

29592_21091_1910033670_(2019-07-25 03:23:20)

ForumIAS

ACADEMY

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	DEEPAK SAINI		
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Mobile No.	[REDACTED]	Date:	23/07/19

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	
1			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile). There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH. All questions are compulsory. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.
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Total Marks:			
Remarks:			Start Time 7:30PM
			End Time 10:30PM
			Mode Of Examination : Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
			ECN CODE:
			Evaluation Date:

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Handwriting						
Content						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

29592 21091 1910033670 (2019-07-25 03:23:20)

Q.1) Discuss the impediments in creating a culture of transparency and accountability in the voluntary sector. Also, suggest measures for resolving the same.
(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Voluntary sector as a part of larger civil society groups consists of a myriad number of organisations varying from few members to very large memberships & play different roles across different sectors and regions.

Major impediments in creating a culture of transparency and accountability in the sector are-

(i) Huge number of the voluntary organisations registered as trusts, societies, etc. (around 20 lakh such organisations are registered in India) which makes the task of enforcement of transparency & accountability difficult.

(ii) Complex regulations with multiple supervisory bodies -

For example Ministry of Home Affairs regulates the foreign donations and Ministry of Finance also regulates the funding of NAOs.

(iii) Vested interests and use of voluntary organisations as a political tool by various politicians which influence their regulation to meet

29592_21091_1910033670_(2019-07-25 03:23:20)

their vested interests.

- (iv) Ethical issues - lack of ethics among the leadership of such organisations is a major reason for such state of affairs in the voluntary sector.

Measures for ensuring transparency & accountability in the voluntary sector -

- (i) Streamline regulation of the sector by making one agency as nodal agency & moving away from cross-/overlapping controls
- (ii) Strictly enforcing the filing of returns (IT returns) by the voluntary organisations.
- (iii) Introducing the concept of social audit to their functioning.
- (iv) Linking the government funding to their actual achievements on field.

It is very important that voluntary sector is encouraged to become more transparent & accountable in its functioning given the foundational role played by it in furthering good governance & welfare of citizens.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

29592 21091 1910033670 (2019-07-25 03:23:20)

Q.2) Critically analyse the role of Lokpal in bringing about transformational change in anti-corruption architecture in Indian polity. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

After efforts of many years a Lokpal at national level has been recently established by the government after the passage of Lokpal Act.

Lokpal in its conception is mandated & expected to play a pivotal role in transforming the anti-corruption architecture of the Indian State through-

- i) The jurisdiction of Lokpal is very wide & includes important functionaries at the highest level including the Prime Minister among others which gives significant teeth to the institution of Lokpal.
- (ii) It can investigate all central government officers of all groups for anti corruption purpose.
- (iii) It has direct supervision & superintendence over the CBI for cases referred by Lokpal to CBI for investigation.
- (iv) It has its own permanent staff for the investigation & prosecution purpose which adds significant powers to the institution.

29592_21091_1910033670_(2019-07-25 03:23:20)

With these significant powers, the Lokpal is expected to play an important role in neutralising the evil of Corruption in India.

However, Corruption is not a result of only legal violations but has wider ethical & moral dimensions which can be reformed through only ethical transformation of the society.

Simultaneously, the institution of Lokpal as conceived & established is also marred by certain lacunae or shortcomings which deprive the Lokpal from fully utilising its potential.

- While investigating corruption charges against higher functionaries like Prime Minister, it is mandated to keep the investigation in closed domain which reduces transparency.

- The dependence on CBI for investigation is again fraught with same problems as visible in the control of CBI by the executive.

- The expenditure has not been charged upon the Consolidated fund of India which reduce the fiscal autonomy of Lokpal.

These limitations can restrict the Lokpal's functioning in ensuring corruption free India.

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Structure		Content	
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29592 21091 1910033670 (2019-07-25 03:23:20)

Q.3) What are electoral bonds? Discuss their effectiveness in bringing transparency in electoral funding. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Electoral bonds are the bonds issued by eligible political parties at designated banks which can be purchased by interested donors for political funding.

