Polity & Governance · GS - II

“Democratic institutions derive their legitimacy from constitutional safeguards, electoral integrity and public trust.” Examine the significance of institutional autonomy and non-interference in strengthening India's democratic framework.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 16/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Constitutional democracy, Article 324, electoral integrity, institutional autonomy, foreign commentary, sovereignty, democratic accountability, public trust.

Model Answer

Introduction

India's democracy is founded on constitutional supremacy, universal adult franchise and independent institutions. Its legitimacy depends on free and fair elections and public confidence in democratic processes.

Institutional Autonomy and Electoral Integrity

- Article 324 empowers the Election Commission of India to supervise and conduct elections to Parliament and State Legislatures.
- Independent institutions help ensure electoral fairness, political neutrality and accountability.
- Judicial review and constitutional safeguards strengthen institutional credibility.

Non-interference and Democratic Sovereignty

- India's electoral processes are governed by its Constitution and domestic legal framework.

- Foreign political actors should respect national sovereignty and avoid uninformed or politically motivated commentary.
- However, legitimate international scrutiny and constructive democratic dialogue can encourage transparency and institutional improvement.

Challenges and the Way Forward

- Strengthen the independence and transparency of electoral institutions.
- Ensure accountability through constitutional mechanisms and judicial oversight.
- Promote informed public debate and protect electoral processes from misinformation.

Conclusion

India's democratic strength rests not merely on the scale of its electorate but on institutional credibility, constitutional accountability and citizens' trust. Respect for sovereignty must coexist with a commitment to democratic values.

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