Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the role of the judiciary in protecting individual autonomy and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 23/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Article 21, personal liberty, individual autonomy, freedom of choice, habeas corpus, constitutional morality, judicial review.

Model Answer

Introduction:

Article 21 guarantees the protection of life and personal liberty and forms a cornerstone of individual freedom in India.

Main Body

Role of the judiciary

- Protection of autonomy: Courts safeguard an adult's freedom to make personal decisions, including choices concerning residence and relationships.
- Protection against unlawful detention: The writ of habeas corpus enables judicial scrutiny of unlawful confinement.

- Accountability of authorities: Courts can prevent arbitrary interference by state authorities in personal liberty.
- Constitutional interpretation: Judicial decisions have expanded the understanding of dignity, privacy and individual choice under Article 21.

Challenges:

Balancing individual freedom with lawful restrictions, protection from coercion and legitimate concerns about personal safety requires careful judicial scrutiny.

Conclusion:

An independent judiciary is essential to ensure that family pressure or arbitrary state action does not override the constitutional liberty of competent adults.

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