The government had amended the concerned provisions of Representation of people's act 1950 & Income Tax Act, 1961 to make electoral bonds a legal source of funding for political parties.

Effectiveness in bringing transparency in electoral funding -

(i) Since electoral bonds are issued at only designated banks the funding is clearly made identifiable and no back channel, illegal funding is made which ensures transparency.

Payment route is by drafts / cheques / etc only hence all funding through electoral bonds is on record.

(ii) Eligible political parties have to declare the said funding received from electoral bonds to the Election Commission of India which again ensures the transparency.

29592_21091_1910033670_(2019-07-25 03:23:20)

However, despite these positives certain issues regarding electoral bonds have highlighted that they can also enhance the political/electoral funding faultlines.

- o Only few political parties are entitled to issue the electoral bonds. This reduces their effectiveness as other parties continue using the old routes of electoral funding.
- o Name or profile of the buyer of electoral bonds is not mandated to be declared which can lead to Crony capitalism accusations & reduces transparency.
- o Only one political party (in power) has reaped the rewards of electoral bonds predominantly which again highlights the bias in the funding system.

Although, it is a significant reform in right direction, it needs to be supplemented by other reforms in electoral funding laws and the electoral bond scheme should itself be reformed to increase its effectiveness & ensure transparency.

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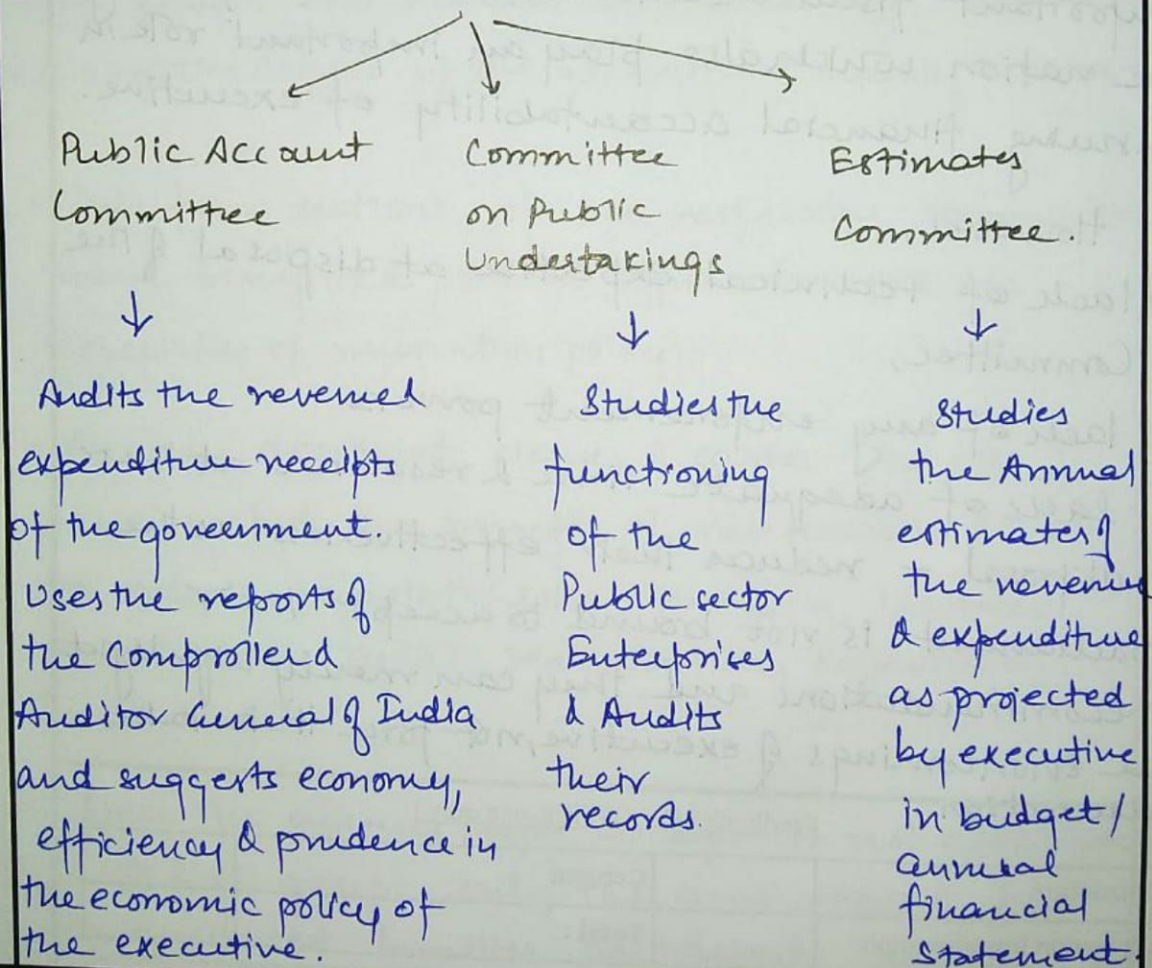
29592 21091 1910033670 (2019-07-25 03:23:20)

