Polity & Governance · GS - II

Judicial delays undermine access to justice and public trust. Examine the major causes of delays in the Indian judicial system and suggest reforms to improve the timely delivery of justice.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 02/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Access to justice; Article 21; judicial vacancies; procedural delays; judicial infrastructure; alternative dispute resolution; technology; case management

Model Answer

Introduction

Timely justice is essential for protecting fundamental rights and maintaining public confidence in the rule of law. Excessive delays can weaken the effectiveness of judicial remedies and disproportionately affect disadvantaged citizens.

Causes of Judicial Delays

1. Structural Constraints

Vacancies among judges, inadequate court infrastructure and insufficient supporting staff contribute to delays in hearing and disposing of cases.

2. Procedural Challenges

Repeated adjournments, complex procedures, delayed investigations and difficulties in serving summons can prolong litigation.

3. Unequal Access

Legal costs, geographical barriers and limited awareness prevent many citizens from accessing timely judicial remedies.

Reforms Required

1. Strengthening Capacity: Fill judicial vacancies, improve court infrastructure and expand supporting administrative capacity.

2. Better Case Management: Reduce unnecessary adjournments, adopt realistic timelines and use data to identify bottlenecks.

3. Alternative Dispute Resolution: Promote mediation, arbitration and Lok Adalats where appropriate.

4. Technology and Legal Aid: Improve digital case management while ensuring that technology does not exclude citizens with limited digital access.

Conclusion

Judicial reform requires coordinated improvements in capacity, procedure, technology and accountability. Faster justice must also remain fair, independent and accessible to all.

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