Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the role of investigative agencies and institutional accountability in combating corruption in India. How can political neutrality and due process be ensured during corruption investigations?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 05/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Anti-corruption framework, Prevention of Corruption Act, Enforcement Directorate, PMLA, police investigation, institutional independence, political neutrality, presumption of innocence, judicial oversight, transparency

Model Answer

Introduction

Corruption undermines public trust, weakens governance and diverts resources meant for development. Effective investigation and institutional accountability are essential for maintaining integrity in public administration.

Role of Investigative Institutions

The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 provides the framework for prosecuting specified corruption offences. The Central Bureau of Investigation investigates relevant corruption cases, while the Enforcement Directorate deals with money laundering under the PMLA, 2002. State police agencies also investigate offences within their jurisdiction.

Challenges in Ensuring Accountability

Allegations of political interference, selective investigations, delays and weak prosecution can undermine public confidence. Recovery or seizure of cash must be supported by evidence and cannot independently establish guilt.

Way Forward

Investigative agencies require operational autonomy, transparent procedures and adequate resources. Judicial oversight, time-bound investigations, independent audits and protection of due process can strengthen institutional credibility.

Conclusion

An effective anti-corruption framework must ensure that accountability applies equally to all, while investigations remain evidence-based, politically neutral and consistent with constitutional safeguards.

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