Q.4) Discuss the role of parliamentary committees in ensuring financial accountability of the executive. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The system of parliamentary committees derives its powers from Article 105 (Privileges of the House) & Article 115 (power to make rules & regulations to conduct business) of the Constitution.

The system is largely based on the British parliamentary lines.

Three important parliamentary committees play a vital role in ensuring financial accountability of the executive in the Parliament.



29592_21091_1910033670_(2019-07-25 03:23:20)

These three committees play an important role in ensuring the accountability in fiscal discipline by submitting their annual reports to the house and highlight the shortcomings of the government (executive) if any.

- o Their membership consists of both houses of parliament (except Estimates Committee, Lok Sabha only) and they are headed by opposition members

- o In addition to these standing committees the Ad-hoc committees are also formed to investigate important fiscal & economic issues impacting the nation which also play an important role in ensuring financial accountability of executive.

However,

- o lack of technical expertise at disposal of the Committee,
- o lack of any enforcement powers
- o lack of adequate time & resources at their disposal - reduces their effectiveness as the parliament is not bound to accept their recommendations and they can merely highlight the shortcomings of executive, not force it to take due action.

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29592_21091_1910033670_(2019-07-25 03:23:20)

Q.5) Despite the implementation of various affirmative action policies by the government of India, some regions and social groups still remain extremely poor and vulnerable. Explain by giving reasons. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The affirmative action policy of the government derives its powers from Article 15 & 21 of the Constitution for uplifting the deprived & backward sections of the population like Schedule Castes, Schedule Tribes, socially & educationally backward classes & also for women & children.

Despite long running tenure of reservations in education, employment in public service, political representation, subsidies, etc certain regions & social groups still remain untouched by these affirmative actions of the government mainly because-

- Only few sections of the respective communities have benefitted from the affirmative policies (especially of reservation policy).
- Already dominant classes & castes (in OBCs) have reaped the benefits of reservations & that too only in few states like Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu.
- Since the creamy layer concept is not applicable to SC & ST groups, only the generations of few emancipated families continue to reap the

benefits of the affirmative policy of the government.

o The more disadvantaged sections and regions those like Particular vulnerable Tribal Areas in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, etc don't have the necessary education & nutrition status to compete with other sections of the population.

o Basic Infrastructure like health, education, power, roads, transport, housing, etc is lacking in most deprived areas which reduces the Human capital and reinforces the existing hierarchies in the society.

