Daily Mains Practice Answer 30-10-2026

Q. Judicial independence and executive accountability must complement rather than contradict each other in the appointment of judges. Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)

Direction: Intro----- Judicial independence & executive accountability – Complement & Contradiction------Conclusion.

Introduction:

Briefly describe the judiciary in India.

Main Body

Why is judicial independence important in appointments?

- Separation of powers
- Protection of fundamental rights
- Constitutional supremacy
- Impartial adjudication
- Public confidence

Why is executive accountability necessary?

- Democratic legitimacy
- Transparency
- Checks and balances
- National security considerations
- Diversity and representation

When they contradict:

- When one principle overrides the other, the system becomes unbalanced:
- **Excessive Executive Control (Erosion of Independence)** – If the executive has sole discretion over appointments, it introduces the risk of political patronage.
- Judges may be selected based on ideological alignment rather than merit, compromising the judiciary's role as a neutral arbiter and a check on executive overreach.
- **Exclusive Judicial Control (Erosion of Accountability)** – Conversely, if the judiciary exercises total control over its own appointments (such as the Collegium system), it creates a democratic deficit.

- Leads to a lack of transparency, nepotism, a lack of diversity, and an insular institutional culture.

How do they complement each other?

- Insulation from political pressure
- Credible appointments
- Better scrutiny
- Public confidence
- Faster appointments
- Inclusive judiciary.

Conclusion:

Give a balanced conclusion.

Judicial independence and executive accountability are not mutually exclusive; they are mutually stabilising. Ultimately, an independent judiciary must be free from executive control, but its appointment process must remain accountable to constitutional values.

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