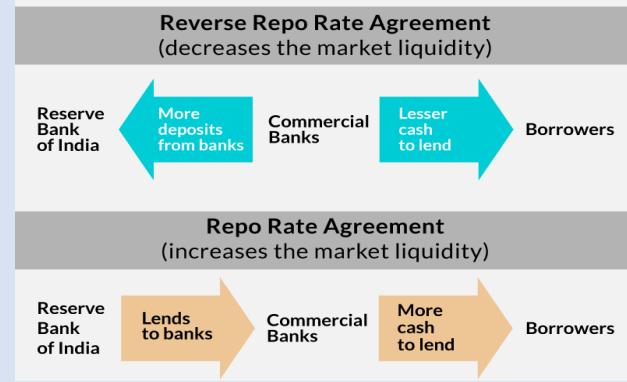
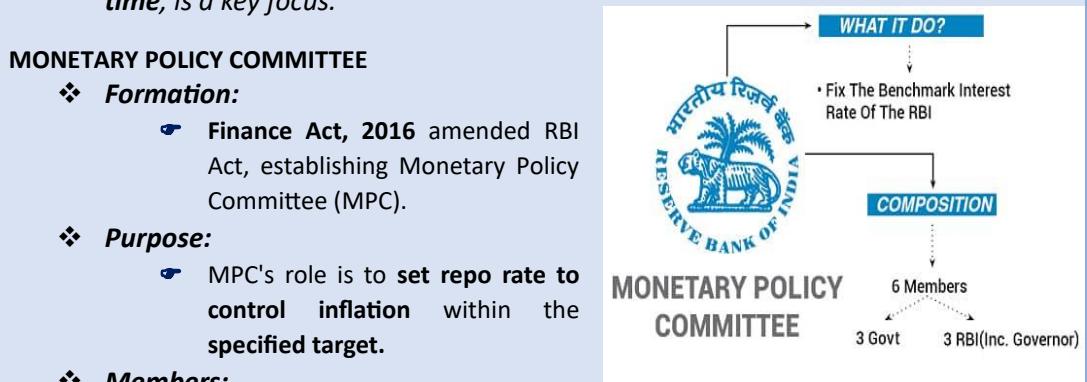
- ❖ In conclusion, the introduction of the New Public Examinations Bill represents a significant step towards reforming India's examination systems to meet contemporary standards of transparency, fairness, and credibility. By addressing key issues and introducing standardized procedures, the bill aims to enhance the quality and integrity of public examinations, thereby contributing to the overall improvement of the education sector in the country.



## PRELIMS POINTERS:

6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)	<p><b>WHY IN NEWS?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forthcoming monetary policy announcement, with expectations of maintaining the repo rate at 6.5% for the sixth consecutive time, is a key focus.</li> </ul> <p><b>MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Formation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finance Act, 2016 amended RBI Act, establishing Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MPC's role is to set repo rate to control inflation within the specified target.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Members:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Six members – RBI Governor (Chair), Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, one RBI Board nominee, and three representing the Government of India.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Term:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>External members serve a four-year term.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Quorum:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four members needed for a meeting, including Governor or Deputy Governor.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Decision:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decisions made by majority vote; in ties, RBI governor holds the casting vote.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Binding Decision:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MPC's decisions are binding on the RBI.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>REPO RATE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Definition:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repo rate is the rate at which the central bank of a country (Reserve Bank of India in case of India) lends money to commercial banks in the event of any shortfall of funds.</li> <li>Repo rate is used by monetary authorities to control inflation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
G.M CABBAGE	<p><b>WHY IN NEWS?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scientists have recently discovered a mutation of certain vegetables that could lead to boost in crop yield.</li> </ul> <p><b>HIGH YIELDING VARIETY CABBAGE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A small deletion in the genome's DNA of plants like cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, tomato, and rice.</li> <li>The mutation prevented repression, leading to male sterility in plants like cabbage.</li> <li>This promotes heterosis for increased harvest.</li> </ul> <p><b>STRUCTURE OF DNA MOLECULE:</b></p>



- ❖ The DNA molecule comprises **two strands** with **four nucleotide bases**: adenine (A), cytosine (C), guanine (G), and thymine (T).