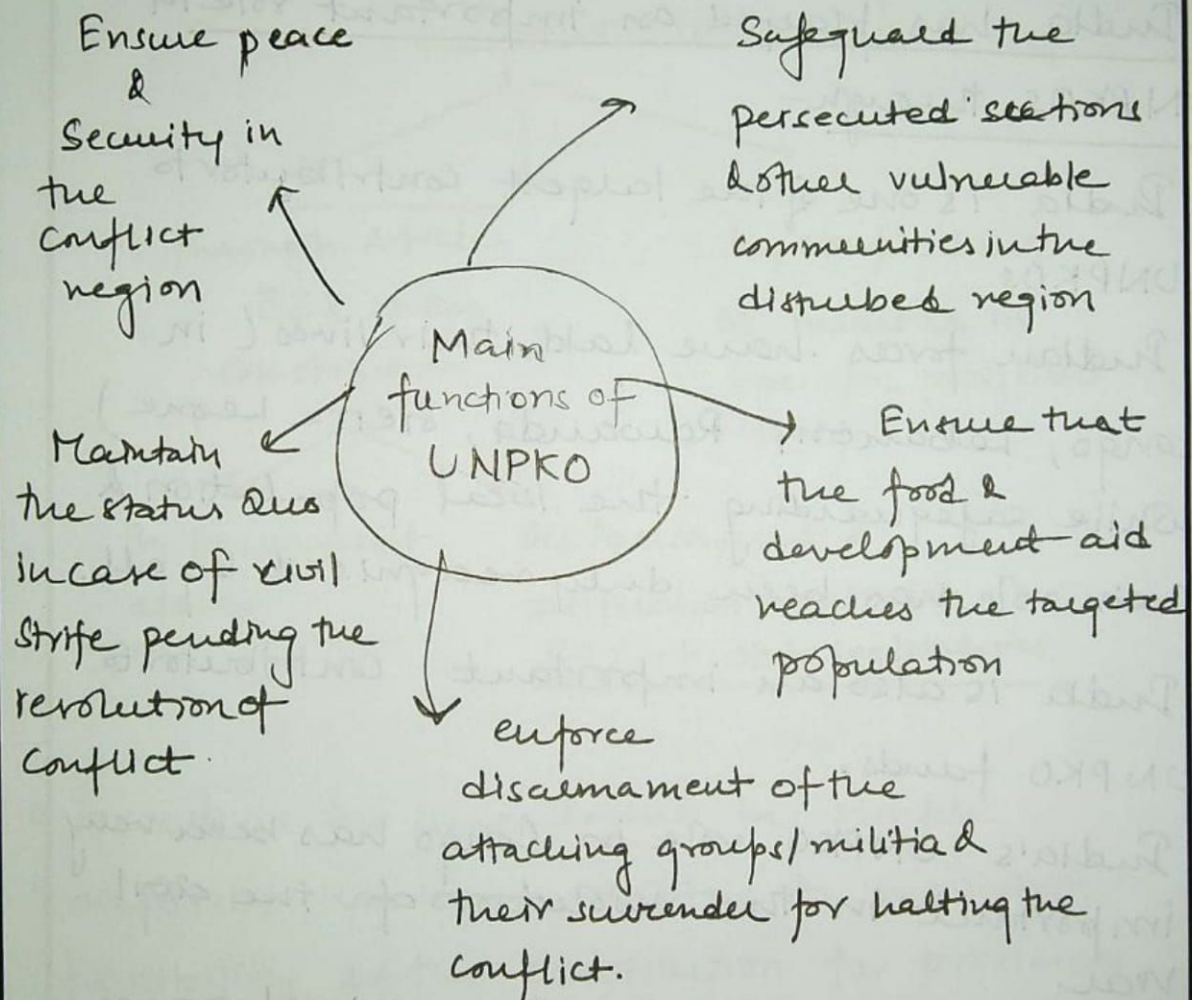
o These reasons highlight the fact that affirmative policy alone can not uplift the entire society from poverty & vulnerability. It needs to be supplemented by development of basic infrastructure and Human Resource developments so as to enable all the sections & regions to take advantage of the affirmative policies of the government.

