Polity & Governance · GS - II

Judicial authority depends not merely on the power to issue directions but also on their effective implementation. Examine the constitutional and administrative challenges involved in ensuring compliance with Supreme Court orders.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Judicial authority, Article 129, contempt jurisdiction, Article 144, separation of powers, executive accountability, rule of law

Model Answer

The authority of the Supreme Court is central to India's constitutional democracy. Its effectiveness, however, depends on whether its decisions are respected and implemented by public authorities.

The Constitution provides several safeguards to ensure compliance:

1. **Article 129:** Declares the Supreme Court a Court of Record and empowers it to punish for contempt of itself.
2. **Article 144:** Requires all civil and judicial authorities in India to act in aid of the Supreme Court.
3. **Article 142:** Enables the Court to pass orders necessary for doing complete justice in matters before it.
4. **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971:** Provides a statutory framework for dealing with civil and criminal contempt, subject to prescribed limitations.

The reported Thirupparankundram Deepam dispute in Tamil Nadu illustrates the challenges that may arise when judicial directions intersect with religious practices, public administration and law-and-order responsibilities.

However, effective enforcement requires institutional balance. Excessive confrontation between the judiciary and executive can weaken public confidence, while deliberate non-compliance can undermine the rule of law.

Administrative authorities must therefore communicate promptly, implement lawful directions and approach the judiciary for clarification wherever genuine difficulties arise. Courts, in turn, must ensure procedural fairness and respect constitutional boundaries.

Ultimately, judicial independence and executive accountability are complementary pillars of constitutional governance. Respect for judicial orders must remain integral to the functioning of the rule of law.

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