**GENOMIC COMPOSITION OF CABBAGE:**

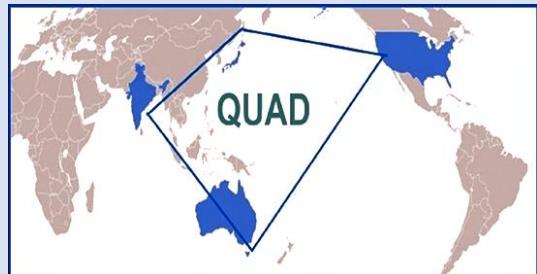
- ❖ **Cabbage's genome** has approximately 1.06 billion base pairs across 18 chromosomes, arranged in **nine pairs per cell**.
- ❖ The researchers identified the **gene Ms-cd1**, where a dominant mutation causing male sterility resulted from the deletion of a single DNA base pair in the gene's promoter.
- ❖ **Genetic mapping of male sterility and pollen fertility** has been studied in various plant species, such as **Arabidopsis, triticale, and maize**.
- ❖ Research has identified **genes and quantitative trait loci (QTLs)** associated with **pollen development and fertility**, providing insights into the genetic mechanisms governing these traits.


**QUAD SUMMIT**
**WHY IN NEWS?**

- ❖ *Leaders of the Australia-India-Japan-U.S. Quad may not be able to meet for a summit in India before the U.S. elections take place, American Ambassador Eric Garcetti said, stressing that the Quad agenda would be "more productive" by the end of 2024.*

**ABOUT QUAD**

- ❖ The Quad comprises four democratic nations: **India, Australia, the US, and Japan**.
- ❖ All four countries share a common commitment to **promoting unrestricted maritime trade and security**.
- ❖ The Quad is focused on fostering a "free, open, and prosperous" Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ The concept of the Quad was **initially proposed by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007**.
- ❖ Despite an initial setback with Australia withdrawing due to Chinese pressure, the **Quad was officially established in 2017**.
- ❖ The coalition aims to strengthen cooperation among the member nations and **address regional challenges in the Indo-Pacific**.


**MOH-JUJ  
(ASSAMESE TRADITION OF BUFFALO FIGHTS)**
**WNY IN NEWS?**

- ❖ *Assam: Traditional buffalo fight 'Moh-Juj' organised after nine years as part of 'Magh Bihu' celebration in Morigaon.*

**MOH-JUJ:**

- ❖ It is a **part of the folk culture** associated with the **Assamese winter harvest festival of Magh Bihu**, which takes place in January.
- ❖ The fights have been conducted for many decades by the **Ahatguri Anchalik Moh-jooj aru Bhogali Utsav Udjapan Samiti**, drawing huge crowds.


*Moh-Juj Fights: A Cultural Resurgence in Assam*

- ❖ This traditional buffalo fight is now conducted for the first time under stringent government guidelines, ensuring a delicate harmony between animal welfare and the celebration of our ancient culture.

#### SIMILAR TRADITIONS:

✓ Jallikattu	Tamil Nadu.
✓ Rekla	Tamil Nadu.
✓ Bail Gadi Shariat	Maharashtra.
✓ Kambala	Karnataka.
✓ Maramudi Bull Surfing	Kerala.
✓ Dhirio bull fight	Goa.

## NGT BAN ON RO WATER IN INDIA

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed a ban on Reverse Osmosis (RO) water purifiers in specific regions of India, raising concerns among consumers who heavily depend on RO water for daily use.*

#### REASON FOR BAN

##### ❖ *Environmental Study:*

- ☛ In 2019, NGT directed CPCB to assess RO water purifiers' impact on groundwater.
- ☛ CPCB report highlighted significant water wastage and improper waste disposal, contributing to environmental issues.

##### ❖ *Basis of Ban:*

- ☛ NGT enforced a ban on RO purifiers where TDS level is below 500 mg/l.
- ☛ Ban extends to commercial establishments, including hotels, restaurants, schools, and colleges.

##### ❖ *Municipal Responsibilities:*

- ☛ Municipal corporations directed to prevent RO water supply in areas with TDS below 500 mg/l.

#### IMPACT ON CONSUMERS:

- ❖ NGT ban causes confusion and concern among consumers.
- ❖ Some view RO water as the safest; ban raises questions about obtaining safe drinking water.

#### SAFE ALTERNATIVES:

- ❖ **UV or UF Filters:** Use ultraviolet light or a membrane to eliminate bacteria and viruses.
- ❖ **Activated Carbon Filters:** Remove impurities for clean and safe drinking water.
- ❖ **Boiling Water:** Boil for at least 10 minutes to kill bacteria and viruses.
- ❖ **Bottled Water:** Opt for reliable sources, responsibly dispose of bottles.

## REVERSE OSMOSIS: DO YOU NEED IT?

TDS (total dissolved solids) is a measure of all organic and inorganic substances in a water sample



#### WHAT TDS VALUES MEAN

<300mg/litre	Excellent to drink
300-500mg/l	Good
600-900 mg/l	Fair
900-1200mg/l	Poor
>1200mg/l	Unacceptable

**WHAT NGT SAID** Centre must ban ROs in areas where TDS is below 500mg/l, set conditions for recovery of water and reuse in RO purifiers. ROs waste nearly 75% of water