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Structure		Content	
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29592 21091 1910033670 (2019-07-25 03:23:20) (UN Peacekeeping)? Highlight India's contribution towards UNPKO. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

United Nations Peace Keeping operations under the supervision of U.N. Security Council have played a very important role in safeguarding the peace & security in conflict prone regions across the world.



The specific role of each United Nations peace keeping mission is assigned to it by the UN Security Council.

29592_21091_1910033670_(2019-07-25 03:23:20)

- UNPKO have played an important role in various countries like Bosnia, Serbia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Rwanda, and have saved lives of thousands of people and have given a real chance to peace in these regions.

India has played an important role in UNPKOs through-

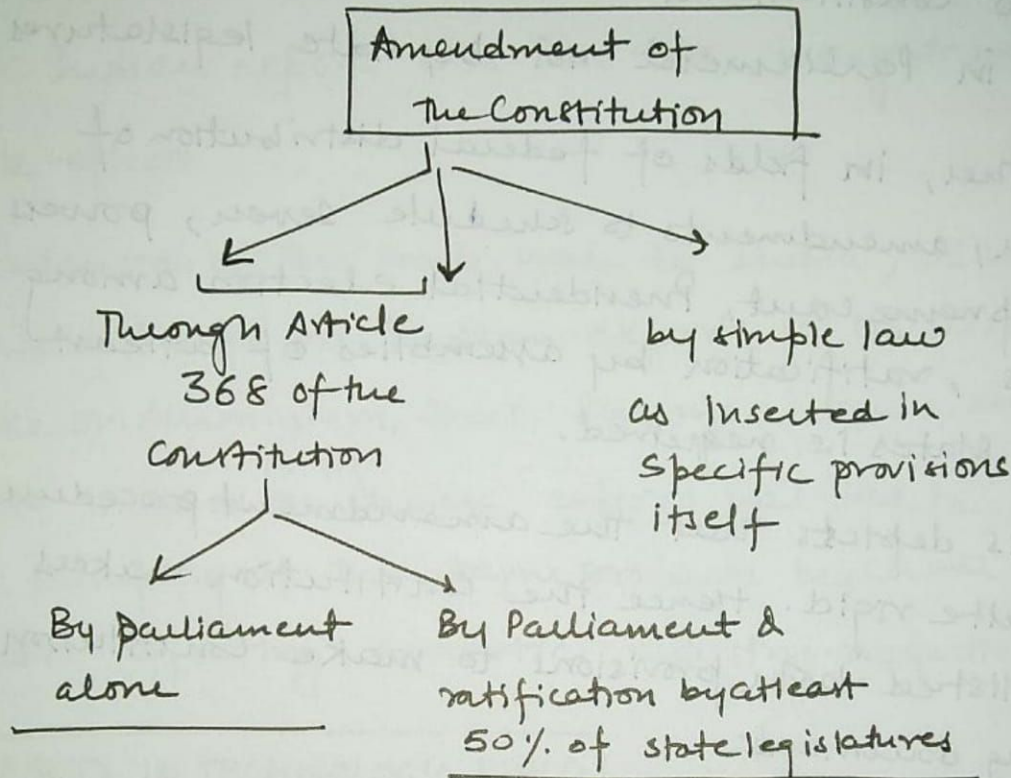
- India is one of the largest contributors to UNPKOs
- Indian forces have laid their lives (in Congo, Lebanon, Rwanda, Sierra Leone) while safeguarding the local population & their role has been duly recognised by all.
- India is also an important contributor to UNPKO funds.
- India's UNPKO role in Congo has been very important in the resolution of the civil war.

Given the status of a leading regional power, India's contribution to UNPKO are an important manifestation of the big role played by India in world affairs.

