Polity & Governance · GS - II

Political patronage and the misuse of public influence for private gain undermine the rule of law and public trust. Examine the institutional and legal measures required to prevent political intimidation and corruption in public life.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 18/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Rule of law, political patronage, Prevention of Corruption Act, criminal accountability, police independence, institutional transparency, whistleblower protection, citizen rights, ethical governance, accountability mechanisms.

Model Answer

Introduction

The alleged extortion of money from a doctor by a political aide, reportedly invoking political influence, highlights the risks of misuse of informal power. Such incidents can weaken public confidence in democratic institutions and the rule of law.

Major Governance Concerns

- **Abuse of influence:** Political connections may be misused to intimidate citizens and extract unlawful benefits.
- **Institutional erosion:** Failure to investigate allegations impartially can weaken public trust.

- **Economic consequences:** Extortion discourages entrepreneurship, professional independence and investment.
- **Weak accountability:** Informal networks of patronage can obstruct transparent administrative functioning.

Institutional and Legal Measures

1. **Strong legal enforcement:** Apply the Prevention of Corruption Act, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and other relevant laws wherever their legal requirements are satisfied.
2. **Independent investigation:** Ensure that police investigations remain free from political pressure.
3. **Political accountability:** Parties should maintain transparent disciplinary procedures and ethical standards for office-bearers and staff.
4. **Whistleblower protection:** Protect individuals reporting corruption and political intimidation from retaliation.
5. **Transparency:** Strengthen grievance redressal, digital records and oversight mechanisms.
6. **Judicial oversight:** Ensure timely investigation and prosecution while protecting due process and the presumption of innocence.

Conclusion

Democratic accountability requires that political influence never become a source of private coercive power. Effective law enforcement, institutional independence and ethical political conduct are essential for restoring citizens' trust.

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