Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the role of judicial review in ensuring fairness and transparency in public recruitment examinations. How can the interests of honest candidates be protected when irregularities are detected?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 06/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Judicial review, Article 14, administrative accountability, examination irregularities, principles of natural justice, proportionality, merit-based recruitment, protection of bona fide candidates, institutional transparency

Model Answer

Introduction

Fair and transparent recruitment is essential for maintaining public trust in government institutions. Examination irregularities undermine merit, equality and confidence in public recruitment systems.

Role of Judicial Review

Articles 32 and 226 empower the Supreme Court and High Courts respectively to examine violations of fundamental rights and legality of administrative actions. Article 14 requires fairness and non-arbitrariness in public recruitment.

Courts can review examination cancellations, selection procedures and administrative decisions to ensure compliance with constitutional principles.

Protecting Honest Candidates

Blanket cancellation may adversely affect candidates who participated honestly. Authorities should conduct impartial investigations, identify the extent of irregularities and adopt proportionate corrective measures.

Depending on the circumstances, re-evaluation, targeted cancellation, supplementary examinations or fresh examinations may be considered. Transparent communication and time-bound decisions are equally important.

Conclusion

Judicial oversight, institutional accountability and proportionate remedies can protect merit-based recruitment. Ensuring fairness to both affected candidates and the wider public is essential for strengthening administrative integrity.