Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the relationship between transparency under the Right to Information Act and the institutional autonomy of the judiciary. How can transparency and judicial independence be balanced?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 03/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Right to Information Act 2005; transparency and accountability; judicial independence; statutory exemptions; judicial administration; institutional autonomy; constitutional balance

Model Answer

Introduction

The Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, promotes transparency and accountability in public authorities. Its application to judicial institutions raises questions about information disclosure and the protection of judicial independence.

Transparency and Judicial Administration

Access to appropriate information can improve public confidence, accountability and understanding of judicial performance. Information concerning case pendency and delays can also support institutional reforms and evidence-based policymaking.

Need to Protect Institutional Autonomy

Disclosure requests must be assessed under the applicable statutory framework. Unrestricted disclosure may raise concerns relating to privacy, confidentiality or the proper functioning of judicial institutions. At the same time, institutional autonomy should not become a blanket justification for withholding information that the law requires to be disclosed.

Way Forward

Clear disclosure rules, reasoned decisions on RTI requests, proactive publication of judicial statistics and consistent application of statutory exemptions can strengthen accountability. Appropriate appellate and judicial review mechanisms should remain available to resolve disputes.

Conclusion

Transparency and judicial independence are complementary constitutional values when balanced through clear legal standards. A principled approach can promote public accountability while preserving the judiciary's ability to function independently.

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