



Bihar Passes Bill to Prevent Paper Leaks

Why in News?

Recently, The Bihar Assembly passed [Bihar Public Examinations \(PE\) \(Prevention of Unfair Means\) Bill, 2024](https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/bihar-passes-bill-to-prevent-paper-leaks) aimed to **curb the questions paper leaks and other malpractices in government recruitment examinations** in the State.

Key Points

- All crimes under this law will be **cognisable** and **non-bailable**.
- It defines various offences related to unfair means, such as paper leaks, the use of **fake websites**, and collusion with service providers.
- The Bill includes **provisions for imprisonment terms of three to five years** and a **fine of Rs. 10 lakh**.
- If a service provider, whether a government entity or a private agency, engages in malpractices, it will face a **fine of Rs. 1 crore and a four-year termination** of its services.

Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024

- This bill was passed by the **central government** which aimed at addressing the issue of malpractices in government recruitment **examinations. It came into effect on 21st June 2024.**
- **Key Features:**
 - It defines various offences related to unfair means, such as paper leaks, the use of **fake websites, and collusion with service providers.**
 - It prescribes strict penalties, including a **minimum jail term of 3-5 years and a fine up to Rs. 1 crore.**
 - It holds **service providers** engaged for exam conduct liable with fines up to Rs 1 crore and a 4-year ban on their involvement in public exams.
 - It empowers **police officers** not below the rank of **Deputy Superintendent of Police or Assistant Commissioner of Police** to investigate offences under the Act.
 - It will cover a wide range of central government recruitment exams, including those conducted by UPSC, SSC, RRBs, IBPS, and NTA.