Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the institutional safeguards necessary to ensure the independence, impartiality and accountability of investigative agencies in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 02/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Rule of law; institutional independence; political neutrality; statutory mandate; due process; judicial oversight; transparency and accountability

Model Answer

Introduction

Investigative agencies are essential for enforcing laws, addressing corruption and protecting public revenue. Their credibility depends on impartial investigations conducted without political interference.

Need for Institutional Independence

1. Rule of Law

Agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax Department must act within their statutory mandates. Investigations should be based on credible evidence rather than political affiliation.

2. Fair and Transparent Procedures

Documented decisions, adherence to procedural safeguards and consistent treatment of similarly placed individuals can reduce allegations of selective enforcement.

3. Accountability and Oversight

Judicial review, parliamentary scrutiny where applicable, internal vigilance mechanisms and independent oversight can help detect procedural violations and abuse of authority.

Challenges

Perceived selective investigations, prolonged proceedings and uncertainty about institutional autonomy can weaken public trust. At the same time, allegations of political interference must be evaluated on evidence rather than assumed to be established facts.

Way Forward

Transparent case-allocation procedures, timely investigations, professional autonomy, protection for whistle-blowers and effective remedies against unlawful action can strengthen institutional credibility.

Conclusion

Independent and accountable investigative agencies are indispensable to constitutional governance. Their effectiveness requires both freedom from improper interference and strict compliance with the law.

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