Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the importance of access to justice, due process of law and personal liberty in strengthening judicial oversight and criminal justice reforms in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 21/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

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Answer Hint

Access to Justice, Due Process of Law, Personal Liberty, Article 21, Article 22, Judicial Oversight, Judicial Custody, Legal Aid, Fair Trial, Criminal Justice Reforms, Rule of Law.

Model Answer

Introduction

Access to justice, due process of law and personal liberty are essential pillars of a democratic society. The Indian Constitution protects individual rights and ensures that state authorities act according to law.

Main Body

1. Access to justice means that every person can approach the courts and obtain legal assistance without discrimination. Free legal aid and affordable judicial services help protect the rights of weaker sections.
2. Due process requires that arrest, detention and trial follow lawful procedures. Article 21 protects life and personal liberty, while Article 22 provides safeguards against arbitrary arrest and detention.
3. Judicial oversight ensures that government authorities follow legal procedures and that individual rights are protected. Courts can review unlawful detention and examine whether legal safeguards have been followed.

4. Criminal justice reforms, including faster trials, improved investigation, prison reforms and stronger legal aid, can reduce delays and prevent unnecessary detention. However, reforms must balance public safety with the rights of accused persons.

Conclusion

Protecting personal liberty while ensuring effective law enforcement is essential for the rule of law. Independent courts, accessible justice and timely trials can strengthen public trust in India's criminal justice system.

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