Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the significance of judicial scrutiny of bail in corruption cases involving public servants. How can the criminal justice system balance individual liberty with the need for an effective investigation?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 30/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Presumption of innocence; Article 21; judicial discretion; corruption and public accountability; investigation safeguards; speedy trial; rule of law

Model Answer

Introduction

Bail decisions in corruption cases involving public servants highlight the need to balance personal liberty with the integrity of criminal investigations. The Supreme Court's refusal to interfere with the bail granted to former IAS officer Anil Tuteja illustrates the role of judicial scrutiny in this process.

Significance of Bail Jurisprudence

1. **Protection of Liberty:** Article 21 safeguards personal liberty, and pre-trial detention should not become a substitute for punishment.
2. **Presumption of Innocence:** Allegations of corruption must be established through evidence and a fair trial.
3. **Judicial Oversight:** Courts examine factors such as the nature of allegations, risk of evidence tampering, possibility of absconding and cooperation with investigation.
4. **Public Accountability:** Bail conditions and effective investigation help prevent misuse of public office while protecting due process.

Way Forward

Investigating agencies should ensure timely evidence collection, financial scrutiny and transparent procedures. Courts should impose appropriate conditions where necessary and promote speedy trials to prevent prolonged uncertainty.

Conclusion

An impartial bail system strengthens both individual liberty and public accountability. The objective must be effective prosecution without compromising constitutional safeguards.

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