Structure		Content	
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29592_21091_1910033670 (2019-07-25 10:32:20) Q.7) Describe the procedure of amendment of the constitution. Do you think that the procedure for the amendment makes the position of states inferior vis-à-vis centre? Give reasons in support of your answer. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The Constitution can be amended by three means as listed in the constitution itself as described below:



- o Procedure for amendment by simple majority has been adopted to maintain flexibility of the constitution for provisions which require frequent changes.
- o Procedure for amendment by special majority (i.e. majority of not less than two third of the

29592_21091_1910033670_(2019-07-25 03:23:20)

members present & voting which itself should be greater than fifty percent of the total strength of the house.

Further this has to be passed in each house individually & no joint sitting is allowed.

o Also Constitutional amendment bill can be initiated only in Parliament not by state legislatures.

o Further, in fields of federal distribution of power, amendments to schedule seven, powers of Supreme court, Presidential election among others, ratification by assemblies of atleast 50% states is required.

This depicts that the amendment procedure is quite rigid. Hence the constitution makers have listed both provisions to make Constitution a living document.

It is clearly visible that the position of states is inferior vis-a-vis Centre in matters of Constitution amendment as no state can initiate the amendment process. Also in case of ratification requirement by states only 50% of the states are required which clearly makes their status inferior to Centre in this realm.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
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29592210911910033670 (2019-07-25 03:28:20) Q.4) In what ways would the ongoing US-China trade war affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to this situation? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

o US-China trade war has disturbed the global economy to a significant extent.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

o The increase of tariffs on major import items in US from China has created few opportunities for Indian exports but has also brought many side-effects.

o Extension of the trade war to India, US has raised tariffs on Indian exports to US also like on Aluminium, steel, Pharmaceuticals, etc.

o Also increase in ^{tariffs} on Chinese exports has led to the dumping of the same products by China into India affecting domestic industry negatively.

IMPACTS IN TECHNOLOGY FIELD

• US-China rivalry in trade sphere has spilled over to technological realms with US pressurising India to not allow Chinese company HUAWEI to participate in 5G technology trials in India.

GEO POLITICAL IMPACTS

with already unresolved border dispute

29592_21091_1910033670_(2019-07-25 03:23:20)

with China, US-China tensions & India's participation in QUAD grouping (US, India, Japan & Australia) has further increased the geo-political tensions which are not in interests of India.

India should response to the situation by

- augmenting its capacity in the sectors where windows of opportunity have been created to raise its exports to US & China respectively.

- Simultaneously, it is important to protect the domestic industry against dumping of cheap exports by China to India by levying Anti-dumping duties

- India should discuss its frictional areas in trade realms with both on issues of tariffs, USP, market access, capping of medical device prices, etc and find a common ground so that all disputes are resolved amicably & economic growth is not affected negatively.

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28592_21091_1910033670 (2019-07-25 03:23:20)

Q.9) Explain the contingencies under which the president may promulgate ordinances. Does the use of ordinance making power subvert the democratic process? Argue your case. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

o Article 123 of the constitution provides for the promulgation of ordinance by the President.

It lays down the contingencies in which President can promulgate an ordinance as-

- When either house of the Parliament is not in session
- o When there are sufficient grounds to necessitate the need of promulgation of an ordinance in public interest.
- o Ordinance making is not a parallel legislative power and should be only sparingly used (as highlighted by the Supreme court)
- o Legislation in Parliament has to be introduced for either continuing the ordinance or its withdrawal within six weeks of reassembling of the Parliament, otherwise the ordinance will be deemed to have lapsed.

Ordinance, in itself is a useful tool for Parliamentary democracy as the Parliament has limited sessions and matters of grave & urgent requirement can not wait for rigours of Parliamentary process.

However, its misuse by frequent ordinance promulgations, continued effect to the existing ordinance by repromulgation and ordinance on even trivial matters have definitely eroded the Parliamentary system & subverted the democratic process.

Since it bypasses the parliamentary procedure, debates, discussions & deliberations and is also used by executive to further its aims at the cost of democratic procedures (as highlighted in Bihar when an ordinance was kept alive for 9 years), ordinance has definitely become a tool for subverting the spirit of democratic process.

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